50 Punjab docs and paramedics ready for Nanded

PATIALA: Responding to the call of Jathedar Kulwant Singh of Takht Hazur Sahib, a team of 50 doctors and paramedical staff and volunteers of the Nishkam Medical Care Society is ready to leave for Nanded to provide medical facilities to the thousands of pilgrims and local Nanded residents for ten days beginning 27th October.

The Nishkam society has four years experience in this field and has been active in organizing medical campst at village Cheema, near Sunam, with active cooperation of the Baru Sahib Academy. They have held 6 medical camps and conducted around 300 operations.

According to information released by Dr. Gurdeep Singh from Patiala, the camp site will be the Dashmesh Hospital at Nanded and the team will provide round the clock medical support and free medicines to the pilgrims and local residents. The team will leave on 25 October by Sachkhand Express and will camp there till 6th November.

The doctors who will participate in this noble mission include Dr Gurdeep Singh, M.S (Orthopedics), Dr H S Sandhu, M.S (Orthopedics), Dr Gurmeet Singh, M.S (General Surgery), Dr Harjinder Kaur, M.S (Gynae), Dr Gurpreet Kaur, M.S (Gynae), Dr Gurinder Kaur, M.S (Gynae), Dr mandeep Kaur, M.S (Gynae), Dr Harpreet Kaur, M.S (Gynae), Dr Mrs Kuljit Kaur, M.S (Gynae), Dr K. S Walia, M.D Medicine, Dr J. S Hans, M.S (Eye), Dr G. P Singh, M.S (Plastic surgery), Dr Jasbir Singh, M.D Pathology, Dr Inderpreet Singh, M.D Chest, Dr Mrs Kushal Hans, M.D (E .N .T), Dr Upinder Singh, M.B.B.S (General), Dr Gurinder Singh, M.B.B.S (General), Dr Karminder Singh, M.B.B.S (General), Dr Taranjit Kaur, M.B.B.S (Medical), Dr Harpreet Singh, M.B.B.S (General), Dr J.S. Pannu, M.B.B.S (General), Dr Surinder Singh, M.B.B.S (General), Dr Ranjit Singh Raipuria, M.B.B.S (Medical)

The paramedical staff include Ved Prakash Mangla, Ram Murthy Sharma, Nirmal Kumar, Vivek Sharma, Sawaranjit Singh, Jagmohan Kaur, Sudesh Sharma, Jasbir Kaur, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Anil Kumar, Sarbeshwar Bansal, Jasbir Singh, Satpal Singh, Parminder Singh, Mahesh, Gurpreet Singh, Baljinderjit Singh, Balwinder Singh, Surinder Kaur, Amarinder Singh, Rajbir Kaur, Darshan Singh, Jarnail Singh, Salig Ram Verma, Ajay Kumar, Sukhminder Kaur

The camp organizing committee includes Col B. S. Arora Organising Secretary, M. R. Singh Mehta Joint Organising Secretary (Finance) and Gurbax Singh Dhingra Joint Organising Secretary.

Local Sikhs bring donation for school in India

Two Sikh Association representatives from Brantford leave next week for India bearing a $3,500 gift to be used for a school kitchen in the city of Hazoor Sahib.

Gurdav Singh Lall, the president of the Sikh Association, and Daljit Singh Kahlon, a clergyman since 1980, are making the presentation to Nanaksar Dasmesh Public School shortly after they arrive in India on Saturday. They leave Canada on Thursday.

The gift is just one small part of a longer trip. In a news conference Sunday at the Sikh temple on Park Road North, Kahlon said they will be in India for 47 days as part of a worldwide prayer conference that also takes them into Pakistan.

"This is an annual tradition, going to Pakistan to celebrate the Sikh first master (Guru Nanak)," added Sikh Association member Minder Singh Thangki.

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"This year has become a special event because it is 300 years of the Sikh holy book (Guru Granth Sahib). It is to the Sikh like the Bible is to the Christian, or the Gita to the Hindu or the Koran to the Muslim."

Bringing religion of love

Her forefathers had lived in Sindh from the days of the Harappan trade with Mesopotamia. After Partition her family moved to India for keeps. “All we had were the clothes on our backs,” the matriarch reminisces, “not to forget the Granth Sahib snatched from our abandoned ancestral home.”

In course of time, the family regained its former splendour, and managed to install the Holy Book in a puja room of a posh seaside flat in Mumbai. To the great contentment of the matriarch, several uninterrupted recitals (akhand path) of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib had been organised.

“Over those two days and nights, when the sacred bani is recited without pause, the atmosphere at home is surcharged with reverence just like it used to be in the balmy days at Sukkur and Shikarpur,” she reminisces.

Such stories of return and rejuvenation have been repeated many times over, across many cultures and communities around the globe. Consider the example of the early travails and persecution suffered by the Sikhs. Today, millions of them around the world were happily celebrating the 300th anniversary of the consecration of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth and the last Guru of the Sikhs, proclaimed the Holy Scripture to be the eleventh, and eternal guru, of the Sikhs on October 20, 1708 at Nanded in Maharashtra. The day was now listed as ‘Siri Guru Granth Sahib Day’ by Illinois state governor Rod Blagojevich, Chicago mayor Richard Daley and Palatine mayor Rita Mullin!

“Nearer home, one shouldn’t forget the contribution to the bani from the saintly tradition of Maharashtra,” the matriarch continues. “The pioneer of Bhakti movement Sri Namdeo was born here. Joining the renowned sage Sri Jnandeo, he travelled across India, singing his wonderful poems, or abhangas, and bringing the Religion of Love to all the land. But it wasn’t until he met his Guru, Vishoba Khechar, that Sri Namdeo was able to see God everywhere and truly rejoice in God’s infinite presence.”

