



Heart-felt wishes for Baisakhi to everyone. This day is important for many reasons. It was today only that the imperialist Britishers had killed hundreds of peaceful demonstrators in Jallian wallah Bagh. This led to a nation-wide protest and the angst against the Britishers consequently made them flee India.

It was on this day in 1699 that Guru Gobind Singh had established the Khalsa Panth. The tenth guru of the Sikhs resolved to put an end to the atrocities of the Mughals, which had reached a crescendo from which there was no respite, by trying to unite the society against it. With this thought in mind, he called a religious meeting in Anandpur Sahib on the holy day of Baisakhi. He exhorted the people who had gathered for the meeting towards the need for sacrifice. Here a disciple called Dayaram offered himself for sacrifice. He was taken behind the stage screen, later a stream of blood could be seen flowing. Guru Gobind Singh came back to the stage and asked for more blood. Despite the gory scene of fresh blood flowing, four more people offered themselves for sacrifice. They were Dharam Das, Himmat Ray, Mohkam Chand, and Sahib Chand. Later, all five of them were brought back to the stage and named, "Panch Pyara." They were made to taste Amrit and later Guruji himself tasted Amrit from them. This meant that they would now have to keep themselves away from all sorts of revelry and luxury and would continuously strive to fight for the defense of society. This is why Guru Gobind Singh made five 'kakke', a must for the Sikhs. Kesh (hair), kada (bracelet), Kangha (comb), kachha (underwear) and kirpan (sword), these were symbols of simple living and tenacious struggle of life. Guru Gobind Singh had also explained what the 'khalsa panth' meant, according to him, it comprised the people of character endowed with holy and pure thoughts, who were always prepared to defend the society. That is why he set out the goal of the Khalsa Panth to be: Sakal Jagat mein Khalsa Panth gaje-jage dharma Hindu, turak bhand bhage. (let the khalsa panth spread all over the world, let the Hindu dharma awaken, anti-Hindus should run away) Unfortunately, some elements later restricted the khalsa panth only to the hair and what should have been the basis for the integration of the society became the symbol of separatism. The Mughal spies then had told the Mughal darbar that Guru Gobind Singh was a dangerous man and that because of him, casteism, superstition, hypocrisies, and discrimination was disappearing from the Hindu society and Hindus were uniting. This was the resolve of Guru Gobind Singh and also the goal of the establishment of Khalsa Panth.