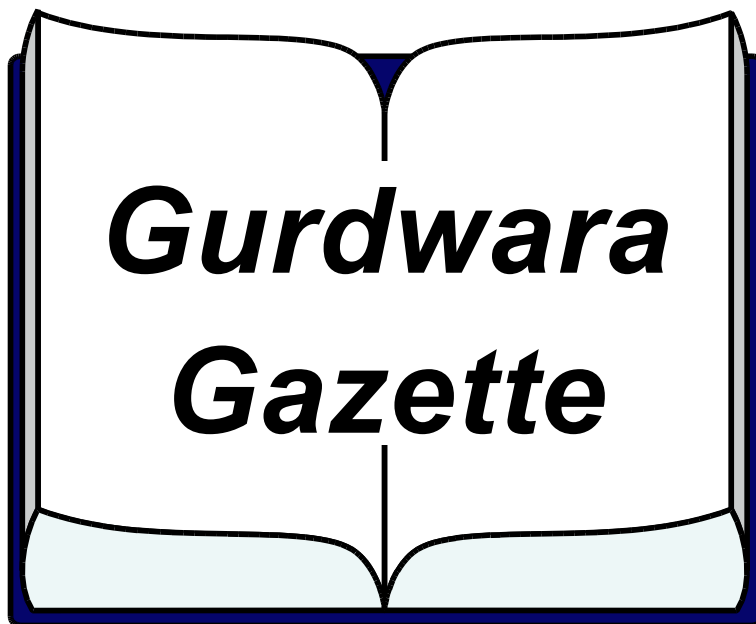


English Section



Editor : Manjit Singh
Associate Editor : Harbhajan Singh 'Vakta'

DAYS COMMEMORATING HISTORICAL EVENTS
(16th August to 15th September)

- 20 August Sant Harchand Singh Longowal shot dead in Sherpur Village,
(Sangrur) (20-8-1985)
- 27 August Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee decided to launch
morcha for liberating Gurdwara Sahib at Daska, Distt. Sialkot.
(27-8-1931)
- 28 August General House of Shiromani Akali Dal approved Anandpur Sahib
Resolution, (1973). That is called 'Anandpur Sahib Resolution these
days. (28-8-1973)
- 1 Sept. (a) Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee sent a special Jatha
of 25 members to start Akhand Path at Gurdwara Gangsar Jaito.
(1-9-1923)
- (b) Bhai Bachitar Singh defeated a drunk elephant and Bhai Udhai Singh
Chopped off the head of hill chief Kesri Chand in the battle of
Lohgarh. (1-9-1700)
- 2 Sept. Immediately after "Operation Blue Star" in 1984 the World Sikh
Convention, called by the five head priests excommunicated Giani
Zail Singh and Butta Singh (the then President and Cabinet Minister
respectively). (2-9-1984)
- 6 Sept. (a) Giani Dit Singh, one of the chief of Singh Sabha Movement passed
away. (6-9-1901)
- (b) Gurdwara Teja Kallan Distt. Gurdaspur came under the Panthak
Control. (6-9-1922)
- 10 Sept. Sardar Karam Singh, a renowned Sikh Historian, passed away.
(10-9-1930)
- 13 Sept. (a) Orders declaring Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and

- Shiromani Akali Dal as unlawfull bodies were withdrawn by the Punjab government. (13-9-1926)
- (b) Master Tara Singh led the first Shaheedi Jatha of Akalies for the Daska Morcha. (13-9-1931)
- 14 Sept. (a) Nawab Zabita Khan Ruhela baptised and named Sardar Dharam Singh as he was much impressed by the high character of the Khalsa. (14-9-1777)
- (b) Raja Sher Singh Attari declared war against the British Rule in Punjab. He was son of Raja Chattar Singh. (14-9-1847)
- 15 Sept. (a) Baba Budha ji passed away. His pyre was lit by Guru Hargobind Sahib ji at Ramdas town in district Amritsar. (15-9-1631)
- (b) Maharaja Sher Singh, Kanwar Partap Singh and Raja Dhian Singh Dogra, beheaded by Ajit Singh and Lehna Singh Sandhanwalia. (15-9-1843)

Appeal

The devotees are requested to bring the 'PAVAN BIRS' of Sri Guru Granth Sahib (Old ones for SANSKAR) to Sri Guru Granth Sahib Bhawan, Gurdwara Ramsar Sahib complex near Gurdwara Shaheed Ganj Baba Deep Singh Ji 'Shaheed' Sri Amritsar Sahib only instead of Sri Akal Takhat Sahib. This has been decided to facilitate the 'SANGAT' for the Holy Sri Guru Granth Sahib (Newly published) are available at the same venue.

-Guru Panth Da Das-

*Secretary,
Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee,
Sri Amritsar Sahib*

In continuation with the last edition:

TWO SIKH RELIGIOUS ORDERS: SEWA PANTH AND NIRMAL PANTH

-S. Surjit Singh 'Gandhi'

We are taking pleasure while publishing these contents from the book '*History of the Sikh Gurus*' by *S. Surjit Singh Gandhi* former Head of Sikh History Research Board (SGPC).

