



# Saroop of Guru Granth Sahib

## Why in News

Recently, **India has brought three saroops of [Guru Granth Sahib](#) (Sikh Holy Book) from Afghanistan**, now just three more remain in Afghanistan.

- There were 13 saroops in Afghanistan, of which seven were already shifted to India earlier.

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- Saroop is **a physical copy of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, also called Bir in Punjabi**. Every Bir has 1,430 pages, which are referred to as **Ang**. The verses on every page remain the same.
- The Sikhs **consider the saroop of Guru Granth Sahib a living guru** and treat it with utmost respect.
  - They believe that all the 10 Gurus were the same spirit in different bodies, and the Guru Granth Sahib is their eternal physical and spiritual form.
- **Guru Arjan Dev** (fifth Sikh master) **compiled the first Bir of the Guru Granth Sahib in 1604**, and installed it at the Golden Temple in Amritsar.
- Later, **Guru Gobind Singh (tenth Sikh master)**, added verses penned by his father Guru Tegh Bahadur (ninth master), and **compiled the Bir for the second and last time**.
- It was **in 1708 that Guru Gobind Singh declared Guru Granth Sahib the living Guru of the Sikhs**.
- Guru Granth Sahib is **a compendium of hymns written by six Sikh gurus, 15 saints**, including Bhagat Kabir, Bhagat Ravidas, Sheikh Farid and Bhagat Namdev, 11 Bhattas (balladeers) and **four Sikhs**.
  - The verses are **composed in 31 ragas**.
- The **Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)** has the sole rights to publish the Birs of the Guru Granth Sahib, and this is done at Amritsar.
- The installation and transportation of Guru Granth Sahib is governed by a strict **code of conduct called Sikh Rahit Maryada**.
  - Under ideal circumstances, five baptised Sikhs are required to transfer the Guru Granth Sahib from one place to another. As a mark of respect, the Bir of the Guru Granth Sahib is carried on the head, and the person walks barefoot.
- Gurdwaras have a separate resting place for the Saroop, called **'Sukh Asan Sthan' or 'Sachkhand'** where the Guru rests at night.
- In the morning, the saroop is again installed in a ceremony called **'Prakash'**.
- **Sikh Rahit Maryada**: It is the manual that specifies the duties of Sikhs, names four rituals that qualify as rites of passage.
  - The first is a birth and **naming ceremony**, held in a gurdwara.
  - A second rite is the **anand karaj** (blissful union), or marriage ceremony.

- The third rite—regarded as the most important—is the **amrit sanskar**, the ceremony for initiation into the Khalsa.
- The fourth rite is the **funeral ceremony**.

## Sikhism

- The word 'Sikh' in the Punjabi language **means 'disciple'**. Sikhs are the disciples of God who follow the writings and teachings of the Ten Sikh Gurus.
- Sikhs believe in **one God (Monotheism)**. The Sikhs **call their faith Gurmat** (Punjabi: “the Way of the Guru”).
- Sikhism was **established by Guru Nanak (1469-1539)** and subsequently led by a succession of nine other Gurus.
  - The development of Sikhism was **influenced by the Bhakti movement and Vaishnava Hinduism**.
- The **Islamic era persecution of Sikhs triggered the founding of the Khalsa**, as an order for freedom of conscience and religion.
- **Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa order** (meaning 'The Pure'), soldier-saints.
  - The Khalsa upholds the highest Sikh virtues of commitment, dedication and a social conscience and **practice the faith of 5 Ks**, which are,
    - Kesh (uncut hair), Kangha (a wooden comb), Kara (a iron bracelet), Kachera (cotton underpants) and Kirpan (an iron dagger).
- It preaches that **people of different races, religions, or sex are all equal** in the eyes of God.
- **The Sikh Literature:**
  - The **Adi Granth** is believed by Sikhs to be the abode of the eternal Guru, and for that reason it is **known to all Sikhs as the Guru Granth Sahib**.
  - The **Dasam Granth** is controversial in the Panth because of questions concerning its authorship and composition.

Ten Gurus of Sikh Religion	
<b>Guru Nanak Dev (1469-1539)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He was the first guru of Sikh and the founder of <b>Sikh religion</b>.</li> <li>▪ He started the <b>GURU KA LANGAR</b>.</li> <li>▪ He was <b>contemporary of Babur</b>.</li> <li>▪ <b>Kartarpur corridor</b> was commemorated on the <b>550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary</b> of <b>Guru Nanak Dev</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Guru Angad (1504-1552)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He invented the new script called <b>Guru-Mukhi</b> and popularized and expanded the system of Guru ka Langar.</li> </ul>
<b>Guru Amar Das (1479-1574)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He introduced the ceremony of the <b>Anand Karaj Marriage</b>.</li> <li>▪ He <b>abolished the custom of Sati and Purdah system</b> among the Sikhs.</li> <li>▪ He was <b>contemporary of Akbar</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Guru Ram Das (1534-1581)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He <b>founded Amritsar in 1577</b> on the land granted by Akbar.</li> <li>▪ He <b>started the construction of Golden Temple/Swarna mandir</b> at Amritsar.</li> </ul>
<b>Guru Arjun Dev (1563-1606)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He <b>composed the Adi Granth</b> in 1604.</li> <li>▪ He led to the <b>completion of construction of Golden temple</b>.</li> <li>▪ He was acclaimed as <b>Shaheeden-de-Sartaj</b>.</li> <li>▪ He was <b>executed by Jahangir</b> on charges of</li> </ul>

	helping prince Khusrau.
<b>Guru Hargobind (1594-1644)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He led to the transformation of the Sikh Community into a Military community. He is known as <b>“Soldier Saint”</b>.</li> <li>▪ He led to the establishment of <b>Akal Takht</b> and fortified the Amritsar City.</li> <li>▪ He <b>waged wars against Jahangir and Shah Jahan.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Guru Har Rai (1630-1661)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He was a man of peace thus devoted most of his life in maintaining peace with Aurangzeb and doing missionary work.</li> </ul>
<b>Guru Har Krishan 1656-1664)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He was the youngest guru of all and was given the title of Guru at a very early age of 5.</li> <li>▪ He was summoned by Aurangzeb against anti-islamic blasphemy.</li> </ul>
<b>Guru Teg Bahadur (1621-1675)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He <b>founded Anandpur Sahib.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He founded a warrior community known as <b>Khalsa</b> in 1699.</li> <li>▪ He introduced a new rite "Pahul".</li> <li>▪ He joined Bahadur Shah's as a noble.</li> <li>▪ He was the last Sikh Guru in human form and he passed the Guruship of Sikhs to the Guru Granth Sahib.</li> </ul>

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