

# Hola Mohalla

Hola Mohalla is a Sikh festival that is celebrated in a city called Anandpur, in India. This is the city where the Khalsa began in 1699. The 10<sup>th</sup> Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, started this festive event. It is now celebrated all over the world.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji, known for His great bravery, strength and courage on the battlefield, started this festival for Sikhs to show their martial skills in simulated (pretend) battles.



The festival begins on the 1st day of the lunar month of Chet (usually March)



Hola Mohalla occurs every year and can last for up to three days



Presently, Hola Mohalla is the largest festival at Anandpur Sahib

Hola Mohalla

“Hola” means “attack” and “Mohalla” means army. So Hola Mohalla means the attack of the army



Different events like **exhibitions, display of weapons, horse-riding, Gatka** (Sikh martial arts) and **archery** take place during the festival of Hola Mohalla



The values that Hola Mohalla convey are **courage, bravery, sacrifice** and **selflessness**



To never forget the **Sant-Sipahi** (Saint-Soldier) spirit, **Guru Ji** would divide His Sikh soldier into two groups to have **mock battles** against each other to see how they would perform. Guru Ji would then help His Sikhs **improve their skills** and **performance** on the battlefield by giving them **advice** and **encouragement**