

500 copies of Guru Granth Sahib flown in from London

17 Oct 2008

NEW DELHI: The late night Air India flight from London to New Delhi brought with it an unusual set of passengers. The 330-seater aircraft carried 500 copies of the Guru Granth Sahib and 32 sevadars who were accompanying the holy scriptures.

Sikhs regard the Guru Granth Sahib as their living Guru and accord it respect accordingly. The books in question were extremely old, with several pages torn. The aim of the management of the Gurudwara Mai Pago in Karol Bagh, which brought the books to India, is to perform the last rites for these books, as would be done for their Guru. They will collect old copies of the holy book from all parts of the world and clean them. Eventually they will be given up in an 'agni bhet' as part of the antim sanskar.

AI-112 arrived at the IGI airport at 2.30 am on Thursday and was taken to a special bay where the books were offloaded. All copies were carried out by the sevadars on their heads, as a mark of respect to the books. Since the books cannot be stacked on top of each other, they were placed on 300 seats, with a maximum of one copy atop another, and the other seats were occupied by the sevadars. "Special arrangements were also made by customs and immigration and checks were conducted in the aircraft itself," revealed an Air India official.

The Gurudwara management had booked the entire flight for about 80,000 pounds Rs 64 lakh. The copies would be kept at Gurudwara Mai Pago in Karol Bagh before being sent to Gurudwara Khushalpur near Ponta Sahib in Uttarakhand.

Meanwhile, to celebrate the 300 years of the Guru Granth Sahib's installation by Guru Gobind Singh, the Baba Virsa Singh Ji Maharaj Memorial Turst will be organising a two day celebration at their sadan in Mehrauli on October 18 and 19

Sikh procession in PJ tomorrow

MALYASIA

A 3.8km Sikh procession will be held in Petaling Jaya at 7pm tomorrow as part of events to celebrate the 300th year since the Sikh scripture (called the Guru Granth Sahib) was declared as the 'eternal Guru' for the Sikhs by Guru Gobind Singh.

Organising committee secretary Tarlochan Singh said about 20,000 Sikhs, non-Sikhs and tourists were expected to witness the rare event.

Speaking at a press conference at the Sagar Restaurant in Bangsar, recently, he said the highlight of the event would be the gatka (Sikh martial arts) team that would be making two pit stops, one in front of the National Registration Department and another in front of the Crystal Crown Hotel in Jalan Utara.

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The Malaysian gatka team has represented Malaysia and won third place in an international gatka competition.

Be amazed by the heart-stopping moves of the gatka and learn about the various weapons that they use, such as the sword, shield, and a special net that they swirl around for defending and attacking.



Heart-thumping action: Check out the fantastic moves of the gatka (Sikh martial arts) teams during the Sikh procession. Also check out the cool headgear that the members wear to protect them against attacks. They contain concealed weapons for back-up.

Organising committee chairman Naranjan Singh said the nagar kirtan (Sikh procession) would enable the public to get a glimpse of Sikh scriptures, an integral part of a Sikh's life.

"The event celebrates a key historical event in the history of Sikhs.

"This is an excellent opportunity for fellow Malaysians to get a first-hand look at some of the practices of the Sikhs, a vibrant and a key component member of Malaysia's multi-religious society," he said.

Vegetarian food will be served at the temple before the procession starts.

The event's organising chairman Gurphajan Singh said that it took them one and a half months to prepare for the procession.

"A total of 19 contingents - from temples, societies, and organisations - will be taking part in the procession which will be led by drummers beating the Nagara drum.

"In the old days, the drum was only used when the king leaves the palace," he said.

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The national level 300th year Gurgaddi Dihara Grand Celebration is jointly organised by Gurdwara Sahib Petaling Jaya, Sant Attar Singh Ji Brahm Vidya Niketan, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Khalsa Garh Malaysia and Sikh Welfare Society Malaysia.

Other activities at the Gurdwara Sahib, off Jalan Utara in Petaling Jaya, are a blood donation tomorrow and a high tea for religious leaders of various faiths on Oct 20.

Guru Gaddee Day Parade on Oct 18

LOS ANGELES: On Saturday, October 18, the 300th Anniversary of Guru Gaddee Day of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji will be commemorated with a vibrant and exciting Nagar Kirtan (parade). This year's celebration of this sacred Sikh event will include a beautifully decorated float complete with ragis (musicians) playing Kirtan for the procession, and marching gatka demonstrations, ending with a final ceremony at Guru Ram Das Ashram, 1620 Preuss Road, Los Angeles.

The Sadh Sangat of Guru Ram Das Ashram, along with the assistance of the Lankershim Gurdwara and Joginder Singh Sidhu, have been coordinating their creative efforts on a beautiful float for this historic occasion.

Historical Significance: On October 20, 1708, the last living Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, confirmed that the Sri Guru Granth Sahib was a complete, inviolable and final embodiment of the message for the Sikhs and the eternal Guru. Guru Gaddee Day will be celebrated worldwide as it involves the remembrance of the 300th year of this consecration, and commemorates that day in Sikh history.

The Guru Granth Sahib is regarded as the guiding light for the Sikhs. Many non-Sikhs also have tremendous respect for the teachings contained within the pages of this Holy Scripture. On this momentous occasion, both non-Sikhs and Sikhs alike around the world will join hands in millions to honor the high principles of peace, equality, unity, forgiveness and the many other high and noble messages promoted by the Guru.

Gathering for the parade begins at 3:30 pm at 9500 Bolton Road, Los Angeles. Transportation from the ashram to the beginning of the parade will be available from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for attendees who wish to park at the Ashram

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Rename Nanded as Sri Hazur Sahib station: CM

Chandigarh,

Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal has asked Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to prevail upon his railway minister to get Nanded railway station renamed as Sri Hazur Sahib station.

Badal made this request to the Prime Minister at a function of the National Integration Council (NIC) in Delhi yesterday.

Harcharan Bains, media adviser to the Chief Minister, said the CM told the NIC, "The council's initiatives are based on the same doctrines enshrined in Guru Granth Sahib. So there can be no better time than now when the whole world is engaged in the 300th anniversary celebrations of Gurta Gaddi Diwas to take this initiative".

Badal wrote to the Union home minister Shivraj Patil, who is the nodal officer for the Gurta Gaddi Diwas celebrations, to take up the issue with the Union railway minister.

Badal further has asked Patil to ask the Union civil aviation minister to ensure regularity and frequency of Amritsar-Delhi-Mumbai flights, Bains added

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