

Nanded readies to welcome 2.5 million Sikhs

, October 14, 2008

Tercentenary celebrations of Guru-ta-Gaddi will host the largest spiritual gathering of Sikhs in independent India

NANDED: In two weeks from now, over 2.5 million devout Sikhs will make their way to Nanded in the south-east corner of Maharashtra, 484 km from Pune, in time for a momentous occasion. Three hundred years ago, in October 1708, the tenth and last guru of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh (December 22, 1666 — October 7, 1708), declared the holy Guru Granth Sahib as his successor just before his death in Nanded.

The tercentenary anniversary of that historic occasion will now be celebrated in Nanded, centring around the Takhat Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib, one of the four high seats of Sikh authority, where Guru Gobind Singh held his court and congregation. Designated as the Guru-ta-Gaddi celebrations, the eight-day event will begin on October 27.

The celebrations will mark the remembrance of the 300th year of the consecration of Guru Granth Sahib as the last guru of the Sikhs. It will also commemorate the 300th death anniversary (parlok gaman) of Guru Gobind Singh.

Sachkhand Gurudwara superintendent DP Singh told DNA that the event would witness one of the biggest spiritual gatherings of Sikhs in independent India. The first centenary

was observed when the Mughal empire was in reign and the last such gathering was held under the British, a 100 years ago. Sikhs from as far as USA, Canada, Malaysia and UK have arrived for the event, besides scores of jatthas from different parts of the country, Singh added

'Guru Granth Sahib-the Guru eternal'

The book `Guru Granth Sahib – the Guru eternal' was released here recently in the national capital. The book seeks to spread the message of the Sikh Gurus and Sufi saints among masses, the book narrates as well as depicts the significance of the holy Sikh scripture.

Dr.Mohinder Singh, author and Sikh scholar, said: "If you want to stay with your tradition, you must understand your heritage. If you do it in old-fashioned manner, it doesn't attract. The book is quite colourful and appeals. We are surprised that people have started ordering it on [Internet](#), after looking at the quality of the book, which is fascinating everyone."

The 256 page book features the [history](#) of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, the important `banis' (the preachings) of the gurus and saints along with their [translations](#)

The book `Guru Granth Sahib – the Guru eternal' was released here recently in the national capital. The book seeks to spread the message of the Sikh Gurus and Sufi saints among masses, the book narrates as well as depicts the significance of the holy Sikh scripture.

Dr.Mohinder Singh, author and Sikh scholar, said: "If you want to stay with your tradition, you must understand your heritage. If you do it in old-fashioned manner, it doesn't attract. The book is quite colourful and appeals. We are surprised that people have started ordering it on [Internet](#), after looking at the quality of the book, which is fascinating

everyone."

The 256 page book features the **history** of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, the important `banis' (the preachings) of the gurus and saints along with their **translations**

The compilation is the result of two years of research work of Sikh scholars Dr. J. S. Neki and Dr. Mohinder Singh. It contains pictures of various Gurudwaras and ceremonies.

On this occasion here, Gursharan Kaur, wife of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, also inaugurated an exhibition of photographs of rare Guru Granth Sahib.