

Sikh Parade to mark the 300th Guruship of Guru Granth Sahib

Yuba City (San Francisco), November 3,:

Over 70,000 Sikhs converged from across the United States of America, Canada, England and India to participate in the 29th Annual Sikh Parade taken out on the streets of the Yuba City, about 125 miles from San Francisco Bay Area here on Sunday.

The nearly 5-mile religious parade was taken out to mark the tercentenary celebrations of Guruship of Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of Sikhs.

Punj Pyaras or, the five Sikh clergies led the parade and carried the Sri Nishan Sahib, the religious flag of Sikhism. There were also flags of California State in the parade.

With chants of "Satnam Waheguru" and repeated slogans of "Bole so Nihal", the general mood in the parade was religious.

Many U.S Congressmen and representatives of the Governor's office attended the parade besides the Sikh devotees.

As the procession started from the Sikh Temple of Yuba City, a helicopter hovering above the ceremonial parade created a rain of flowers from high above the procession.

Thousands of Sikhs walked alongside hundreds of floats.

Along the parade route, Sikhs families who set up food booths offered free drinks, snacks and cooked food for the visitors all the way of the parade.

Sikhs have been a part of the American landscape for over 130 years. And, the Yuba city area has some of the best agricultural land is known for the largest Sikh population of farm owners.

Rajinder Singh Chauhan, one of the organisers of the Sikh temple of Yuba City said, "It demonstrates our political and economic strength along with the unity among the Sikhs. It has to be political, economic as well as social strength."

People feasted on traditional Sikh food and American traditions such as cotton candy and popcorn.

"It was a special joy of distinction, recommended for one and all to explore at least once in a lifetime," said Daljeet Kaur a visitor from Los Angeles.

"Such programs helps us to overcome an identify crisis which Sikhs in the US have been facing since the 9/11 incident. For every Sikh living abroad it's an occasion to express solidarity by joining wholeheartedly, said John Gill, another organizer of the Parade.

pdfMachine

A pdf writer that produces quality PDF files with ease!

Produce quality PDF files in seconds and preserve the integrity of your original documents. Compatible across nearly all Windows platforms, simply open the document you want to convert, click "print", select the "Broadgun pdfMachine printer" and that's it! Get yours now!

Dr. Pritpal Singh, coordinator of the American Gurdwara Parbhandhak Committee (AGPC), on the occasion said that special occasion witnessed a large religious gathering and offered a platform to the Sikhs to discuss their issues.

Dr. Amarjeet Singh, an eminent Sikh leader from Washington D.C., said that the grand scale of celebrations all over the world for the Guru Granth Sahib is a befitting reply to the forces who were trying to mislead the community.

"Sikhs hold Guru Granth Sahib, the only living guru of the community, with utmost love, respect and the dedication all over the world. And, it is visible here. In Argentina in the only Gurdwara in South America, there have been celebrations on this occasion in a big way, Sikhs in Fiji and Sikhs living in [Punjab](#) (India) and around the world, have held big celebrations and it will continue round the year," said he. Moreover, several non-Sikhs from across California participated in the events on the day of devotion.

The anticipated number of people for the annual parade, however, was marred by poor weather conditions. There were about 70,000 devotees, which was a little less than the anticipated 100,000 people as expected by the organisers.

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels visits Gurudwara

INDIANAPOLIS: The Hoosier Sikh American community gave Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels a very warm welcome resounding Jakaras and shouts of Sat Siri Akals recently at the Sikh Temple in Indianapolis.

The Indiana Governor was paying a historic visit to The Sikh Temple (Acton Road) on the sacred occasion marking the landmark Tercentenary Commemorations of the Ordination of Sri Guru Granth Sahib as the Eternal Guru of the Sikhs at Nanded, Maharashtra, India on October 7, 1708. A large banner welcoming Governor Mitch Daniels, American flags, and a banner announcing the Guru Granth Sahib GurGuddi Diwas added festive environment to the Temple Complex.