Yet so saddened was Namdeo by his friend’s samadhi that he left the state to travel up north, and eventually spent 20 years in the Ghuman village in Punjab. Namdeo supposedly returned to home state at the end to experience the bliss of sanjivan-samadhi (living interment). He lives on through his kirtans: such has been the saint’s charisma that 61 of his Hindi poems have been canonised in the Adi Granth. Read that Raj Thackeray?

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SGPC to celebrate Gurta-Gaddi Divas at Nanded on Oct 31: Makkar

PATIALA The president of Shiromani Gurdwara Committee Avtar Singh Makkar said on Wednesday that SGPC will celebrate 300th anniversary of Gurta-Gaddi celebrations of Guru Granth Sahib in big way at Nanded on October 31 and will also participate in the celebrations of Takhat Sri Hazur Sahib.

Talking to media persons here on Wednesday evening after the sports day function of Budha Dal public school he rubbished the criticism over celebrations of the event on two dates. He said that SGPC and Akal Takhat sahib already announced earlier that the confusion of two different dates will be sorted out after the Gurta Gaddi celebrations.

Controversy erupted as the president of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management committee has appealed Sikhs not to participate in Gurta Gaddi celebrations of Takhat Hazur Sahib as they have celebrating the event according as per traditional Bikrami Calendar on October 30. DSGMC, SGPC and many Sikh organisations have celebrated the event of the tercentenary celebrations of Gurta Gaddi Diwas on October 20 as per Nanakshahi Calendar. The Takht Hazur Sahib, Takht Patna Sahib and many Panthic organisations would celebrate the mega event at Abchal Nagar, (Nanded) Hazur Sahib (Maharashtra), as per traditional Bikrami Calendar on October 30.

Makkar said that that we cannot ignore the mega event to be celebrated the place (Nanded) where tenth guru Gobind Singh has given Gaddi of Sikh Panth to Sri Guru Granth Sahib 300 years ago.

He said that SGPC has constructed a Sarai (Guest House) of 20 rooms at Nanded with the cost of 1.25 crores which will be open for sangat on October 27. He further informed that Punjab Government has been also constructing its 'Punjab Bhavan' of 150 rooms.

When asked about seeking his re-election as president of SGPC chief he said it will decided by the party itself. The election of office bearers and executive members will be held on November 22 at Amritsar.

Punjabis hail 300th Guruta Gaddi Divas

Wednesday October 22 2008

Members of the Punjabi NDP Advisory Committee expressed happiness over the weekend at the grand celebrations throughout the world for the 300th 'Guruta Gaddi Divas' (the day of bestowing the status of Guru) of Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of Sikhs.

At the meeting Jagtar Shergill, committee chairman, was joined by many prominent members of the Punjabi community including Dr.

Chanan Singh Cheema, Dr. Mewa Singh Tiwana, Dr. Kulwant Singh Billing, Inderjit Grewal, Surinder Ghuman, Manjit Grewal, Shabnam Chhibber and Bonnie Tubman.

The members were unanimous that the Guru Granth Sahib is the only religious scripture on which has been bestowed the status of Guru, said committee chairman Jagtar Shergill.

This is the only holy book that contains the writings and teachings of saints, reformers, and holy men of various religions, sects, and castes along with that of the Sikh gurus, he noted.

"Guru Granth Sahib is a treasure of knowledge for the whole humanity and gives a universal message of peace, happiness, equal treatment of men and women, peaceful co-existence, tolerance, and equality of all humans irrespective of colour, caste, region, language, and religion," Shergill said.

"In today's world, many divisive forces are working to divide the people for their vested interests. That not only poses a threat to the world peace but is a danger for the existence of humanity itself.

"In these circumstances, the message of Guru Granth Sahib becomes all the more relevant," he added.

Gurudwara Walnut celebrates 300 years of Sri Granth Sahib

WALNUT: This is truly celebration time in So Cal as the area Gurudwaras celebrate 300 years of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.Walnut Gurudwara took the lead with a grand Kirtan Darbar. The proceedings began early morning with prayers. Later in the afternoon there was Nishaan Sahib Sewa where the Chola of Nishan Sahib was changed.Nishan Sahib Sewa was followed by a joint Paath of Sukhmani Sahib by the ladies of the Walnut Sangat.It was indeed a memorable day. From about 6 pm to 9:30 pm there was some mesmerizing Keertan by various Raagi Jathas.
Not to be outdone were the children of Guru Angad Dev Children's Academy. They rendered some of the most melodious Keertan of that evening. Their school re-opened recently and it is indeed no small achievement to reach this level of proficiency in a short time.
The kids were awesome - congratulations kids parents and GADCA teachers and mentors.The highlight of the evening was joint keertan by five of the finest of So Cal Raagi Jathas, led by Prof Ranjit Singh of the Bhai Mardana Academy. These raagis had the Sangat glued.

As usual there was ample langar in the form of food, snacks, mithai, hot and cold beverages etc.People set up stalls in the courtyard of the Gurudwara and the faithful could avail a choice of food items ranging from the traditional fare to even South Indian food. The arrangements were meticulous and the Walnut Gurudwara Committee deserves full credit for this.The Gurudwara had been lit up to suit the season. Inside, the Darbar Hall was tastefully decorated.

The courtyard with the stalls was well lit and volunteers pitched in enthusiastically to keep the trash in control. It is estimated that the celebrations were attended by a rolling crowd of almost 2500 people. Talking to India Post, committee president Saab Singh Bhullar expressed his satisfaction. "Every year it's getting bigger and we want the next event to be even better than the previous one," he said.The evening ended with a spectacular fireworks show. The next major event is Bandi Chhor Divas (Diwali) on Tuesday Oct 25.