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## Happy 551st Birthday to

## Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Guru Nanak Jayanti, also known as Gurburab or Prakash Utsav, is celebrated across the globe to mark the birth anniversary of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak Dev.

Know the date, time, significance and celebrations:



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## ***Guru Nanak Jayanti or Guru Nanak Prakash Utsav - The Most Celebrated Sikh***

Guru Nanak Jayanti, or as it is commonly called, Guru Nanak Gurburab, is a Sikh festival which is celebrated with a lot of fervour and excitement in many parts of India by Sikh and Punjabi communities alike. Most Sikh festivities are centred around the birth of their ten Gurus, who helped shape the religion and preach the importance of religious devotion. As the name suggests, Guru Nanak Gurburab celebrates the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who is the first Guru of the Sikhs and the founder of Sikhism.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurburab 2020 Date

In 2020, it will be held on 30th of November which is a Monday. In 2019, the day was marked as the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

How is Guru Nanak Jayanti Celebrated?

Guru Nanak Gurburab, celebrated with merriment and utmost devotion, is a grand procession!

1. An Akhand Path, a non-stop reading of the Sikh's holy book Guru Granth Sahib Ji, commences two days prior to the actual day.



2. Processions are held in various parts of states like Punjab and Delhi and people do a lot of Sewa, extending their selfless service, in cleaning the road ahead of the procession for the Palki or Palanquin, and distributing free food and drinks to everyone, regardless of the caste or background.

3. These processions are led by the Panj Pyaras, the Five Beloved Ones carrying the Sikh flag, Nishan Sahib. The original

Panj Pyaras played a major role in defining the history of Sikhism as they were the first ones to get baptised in the Sikh initiation ceremony of Amrit Sanchar. 4. The procession also has devotees singing hymns in the praise of their lord and performing Gatka, a form of martial art. 5. On the day of the Gurburab, the Akhand Path is concluded by singing Asa di Var, the morning prayers. It is followed by people visiting the Gurdwaras to offer their prayers,

take blessings, listen to melodious hymns and calm their minds.

6. All the Gurdwaras are beautifully adorned with flowers and upholstery, and at night, they are lit with light bulbs, rendering it a breath-taking view.

Food Served During Gurburab Since it is a special day, people flock to the Gurdwaras in astounding numbers with their friends and families. As a form of Sewa, there are usually many

stalls serving all kinds of delicious food outside the Gurdwaras, and inside, Langar, the food prepared by the people, is served to everyone, regardless of their caste or community. The mouth-watering Karha Prasad is also served throughout the day. People also distribute sweets to others to show and spread their happiness. About Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Born into a Kshatriya (warrior) family on 14th April 1469 A.D in the village Talwandi in Lahore, Pakistan, Guru Nanak was the son of Mehta Kalu Chand and Mata Tripti Devi. He got married to Bibi Sulakhani and was blessed with two sons, Srichand and Lakshmidhand. Since an early age, he was religious and spent time reciting God's name. He had a Noor, radiant glow on his face which made him stand out in the crowd. He never threw any tantrums and was a very balanced and poised child. His devotion led him to leave his family to go in the woods and meditate. He became an advocate of God's teachings, impressing upon the fact that we all are the children of God and should recite his name during duress or eustress. His hymns



were recorded in Japji Sahib, a holy scripture in Sikhism, which is a part of Guru Granth Sahib as well. It is a description of the stages of a man's life before he departs this life.

His first devotee was Mardana, and as Baba Nanak travelled across the land to preach to the public, his devotees kept increasing, regardless of any religious affiliation. There are many saakhis, or short stories, which serve as important moral lessons as part of Guru Nanak's journey that are still famous today. They

throw light on his divine journey and his profound understanding of things. During the last years of his life, he went back to his home to live with his family. Mardana, who was his faithful devotee, also followed him and

lived with him. Guru Nanak took his last breath at the age of 69 in 1538 A.D.

History of Gurpurab

One of the most cherished festivals of Sikhs, Guru Nanak Gurpurab, marking the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, is a



gazetted holiday in India. There is a contention between various scholars and religious groups over the date of celebrating this festival. Some believe that it should be celebrated on the festival of Vaisakhi, on 14th of

April which is also in accordance with the Nanakshahi calendar provided by Sri Akal Takht (Golden Temple, Amritsar). But according to Bhai Bala Ji, who is supposedly Guru Nanak's childhood friend and a devotee of his teachings, he was born on

the Full Moon of the Lunar Month Kartik. This is the reason that Gurpurab is celebrated in the month of November.

The peace of mind and soul that one gets visiting a temple and spending time there is unparalleled. Gurdwaras are known to be a calming and soothing place, and

during Gurpurab, the fervour multiplies. Next time you visit the state like Punjab or Delhi with a Sikh or Punjabi population who celebrate Gurpurab, do visit and take part in the procession, for the fun, food and frolic!

## Happy 551st Birthday to Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Nanak, (born April 15, 1469, Rai Bhoi di Talvandi [now Nankana Sahib, Pakistan], near Lahore, India-died 1539, Kartarpur, Punjab), Indian spiritual teacher who was the first Guru of the Sikhs, a monotheistic religious group that combines Hindu and Muslim influences. His teachings, expressed through devotional hymns, many of which still survive, stressed salvation from rebirth through meditation on the divine name. Among modern Sikhs he enjoys a particular affection as their founder and as the supreme master of Punjabi devotional hymnody. Life - What little information there is about Nanak's life has been handed down mainly through legend and tradition. There is no doubt that he was born in 1469 in the village of Rai Bhoi di Talvandi. His father was a member of a subcaste of the mercantile Khatri caste. The relatively high social rank of the Khatri distinguishes Nanak from other Indian religious reformers of the period and may have helped promote the initial growth of his following. He married the daughter of a Khatri, who bore him two sons. For several years Nanak worked in a granary until his religious vocation drew him away from both family and employment, and, in the tradition of Indian religious mendicants, he embarked on a lengthy journey, probably traveling to the Muslim and Hindu religious centres of India, and perhaps even to places beyond India's borders. Neither the actual route nor the places he visited can be positively identified. References found in four of his hymns suggest that Nanak was present at attacks Babur (an invading Mughal ruler) launched on Saidpur and Lahore, so it seems safe to conclude that by

1520 he had returned from his travels and was living in the Punjab. The remaining years of his life were spent in Kartarpur, another village of central Punjab. Tradition holds that the village was actually built by a wealthy admirer to honour Nanak. It was presumably during this final period that the foundations of the new Sikh community were laid. By this time it must be assumed that Nanak was recognized as a Guru, an inspired teacher of religious truth, and that, in accordance with the custom of India, disciples who accepted him as their Guru gathered around him in Kartarpur. Some probably remained as permanent residents of the village; many more made periodic visits to obtain his blessing. All of them listened to the teachings expressed there in numerous devotional hymns intended for communal singing, many of which survive to this day. The actual year of Nanak's death is disputed, tradition being divided between 1538 and 1539. Of these two possibilities, the latter appears to be the more likely. One of his disciples, Angad, was chosen by Nanak as his spiritual successor, and following Nanak's death he assumed the leadership of the young Sikh community as Guru Angad. In view of the size of the following that Nanak attracted, numerous anecdotes concerning the deeds of the Guru began to circulate within the community soon after his death. Many of these were borrowed from the current Hindu and Muslim traditions, and others were suggested by Nanak's own works. These anecdotes were called sakhis, or "testimonies," and the anthologies into which they were gathered in rough chronological order are known as Janam-sakhis.