

The Nanakshahi Calendar is a tropical solar calendar that was adopted by the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee to determine the actual dates for important Sikh events. It was designed by Pal Singh Purewal to replace the Saka calendar and has been in use since 1998. Since 1998, amongst the critics, no one has come forward with logical suggestions of specific changes, other than to suggest that the Sikh people should revert back to the Vikrami calendar.

The starting point of the Nanakshahi calendar is the birth of the first Sikh Guru, Nanak Dev in 1469. New Year's Day falls annually on what is March 14 in the Gregorian Western calendar. The Nanakshahi calendar is accepted in about 95% of the Gurdwaras throughout the world, but there remains some controversy about the acceptance of the calendar amongst certain orthodox sectors of the Sikh world.

The situation with this calendar is similar to the one at the time of the implementation and acceptance of the Gregorian calendar in the late 16th century. Even after more than 400 years, some of the Greek Orthodox churches, the Ukrainian and Russian Orthodox churches still follow the Julian Calendar in their observances.

Most people in the Sikh community do, however, believe that the calendar is important as it re-affirms the Sikh faith's independence from the Hindu and Muslim faiths. Moreover, the calendar is based on historical research, astronomical science and astrophysics. It eliminates absurdities such as observing an event twice in one year and none in another.

Features of the new calendar

- a tropical solar calendar
- called Nanakshahi after Guru Nanak (founder of Sikhism)
- year one is the year of Guru Nanak's birth - 1469 CE [CE (Common Era) was formerly referred to as AD (Anno Domini)]
- uses most of the mechanics of the Western calendar
- year length is same as Western calendar (365 days 5 hours 48 minutes 45 seconds)
- contains 5 months of 31 days followed by 7 months of 30 days
- leap year occurs every 4 years in which the last month (Phagun) has an extra day
- Approved by Akal Takht in 2003

The months in the Nanakshahi calendar are as per table below:

No.	Name	Punjabi	Days	Julian Months	Sanggrand
1	Chet	ਚੇਤ	31	14 March - 13 April	14 March
2	Vaisakh	ਵੈਸਾਖ	31	14 April - 14 May	14 April
3	Jeth	ਜੇਠ	31	15 May - 14 June	15 May
4	Harh	ਹਾੜ	31	15 June - 15 July	15 June
5	Sawan	ਸਾਵਣ	31	16 July - 15 August	16 July
6	Bhadon	ਭਾਦੋਂ	30	16 August - 14 September	16 August
7	Assu	ਅੱਸੂ	30	15 September - 14 October	15 September
8	Katak	ਕੱਤਕ	30	15 October - 13 November	15 October
9	Maghar	ਮੱਘਰ	30	14 November - 13 December	14 November
10	Poh	ਪੋਹ	30	14 December - 12 January	14 December
11	Magh	ਮਾਘ	30	13 January - 11 February	13 January
12	Phagun	ਫੱਗਣ	30/31	12 February - 13 March	12 February

Search the internet for more information on the Nanakshahi Calendar.

Here are some sites:

<http://dalkhalsa.blogspot.com/2010/03/dal-khalsa-relases-original-nanakshahi.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanakshahi_calendar

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/sikhism/customs/nanakshahi.shtml>

<http://www.allaboutsikhs.com/sikh-calendar/the-sikh-nanakshahi-calendar.html>

<http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Nanakshahi>

This site says it all ...
<http://www.sikhphilosophy.net/sikh-sikhi-sikhism/28383-controversy-surrounding-nanakshahi-sikh-calender.html>

