

# Baba Banda Singh Bahadur

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In news

350th birth anniversary of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur

## History of Banda Singh Bahadur

- Banda Singh Bahadur, **also called Lachman Das, Lachman Dev, or Madho Das**, (born 1670, Rajauri [India]—died June 1716, Delhi),
- He was the **first Sikh military leader to wage an offensive war against the Mughal rulers of India**, thereby temporarily extending Sikh territory.
- He was the founder of first Sikh raj, who abolished Zamindari system in Punjab and conferred ownership rights on the tillers of the land
- Famous for the sack of the Mughal provincial capital, Sirhind, he is revered as one of the most hallowed martyrs of the Khalsa.
- As a youth, he decided to be a samana (ascetic), and until 1708, when he became a **disciple of Guru Gobind Singh**, he was known as Madho Das.
- After his initiation into the Sikh brotherhood, he took the name Banda Singh Bahadur and became respected.
- Banda Singh set out in **1709 to attack the Mughals**, conquering large tracts of territory.
- His pillaging and massacring in the Deccan led the Mughal rulers finally to move against him in force.
- After an eight-month siege, the fortress town of Gurdas Nangal fell to the Mughals in 1715.
- Banda Singh and his men were taken as prisoners to Delhi, where every day for six months a few of his men were taken out and executed.
- When his own turn came, Banda Singh stated to the Muslim judge that this fate befell him just because he had

failed his beloved Guru Gobind Singh.

- He was tortured to death with red-hot irons.