

Gurpurabs and Historical Days

1st November**Birth**

Mata Saheb Kaur ji

2nd November**Birth**

Bhagat Namdev ji

5th November**Prakash Utsav**

Guru Nanak Dev Sahib

13th November**Shaheedi**

Baba Deep Singh ji

14th November

Foundation of S.G.P.C

24th November**Shaheedi**

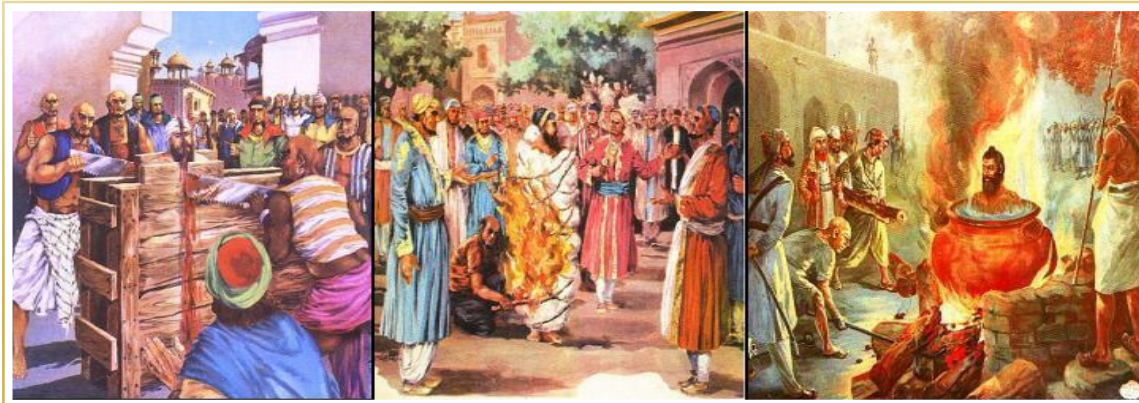
Bhai Mati Das ji,
Bhai Dayala ji,
Bhai Sati Das ji
Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib

Guru Gaddi Diwas

Guru Gobind Singh Sahib

28th November**Birth**

Sahebzada
Zorawar Singh ji

**Salok Vaaran te Wadheek. Mahala 1.**

Jao tao prem khelan ka chaa, Sir dhar talee galee meree aao.
It maarag pair dhareejay. Sir deejay kaann na keejay.

(GGS 1412)

If you desire to play this game of love with Me, then step onto My Path with your Head in hand. When you place your feet on this path, give Me your head, and do not pay any attention to public opinion.

Guru Nanak Dev Sahib - Life at glance :

- Born on** : Kattak Sudi (Full moon), Bikrami era, 1526 /Oct-Nov,1469 A.D.
- Born at** : Rae Bhoi di Talvandi - Nankana Sahib, now in Pakistan.
- Father** : Mehta Kalayan Das Ji
- Mother** : Mata Tripata Ji
- Sister** : Bibi Nanaki Ji
- Guru ke Mahal** : Bibi Sulakhani Ji
- Sahibzade** : Baba Sri Chand Ji & Baba Lakhmi Das Ji.
- First Sermon:** : His first Sermon was "**Na koi Hindu hai, na koi Musalaman**" Neither there is any Hindu nor Muslim, all are children's of one Akal Purakh (God) .
- Udasis** : Guru Sahib undertook four Udasis for the benefit of One and All and travelled extensively throughout Indian sub-continent apart from visiting Sri Lanka, Mekka (Saudi Arabia), Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan & other places.
- Bani** : Hymns in 19 Ragas, e.g. Asa, Basantu, Dhanasri, Gauri Majh, Ramakali, Sorathi, Sri Raag and Suhi. He also recited Japu which is not in any Raag.
- His Message** : Kirat Karo, Nama Japo, Vand Chhako, To shed away caste-prejudices, because all human beings are equal. To imbibe the spirit of Service and Humanity.
- City Founded** : He founded Kartarpur, a city on the banks of river Ravi in 1504 A.D (now in Pakistan).
- Succession to Gurgadi** : Guru Nanak Sahib named Bhai Lehana as Angad and installed him as his successor.
- Joti - Jot Samae** : On 23 Assu (Sudi 10,), Bikrami era, 1596 / September 22, 1539 A.D. at Kartarpur (Ravi).

