

A guide to the Sikh celebration of

Vaisakhi

A time to reflect and celebrate



Renewal



Trust



Awakening

As we welcome the **spring season**, we reflect on the significance of **Vaisakhi**, an important Sikh festival that falls on **14th April**.

In Sikhi (the Sikh faith), it is a time of honouring and celebrating **renewal, trust, spiritual awakening, & commitment**.



VAISAKHI: USING NATURE AS A SPIRITUAL REFLECTION



Vaisakhi celebrates the **new beginnings** of **nature**, acting as **a reminder** for us that growth & fresh beginnings for us are always possible.



It marks a time when nature **blossoms** again, encouraging us to **reflect** on **our own renewal** and **purpose**.



As the earth **awakens** in this time of year, Vaisakhi invites us to reflect & **reconnect** with what **sustains** and **inspires** us.

VAISAKHI: CELEBRATING COMMUNITY & CONNECTION



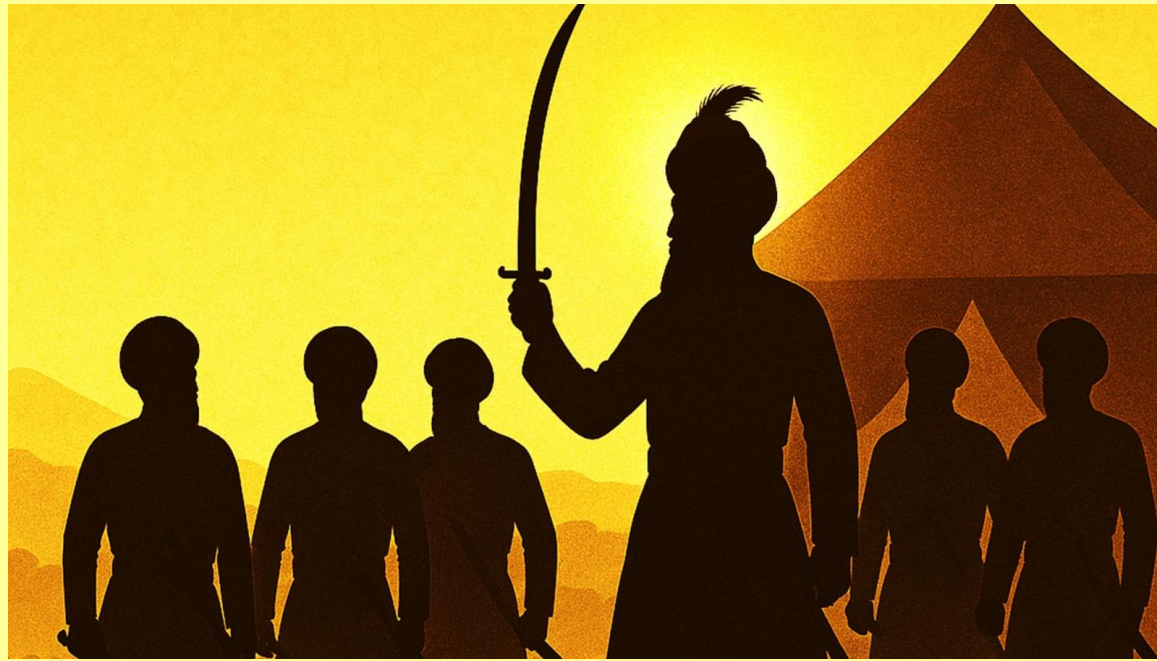
Culturally, Vaisakhi is a **harvest festival**, marked for centuries with carnivals (**Melas**) where abundance is celebrated.



The **Third Sikh Guru** made Vaisakhi an **official festival**, which also marks **Satguru Nanak Ji**, the Divine Revealed, **arrival** in this world.

For Sikhs, the Third Guru declared Vaisakhi as a **Jorr-Mela** – a **time connect higher** with oneself, community, & the Divine.

