



Saroop of Guru Granth Sahib

Why in News

Recently, **India has brought three saroops of [Guru Granth Sahib](#) (Sikh Holy Book) from Afghanistan**, now just three more remain in Afghanistan.

- There were 13 saroops in Afghanistan, of which seven were already shifted to India earlier.

Key Points

▪ About:

- Saroop is **a physical copy of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, also called Bir in Punjabi**. Every Bir has 1,430 pages, which are referred to as **Ang**. The verses on every page remain the same.
- The Sikhs **consider the saroop of Guru Granth Sahib a living guru** and treat it with utmost respect.
 - They believe that all the 10 Gurus were the same spirit in different bodies, and the Guru Granth Sahib is their eternal physical and spiritual form.
- **Guru Arjan Dev** (fifth Sikh master) **compiled the first Bir of the Guru Granth Sahib in 1604**, and installed it at the Golden Temple in Amritsar.
- Later, **Guru Gobind Singh (tenth Sikh master)**, added verses penned by his father Guru Tegh Bahadur (ninth master), and **compiled the Bir for the second and last time**.
- It was **in 1708 that Guru Gobind Singh declared Guru Granth Sahib the living Guru of the Sikhs**.
- Guru Granth Sahib is **a compendium of hymns written by six Sikh gurus, 15 saints**, including Bhagat Kabir, Bhagat Ravidas, Sheikh Farid and Bhagat Namdev, 11 Bhattas (balladeers) and **four Sikhs**.
 - The verses are **composed in 31 ragas**.
- The **Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)** has the sole rights to publish the Birs of the Guru Granth Sahib, and this is done at Amritsar.
- The installation and transportation of Guru Granth Sahib is governed by a strict **code of conduct called Sikh Rahit Maryada**.
 - Under ideal circumstances, five baptised Sikhs are required to transfer the Guru Granth Sahib from one place to another. As a mark of respect, the Bir of the Guru Granth Sahib is carried on the head, and the person walks barefoot.
- Gurdwaras have a separate resting place for the Saroop, called **'Sukh Asan Sthan' or 'Sachkhand'** where the Guru rests at night.
- In the morning, the saroop is again installed in a ceremony called **'Prakash'**.
- **Sikh Rahit Maryada**: It is the manual that specifies the duties of Sikhs, names four rituals that qualify as rites of passage.
 - The first is a birth and **naming ceremony**, held in a gurdwara.
 - A second rite is the **anand karaj** (blissful union), or marriage ceremony.

- The third rite—regarded as the most important—is the **amrit sanskar**, the ceremony for initiation into the Khalsa.
- The fourth rite is the **funeral ceremony**.

Sikhism

- The word 'Sikh' in the Punjabi language **means 'disciple'**. Sikhs are the disciples of God who follow the writings and teachings of the Ten Sikh Gurus.
- Sikhs believe in **one God (Monotheism)**. The Sikhs **call their faith Gurmat** (Punjabi: “the Way of the Guru”).
- Sikhism was **established by Guru Nanak (1469-1539)** and subsequently led by a succession of nine other Gurus.
 - The development of Sikhism was **influenced by the Bhakti movement and Vaishnava Hinduism**.
- The **Islamic era persecution of Sikhs triggered the founding of the Khalsa**, as an order for freedom of conscience and religion.
- **Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa order** (meaning 'The Pure'), soldier-saints.
 - The Khalsa upholds the highest Sikh virtues of commitment, dedication and a social conscience and **practice the faith of 5 Ks**, which are,
 - Kesh (uncut hair), Kangha (a wooden comb), Kara (a iron bracelet), Kachera (cotton underpants) and Kirpan (an iron dagger).
- It preaches that **people of different races, religions, or sex are all equal** in the eyes of God.
- **The Sikh Literature:**
 - The **Adi Granth** is believed by Sikhs to be the abode of the eternal Guru, and for that reason it is **known to all Sikhs as the Guru Granth Sahib**.
 - The **Dasam Granth** is controversial in the Panth because of questions concerning its authorship and composition.

Ten Gurus of Sikh Religion	
Guru Nanak Dev (1469-1539)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He was the first guru of Sikh and the founder of Sikh religion. ▪ He started the GURU KA LANGAR. ▪ He was contemporary of Babur. ▪ Kartarpur corridor was commemorated on the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.
Guru Angad (1504-1552)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He invented the new script called Guru-Mukhi and popularized and expanded the system of Guru ka Langar.
Guru Amar Das (1479-1574)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He introduced the ceremony of the Anand Karaj Marriage. ▪ He abolished the custom of Sati and Purdah system among the Sikhs. ▪ He was contemporary of Akbar.
Guru Ram Das (1534-1581)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He founded Amritsar in 1577 on the land granted by Akbar. ▪ He started the construction of Golden Temple/Swarna mandir at Amritsar.
Guru Arjun Dev (1563-1606)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He composed the Adi Granth in 1604. ▪ He led to the completion of construction of Golden temple. ▪ He was acclaimed as Shaheeden-de-Sartaj. ▪ He was executed by Jahangir on charges of

	helping prince Khusrau.
Guru Hargobind (1594-1644)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He led to the transformation of the Sikh Community into a Military community. He is known as “Soldier Saint”. ▪ He led to the establishment of Akal Takht and fortified the Amritsar City. ▪ He waged wars against Jahangir and Shah Jahan.
Guru Har Rai (1630-1661)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He was a man of peace thus devoted most of his life in maintaining peace with Aurangzeb and doing missionary work.
Guru Har Krishan 1656-1664)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He was the youngest guru of all and was given the title of Guru at a very early age of 5. ▪ He was summoned by Aurangzeb against anti-islamic blasphemy.
Guru Teg Bahadur (1621-1675)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He founded Anandpur Sahib.
Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He founded a warrior community known as Khalsa in 1699. ▪ He introduced a new rite "Pahul". ▪ He joined Bahadur Shah's as a noble. ▪ He was the last Sikh Guru in human form and he passed the Guruship of Sikhs to the Guru Granth Sahib.

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