

Martyrdom Day Of Guru Tegh Bahadur

Why In News

- The **shaheedi diwas of ninth Guru of Sikhs Sri Guru Teg Bahadur** was observed with great enthusiasm. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalled the martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur (1621-1675) on December 17, calling the ninth Sikh Guru a **beacon of courage and strength**.



- **“His unparalleled sacrifice for freedom and human dignity echoes through time, inspiring humanity to live with integrity and compassion. His teachings, emphasising unity and righteousness, light our way in the pursuit of brotherhood and peace,”** the PM posted on X.



Guru Teg Bahadur

- Tegh Bahadur was born in **Amritsar on 21st April 1621 to Mata Nanki and Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh guru**, who raised an army against the Mughals and introduced the concept of warrior saints.



- As a boy, Tegh Bahadur was called **Tyag Mal** because of his ascetic nature. He spent his early childhood in Amritsar under the **tutelage of Bhai Gurdas**, who taught him Gurmukhi, Hindi, Sanskrit, and Indian religious philosophy, while **Baba Budha** trained him in swordsmanship, archery, and horse-riding.
- He was only 13 when he distinguished himself in a battle against a Mughal chieftain.
- After Guru Nanak Dev, the first Sikh Guru, it was Guru Teg Bahadur who travelled the most among the 10 living Sikh Gurus.



- He **travelled to** Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal, Assam, and Bangladesh. Guru Teg Bahadur's journey is documented in the form of **Gurudwaras established in the memory of his visits**, including one in Ayodhya.
- **The Guru was also a great poet**, and his hymns are part of Guru Granth Sahib.
- The **founder of the City Anandpur Sahib**, which was geographically well-suited to defend against a big army.



- The Guru was not only a warrior but also a **great diplomat**. He had very close relations with many contemporary kings.
- During the tour to the northeast region of India, Tegh Bahadur Sahib was instrumental in the conciliation between **Raja Bishan Singh and Raja Paranpal**, thus avoiding a war.

Guru Tegh Bahadur



- In August 1664, Guru Tegh Bahadur was anointed the ninth Guru of the Sikhs.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur travelled far and wide visiting many places in northern India and also Assam and Dhaka, preaching the word of Guru Nanak.
- He started community water wells and langars (community kitchen for the poor and hungry).
- In 1668 in Assam, he was able to preach a treaty between the King of Ahom and Raja Ram Singh of Amber who was sent there by Aurangzeb.
- In 1672, he visited Kashmir where he saw the persecution of non-Muslims.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur composed many hymns that were added to the Guru Granth Sahib. He wrote the Saloks, 116 shabads and 15 ragas.
- He founded the city of Anandpur Sahib in Punjab in 1665.

Guru Teg Bahadur's Execution By Aurangzeb

- He was first arrested by the Mughals on the orders of Aurangzeb in 1665; however, the diplomatic relations he had established secured his release and he was able to continue his journey east. The execution came 10 years later in 1675.



- According to Sikh sources Dasam Granth (1600), Gurbilas (1720), Gurbilas Patshahi Dasvi (1751), and Bansavalinama (1769), Kashmiri Pandits came to Guru Teg Bahadur at Anandpur Sahib to seek protection from forced conversion to Islam by Aurangzeb's men.
- The Guru assured the Pandits of his protection. When he reached New Delhi, he was arrested along with disciples Bhai Matti Dass, Bhai Satti Dass (brothers), and Bhai Deyala ji.



- The three disciples were executed one by one, to threaten Guru Teg Bahadur to embrace Islam. When he remained steadfast in his refusal to do so, the Guru was executed in Chandni Chowk.
- Gurudwara Sis Ganj now stands where he was beheaded, constructed in 1783, eight years after his killing. There is another Gurudwara in Rakab Ganj, near Parliament building. This is believed to be the location where the Guru's body was cremated by Bhai Lakh Shah, by setting ablaze his own house.