

**Khatris**



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Khatri, along with other Punjabi tribes like, historically bore the brunt of all invasions into India. These warrior tribes mostly comprise Hindus. Census of India, 1901. In Pakistan there are significant Muslim communities with a Khatri background who have preserved their unique identity. Hindu and Sikh Khatri have had a historic presence in Afghanistan (Kabul, Herat) where they have been involved mostly in the mercantile business, although they have also served as administrators in the past. Khatri have a significant role in shaping the Punjabi culture.

All throughout their history Punjab has been their homeland. The Khatri are a prominent Indian community originally from the Potohar and Majha region of north-western Indian subcontinent, now largely in Punjab in Pakistan. This region is of considerable historical significance in the development of the Indian culture since the composition of the Vedas and classics like the Mahabharata, Ramayana and Puranas. Khatri, Ramgarhias, Jats, Gujjars, Rajputs and Kambojs people claim usually Caucasian, Central Asian, Eastern European ancestry. According to Ramayana.

The region was ruled by Hindu kings until 1013 AD. King Bhimapala . The Khatri, along with Aroras and Lohanas engaged in trade in Central Asia. The Hindu temples of Kabul and the Hindu Fire Temple of Baku built and maintained by them still exist. Khatri are now present in all the states of India, although the major concentration remains in Punjab and Delhi region. Khatri, along with the Aroras, are collectively of Aryan origin. Khatri have an extensive military tradition and have excelled in the Armed Forces having received many honors and gallantary awards for their service.

Within the Indian Armed Forces (Bharatiya Thalsena) the former Chief of Indian Army Staff, General Deepak Kapoor is Khatri and he took charge from another Khatri, General Joginder Jaswant Singh Marwah who took charge from another Khatri, General Nirmal Chander Vij. One of the most important characters of famous Punjabi legend Raja Rasalu is minister Mahita Chopra, Many prominent historical figures have emerged from the Khatri. All ten Sikh Gurus were Khatri. The four gots of Sikh gurus existed at least since 15th century AD Sangam Rai Kapoor, was the founder of the house of Maharajas of Burdwan, founded in 1657.

The family continued as rulers of Burdwan until feudal estates were abolished by the government of India in 1955/56. Raja Fateh Chand was a Maini Khatri chieftain of Bihar who served Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji with dedication during his visit in 1665. Raja Fateh Chand and his wife converted their house into a dharamsala for the sangat or devotees to assemble in holy congregation. The place came to be known as Maini Sangat. On the site now stands Gurdwara Bal Lila Maini Sangat. Haqiqat Rai was a Puri Khatri whose martyrdom was celebrated on Basant Panchami in Lahore until independence.

Hari Singh Nalwa, Maharaja Ranjit Singh's most feared general was an Uppal Khatri. The father and son pair of the Diwans Sawan Mal and Mul Raj Chopra were successive governors of Multan under Ranjit Singh. Raja Vanvihari Kapoor has written that major Khatri clans are named after Lord Sun. are mentioned below. According to the Bhavishya Purana, Punjab indeed was an ancient center of Sun worship. A majority of Khattris are Sanatan Hindus.

Swami Dayanand was invited to Punjab to counter the missionaries by prominent individuals who also founded the Singh Sabha.

He established Arya Samaj in Lahore in 1877, which was against casteism, rituals, idol worship and promoted strict monotheism, which he claimed was the essential message of the Vedas. Arya Samaj became popular among Punjabi Hindus, especially Khatris. A portion of the Khatris are Sikh. The martial development by the Sikh Gurus is well documented, with the first master (Guru Nanak Dev) Ji, calling upon Sikhs to make a "ball of their head" to play the game of love. The second Guru (Guru Angad Dev) Ji encouraged physical activities of Sikhs by encouraging wrestling bouts and Kabaddi.

The 6th Guru (Guru Hargobind Dev) Ji took up the sword and fought many battles against neighboring Rajputs and Mughals. The 9th Guru Guru Teg Bahadur Dev Ji fought many battles like the 6th Guru and was an accomplished martial artist. The 10th master Guru Gobind Singh Ji, was proficient in the art of warfare as well as an accomplished swordsman, marksman and equestrian. The tenth Guru's maternal side of the family was accomplished warriors and fighters in their own right. Guru Gobind Singh Ji's maternal uncle, Kirpal Chand Ji served as a General in Guru Hargobind Ji army and guided Guru Gobind Singh Ji from an early age.

The sacred sections of the Khatris :-There are four sacred sections among the Khatris, whose position must be touched upon, These are the:- Bedi (Guru Nanak Dev Ji) of the Dharman or Chota Sarin sub group. Sodhi (Last seven Gurus) of the Chota Sarin sub-Group. Trehan (Guru Angad Dev Ji) of the Bara Sarin sub group Bhalla (Guru Amar Das Ji) of the Bara Sarin sub

group. These four sections became sanctified by the births of the various Sikh Gurus to them. Sahib Singh Bedi (1756-1834), was tenth in direct descent from Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and much revered in Sikh times for his piety as well as for his martial prowess.

He was born at Dera Baba Nanak, Gurdaspur district. At the time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's coronation at Lahore on April 11, 1801, Baba Sahib Singh Bedi placed the tilak or mark of sovereignty on Ranjit Singh's forehead anointing him Maharaja of Punjab. Bhai Binod Singh, a Khatri of the Trehan clan and a direct descendent of the second Sikh Guru Guru Angad Dev Ji. Bhai Binod Singh was a devoted disciple of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, and was one of the few Sikhs to accompany the tenth master to the South in 1708.

Bhai Binod Singh fought many battles as a Commander and was leader of the Tatt Khalsa, (True Khalsa). It was Bhai Binod Singh whose Tatt Khalsa declared the official Sikh Warcry to be Sat Sri Akal. Bhai Daya Singh, a Khatri of the Sobti clan and the " first" of the Panj Pyare. In the historic divan in the Keshgarh Fort at Anandpur on 30 March 1699, Bhai Daya Singh was the first to rise at the Guru's call and offer his head. Gulab Singh Dallewalia, a Khatri Sikh, founded and led the Dallewalia Misl.