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Guru Nanak Sahib - Teachings

Guru Nanak Dev Sahib stimulated a new wave of thought in all human beings so that we all may lead a healthy life. He taught us to lead a life of contentment, adjusted to the environment. He motivated us to acquire information about ourselves:

- ♣ Who am I?
- ♣ From where have I come and who has sent me?
- ♣ Why have I come here?
- ♣ Where should I aim to go and why?
- ♣ Can I change my wrong path to a righteous one? If so, how?

Guru Sahib taught us:

- To adjust ourselves to the environment on the basis of Truth and reality without sacrificing our own individuality.
- To achieve Oneness with God by living an active life of Gurmukh.
- That Righteousness and giving up of vice are the ways to realise the essence of God.

Guru Nanak Dev Sahib asked for total commitment to understand that God's presence is felt everywhere and in all spheres. He gave us the concepts of:

Naam Japna - To Remember God at all times, which will bring you contentment, truth, humility and virtue

Kirat Karna - To work and earn a livelihood by honest means which preaches against slavery and injustice.

Wand Chakna - To share wealth, brings the essence of equality to oneself.

The Goal of a Sikh is to live in the Will of God and to remember that service and sacrifice express love and devotion to God:

"Truth is higher than everything , but higher still is truthful living"

Guru Sahib reminds us in his hymns that:

"Life is to be full of noble deeds based on the highest moral values"

"Love is the feature of religious experience with the Loving Creator"

Guru Nanak Dev Sahib organised sangats to motivate his Sikhs to practice the codes and the principles of Sikhism and a will to defend them. He set out to establish a society based on ethical values which protect freedom and equality and which would protest exploitation. He wanted people to know their rights and to be fully conscious of them. He observed:

"The people have forgotten their cultural heritage, and are imitating the aliens on their language, dress and manner"

He established a society where all social, economical, political and psychological differences mitigated on the level of equality. He created a society of saint-soldiers, living as householders, engaged in pursuits of daily life, having a sense of responsibility for social and political roles committed to carrying out The Will of the Loving God, and always prepared to resist oppression and to fight injustice.

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Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib

A person who sacrifices his life for a noble cause is called a '**Shaheed**'. Guru Arjan Sahib, the fifth Guru sacrificed his life for the sake of Sikh religion. Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib, the ninth Guru sacrificed his life for Hindu religion (on the request from Kashmiri Pandits) and saved them from the cruelty of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was born on 1st April 1621 at Guru Ke Mahal Amritsar. Guru Sahib was the youngest son of the sixth Guru, Guru Hargobind Sahib. When Guru Hargobind Sahib came to see his son after birth along with Sikh's, Guru Sahib said, "**Our son will be a brave man, master of kirpan and will do a great sacrifice**" and was named as Tegh Bahadur. These words proved right in the future. In 1634 Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was married to Mata Gujri Ji (D/o Lal Chand, residence of Bakala), who gave birth to Gobind Rai (Guru Gobind Singh Sahib) in 1666. (Guru) Tegh Bahadur Sahib proved his mastery for the use of kirpan in the fourth battle at Kartarpur on 26th, 27th, 28th of April 1635 and thus proved the words of Guru Hargobind Sahib. After Battle, Guru Hargobind Sahib himself went to Kiratpur and sent (Guru) Tegh Bahadur Sahib along with family to Bakala (Dist. Amritsar) for parchaar work. After Guru Hargobind Sahib, the Gurgadhi was given to Guru Har Rai Sahib in 1644 and later on to Guru Harkrishan Sahib in 1661. When (Guru) Tegh Bahadur Sahib visited Delhi in 1664 at the call of Guru Harkrishan Sahib, Guru Sahib personally communicated his decision of handing over the Gurgadi to Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib. After the meeting, (Guru) Tegh Bahadur Sahib came back to Bakala.

In 1665 Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib purchased some land at village Makhawal from Raja deep chand of Kaheloor and later developed the city of Anandpur Sahib. Guru Sahib then started his journey (Parchar Fera) towards North-East of India, to reduce the fear of oppression (by Mughal rulers) among the people and teach them to live a honourable life. Guru Sahib worked for the welfare of common people. Guru Sahib spread the message of Gurbani among the Sangat, taught them to live in brotherhood, do Satsangat, work hard, share their income (Daswand) and remember the One Akal Purakh. In Assam Guru Sahib generated friendship between Raja Ram Singh and Sardar of Ahomi Kabila Raja Chakra Dhawaj without any bloodshed.

