

LEADERS IN NEWS

SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB JI

On August 24, 2025, the Indian Prime Minister extended greetings on the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, calling it a source of eternal wisdom, compassion, and unity that continues to guide humanity.

Historical Background

Prakash Purab (1604) – Commemorates the first installation of the Sikh holy scripture, Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, at the Golden Temple, Amritsar, by Guru Arjan Dev Ji. It marks the formal inauguration of the scripture as the spiritual guide of the Sikh community.

Adi Granth Sahib – Known as the “first book,” it was the initial compilation of Sikh scriptures compiled by Guru Arjan Dev Ji (the 5th Sikh Guru) in 1604.

Evolution into Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji –

Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Role – Between 1704–1706, the 10th Guru added further sacred hymns (shabads) to the compilation.

1708 Declaration – Before his departure, Guru Gobind Singh Ji declared the Adi Granth as the eternal Guru, renaming it Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, and instructed Sikhs to consider it their everlasting spiritual authority.

Inclusive Composition

Contributors – Includes writings from 36 authors, including Sikh Gurus, Bhakti saints like Kabir, Namdev, Ravi Das, and Sufi mystics like Sheikh Farid.

Content – Contains 5,894 hymns set across 31 ragas.

Themes – Focuses on monotheism, ethical living, social justice, and universal equality.

Poetic and Musical Form – Written in ragas, enabling devotional singing (kirtan) accessible to all.

Philosophy and Teachings

Oneness of God (Ik Onkar) – Stresses monotheism, unity of the divine, and spiritual harmony.

Naam Simran – Emphasizes constant remembrance and meditation on God's name.

Seva (Service) – Inspires altruism, humility, and compassionate engagement with society.

Equality – Rejects caste, gender, and class distinctions, advocating equality before God.

Universal Brotherhood – Encourages inclusivity, interfaith harmony, and peaceful coexistence.

Guru Granth Sahib Ji as a Catalyst of Social Equality and Reform



Equality and Social Justice – Actively rejected caste hierarchy and promoted social equality.

Community Service (Seva) – Inspired social institutions like **Langar** and **Kar Seva**, removing societal barriers and fostering communal harmony.

Interfaith Inclusivity – Integrated voices of Bhakti saints and Sufi mystics, fostering pluralism and mutual respect among different faiths.

Moral and Civic Values – Advocated truthfulness, humility, compassion, and righteous living.

Nation-Building Role – Strengthened social cohesion and solidarity during Mughal rule and colonial challenges.

Subaltern Dimension – Engaged with marginalized communities, including Dalits, peasants, artisans, and women, promoting social inclusion and institutionalizing egalitarian practices like Langar and Seva.

Ethical Values Relevant for Contemporary Times

Equality and Dignity: Advocates removal of caste, gender, and class discrimination; teachings resonate with constitutional values such as Article 15.

Service and Altruism: The concept of Seva aligns with modern ethics of community service and corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Pluralism and Harmony: Promotes interfaith dialogue, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence in a polarized world.

Simplicity and Truthful Living: Encourages integrity, honesty, and transparency in public and private life.

Compassion and Humility: Provides ethical grounding for inclusive governance and human-centered development.

Global Relevance: Advocates universal values of peace, brotherhood, and coexistence, aligning with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Source: <https://ddnews.gov.in/en/pm-modi-extends-greetings-on-parkash-purab-of-sri-guru-granth-sahib-ji/>

