

CD gift to commemorate 300th anniversary of Sikh holy book

KUALA LUMPUR: Ten thousand copies of a compact disc comprising hymns and chants of religious verses from the Guru Granth Sahib will be distributed for free in Malaysia and other Southeast Asian countries in conjunction with the 300th anniversary of the Sikh holy book.

The Shahab Kirtan CD, produced by Goldkartz Production and featuring Bhangra artiste siblings Manjit Singh, Ranjit Kaur Gill and Sukhjit Singh Gill, would also be distributed in Hong Kong and London.

According to Manjit, the CD made its debut at the Gurburi Sikh Children's Home in Ampang, where it was distributed free to the residents there.

"We have produced 10,000 CDs to be distributed free for the benefit of Sikhs in Malaysia and Southeast Asian countries," he said, adding that it would be available in all major Sikh temples in the country.

Sukhjit said the idea to produce fusion music with a modern connotation was to encourage the younger generation to listen to the hymns with a different blend of music.

Malaysian National Sikhs Movement president Tan Sri G. Darshan Singh welcomed the move and said it was a noble way of encouraging the younger generation to appreciate the significance of the celebration

Serial on Guru Granth Sahib in English, Hindi & Punjabi

AMRITSAR, PUNJAB - The shooting of the serial, "Guru Manyo Granth," by Jalandhar Doordarshan Kendra and at ancestral places of Sikh Gurus, Bhagats and Muslim seers whose hymns have been enshrined in Guru Granth Sahib, has been completed.

The serial to be telecast in English, Hindi and Punjabi on the national hook-up from October 24 in seven instalments to coincide with the tercentenary celebrations of Gurta-Gaddi will be the first ever attempt by electronic media in this field.

Guru Granth Sahib was first compiled by fifth Sikh Guru Arjan Dev in

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1604 AD in Amritsar. Its second and last version was compiled by Guru Gobind Singh and finalized at Damdama Sahib in 1705 AD. The holy book was bestowed the status of the "word Guru" by the 10th Sikh Master at Nanded Sahib, Maharashtra, three centuries ago.

According to Jaswant Deed, Producer Director of the serial, playback singers, including Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhonsle, Pandit Jasraj, Bhupinder Mitali, Sherya Goshal, Alka Yagnik and Suresh Wadaker etc have sung hymns from Guru Granth Sahib in the serial.

The Doordarshan team also visited the places of Bhagats whose hymns are contained in Guru Granth Sahib. The shooting was done at Hazur Sahib, Bidar, Anandpur Sahib, Kolkata, Varanasi and other states.

The seven episodes include compilation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, completion and Gurgaddi of Guru Granth Sahib, musical arrangement of Gurbani, depiction of nature in Guru Granth Sahib, Bhagat Bani in Guru Granth Sahib, universal message of Guru Granth Sahib and Gaavo Sachi Bani.

Script writer of the serial is famous Punjabi poet Surjit Patar, a Sahit Akedami award winner. It is based on research by Dr Jodh Singh, former Head, Religious Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala. The music in the serial is given by Uttam Singh.

Jaswant Deed, Producer-Director, Avinash Singh, PEX Shelandra Sharma Sateyan, Jeet Raj and Swarnjit Singh are members of the production team.

Religious and Political dignitaries to reach Nanded

NANDED: Nanded is being swamped with yellow and blue of the Sikhs, who are reaching there in thousands from all over the world. With the expanded airport ready and operational, there is likely to be an increased flow of pilgrims to the sacred town.

A Kar Sewa baba from Amritsar has plans in place to feed Guru ka Langar to 4 million people. State of the art tents with all amenities have been set up. A team of 100 doctors will be reaching from Patiala to take care of the medical needs of people during the celebrations.

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Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is likely to visit Hazur Sahib on 23 October and the President of India Pratibha Patil is scheduled to be there on 3 November.

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