

Punjabi movie 'Sat Sri Akal' world premier on Oct 17

CHANDIGARH: The Punjabi movie, Sat Sri Akal, commemorates the occasion of 300th anniversary of Gurta GurGaddi Diwas of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. This Cinemascope film project with digital Dolby sound is a step towards propagating a way of life impregnated with rich heritage of Punjabi culture, moral values, traditions and Sikh tenets, will be released on Oct 17, 2008.

Kanwal Kohli, Vice President, Frankfinn Music said, "The movie revolves around love, traditional values, sentiments, and colossal faith towards the Almighty God. In essence, Sat Sri Akal is a decent love story between two divergent personas -- a promising, brilliant and well brought-up simple boy from religious & respectable background, with a beautiful ultra-modern girl hailing from a family of an army officer. Passing through youthful college life, humorous situations, pleasant moments, their courtship suddenly becomes the victim of conspiracy of some ones jealous to them. Based on true happenings, the story of the movie is live account of their unshakable belief in Waheguru God even when all the doors around the world were closed for them."

Particularly, it tends to inculcate immense belief towards Sri Guru Granth Saheb Ji and the Gurbani enshrined within. For the first time, the "true to life" ambiance of pilgrimage places like Sri Harmandar Saheb (Amritsar), Sri Hazur Saheb (Nanded) and Sri Bangla Sahib (Delhi) would be shown on 35 mm format.

Besides a good and captivating story, the Punjabi folk, good humour, romance—sans obscenity—picturesque locales, have been imparted tremendous importance in the film. It has a story splendidly told amongst heart rendering Gurbani shabads sung by legends and foot-tapping songs. Music, a spell-binding and unique fusion of tradition and modernity, with seven Gurbani shabads and three songs, all by celebrity singers and also late Ishmeet Singh, Star Voice of india winner, is one of the major highlights of the film. It tends to enlighten one (Sikh in particular) on how Guru Granth Sahib is practical Guru in this modern world.

So many moments we experienced during the shooting of Sat Sri Akal, wherein we felt the providential help and divine grace. Having failed and tired off finding availability of apt song locations on two occasions, the director used to ask to pack up. The very next moment on each occasion, some body used to approach with excellent options of locales, even much better than we earlier anticipated.

Despite the unparalleled rise of the Sikhs to visibly very high echelons across the world, and their presence at exalted positions in diverse domains, Punjabis and Sikhs especially turbaned ones have been portrayed in a very stereotypical manner on-screen. Verily, Mata Tripta Ji Charitable Trust has joined hands with Frankfenn Entertainment Pvt Ltd to produce the current movie venture Sat Sri Akal—to uphold the image of turbaned Sikhs. That's why we have selected turbaned Manpreet Singh in the male lead, and turbaned Manmeet Singh in a very vital role. Arun Bali kept his beard and hair unshorn for nearly a year to don the true look of a Sikh gentleman. The movie unveils a true account of "what Sikhs are" and "what is ought to be Sikh way of life".

Gone are the days, when Sikhs used to be idolized as the symbols of valor, honesty, truthfulness, integrity, dignity, self-respect, hospitality, creativity, culture, and art. Haplessly, today they are being portrayed as jocular, drunkard, ruthless, flamboyant, unrefined and rustic kind of people, that too mostly drivers.

300th anniversary of Shri Guru Gaddi Nashini

SHIMLA: Prem Sharma, director language and Culture disclosed here on Wednesday that 300th anniversary of 'Shri Guru Gaddi Nashini' on the completion of its three hundred years would be celebrated in the form of 'Sarv Dharam Sammelan'.

In joint collaboration of district administration, Shimla, department of Language & Culture and Guru Singh Sabha, Shimla on 11th and 12th October, 2008 at the historic Ridge Maidan.

Dr. Sharma said that it would be an unprecedented festival of its kind in this century. He further stated that the State Government would invite Shri Bhupinder Singh Hudda, Major General (Retd.) Bhuvan Chander Khanduri and Shri Prakash Singh Badal, Chief Ministers of Haryana, Utrakhand and Punjab respectively to attend the marathon religious event.

Dr. Prem further informed that it was long back in the year 1708 when the 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh made an annunciation that from then onward Guru Granth Sahib would be considered the only Guru and gave clarion call to the followers of Sikh Panth to this effect for all times to come.

He said that, besides, the presence of the Chief Ministers of the three states, the mega celebrations would be attended by Sardar Iqbal Singh Kingra, Chairman, Akal Academy & University Badu Sahib (Sirmour), Mohd. Safi Qureshi, Chairman, National Minorities Commission (New Delhi), Sardar Harcharan Singh Josh, Member, National Minorities Commission, His Holiness Dalai Lama (Dharamshala), Venerable Shankaracharya Ji, Jayendra Saraswati (Tamil Nadu), Hon'ble Karmapa and Bishop P.C. Sainthna Roy CNIR (Amritsar). He said that all the above political as well as spiritual leaders and dignitaries have been invited to deliver their religious & divine discourses on the biggest ever congregation. He said that religious exhibitions would also be installed especially on the collections on Guru Granth Sahib kirtan, hymns and philosophy.

India - Nanded set for big event

S.Harpal Singh

NANDED: This Maharashtra town and its historic **Takhat Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib gurudwara** will host this month the commemoration of the tercentenary of '**Gurta Gaddi**,' or the appointment of the Adi Granth as the Guru of Sikhs.

It was at this gurudwara that the epoch-making event took place 300 years ago. It also houses Angeetha Sahib, the final resting place of 10th Sikh Guru Guru Gobind Singh. It was in Nanded that he was mortally wounded in 1708 by an assassin. Before his passing, he issued an edict to Sikhs to follow the Guru Granth Sahib as their leader.

An estimated 50 lakh pilgrims from all over the world are expected to visit the gurudwara between the Dasara festival on October 9, and November 3 when the occasion of Guru Gobind Singh's parlok gaman, or passing, will be observed.

The scale on which the preparations are being made for the momentous occasion for Sikhism can be gauged from the fact that the Langar Sahib gurudwara has made arrangements to feed one crore pilgrims during the celebrations.

The celebrations will start with takhat ishnan on October 27: this will involve the purification of the main shrine with water from the Godavari that flows nearby. This will be followed by Deepmala, the Deepavali celebrations, the next day. October 30 is the day of the main Gurta Gaddi celebrations, to be followed by the observation of parlok gaman.

Nanded Collector Radheshyam Mopalwar said: "A sum of Rs. 350 crore is being spent on the development of infrastructure related to the Gurta Gaddi celebrations in and around the gurudwara. This amount is part of the sum of over Rs. 1,000 crore allocated for overall development of Nanded town under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission." Infrastructure The creation of infrastructure includes additional accommodation within and outside the gurudwara complex. The new gurudwara complex and the complex at the Langar Sahib gurudwara have 1,500 rooms each. Temporary accommodation will be provided in camps on the town's periphery. Access to the city has been improved with the launch of air services to Mumbai and introduction of nearly 150 pairs of special trains from different parts of the country.