Dr Juana Watson, Governor Mitch Daniels' Senior Advisor for Latino and Immigrant Affairs, joined in the special celebrations marking the occasion. Governor Daniels and Dr Juana Watson briefly met with a few Sikh community leaders and sevaks in the Gurdwara Library before the Governor and Dr Watson were lead into the packed Diwan Hall on the main floor.

The Governor greeted the audience with folded hands and paid his respects to Sri Guru Granth Sahib before sitting down. Governor Daniels issued a special proclamation designating October 20 as "Sri Guru Granth Sahib Day" in Indiana. The proclamation was read to the enthusiastic congregation of over 250 Hoosier Sikhs and people of other faith traditions, from around the State.

Jasvir Singh Lalli, President, Sikh Satsang of Indianapolis welcomed the Governor and Dr Juana Watson to the Sikh Temple. KP Singh, a long-time resident of Indiana, thanked the Governor and Dr Watson on behalf of the Sikh Satsang and all present for the distinct honor of their presence. Ragi Jatha (religious musicians) lead by Bhai Sewa Singh from New Delhi gave beautiful renditions of sacred hymns. Governor Daniels in his remarks thanked the Sikh community for their warm welcome and said, "We are so grateful that the Sikh tradition is alive and thriving in Indiana.

Dr Juana Watson was presented a brocaded Sikh shawl and special plaque thanking her for "her friendship and special support of the Sikh community in Indiana" by Giani Pritam Singh (Head Priest) Tarlochan Singh Bansi and Harpreet Sandhu (Trustees), Jasvir Lalli (President) of the Sikh Satsang of Indianapolis.

The Sikh leadership presented the Governor with a traditional Siropa, a Sri Singh Sahib (Ceremonial Sikh Kirpan), and a special book: The Sikhs by Khushwant Singh, as tokens of high respect and in friendship and affection

Nanded celebrations: Answer to Raj's divisive politics

pdfMachine

A pdf writer that produces quality PDF files with ease!

Produce quality PDF files in seconds and preserve the integrity of your original documents. Compatible across nearly all Windows platforms, simply open the document you want to convert, click "print", select the "Broadgun pdfMachine printer" and that's it! Get yours now!



NANDED SHOWS THE WAY: Nanded celebrations mark 300 years of the Guru Granth Saheb.

Nanded: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray may have upped the attack on North Indians and thrown Mumbai and Maharashtra to the forces of division, but a little away from Mumbai, Nanded celebrations marking the 300 years of the Guru Granth Saheb has weakened language-based differences that Raj is promoting.

650 kilometers away from Mumbai, the hub of Raj's Maratha rhetoric and political jingoism, the pilgrim town of Nanded is fast turning out to be Maharashtra's symbol of pluralism.

With its 5 lakh Maratha population playing host to over 50 lakh Sikhs from all over the world. No wonder its street corners have more Sikhs walking the Maratha hinterland than Marathas themselves. Language barriers bothering Thackeray are of little worry here.

"We haven't had any problems here. Even if you don't know Marathi, it's fine," said a pilgrim Janvender Singh.

"The local Marathas have been very helpful," said another pilgrim Bhupinder Kaur.

The celebrations are big as Guruta Gaddi marks the 300 years of the Guru Granth Sahib being anointed as the eternal Guru of the Sikhs. It also marks

the 300th death anniversary of the 10th and the last Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh.

And Nanded bears all signs of it with sounds of *shabad* and *kirtan* echoing through the town, *karsewakas* working in gurudwaras, on roads, and langars that are feeding over 5 lakh people every day.

"Thanks to the pilgrims my business is doing well. I don't care what Raj Thackeray has to say," said business Montu Singh.

Two years back Nanded had sprung to India's terror map with an accidental bomb explosion in a house. It has travelled far since then. On November 3, when the Guruta Gaddi celebrations end, it would have taught Raj's brand of divisive politics many a lesson.

pdfMachine

A pdf writer that produces quality PDF files with ease!

Produce quality PDF files in seconds and preserve the integrity of your original documents. Compatible across nearly all Windows platforms, simply open the document you want to convert, click "print", select the "Broadgun pdfMachine printer" and that's it! Get yours now!