History of Ten Sikh Gurus

Why in news?

\n\n

Recently, Prakash Parva – The holy day commemorating the 350th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh was celebrated.

\n\n

Sikh Gurus

\n\n

\n
- The era of the ten gurus of Sikhism spans from the birth of Nanak Dev in 1469, through the life of Guru Gobind Singh.
\n
- At the time of Guru Gobind Singh's death in 1708, he passed the title of Guru to the Sikh scripture, Guru Granth.
\n

\n\n

1. Guru Nanak Dev - Guru from 1469 to 1539

\n\n

\n
- Guru Nanak Dev, first of the 10 gurus, founded the Sikh faith, introducing the concept of one God.
\n
- He started the institution of **Guru Ka Langar**. Langar is the term in the Sikh religion refers to the common kitchen where food is served to everyone without any discrimination.
\n
- He emphasized the equality of women and rejected the path of renunciation and he rejected the authority of the Vedas.
\n

- He was the contemporary of Mughal emperor - **Babur.**
  \n

\n\n

2. Guru Angad Dev - Guru from 1539 to 1552

\n\n

\n
- Guru Angad Dev, second of the 10 gurus, invented and introduced the Gurmukhi (written form of Punjabi) script.
  \n
- He compiled the writings of Nanak Dev in Guru Granth Sahib in **Gurmukhi Script**.
  \n
- Popularized and expanded the institution of Guru ka Langar which was started by Guru Nanak Dev.
  \n

\n\n

3. Guru Amardas Sahib - Guru from 1552 to 1574

\n\n

\n
- Guru Amardas introduced the **Anand Karaj** marriage ceremony for the Sikhs, replacing the Hindu form.
  \n
- He established Manji & Piri system of religious missions for men and women respectively.
  \n
- He strengthened the tradition of Guru Ka Langar.
  \n
- He also completely abolished amongst the Sikhs, the custom of Sati and purdah system.
  \n
- He was the contemporary of Mughal emperor - Akbar.
  \n

\n\n

4. Guru Ram Das - Guru from 1574 to 1581

\n\n

\n
- Guru Ram Das, fourth of the 10 gurus, founded the **city of Amritsar**.

\n
- He started the construction of the famous Golden Temple at Amritsar, the holy city of the Sikhs.
\n
- He requested the Muslim Sufi, Mian Mir to lay the cornerstone of the Harmandir Sahib.
\n

\n\n

5. Guru Arjan Dev - Guru from 1581 to 1606

\n\n

\n
- He compiled the **Adi Granth**, the scriptures of the Sikhs.
\n
- He completed construction of Sri Darbar Sahib also known as Golden Temple in Amritsar.
\n
- He founded the town of Tarn Taran Sahib near Goindwal Sahib.
\n
- He became the **first great martyr in Sikh history** when Emperor **Jahangir ordered his execution**. Thus, he was hailed as Shaheedan-de-Sartaj (The crown of martyrs).
\n

\n\n

6. Guru Har Gobind Sahib - Guru from 1606 to 1644

\n\n

\n
- He was the son of Guru Arjan Dev and was known as a "soldier saint”.
\n
- He organised a small army and became the **first Guru to take up arms** to defend the faith.
\n
- He waged wars against Mughal rulers Jahangir and Shah Jahan.
\n

\n\n

7. Guru Har Rai Sahib - Guru from 1644 to 1661

\n\n

\n

- Though he was a man of peace, he never disbanded the armed sikh warriors who were earlier maintained by Guru Har Gobind.
  \n
- He gave shelter to Dara Shikoh, the eldest son of Mughal Ruler Shah Jahan, who was later persecuted by Aurangazeb.
  \n
- He cautiously avoided conflict with Emperor Aurangzeb and devoted his efforts to missionary work.
  \n

\n\n

8. Guru Har Krishan Sahib - Guru from 1661 to 1664

\n\n

\n
- Guru Har Krishan was the youngest of the Gurus. He was installed as Guru at the age of five.
  \n
- He was contemporary of Aurangazeb and summoned to Delhi by him under framed charges of anti-Islamic blasphemy.
  \n

\n\n

9. Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib - Guru from 1665 to 1675

\n\n

\n
- He established the town of Anandpur.
  \n
- He opposed the forced conversion of the Hindu Kashmiri Pandits by Mughal ruler Aurangazeb and he was consequently persecuted for this.
  \n

\n\n

10. Guru Gobind Singh Sahib - Guru from 1675 to 1708

\n\n

\n
- He became Guru after the martyrdom of his father Guru Tegh Bahadur.
  \n
- He created the **Khalsa** in 1699, changing the Sikhs into a saint-soldier order for protecting themselves.
  \n

- **Last Sikh Guru in human form** and he passed the Guruship of the Sikhs to the Guru Granth Sahib.
  \n

\n\n

11. Guru Granth Sahib

\n\n

\n
- Guru Granth Sahib (also known as the Adi Granth) is the **scripture of the Sikhs.**
  \n
- The Granth was written in Gurmukhi script and it contains the actual words and verses as uttered by the Sikh Gurus.
  \n
- It is considered the Supreme Spiritual Authority and **Head of the Sikh religion, rather than any living person**.
  \n

\n

IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative