



Dastaar

A part of the Sikh identity





What is the dastar?

Bonus Question. What are some other names for it?



Why do Sikhs wear a dastaar?



Brief History

- ▶ Turban worn in many cultures
 - ▶ Asia, Middle East, Africa, and most major religions
 - ▶ Protection from heat & sand in desert
 - ▶ Protects hair from rain, headlice, dust etc.
 - ▶ Especially important for authority figures e.g. kings and holy men
- ▶ Mughal rulers wouldn't let non-Muslims and common people wear turbans
 - ▶ Signified dignity, high status, spirituality, saintliness
 - ▶ Sikhs stood up and demanded equality – all faiths, castes, genders, backgrounds
- ▶ Especially important for unique Khalsa identity - a crown for the 'ਸੰਤ-ਸਿਪਾਹੀ'
- ▶ Recent history
 - ▶ Patka only came about in 20th century for sportspeople and young children – smaller version of parna (also used to protect neck from heat & added armour in battle)
 - ▶ Wore dastar not helmet in WW1 & 2
 - ▶ Fought for right to wear dastar at work e.g. police, army, bus drivers, when riding motorbikes
 - ▶ Confused with Muslim identity in USA after 9/11
 - ▶ Facing restrictions in European countries e.g. France, Italy





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wikiHow to Tie a Sikh Turban

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According to the religious texts of the Sikh religion, the followers must wear a turban and not cut their hair.^[1] The style of a Sikh turban and how it is tied is very different from turban styles in other cultures, such as Arab cultures that often leave a tail at the back.^[2] You'll find there are many ways to tie a Sikh turban, and you can personalize yours based on your preferences, though below you'll find two variations.

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Method 1

Tying a Patka



Respect

- ▶ Not just a piece of cloth; greater significance – a crown!!
- ▶ Covering your head is a sign of respect in most cultures
 - ▶ In South Asia, don't eat, pray etc. when 'ਨੰਗੇ-ਸਿਰ'
- ▶ 'ਖੱਗ-ਵੱਟ ਭਰਾ', 'ਖੱਗ ਵਟਉਣੀ': Exchanging turbans was a sign of brotherhood
 - ▶ Bond & trust as strong as real brothers'

DO

- ▶ Untie it & fold it up at the end of the day
- ▶ Make sure it stays clean, and retie it if it is getting loose
- ▶ Tell others about the dastaar so they learn how to respect it too

DON'T

- ▶ Take it off like a cap & scrunch it up in your bag
- ▶ Let it touch the floor/your feet or get dirty or messy
- ▶ Let anyone take off someone's dastaar in anger/fight
 - ▶ Massive insult/disrespect



A bit of a moan...!

- ▶ Dastaar scheme → motivation, self-confidence, pride in identity
 - ▶ Well done to those who have started wearing it at school 😊
 - ▶ Not only for special occasions & getting prizes on Sundays!
- ▶ Students who wear a dastaar during assembly are sometimes not wearing one by the end of the day...
 - ▶ If uncomfortable or tight you can ask a teacher or sevadaar
 - ▶ Should wear the dastaar you are given all day



A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a solid red arrow pointing to the right, positioned above several thin, dark, curved lines that resemble blades of grass or reeds.

Quiz!!!

Were you paying attention...?



1. Are Sikhs the only ones who wear turbans?

No! Lots of people from other cultures and religions also wear turbans, but Sikhs are most well-known for the dastaar.

Turbans have been around for thousands of years!



2. What is the historical significance of the dastaar?

Stand against Mughal ban on turbans for non-Muslims & lower classes

Khalsa identity – our crown!



3. When do we cover our head?

Why?

Ideally always

Especially when praying, cooking, eating

Sign of respect

Hygiene/keep hair tidy



4a. What is a parna?

4b. What is a patka?

Parna = small turban worn informally or under dastaar

Patka = cloth wrapped over head for playing sports, or for young children



5. How can we ensure we respect our dastaar?

Keep it clean, don't let it touch the floor or feet

Untie it respectfully and fold it up

Tie it again if it is loose/coming off

Understand why we are wearing it!