Later on there was news that people are suffering a lot because of cruel orders from the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb who was forcefully converting Hindus to Muslims. Thinking that if he could convert their Leaders / Pandits, their followers will automatically follow and convert to Islam. Hence maximum cruelty was on top Hindu Leaders - the Pandits of Kashmir. So Guru Sahib started his journey back towards Punjab from Assam. Guru Sahib reached Patna and met Sahebzada Gobind Rai (Guru Gobind Singh Sahib) & family and then headed towards Anandpur Sahib via Baksar, Banaras, Ayodhya etc. He reached Anandpur Sahib in 1670. After some time Guru Sahib called the entire family at Anandpur Sahib from Patna. At Anandpur Sahib Guru Sahib explained the present situation & upcoming dangers to his nine year old son Gobind Rai (Guru Gobind Singh Sahib) and started preparing for upcoming situations. At the same time Kashmiri Pandit - Kirparam along with other Pandit's met Guru Sahib at Anandpur Sahib to seek his help. After listening to their grievances, Guru Sahib assured them of full support and help. Kashmiri Pandit's conveyed the message to the Aurangzeb that, "**We are in shelter of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib who is our religious leader. Regarding the Conversion you talk to Guru Sahib and what ever Guru Sahib does, we will follow him**". Before starting his journey, Guru Sahib handed over Gurgadi to Guru Gobind Singh Sahib. Guru Sahib preached people on his way to lead a life free of fear and prepared them for fighting against cruelty and stand up for righteousness and if needed sacrifice one's life for same. The motto of Guru Sahib's teaching was, "**One who does not frighten anyone, and who is not afraid of any one else**",

ਭੈ ਕਾਹੂ ਕਉ ਦੇਤ ਨਹਿ ਨਹਿ ਭੈ ਮਾਨਤ ਆਨ ॥ ਕਹੁ ਨਾਨਕ ਸੁਨਿ ਰੇ ਮਨਾ ਗਿਆਨੀ ਤਹਿ ਬਖਾਨਿ ॥੧੬॥ (੧੪੨੭)

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which resulted in many like-minded people even Muslims, accepting Sikh Religion aggressively. It was around this period that Sayad Saif Ali Khan from Saifabad (Presently – Bahadargad, Dist. Patiala) and Mohammad Baksh (Chaudhary of Samana) became follower of Guru Sahib.

After hearing this news and seeing the popularity of Guru Sahib grow, Aurangzeb, who was at Hasan Abdaal at that time, strictly ordered his ministers in Delhi to arrest Guru Sahib and try to convert Guru Sahib to Muslim, and if Guru Sahib refused to do so, he should be prescuted. The Ministers and Qazis followed the same and arrested Guru Sahib on the way and brought them to Delhi. At the time of arrest Guru Sahib was accompanied by Bhai Mati Das Ji, Bhai Dayala Ji, Bhai Sati Das Ji, Bhai Gurdita Ji, Bhai Udha Ji, Bhai Jaita Ji etc., who were the leading Gursikhs at that time. Guru Sahib separated Bhai Gurdita Ji, Bhai Udha Ji and Bhai Jaita Ji from himself to have an eye on the situation and act accordingly, leaving Bhai Mati Das Ji, Bhai Dayala Ji and Bhai Sati Das Ji with him.

After arresting Guru Sahib and three Sikhs, the Qazis argued with Guru Sahib, trying to convince him to convert to Muslim. Finding themselves unable to do so, they gave three choices to Guru Sahib - 1) Either accept Islam (Muslim religion) or 2) Show some super natural power or 3) be prepared for death. Guru Sahib replied negatively for first two choices – leaving ones religion because of fear and pressure was out of question. Regarding showing of super natural powers was against the law of God (Waheguru / One Akal Purakh). Regarding third choice of Death, Guru Sahib said he was ready, thus remaining firm on his principles. After hearing the reply at last Qazis declared **DEATH FATWA** for Guru Sahib and the Gursikhs.

On 11th November 1675, as a last attempt to frighten Guru Sahib, Bhai Mati Das Ji was tied in between two poles and cut with a saw. Bhai Dayala Ji was placed in boiling water and Bhai Sati Das Ji's body was wrapped with cotton and set on fire. None of the Gursikh accepted Islam and sacrificed their life while remembering the One Akal Purakh. Finally Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib recited the Path of Japu Ji Sahib and then was beheaded with a sword by Jalaludin Jallad (Samana vala) at Chandni Chowk. The place where Guru Tegh Bahadar Sahib sacrificed his life, Gurudwara - Sees Ganj Sahib (Delhi) was built by Bhai Bhagail Singh Ji.

