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CULTURE OF PUNJAB

CHAPTER 1

Punjabi Language, Script and Calendar

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EDITION
October 2026

LANGUAGE
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CHAPTER 1

Punjabi Language, Script and Calendar

Gurmukhi, Dialects of Punjabi and the Punjabi Months

IN THIS CHAPTER

- Gurmukhi script – key facts
- Punjabi language overview
- Official language status (1967–68)
- Main dialects of Punjabi
- Sub-dialects of Eastern Punjabi
- Punjabi calendar – 12 months

PART A Punjabi Language and Script

Gurmukhi Script

Gurmukhi is the script used for writing the Punjabi language. Key facts:

Standardised by	**Guru Angad Dev Ji** – though the letters existed before Guru Nanak Dev Ji's time
Arrangement	The letters were arranged in **"Patti Likhi"**, a composition of Guru Nanak Dev Ji
Structure	**35 letters** (Painti) – 32 consonants and 3 vowel-bearers (ੳ, ਅ, ੲ)

Punjabi Language Overview

- **Origin:** Emerged as an independent language in the **11th century**
- **Official status:** Declared the official language of Punjab on **13 April 1968** under the **Punjab Official Language Act, 1967**
- **Language family: Indo-Aryan**

Three Main Dialect Groups

Eastern Punjabi
Spoken in the Punjab region of India

Western Punjabi
Spoken in Pakistan

Dogri / Pahari Punjabi
Spoken in the hilly areas

Sub-dialects of Eastern Punjabi

Dialect	Where spoken / notes
Majhi	Also called **"Taksali Boli"** (standard Punjabi); used in official government work. Spoken in the **Majha** region: Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Gurdaspur, Pathankot
Malwai	Spoken in **13 districts**: Ferozepur, Fazilka, Faridkot, Bathinda, Barnala, Sangrur, Mansa, Patiala, Moga, Muktsar, Ludhiana, Rupnagar, Fatehgarh Sahib
Doabi	Spoken in **4 districts**: Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, Nawanshahr (SBS Nagar), Jalandhar
Puadhi	Spoken around Rajpura, Patiala, Rupnagar, Anandpur Sahib, Kharar, Kurali, Nurpur Bedi, Pali

EXAM TIP

Majhi is the base of standard (Taksali) Punjabi.

PART B Punjabi Calendar

The twelve Punjabi (Desi) months and the matching dates of the Western calendar:

No.	Month	Gurmukhi	Western dates
1	**Chet**	ਚੇਤ	14 March – 13 April
2	**Vaisakh**	ਵੈਸਾਖ	14 April – 14 May
3	**Jeth**	ਜੇਠ	15 May – 14 June
4	**Harh**	ਹਾੜ੍ਹ	15 June – 15 July
5	**Sawan**	ਸਾਉਣ	16 July – 15 August
6	**Bhadon**	ਭਾਦੋਂ	16 August – 14 September
7	**Assu**	ਅੱਸੂ	15 September – 14 October
8	**Kattak**	ਕੱਤਕ	15 October – 13 November
9	**Magghar**	ਮੱਘਰ	14 November – 13 December
10	**Poh**	ਪੋਹ	14 December – 12 January
11	**Magh**	ਮਾਘ	13 January – 11 February
12	**Phaggan**	ਫੱਗਣ	12 February – 13 March

SHORTCUT

The year starts with **Chet** (mid-March) and ends with **Phaggan**; **Vaisakh** begins on 14 April (around Vaisakhi). Most months start around the **14th–16th** of the Western month.

QUICK REVISION

- Gurmukhi standardised by **Guru Angad Dev Ji** · **35** letters · "Patti Likhi" by Guru Nanak Dev Ji
- Punjabi – Indo-Aryan · official language from **13 April 1968** (Act of 1967)
- Majhi = **Taksali** · Malwai = 13 districts · Doabi = 4 districts · Puadhi = Rupnagar–Rajpura belt
- Calendar: **Chet → Phaggan**