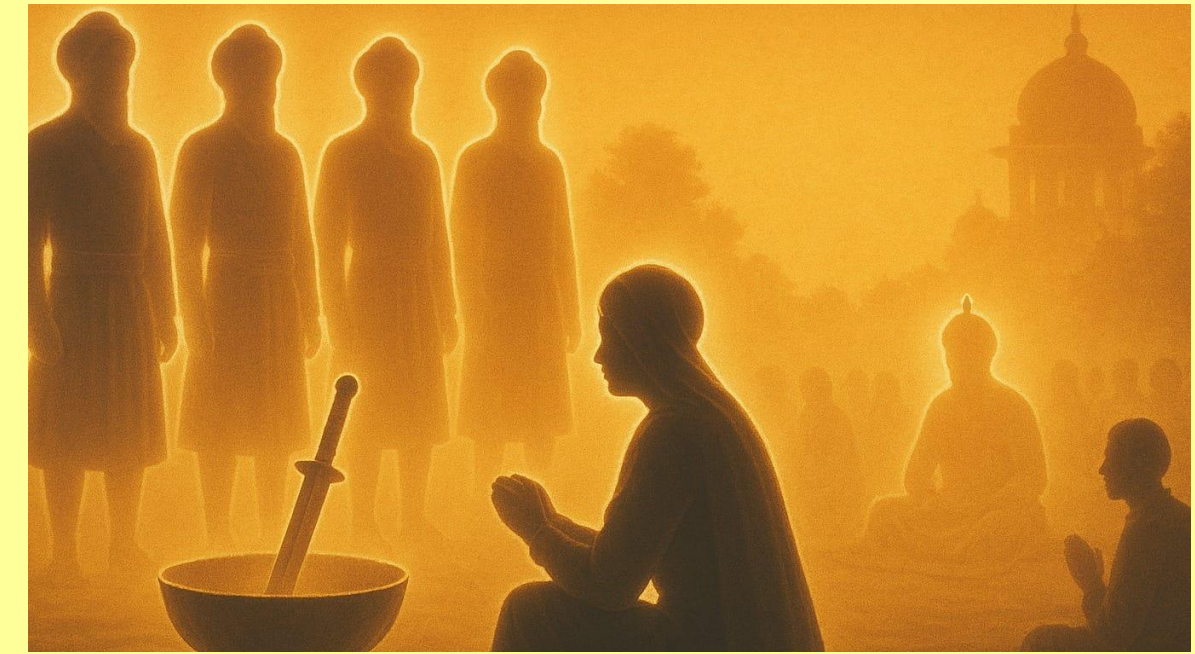
VAISAKHI: RENEWING FAITH & COMMITMENT



On **Vaisakhi 1699**, the Tenth Guru **tested the faith** of his Sikhs. Five Sikhs stepped forward, killing their ego and showing true faith.



Five Sikhs were **brought back to life** and **spiritually awakened** through the **Amrit baptism** ceremony & given the title - **KHALSA**.



The Five then **led the ceremony** for others wishing to become **KHALSA (the Pure)** – **Saint-Soldiers** committed to **purity of mind, body & spirit**.

Those wishing to represent Sikhi and **commit themselves** to higher spiritual living (the Khalsa) & being the **Holy Army of the Divine** are given a **spiritual uniform** that embodies the spirit of Sikh teachings:



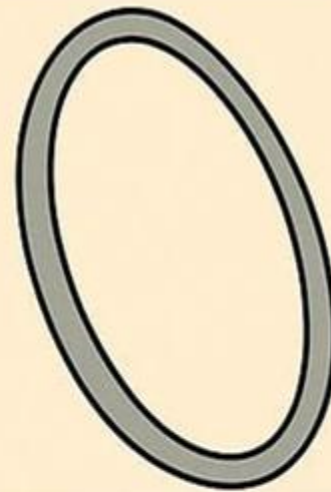
Keski

Holy **Turban** of HONOUR & HUMILITY, covering the sacred **Kes** (uncut hair)



Kangha

Holy Wooden **Comb** of CLEANLINESS & MINDFULNESS, kept in the hair-knot



Kara

Holy Iron **Bangle** of INTEGRITY & DUTY, worn on the wrist



Kirpan

Holy **Sword** of PEACE & COMPASSION, worn in a secured strap (gatra)



Kachhera

Holy **Shorts** of MODESTY & SELF-RESTRAINT, which are specially tailored

Known as the **5 Ks**

HOW DO SIKHS CELEBRATE VAISAKHI?

GURDWARA SERVICES: Sikhs visit the Gurdwara to participate in **prayers, musical worship (Kirtan)**, the hearing the **re-telling of history** & partake in **Langar** (Guru's Kitchen).



COMMUNITY PROCESSIONS: Sharing **love and understanding** with the wider public through **musical worship (Kirtan)**, **martial arts displays**, and **serving free food to all**.

SEVA (SELFLESS-SERVICE): With an emphasis on **equality, charity & helping others**, Sikhs regularly engage in **outreach activities** beyond their own faith community.

