



450th Jyoti Jot Diwas of Sri Guru Amardas

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Why in News?

Recently, the **450th Jyoti Jot Diwas** (passing away day) of [Sri Guru Amardas Ji](#), the **third Sikh Guru**, was marked.

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Who was Sri Guru Amardas Ji?

▪ About:

- Born in 1479 at Basarke in **Amritsar district**, **Sri Guru Amardas Ji** was raised in an orthodox Hindu family.
- He was deeply inspired by the hymns of [Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji](#) and adopted **Sri Guru Angad Dev Ji** as his spiritual guide.
- Appointed as the **third Guru** (succeeding Guru Angad Ji) in march 1552 at the age of 73, he established his headquarters in **Goindwal**.

▪ Key Contributions:

- **Guru Amardas Ji** divided the Sikh community into **22 administrative districts (Manjis)** to facilitate the spread of Sikh teachings.
- He reinforced the tradition of '**Guru ka Langar**' (**communal kitchen**) by insisting that

visitors eat before meeting him, promoting equality and community.

- His interaction with **Emperor Akbar** led to the abolition of **toll-tax (pilgrim's tax)** for **non-Muslims** and solidified a respectful relationship.
- He actively campaigned against **social injustices** and **abolished** the custom of **Sati** and **Purdah system** among the Sikhs.
- He introduced the ceremony of the **Anand Karaj Marriage**.

▪ **Legacy and Final Years:**

- **Guru Amardas Ji** constructed a **Baoli at Goindwal Sahib**, making it a significant Sikh pilgrimage site.
- He composed **869 verses** (though some accounts state there were 709), including **Anand Sahib**, and **Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji** incorporated all these Shabads into the **Guru Granth Sahib**.
- He passed away on 1st September 1574, at the age of 95, leaving a profound legacy that continues to inspire the Sikh community today.

Sikh Gurus and their Major Contributions		
Guru	Period	Key Contributions
Guru Nanak Dev	1469-1539	Founder of Sikhism; started GURU KA LANGAR ; contemporary of Babur; 550th birth anniversary commemorated with Kartarpur corridor.
Guru Angad	1504-1552	Invented Guru-Mukhi script ; popularized GURU KA LANGAR.
Guru Amar Das	1479-1574	Introduced Anand Karaj Marriage ; abolished Sati and Purdah; contemporary of Akbar .
Guru Ram Das	1534-1581	Founded Amritsar in 1577; initiated construction of Golden Temple .
Guru Arjun Dev	1563-1606	Composed Adi Granth in 1604 ; completed Golden Temple; executed by Jahangir .
Guru Hargobind	1594-1644	Transformed Sikhs into a military community; established Akal Takht ; waged wars against Jahangir and Shah Jahan.
Guru Har Rai	1630-1661	Promoted peace with Aurangzeb ; focused on missionary work.
Guru Har Krishan	1656-1664	Youngest guru; summoned by Aurangzeb for anti-Islamic blasphemy.
Guru Teg Bahadur	1621-1675	Founded Anandpur Sahib .
Guru Gobind Singh	1666-1708	Founded Khalsa in 1699; introduced " Pahul "; last guru to pass Guruship to Guru Granth Sahib .

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. Consider the following Bhakti Saints: (2013)

1. Dadu Dayal
2. Guru Nanak
3. Tyagaraja

Who among the above was/were preaching when the Lodi dynasty fell and Babur took over?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3

(d) 1 and 2

Ans: (b)

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