



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Guru Tegh Bahadur: 'Hind Di Chadar

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The core of the news lies in the life and sacrifice of **GurTegh Bahadur**, the **Ninth Sikh Guru**. His martyrdom is one of the most significant events in Indian history.

Period and Context: GurTegh Bahadur lived during the reign of the Mughal Emperor **Aurangzeb** (1658–1707). This period was marked by the Emperor's attempts to enforce rigid religious policies and undertake forced conversions, especially in Kashmir.

The Supreme Sacrifice (1675): The Gurwas approached by **Kashmiri Pandits** who sought protection from religious persecution and forced conversion to Islam. GurTegh Bahadur chose to defend the religious freedom (or *dharma*) of a community that was not his own. He was arrested, tortured, and publicly **executed in Chandni Chowk, Delhi**, on Aurangzeb's orders after refusing to convert.

The Title 'Hind Di Chadar': This title, meaning the '**Shield of India**' (or Protector of the Hindreligion), was bestowed upon him for his ultimate sacrifice in defending the **freedom of conscience and religious practice** for all people, irrespective of their faith. His act of martyrdom was a stand for human rights against state tyranny.

Legacy: His martyrdom profoundly influenced his son, **GurGobind Singh** (the Tenth Sikh Guru), who subsequently organized the Sikh community into the **Khalsa** in 1699, emphasizing the dual character of the saint-soldier to defend righteousness and combat oppression.

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