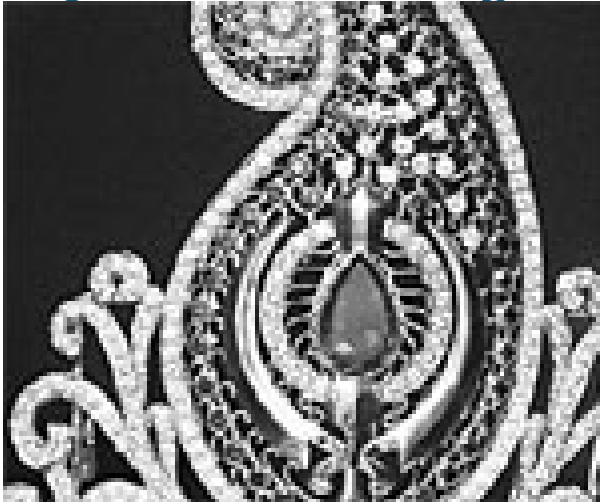


Replica of Guru's Kalgi to be gifted



11 October 2008

DAZZLING DONATION: Kalgi (plume), an ornament studded with American diamonds, will be presented by the State's Sikhs to Takhat Sachkhand Sri Hazur Sah

HYDERABAD: A beautifully crafted replica of a bejewelled Kalgi (plume) that used to adorn the Tenth Sikh Guru Gobind Singhji's turban will be presented to Sachkhand Sri Hazur Sahib, Nanded, on Saturday by the Deccan Sikh community of Andhra Pradesh.

The offering will be presented at the Altar of Guru Gobind Singhji on October 11.

This will coincide with the 300th anniversary of the consecration of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib as the final and perpetual Guru of Sikhs, as ordained by Guru Gobind Singh in 1708.

Also, it was 300 years ago at Nanded in Maharashtra that the tenth and last living Sikh Guru merged his body into the One Light.

The plume replica was fashioned by highly skilled craftsmen at a cost of Rs 5 lakh. It is made of nearly 20 tolas of gold and embedded with American diamonds.

Guru Gobind Singh was famous for wearing a Kalgi on his turban. So fond was he of the plumes that he was affectionately and reverently called 'Guru Kalgidhar.' The Sikhs from Andhra Pradesh will gift the Kalgi to the head priest of Sachkhand Sri Hazur Sahib Baba Kulwanth Singh on Saturday evening. It will thereafter be kept on the Guru's altar and become a permanent legacy.

The tercentenary celebrations of the Guruship of Sri Guru Granth Sahib will be held later this month on a massive scale at Sri Hazur Sahib and will draw Sikhs from all over the world.

The historic town of Nanded is an important place in Sikhism because it was here in October 1708 that Guru Gobind Singh ended the chain of human guruship and endowed the spiritual throne to the Holy Granth. The town is also important as Takht Sri Hazur Sahib, one of the five temporal thrones or seats of authority, is located here