



Guru Nanak Dev's 481st Death Anniversary

Why in News

Recently, the **Jyoti Jot** (death anniversary) of **Guru Nanak Dev** (Founder of [Sikhism](#)) was observed at his final resting place **Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur** in Pakistan.

- On the occasion of the **550th birth anniversary** of Guru Nanak the [Kartarpur Corridor](#) which connects India and Pakistan was opened to the public.



Key Points

- **Guru Nanak:**
 - Guru Nanak, **first of the ten Sikh Gurus** in Sikhism, is believed to have died at **Kartarpur** on 22nd September 1539.
 - Guru Nanak was born in **Talwandi Rai Bhoi**, near Lahore, Pakistan which was renamed later as **Nankana Sahib**.
 - He was a greatest **thinker, philosopher, poet, traveller, political rebel, social leveller, mass communicator and spiritual master**.
 - His political, social and spiritual beliefs were **based on love, equality, fraternity and virtue**. He is also viewed as a **symbol of peace and servicing**.
 - His followers came to be known as **Sikhs**, which means a **learner** or a **disciple**.
 - He used the **medium of music, poetry, song and speech to preach the love of God** and to **attack the socially oppressive practices of casteism** of the orthodox Brahmanical Hindu religion.

- He also spoke in favour of an **equitable social status for women.**
- Guru Nanak was also a **great traveller.** He went on long journeys (called Uddasian) to far off places along with his **two companions Bhai Bala**, a Hindu, and **Bhai Mardana**, a Muslim, to hold dialogues with many saints and Sufis.
- **Teaching of Guru Nanak:**
 - Guru Nanak declared that **God is one — formless** (Nirgun) and **without birth and death.** The **whole world is God's creation** i.e. **Ik Onkar Satnam.**
 - According to him **all are born equal.** He also stood for **karma** as the basis of **dharma.**
 - **Valued a simpler notion of truth** that was the basis of honest living.
 - He declared that truth has the highest value in life, but truthful living is higher still in value.
 - Created awareness related to the **conservation of water**, and the **importance of a clean environment.**
 - Emphasised on three things:
 - **Kirat Karni:** It means to work hard, and earn good karma and an honest livelihood.
 - **Vand Chakna:** It means to not be selfish, and share with others.
 - **Naam Japa:** It means to meditate and remember the name of god.
 - Provided a practical demonstration of **building a community** based on **strong egalitarian values** of:
 - **Cooperative agricultural work**
 - **Langar** (collective cooking and sharing of food)
 - **Pangat** (partaking food without distinctions of high and low)
 - **Sangat** (collective decision making)
 - His teachings are mentioned in the **Adi Granth** compiled by **Guru Arjan Dev** (1563-1606), the fifth sikh guru.

Source: IE

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