

2. Birth Anniversary Of Guru Gobind Singh – History

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to Guru Gobind Singh Ji on the auspicious occasion of his birth anniversary

Early Life and Background

Born on 22 December 1666 at Takht Sri Patna Sahib (Bihar), a major centre of Sikh pilgrimage today. Born into a lineage of spiritual and moral leadership as the son of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the 9th Sikh Guru. Witnessed religious intolerance at a young age; his father's execution by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb for defending the religious freedom of Kashmiri Pandits profoundly shaped his worldview. Succeeded as the 10th Sikh Guru in 1675, at the young age of nine, during a period of intense political repression and social upheaval.

Founding of the Khalsa (1699)– A Revolutionary Step

In 1699 (Vaisakhi at Anandpur Sahib), he founded the Khalsa Panth, transforming Sikhism into a disciplined, egalitarian, and martial community. The Khalsa institutionalised the ideal of the "Saint-Soldier" (Sant-Sipahi)—spiritually rooted yet socially and militarily assertive. Introduced the Panj Pyare (Five Beloved Ones), drawn from different regions and castes, symbolising–

1. Social equality
2. Collective leadership
3. Willingness to sacrifice for righteousness

Five K's and Code of Conduct

Prescribed the Five K's, which continue to define Sikh identity

1. Kesh – Acceptance of God's will and spiritual discipline
2. Kangha – Cleanliness and order
3. Kara – Moral restraint and unity with divine law
4. Kirpan – Duty to protect the weak and uphold justice
5. Kachhera – Self-control and ethical living

Established a strict moral code prohibiting–

1. Intoxicants and tobacco
2. Consumption of Kutha (ritually slaughtered meat)
3. Adultery and immoral conduct

Emphasised discipline, fearlessness, and ethical integrity as core virtues of Sikh life.

Literary and Spiritual Contributions

A distinguished poet, philosopher, and theologian, fluent in multiple languages including Braj, Persian, Sanskrit, and Punjabi. Contributed hymns imbued with heroism, devotion, and metaphysical depth. Incorporated the bani (writings) of Guru Tegh Bahadur into the Adi Granth. Declared the Guru Granth Sahib as the eternal Guru of the Sikhs, ending the line of human Gurus—an unparalleled institutional decision in religious history. His compositions were later compiled as the Dasam Granth, containing

1. Jaap Sahib
2. Akal Ustat
3. Zafarnama (Persian epistle to Aurangzeb asserting moral victory over tyranny)

Values, Philosophy, and Leadership

Advocated Dharam Yudh (righteous war)—armed resistance only when peaceful means fail. Stressed strong moral character as the foundation of resilience against oppression. Rejected caste hierarchy, ritualism, and blind superstition. Combined spiritual authority with political consciousness, redefining leadership in Indian history. Viewed governance, warfare, and spirituality as inseparable from ethical responsibility.

Military Leadership and Resistance

Led and inspired Sikhs in numerous defensive battles against Mughal forces and hostile hill chiefs

1. Battle of Bhangani (1688)
2. Sieges of Anandpur Sahib
3. Battle of Chamkaur Sahib

Despite limited resources, demonstrated exceptional

1. Strategic foresight
2. Guerrilla warfare tactics
3. Ability to mobilise common people

Earned admiration even among adversaries for courage, honour, and adherence to ethical warfare.

Martyrdom and Sacrifice of His Sons

His four sons exemplified supreme sacrifice

1. Ajit Singh and Jujhar Singh attained martyrdom fighting in battle.
2. Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh, aged 9 and 7, were bricked alive by a Mughal governor for refusing to convert—one of the most tragic episodes in Indian history.

These sacrifices reinforced the Sikh ethos of faith over fear and truth over life.

Legacy and Civilisational Impact

Transformed Sikhism into a self-respecting, organised, and resilient community. Strengthened traditions of seva (service), sarbat da bhala (welfare of all), and religious pluralism. Inspired later resistance movements against colonialism and tyranny. Praised by Swami Vivekananda for instilling courage, sacrifice, and moral strength in the masses. His teachings continue to influence ideas of

1. National unity
2. Human rights
3. Social justice
4. Ethical governance

Relevance Today

Symbol of resistance against oppression and defence of constitutional values. His life offers enduring lessons for

1. Leadership under crisis
2. Ethical use of power
3. Integration of spirituality with public life

Remains a towering figure in Indian history, representing the ideals of justice, equality, and fearless faith.

Source- <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/359th-birth-anniversary-of-sri-guru-gobind-singh-observed-across-country/>