Bhai Jaita Ji and Bhai Udha Ji along with Bhai Lakhi Shah Vanjara, Bhai Nanu Ji, Bhai Makhan Shah Lubana etc. planned to take care of Guru Sahib's Head and Body. Bhai Lakhi Shah travelled on Bullock-cart's to Chandni Chowk via Red Fort and as per plan Bhai Udha Ji who was in the outfit of Muslim men, took the body of Guru Sahib in Bullock-cart and at about three miles away placed the body in the house of Bhai Lakhi Shah at village Rakab Ganj. In order to cremate the body of Guru Sahib, the whole house was set on fire so that it does not come into knowledge of Mughal Soldiers. Later Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Sahib was built at this place.

Bhai Jaita Ji was ready to take care of the Sees (head) of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib and proceeded towards Anandpur Sahib. Along the way Bhai Jaita Ji met Bhai Udha Ji and Bhai Nanu Ji. All three Sikhs along with head of Guru Sahib reached Anandpur Sahib. Guru Gobind Singh Sahib respected the Sikhs and said "**Rangreta Guru Ka Beta**" to Bhai Jaita Ji and Bhai Udha Ji. Gurudwara Sees Ganj (Anandpur Sahib) was built at the place where Sees (Head) of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was cremated by Guru Gobind Singh Sahib.

In this way the Ninth Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib sacrificed his life for the sake of mankind and showed the way to others, to be firm in their belief and honour everyone's right to choose their faith. With this, Guru Sahib induced the feeling of sacrifice in all for the principle of equality and independence of all religions. If this principle is followed by whole World, then there will never be any inter community clashes and only then can we talk about real world peace. Guru Gobind Singh Sahib wrote about the sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib as:

“ ਧਰਮ ਹੇਤਿ ਸਾਕਾ ਜਿਨਿ ਕੀਆ ॥ ਸੀਸੁ ਦੀਆ ਪਰ ਸਿਰੁ ਨ ਦੀਆ”

"Dharam Heth Saka Jin Keea. Sees Diya Par SIRR Na Diya"

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ਰਾਗੁ ਗੋਂਡ ਬਾਣੀ ਨਾਮਦੇਉ ਜੀ ਕੀ ਘਰੁ ੧

ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

ਅਸੁਮੇਧ ਜਗਨੇ ॥ ਤੁਲਾ ਪੁਰਖ ਦਾਨੇ ॥ ਪ੍ਰਾਗ ਇਸਨਾਨੇ ॥੧॥ ਤਉ ਨ ਪੁਜਹਿ ਹਰਿ ਕੀਰਤਿ ਨਾਮਾ ॥ ਅਪੁਨੇ ਰਾਮਹਿ ਭਜੁ ਰੇ
ਮਨ ਆਲਸੀਆ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥ ਗਇਆ ਪਿੰਡੁ ਭਰਤਾ ॥ ਬਨਾਰਸਿ ਅਸਿ ਬਸਤਾ ॥ ਮੁਖਿ ਬੇਦ ਚਤੁਰ ਪੜਤਾ ॥੨॥ ਸਗਲ
ਧਰਮ ਅਛਿਤਾ ॥ ਗੁਰ ਗਿਆਨ ਇੰਦ੍ਰੀ ਦ੍ਰਿੜਤਾ ॥ ਖਟੁ ਕਰਮ ਸਹਿਤ ਰਹਤਾ ॥੩॥ ਸਿਵਾ ਸਕਤਿ ਸੰਬਾਦੰ ॥ ਮਨ ਛੋਡਿ ਛੋਡਿ
ਸਗਲ ਭੇਦੰ ॥ ਸਿਮਰਿ ਸਿਮਰਿ ਗੋਬਿੰਦੰ ॥ ਭਜੁ ਨਾਮਾ ਤਰਸਿ ਭਵ ਸਿੰਧੰ ॥੪॥੧॥

(ਅੰਗ ੮੭੩)

English Translation:

Raag Gond Bane Naamday-o jee kee ghar 1

ik-oNkaar satgur parsaad.

asumayDh jagnay. tulaa purakh daanay. paraag isnaanay. || 1 ||

ta-o na pujeh har keerat naamaa. apunay raameh bhaj ray man aalsee-aa. || 1 || rahaa-o.

ga-i-aa pind bhartaa. banaaras as basta. mukh bayd chatur parh-taa. || 2 ||

sagal Dharam achhita. gur gi-aan indree darirh-taa. khat karam sahit rahta. || 3 ||

sivaa saka sambaadN. man chhod chhod sagal bhaydaN. simar simar gobindaN. bhaj naamaa
taras bhav sinDhaN. || 4 || 1 ||

(GGS 873)

English Meaning:

Raag Gond, The Word of Naamday-o Jee, First House.