Important Events	Nanakshahi Date	Common Era (CE) Calendar
● Birth of Guru Gobind Singh, the Tenth Sikh Guru	23 Poh	5 Jan
● Birth of Guru Har Rai, the seventh Sikh	19 Magh	31 Jan
● Guru Har Rai becomes the seventh Guru of the Sikhs ● Nanakshahi New Year commences ● Hola Mohalla festival	1 Chet	14 Mar
● Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh Guru, passes on	6 Chet	19 Mar
● The Ordination (Birth) of the Khalsa ● Birth of Guru Nanak	1 Vaisakh	14 Apr
● Guru Angad, the second Sikh Guru, passes on	3 Vaisakh	16 Apr
● Guru Amar Das becomes the third Guru of the Sikhs	3 Vaisakh	16 Apr
● Guru Harkrishan, the eighth Guru of the Sikhs, passes on	3 Vaisakh	16 Apr
● Guru Tegh Bahadur becomes the Ninth Guru of the Sikhs	3 Vaisakh	16 Apr
● Birth of Guru Angad, the second Sikh Guru	5 Vaisakh	18 Apr
● Birth of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru of the Sikhs	5 Vaisakh	18 Apr
● Birth of Guru Arjan, the fifth Sikh Guru	19 Vaisakh	2 May
● Birth of Guru Amar Das, the third Sikh Guru	9 Jeth	23 May
● Guru Hargobind becomes the sixth Guru of the Sikhs	28 Jeth	11 Jun
● Guru Arjan, the fifth Guru of the Sikhs, is martyred by Chandu Shah	2 Harh	16 Jun
● Birth of Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh Guru	21 Harh	5 Jul
● Birth of Guru Harkrishan Sahib	8 Sawan	23 Jul
● Guru Granth Sahib (Pothi Sahib) is installed at the Golden Temple for the first time	17 Bhadon	1 Sep
● Guru Amar Das, the third Guru of the Sikhs, passes on	2 Assu	16 Sep
● Guru Ram Das becomes the fourth Guru of the Sikhs	2 Assu	16 Sep
● Guru Ram Das, the fourth Guru of the Sikhs, passes on	2 Assu	16 Sep
● Guru Arjan becomes the fifth Guru of the Sikhs	2 Assu	16 Sep
● Guru Angad becomes the second Guru of the Sikhs	4 Assu	18 Sep
● Guru Nanak, the first Guru of the Sikhs, passes on	8 Assu	22 Sep
● Birth of Guru Ram Das, the fourth Guru of the Sikhs	25 Assu	9 Oct
● Guru Har Rai, the seventh Guru of the Sikhs, passes on	6 Katak	20 Oct
● Guru Harkrishan becomes the eighth Guru of the Sikhs	6 Katak	20 Oct
● Sovereignty of the Sikh Scripture (Aad Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji) declared as the Living Guru for all times to come, by Guru Gobind Singh Ji	6 Katak	20 Oct
● Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, passes on	7 Katak	21 Oct
● Guru Gobind Singh becomes the tenth Guru of the Sikhs	11 Maghar	24 Nov
● Guru Tegh Bahadur martyred in Delhi by Aurangzeb for defending the oppressed	11 Maghar	24 Nov
● Ajit Singh, and Jujhar Singh, the two elder sons of Guru Gobind Singh, martyred in the battle of Chamkaur	8 Poh	21 Dec
● Zorawar Singh, and Fateh Singh, the two younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh, executed in Sirhind	13 Poh	26 Dec

The following "movable dates" for selected Sikh festivals are for general information only.
The dates take into account the lunar phase and are subject to change every year, as shown below:

	Hola Mohalla	Bandi Chhor Divas Divali	Parkash Guru Nanak
Moon phase	Full moon	New moon	Full moon
Year			
2003	19 Mar	25 Oct	8 Nov
2004	7 Mar	12 Nov	26 Nov
2005	26 Mar	1 Nov	15 Nov
2006	15 Mar	21 Oct	5 Nov
2007	4 Mar	9 Nov	24 Nov
2008	22 Mar	28 Oct	13 Nov
2009	11 Mar	17 Oct	2 Nov
2010	1 Mar	5 Nov	21 Nov
2011	20 Mar	26 Oct	10 Nov
2012	9 Mar	13 Nov	28 Nov
2013	28 Mar	3 Nov	17 Nov
2014	17 Mar	23 Oct	6 Nov
2015	6 Mar	11 Nov	25 Nov
2016	24 Mar	30 Oct	14 Nov
2017	13 Mar	19 Oct	4 Nov
2018	2 Mar	7 Nov	23 Nov
2019	21 Mar	27 Oct	12 Nov
2020	10 Mar	14 Nov	30 Nov

As for Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birthday, the actual date is 14th April - this year and every year.

However, the Sanggat of Gurdwara Sahib Titiwangsa shall celebrate this birthday in the form of an Akhand from 11th to 13th November 2011.

The Management.
Gurdwara Sahib Titiwangsa,
6th January 2011