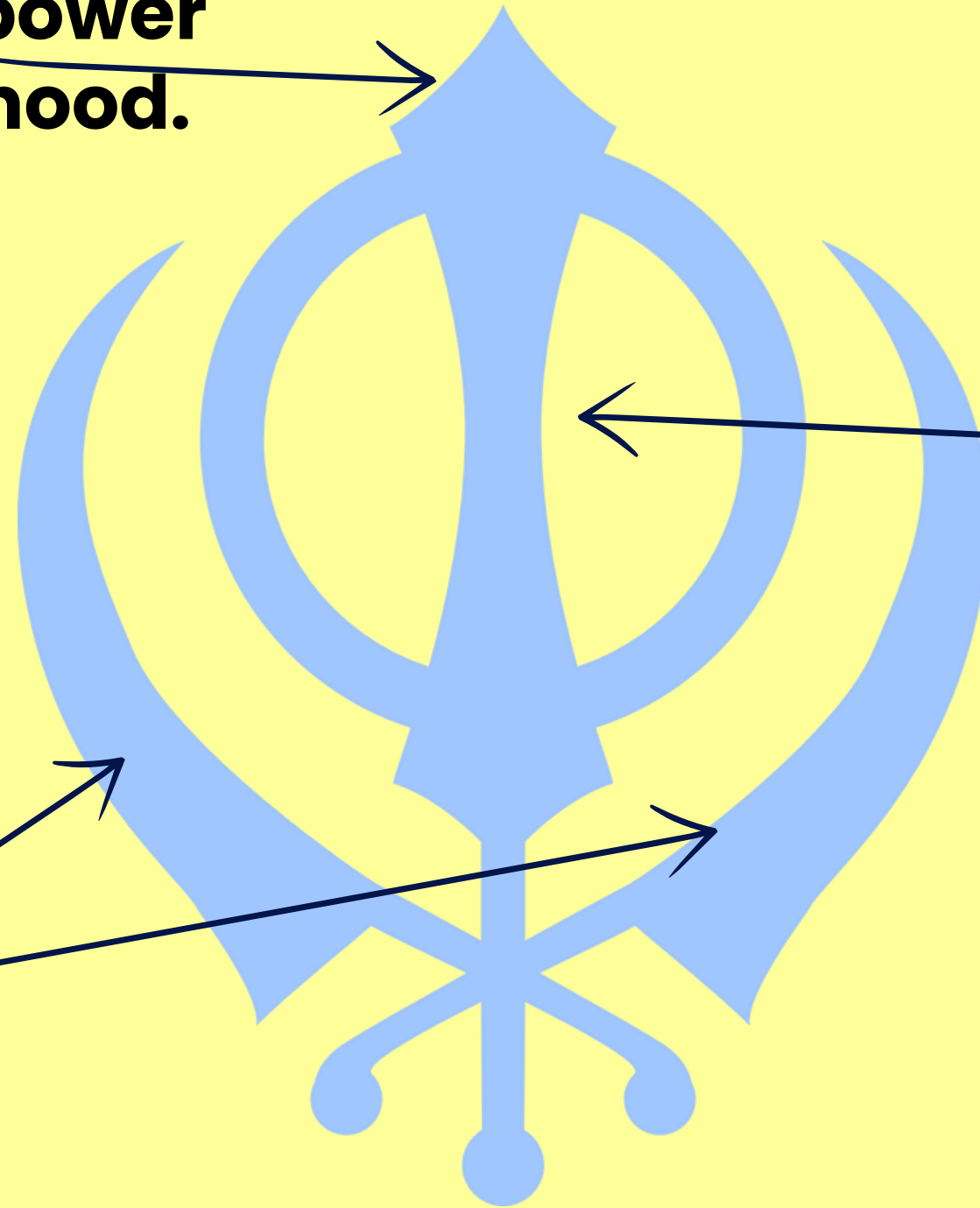


STEPPING-UP: An opportunity to reflect and **be inspired** to step up in becoming **Khalsa (Pure)** – **committing mind, body, and spirit to Purity and Divinity** through **initiation** in the **Amrit ceremony**.

THE INSIGNIA OF SIKHI

The *Khanda* (double-edged sword):
Represents there is **One Universal Supreme Being** – the Divine Parent, Friend, & Guide **to all** – and the power of Truth that cuts through falsehood.

Two Kirpans (sacred swords):
The left sword represents *Piri* (sainthood) – **overcoming the mind's negativities** & finding inner peace.
The right sword represents *Miri* (soldierhood) – **standing up to injustice** and helping build a fairer, more **harmonious society**.



The *Chakkar* (circular quilt):
Represents that **all humanity is one family**, linked by the same Divine Light, and Sikhs are called to serve and protect all.

VAISAKHI: NISHAN SAHIB CEREMONY

In front of every Sikh *gurdwara*, you'll see a tall **Sikh flag** (the *Nishan Sahib*), either **blue** (symbolising equality like the open sky) or **yellow** (symbolising upliftment & joy). The Sikh flag marks a space **free from hate & fear**: a space of **spiritual nourishment, refuge** for those in need, **food** for the hungry, & **protection** for all.

Each *Vaisakhi*, the cloth of the sacred flag is **respectfully renewed** in a special ceremony with sacred hymns & shared food.