One Universal Creator God. By the Grace of the True Guru:

The ritual sacrifice of horses, giving one's weight in gold to charities, and ceremonial cleansing baths | 1 |
These are not equal to singing the Praises of the Lord's Name. Meditate on your Lord, you lazy man! | 1 |
Pause | Offering sweet rice at Gaya, living on the river banks of Banaras, reciting the four Vedas by heart
| 2 | Completing all religious rituals, restraining sexual passion by the spiritual wisdom given by the Guru,
and performing Six rituals | 3 | Expounding on Shiva and Shakti – O man, renounce and abandon all these
things. Meditate, meditate in remembrance on the Lord of Universe. Meditate, O Naamday-o, and cross over
the terrifying world-ocean | 4 | 1 |

(GGS 873)

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ACTIVITIES

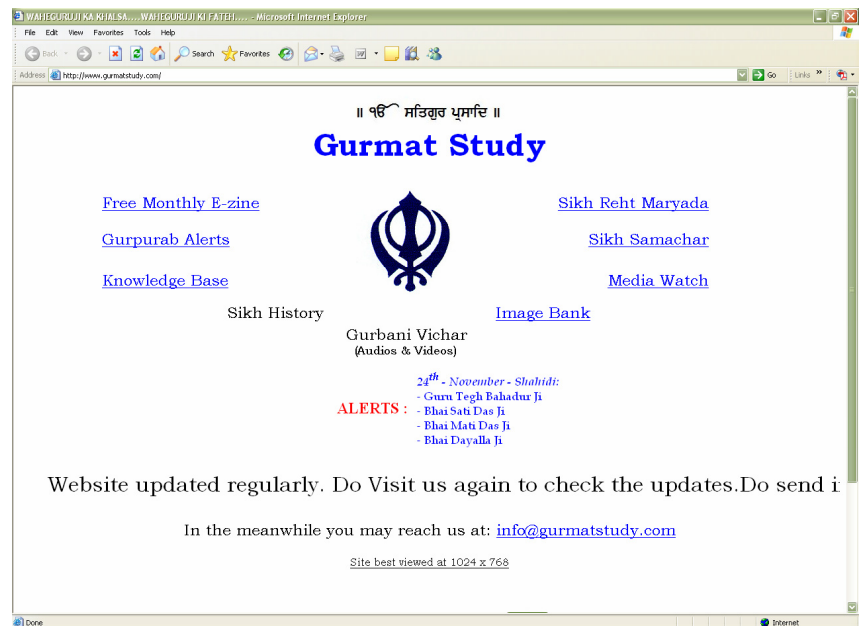
Launch of our Website

www.gurmatstudy.com

It has been around for a year now that we started Gurmat Study. Operating from a web based gmail account, sending gurgurab alerts to a handful of members, we have come a long way. This has been only possible with the grace of Almighty (Akal Purakh) and support from our ever growing members.

It gives us a great pleasure to inform you that we have introduced our own Website **www.gurmatstudy.com** The response from members / viewers is very heartening and encourages us to do more. We truly have gone international with our website being viewed in different parts of world. As of now following sections are included on our website:

- Monthly E-zine
- Gurgurab Alerts
- Knowledge Base
- Sikh Reht Maryada
- Sikh Samachar
- Media Watch
- Image Bank
- Sikh History
- Gurbani Vichar



As you would agree this is a massive task, we kindly request everybody to come forward and help us in doing this SEVA in an efficient and effective manner. This can be done in various other ways than monetary contributions e.g. English & Punjabi Typing, Proof Reading, Website Designing, Website Promotion etc. do let us know of your interests and skills so that we all can work together in driving success.

We are updating our website regularly with new & updated contents. Do send us any comments or suggestion that you have pertaining to website on info@gurmatstudy.com

.....Miles to go.....

WAHEGURUJI KA KHALSA WAHEGURUJI KI FATEH

PANTH DE DAASRE

GURMAT STUDY TEAM

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