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Tri-Centennial Celebration of the Conservation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib '300 Saal Guru de Naal'

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This year, 2008, is a very important year for the entire Sikh community. Sikhs all over the world are celebrating the holy occasion of the tri-centennial anniversary of the ordination of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to Sikhs all over the world. On this significant occasion I would like to share my views with people belonging to all faiths.

The Guru Maneyo Granth Jagriti Yatra has traversed most part of India and the community have had the opportunity to have a glimpse of the shastras and the Guru Granth Sahib Ji prior to the final showdown. It attracted people from villagers and the whole rationale was to unify and solidify the people who have been stricken by the caste and various faiths. The message is the same but to remember Him, or the Akal Purukh is to achieve higher spiritual awakening and connection with God.

The year 2008 is slated to go down as golden year for the Sikhs in the pages of history. More than 4 million devotees are expected to congregate at Nanded to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the consecration of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Maharaj as the Eternal Guru(Gurta Gaddi) on the 30th.October 2008 at the heavenly journey(parlokgaman) of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj on the 3rd.November 2008.

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The Sikhs have, in life and history, done everything in style. 300 Saal Guru de Naal celebrations are no exception and therefore, reflect the same devotion, spirit and scale.

The celebrations began on Simran Diwas, November 2007 when the devotees across the world meditated, participated and celebrated together. For 15 minutes, devotees everywhere recited the Mool Mantra. On the same day, commenced by the Jagriti Yatra, a journey from Nanded to the world, carrying the Bir of the Sri Guru Granth

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Sahib Ji and shastras of the Guru Gobind Singh Ji and other shaheed Sikhs started its journey. Jagriti Yatra has covered 200 cities in India and finally culminated on the 10th August 2008 in Nanded amongst the great devotion. And the revolution of devotion that started with the Jagriti Yatra will once again touch and replenish millions of lives during the historical "Shatabadi Samagam" from the 29th.October 2008 to 4th.November 2008 at Sri Hazur Sahib, Nanded.

Faith will bind, devotion will reign and eternal peace will dawn. For 7 days, Nanded will resonate with the devotion of millions celebrating 300 Saal Guru De Naal. The historical celebrations will begin with the Takhat of Sachkand Sri Abchnagar Sahib, Nanded on the 27th.October 2008. After a series of events and programmes will take place during the Shatabdi Samagam from the 29th.October 2008 to 4th.November 2008.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, the Holy Scripture of the Sikhs, is the only Scripture in the world which holds the status of a Living Guru. It is the embodiment and the spirit of the Ten Sikh Gurus, from Guru Nanak Dev Ji to Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji is an ocean of invaluable jewels and one really needs to dive into the ocean to obtain the treasure hidden within Gurbani. It is a unique collection of compositions of not only the Sikh Gurus but also of 32 Saints (Bhagat Kabir, Namdev, Sheik Farid to name a few) belonging to the Hindu and Muslim faiths: no distinction is made between the Guru's Bani or that of the Bhagats. All the hymns are regarded as the revelation of Almighty God.

The first copy of the Holy Granth was prepared by Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the fifth Guru, and was scribed by Bhai Gurdas. Written in the Gurmukhi script, it contains many Indian languages, as well words and phrases from the Persian and Arabic languages. Spread over 1430 pages, the hymns are finely arranged and poised under 31 Indian classical Ragas.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Tenth Master, prepared the final version of the Adi Granth with some amendments. On 7 October 1708 at Nanded, he ended the line of human Gurus and passed on the succession to 'Shabad Guru', the hymns of the holy Guru Granth Sahib Ji. He ordained his followers to live under its guidance. It was through the Holy Word that the Guruship could remain Eternal

Guru Gobind Singh Ji applied his seal on it by saying: "Pooja Akal Purakh ki" (worship only the Immortal Being), "Parcha Shabad Ka" (seek guidance only from the Shabad contained in Guru Granth Sahib) and "Didar Khalse Ka" (for a vision of the Guru, have glimpse of the holy Khalsa, the Pure One).

The Sikhs regard 'Shabad Guru' as the ultimate spiritual authority and endeavour to live under its guidance, and no Sikh ceremony can be completed without its presence. It is the Guru for Sikhs for all time to come. Whosoever reads the Bani with consideration, listens to it and sings it, shall be honoured by the Guru.

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achieve knowledge on God and modes of His realisation. It offers a deep study of the universal facts, human nature and the ways to seek spiritual enlightenment and

salvation. It guides human beings with moral, spiritual and ethical values, vital to form an ideal society. In fact, it is a balance of knowledge (on all aspects of life), devotion (to make communication with God) and Karmas (good deeds to maintain a spiritual discipline).

Guru Granth Sahib Ji is unique for its belief and philosophy. It has a distinguished belief in the reality of one God who has no opponents, unlike in Christianity and Islam where worshippers believe in the existence of an anti-God element called 'Satan'. Mool Mantra, the opening verse of Guru Granth Sahib Ji defines the unique qualities of God. The Mool Mantra proclaims that God is One Supreme Being (Creator, Sustainer and Destroyer); He is the eternal Name; He is the Creator; He dwells within every being; He is without fear; He carries no enmity; He is beyond birth and death; He is beyond time; He is self created and He is realised through Guru's Grace

The Guru Granth Sahib Ji, is the main source of Sikh philosophy and theology. It reflects knowledge on all aspects of life concerning human beings, including the human desire to.

