

NEW NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR

A Brief Description

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- **Lunar calendars** have months of 29 or 30 days and a year of 354 days.
- **Solar calendars** have months of 28, 30 or 31 days and a year of 365 days.
- The difference of 11 days is made up by the lunar calendar after every three years by adding an additional month of 30 days to the prevailing lunar calendar.
- Under these conditions Guru Gobind Singh's *Parkash Utsav* (Birthday) sometimes occurs twice in one solar year and sometimes not even once.
- **The Bikarmi solar year** is longer by 20 minutes compared to tropical solar year. (A tropical year is the length of time that the earth takes to make one revolution around the sun between successive spring equinoxes.)
- This difference results in an increase of one day after 70-71 years. In Bikarmi Samat 57th Vaisakhi was on March 13-14 and in Samat 2056 (common era 1999). Vaisakhi was on April 14. If no correction is applied to the calendar after 1,100 years Vaisakhi will be in May and after 13,000 years it will be in October.

Names of the Sikh Guru Sahiban	Parkash Utsav (Birthday)	Gurgaddi Utsav (Assumption of Guruship)	Jyoti Jot Utsav (Merging into Eternal Light)
1. Guru Nanak	1 Vaisakh /14 April	From Parkash Utsav	8 Asu /22 September
2. Guru Angad	5 Vaisakh /18 April	4 Asu /18 September	3 Vaisakh /16 April
3. Guru Amar Das	9 Jeth /23 May	3 Vaisakh /16 April	2 Asu /16 September
4. Guru Ram Das	25 Asu /9 October	2 Asu /16 September	2 Asu /16 September
5. Guru Arjun	19 Vaisakh /2 May	2 Asu /16 September	2 Harh /16 June
6. Guru Hargobind	21 Harh /5 July	28 Jeth /11 June	6 Chet /19 March
7. Guru Har Rai	19 Magh /31 January	1 Chet /14 March	6 Katik /20 October
8. Guru Har Krishan	8 Sawan /23 July	6 Katik /20 October	3 Vaisakh /16 April
9. Guru Tegh Bahadur	5 Vaisakh /18 April	3 Vaisakh /16 April	11 Maghar /24 November
10. Guru Gobind Singh	23 Poh /5 January	11 Maghar /24 November	7 Katik /21 October

NEW NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR,: According to Pal Singh Purewal,
Approved by Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Amritsar

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- **The New Nanakshahi Calendar was prepared by Mr Pal Singh Purewal** of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. It took more than 7 years for Mr Purewal and the Institute of Sikh Studies, Chandigarh to convince the SGPC and some Sikh scholars about its importance and to get it approved.
- **The sunrise and the sunset** are calculated according to the longitude and latitude of Amritsar. The fraction of time, nearly 6 hours, left out of calculations in a tropical year is adjusted every fourth year by adding a leap day. In the Nanakshahi calendar this correction is applied in the month of "*Phagan*", which will have 31 days in a leap year.
- **Commencing** of New Nanakshahi Calendar was inaugurated by presenting a printed copy to Mr Parkash Singh Badal, President, SAD at Talwandi Sabo on April 14, 2003 (Vaisakhi Day) by Prof Kirpal Singh Badungar, President, SGPC.
- Now it is a **matter of pride for the Sikhs** to have their own most scientific and accurate Calendar.
- It includes the dates of all-important events in Sikh history, which will fall on the same date every year; however, **birthday (*Parkash Utsav*) of Guru Nanak** will be calculated on the *Puranmashi* of *Katak* every year. Diwali and Holi festivals will also be calculated according to Bikrami Calendar.

Name of the Months of Nanakshahi Calendar	Commencing dates of Common Era (CE)
Chet consists 31 days	14 March
Vaisakh consists 31 days	14 April
Jeth consists of 31 days	15 May
Harh consists of 31 days	15 June
Sawan consists of 31 days	16 July
Bhadon consists of 30 days	16 August
Asu consists of 30 days	15 September
Katik consists of 30 days	15 October
Maghar consists of 30 days	14 November
Poh consists of 30 days	14 December
Magh consists of 30 days	13 January
Phagun consists of 30 days and 31 days during the leap year of CE	12 February

- **June 4** would be observed as **Anniversary of the Attack on Akal Takht.**
- **June 6 as the "Martyrdom" of Sant Baba Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.**
- In the previous Nanakshahi Calendar released in 1999 by the SGPC the first five months were of 31 days and the last 7 months of 30 days. After four years one day will be added in the month of *Phagun*, then it will contain 31 days.
- However, this time the Tribune has reported that first six months would be of 31 days, next five months of 30 days and last month of 29 days. (There appears to be either a mistake in reporting or a new modification has been done. This needs to be rectified.)
- The first month of the new calendar would be *Chet* and last *Phagun*. In fact it should start on first of Vaisakh (14th April), the real Birthday of Guru Nanak and the Birthday of a New Nation, THE SIKHS.

Completion of Aad Granth Sahib	1 Bhadon /16 August
First Parkash Aad Granth Sahib	17 Bhadon /1 September
Gurgaddi Aad Guru Granth Sahib	6 Katik /20 October
Creation of the Khalsa	1 Vaisakh /14 April
Hola Mahalla (New Year Day)	1 Chet /14 March

Now two new holidays have been added:

- June 4: Anniversary of the Attack on Akal Takht.
- June 6: Martyrdom of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.