

## Guru Tegh Bahadur

### Why in news?

April 11 of every year is observed as the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur and this year marks his 400 parkash purab celebration.

### Who is Guru Tegh Bahadur?

- [Guru Tegh Bahadur](#) is the 9<sup>th</sup> of 10 Sikh Gurus (1664-75).
- Guru Tegh Bahadur is preceded by Guru Har Krishan Sahib and succeeded by Guru Gobind Singh Sahib.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur was born on 1621 in Amritsar, Punjab, India and died on November 1675 in Delhi.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur was second Sikh martyr, Guru Arjan being the first sikh martyr.

S.NO	NAME OF THE GURUS	PERIOD
1	Guru Nanak Dev	1469 to 1539
2	Guru Angad Dev	1539 to 1552
3	Guru Amardas Sahib	1552 to 1574
4	Guru Ram Das	1574 to 1581
5	Guru Arjan Dev	1581 to 1606
6	Guru Har Gobind Sahib	1606 to 1644
7	Guru Har Rai Sahib	1644 to 1661
8	Guru Har Krishan Sahib	1661 to 1664
9	Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib	1665 to 1675
10	Guru Gobind Singh Sahib	1675 to 1708

- **Early life** - The Guru was born in Amritsar in 1621 to Mata Nanki and Guru Hargobind, the 6<sup>th</sup> Sikh guru.
  - Guru Hargobind introduced the concept of *warrior saints*.
- **Sant Sipahi** - Is a Sikh that aims to become both spiritually and martially skilled as per the teachings of the 6th Sikh Guru, Guru Hargobind.
- A Sant Sipahi is meant to embrace Sikh religious and spiritual philosophy while being prepared to use necessary violence to defend the rights of the innocent.
- **Tyag Mal** - Tegh Bahadur was originally named Tyag Mal but was later renamed Tegh Bahadur after his gallantry and bravery in the wars against the Mughal forces.
- At the age of 13, his heroic swordsmanship in a battle against a Mughal chieftain earned him the name, Tegh Bahadur (*Tegh means sword in Punjabi*)
- **Sikh Guru** - After Guru Ram Das, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sikh guru, the guruship became hereditary.
- He became the 9<sup>th</sup> Sikh guru after Har Krishan, who has the shortest tenure among all the Sikh Gurus, passed away in Delhi in 1664.

- **Guru Gobind Singh** - Guru Gobind Singh, the son of Guru Tegh Bahadur was born in Patna in 1666.
- **Nirbhau & Nirvair** - He questioned the tradition of worshipping at the graves of pirs and faqirs and urged his followers to be Nirbhau (fearless) and Nirvair (without envy).
- **Wider audience** - His sermons, delivered in a mix of *Sadukhri* and *Braj* languages, were widely understood from Sindh to Bengal.
- **Concept of One God** - He often alluded to Panchali (Draupadi) and Ganika in his preaching and declared that Hindustan could regain its piety if it took refuge in one God.
- **Execution** - Aurangzeb ordered the public execution of the Guru on November 11, 1675 after the Guru refused to embrace Islam.
- **Gurdwara Sis Ganj** - On the site of his execution, Gurdwara Sis Ganj was built in 1783.

*Sri Gur Bilas Patshahi Dasmi is a biography of Guru Gobind Singh by Kavi Sukha Singh written in 1797*

### Quick facts

- The Nanakshahi calendar is a tropical solar calendar used in Sikhism.
- The calendar is based on the "Barah Maha" a composition composed by the Sikh gurus reflecting the changes in nature conveyed in the twelve month cycle of the year.
- Guru Gobind Singh, the 10<sup>th</sup> and last of the personal [Sikh Gurus](#), known chiefly for his creation of the Khalsa (the Pure) the military brotherhood of the Sikhs.

### References

1. [The Indian Express | Guru Tegh Bahadur](#)
2. [The Britannica | Guru Tegh Bahadur](#)