Equality of human beings, irrespective of cast, colour and creed, is preached frequently in the verses of Guru Granth Sahib Ji. In order to apply the concept of equality, Guru Nanak Dev Ji introduced the institution of Langar (free community meal) which everyone regardless of cast, colour, status or creed shares together. The tradition of Langar is unique in the Sikh religion. In no other world religion is such an institution recommended. The tradition of Langar, after Guru Nanak Dev, was continued by Guru Angad Dev Ji and by the succeeding Gurus and it still carries on today. Mata Khivi, the wife of Guru Angad Dev Ji, managed the affairs of Langar for the congregation with great interest. This is evident in the verses of Guru Granth Sahib Ji:

Balwand says that Khivi, the Guru's wife, is a noble woman, who gives soothing, leafy shade to all. She distributes the bounty of the Guru's Langar; the kheer - the rice pudding and ghee, is like sweet ambrosia. (SGGS p967)

The Guru Granth Sahib Ji is the living Guide for all humanity and has been regarded as the universal Granth as it delivers a common sermon to all humanity. Gurbani proclaims:

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Guru gives instructions to people of all castes and social classes. O Nanak, to such a Pandit, I bow in salutation forever. (SGGS p274)

adorn the turban of the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, was presented by Sikhs of Andhra Pradesh to Takhat Sachkhand Sri Hazur Sahib (TSSHS), Nanded.

The bejewelled plume was presented to the head Jathedar of Hazur Sahib, Baba Kulwant Singh Ji, in the presence of over 25,000 Sikh devotees who had gathered to witness the function.

The Kalgi will now be kept in the sanctum sanctorum which also houses Guru Gobind Singh Ji's weapons and will become an integral part of the sacred heritage.

S Amarjeet Singh and S Narender Singh, who were instrumental in preparing the Kalgi, said the artifice was fabricated by highly skilled craftsmen. The plume is made of nearly 20 tolas of gold embedded with American diamonds. The money was raised from Deccan Sikhs and they presented the offering coinciding with the remembrance of 300 years of the consecration of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji as the final and perpetual Guru of Sikhs as ordained by Guru Gobind Singh Ji in 1708. This event is of great relevance to the worldwide Sikh community. Exactly 300 years ago at Nanded in Maharashtra, the tenth and last living Sikh Guru left for the heavenly abode.

Prior to his transition, he bestowed the eternal Guruship of the Sikhs upon the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. This year, in Nanded, there will be a special celebration of the 300th anniversary of both these events in which over 30 to 40 lakh Sikhs would converge between October 30 and November 4.

Recently, the beautifully-crafted bejewelled replica of Kalgi (plume), that used to

Guru Gobind Singh Ji was famous for wearing a Kalgi on his turban. He enjoyed these pins so much that he was affectionately and reverently called 'Guru Kalgidhar'. The town is also important as Takht Sri Hazur Sahib, one of the five temporal thrones or seats of authority, is located here. This is where Guru Gobind Singh, the Tenth Teacher, is known to have meditated on the banks of the Godavari where he spent his final days.

During this unique occasion, Gurdwaras and Sikh community located throughout the globe will have their own programmes to inaugurate and mark the 300 years of Guru de Naal. Preparations are underway already, whether it is in Los Angeles or in Singapore, it will be worth sharing the joy and pride of this long awaited celebration

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Punjab CM releases pictorial album on 300th years of Gurta Gaddi diwas celebrations

Thursday, 16 October 2008

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal on Thursday released a pictorial album 'Beksan-Ra-Yaar – Guru Gobind Singh' on the life and philosophy of the tenth master of Sikhs.

Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji published by the State language department and Gold and Silver medallions of 10 gram and 50 gram each brought out by the Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation (PSIEC) dedicated to the tercentenary celebrations of Guru-ta-Gaddi Diwas of Sri Guru Granth Sahib here at Punjab Bhawan at a simple but impressive ceremony.

The pictorial album vividly depicts the legacy of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji right from his childhood to his last days in Nanded. It also contains two historic documents 'Fatehnama' and 'Zafarnama' in original Persian script and its transliteration in Gurmukhi. Apart from this, the unique publication had beautifully portrayed the journeys undertaken by Sri Guru Gobind Singh from his birth place Sri Patna Sahib to Sri Anandpur Sahib and from here to Talwandi Sabo and other parts of Punjab and ultimately to Nanded. The album had been diligently brought out by the Language department in consultation with Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandak Committee.

While releasing the prestigious publication and medallions, the Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of both the departments of Languages and Industries and hoped that these artifacts would prove to be a milestone in the history of Sikhism on one hand and instrumental to comprehend the basic philosophy and works of great guru on the other.

It may be recalled that these medallions are of pure 24 carat gold especially imported from Switzerland. Similarly Silver medallions are also of pure silver with 999.0 fineness. These medallions have been got prepared from MMTC (A Govt. of India Enterprise), which also carries a certificate of Assayer for purity. Replica of opening

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words of Sri Guru Granth Sahib in the original handwriting of Guru Arjan Devji on one side of the medallion and a replica of " Palki Sahib" on the other side, have been embossed.

The PSIEC had earlier released similar medallions on the occasion of 300th year of birth of Khalsa, 200th year of coronation of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and 2600th year of birth of Lord Mahavir. There was overwhelming response from the public for the medallions. Initially, these medallions will be made available through the selected branches of Phulkari outlets and Punjab & Sind Bank in the State of Punjab. Subsequently, these will be made available in other States also. Booking of these medallions will start from 16th October, 08 till 31st October, 2008.

Prominent amongst others who were present on the occasion included Local Govt. and Industries & Commerce Minister Manoranjan Kalia, Education & Languages Minister Upinderjit Kaur, Chief Parliamentary Secretary Education Mohinder Kaur Josh, Principal Secretary Industries & Commerce SS Channy, MD PSIEC SS Rajput, Secretary Higher Education Anjali Bhawra, Director Languages Balbir Kaur and Chairman PSIEC Raj Kumar Gupta, Chairman, PSIEC

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