



Prakash Utsav, also known as Prakash Parv, is a significant celebration in Patna, particularly for the Sikh community. This festival commemorates the birth anniversary of **Guru Nanak Dev Ji**, the first Sikh Guru, and is marked by various religious and cultural activities.

Historical Context

The celebration of Prakash Utsav has deep roots in Sikh tradition. It not only honors Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings but also emphasizes values such as equality, community service, and devotion. The event attracts thousands of devotees from across India and abroad, who gather at **Takht Sri Patna Sahib**, one of the five Takhts (seats of authority) in Sikhism.

Key Events and Activities

1. **Religious Gatherings:** The festivities typically include special prayers (Ardas) and continuous recitations of the **Guru Granth Sahib** (the holy scripture of Sikhism). These activities foster a sense of community and spiritual connection among attendees.
2. **Nagar Kirtan:** A grand procession known as **Nagar Kirtan** is organized, where devotees sing hymns and chant prayers while parading through the streets. This procession culminates at the Gurudwara, creating a vibrant atmosphere filled with devotion and celebration.
3. **Langar Services:** A hallmark of Sikh hospitality, free community meals (Langar) are served to all attendees, regardless of their background. This practice reinforces the principles of equality and service that Guru Nanak espoused.
4. **Cultural Programs:** Various cultural events, including poetry readings and performances that celebrate Sikh heritage, are organized during this time. These programs aim to educate attendees about the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.





Recent Celebrations

The most recent Prakash Utsav saw thousands of devotees visiting Patna Sahib to participate in the celebrations. Special arrangements were made to accommodate the influx of visitors, including guesthouses and facilities for worshippers from different parts of the world, including Canada, the UK, Australia, and New Zealand ¹ ⁵ . The event featured an **Akhand Path**, a non-stop reading of the Guru Granth Sahib, which is a central part of Sikh worship.

Conclusion

Prakash Utsav in Patna is more than just a religious observance; it is a vibrant celebration of Sikh culture and values that fosters unity among diverse communities. Through its rituals, communal meals, and cultural activities, it serves as a reminder of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings on compassion, equality, and service to humanity. The festival continues to strengthen the bonds within the Sikh community while inviting people from all walks of life to partake in its rich traditions.

