

Guru Tegh Bahadur

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | History

Why in news?

The Vice-President of India addressed an Interfaith Conclave in New Delhi, commemorating the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

- Guru Tegh Bahadur is the **9th of 10 Sikh Gurus** (1664-75).
- He was preceded by Guru Har Krishan Sahib and succeeded by Guru Gobind Singh Sahib.
- **Early Life -**
 - He was born on April 1, 1621, in Amritsar as **Tyag Mal**, the youngest son of Guru Hargobind Ji (6th Sikh Guru).
 - He was trained in scripture, music, horse riding, and swordsmanship.

Key Contributions

- **Hymns** - His 115 hymns (**Salokas**) are included in the Guru Granth Sahib.
- He founded the **town of Anandpur** in 1672.
- **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.
- **Universal Brotherhood** - He advocated against religious discrimination, caste-based discrimination, and untouchability and promoted equality and dignity for all.
- **Religion as Duty** - Emphasised that religion is not merely a belief system but a duty to uphold justice and morality.
- He promoted the **principle of "Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam"** (the world is one family).
- **Execution** - During Aurangzeb's reign, Guru Tegh Bahadur resisted forced conversions of Kashmiri Pandits.
- He was arrested and brought to Delhi, and Aurangzeb ordered the *public execution* of the Guru on November 11, 1675, after he refused to embrace Islam.
- **Gurdwara Sis Ganj** - On the **site of his execution**, Gurdwara Sis Ganj was built in 1783.
- **Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib** - Historic Sikh shrine in New Delhi, built at the site where **his body was cremated** after his martyrdom in 1675.

- **Titles -**

- He earned the **title "Tegh Bahadur"** (master of the sword) after his valour in the ***Battle of Kartarpur (1634)***.
- Also, honoured with the title '**Hind Di Chadar'** - a universal symbol of supreme sacrifice and moral courage.
- Preferred to be remembered as "**Deg Bahadur"** (master of hospitality), symbolising compassion alongside courage.

- **Spiritual Characteristics** - He emphasised non-violence and taught the importance of maintaining principles in both happiness and sorrow.

- **Cultural Impact** - He is considered a pivotal figure in preserving religious diversity. He inspired future generations of Sikhs and Indians.

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

References

[PIB | 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji](#)