The gifts from the Guru inspired him all the more and he collected round himself a band of the Sikhs, ever prepared to put in service for the people. Guru Gobind Singh ji evacuated Anandpur Sahib on the night of 5-6 December, 1705. The enemy forgot all about their pledges and set out in hot pursuit immediately. Realising the impending danger, Guru Gobind Singh ji gave a band of 50 men to Bhai Udai Singh and charged him with the responsibility of checking the enemy's advancement. Bhai Udai Singh fought a bloody battle at Shahi Tibbi with the enemy with a handful of his men; all of them perished fighting covering themselves with imperishable glory.

When the battle of Shahi Tibbi was being fought, Guru Gobind Singh ji along with his men had reached the bank of the Sarsa river. It was now almost the day-break. About this time, the enemy forces mustered themselves to attack the Guru. The Guru ordered Jiwan Singh, a Ranghretta Sikh, to encounter the pursuers and himself with the rest of the people plunged into the flooded Sarsa River. There was confusion all around. Many persons were swept to death by the fast moving water and many more were scattered. Bhai Ghaniya ji also lost track of the Guru. He moved about in the Malwa region of the Panjab till he reached some place near Jagraon. A Bairagi Sadhu who met him there told him the whereabouts of his Guru ji. Bhai ji felt overjoyed and lost no time in reaching Talwandi Saboki where the Guru gave him an affectionate pat and told him to devote exclusively to the dissemination of Sikh tenets. Bhai ji stayed for some time with the Guru, but when the Guru moved to the Deccan, he, along with his associates, undertook tours in different parts of the Panjab, acquainting the people with the Guru's faith and putting in service for the benefit of the people. He could persuade the people to put in joint

effort to alleviate their difficulties. He could inspire them to sink wells or to dig tanks to overcome the need of water. He, on his part, would march with vessels full of water laden on both sides of the hump of a string of camels so that he might provide relief to the areas suffering from the shortage of water. He would also provide spiritual balm to the tension-ridden minds of the people.

He established various temples, then know as Dharam-Shalas where he made arrangements for the propagation of Guru ji's views and philosophy. Having done a lot of work in Majha and Malwa, he left for the south western Panjab and spread the Guru ji's teachings in the villages of Jhang Manghiana and Dera Ismail. He wanted to advance to the province of Sind as well, but he dropped this idea, probably he thought it more useful to convert Sewa Ram who was born at Hayderabad (India and whose mother had died and father had left home in search of peace and had undertaken tour of different sacred places to find the way to bliss. When he came across Bhai Ghaniya ji, he felt peculiar placidity and requested Bhai ji to initiate him into his order and give him instructions. Bhai ji then acquainted him with the teachings of the Gurus and the regard with which the tenet of service is Sikhism. He said, "To provide comforts to all human beings irrespective of their forms and affiliations and to have faith in the teachings of the Gurus is our only advice."

After this, Bhai ji and Sewa Ram entered the province of Sind. They soujourned at Nurpur. Finding there is a scarcity of water, a programme of sinking well was launched. Sewa Ram took leading part in this work. Bhai ji, in fact, used to eliminate egocentricity by putting in service for the people. Service was also rendered in the construction of the Dharmashala of Nurpur. A Dharamshala was also established at Lao Nagar which is situated near Jhang Manghiana. At this place, Ghaniya won over another disciple Addan Shah who had learnt Panjabi from an Udassi Saint, Gurdas ji and who possessed religious bent of mind, saturated with love for every one. In this way, many persons became Bhai ji's followers, and a separate order emerged known in history, as Sewa Panth, the path of service. Bhai Ghaniya ji died but his order carried on his work un-interruptedly. Wherever the members of this order went they preached human sympathy, selflessness, universal brotherhood and since they always evoked respect for themselves, they by implication endear Sikhism among the people. In the later Mughal period of the general Musalmans did not dislike the Sikhs and Sikhism was regarded as a balm for the afflicted humanity, much of the credit goes to them.

After Bhai Ghaniya ji's death the work was carried on under the over-all guidance of Sewa Ram. Sewa Ram's headquarter was at Nurpur (Sind) wherefrom

he used to fan out in different directions to serve the people to make them realise the importance of truthfull living.

After Bhai Sewa Ram, his disciple Bhai Santokh Singh took charge of the headquarter. Bhai Santokh Singh belonged to the village, Khari. He, during his life time, had been instructed by Sewa Ram who said, "Recognise the light within every body, serve all and raise yourself above worldly attachments."

Bhai Santokh Singh was succeeded by Bhai Budhan Ram and Sahib Ram. Sewa Panthis from Nurpur headquarter had been rendering yeoman's service to the people.

Bhai Ghaniya ji's another disciple, Addan Shah also made a mark in rendering service to the people. He belonged to village Lao and often lived there. He stayed at Phagwara and Kartarpur also. He did a lot of traveling, to sacred places. He had his admires among big zamindars and masses alike. His charismatic personality won over quite a large number of disciples. He used to spin coarse yarn, prepare ink for his livelihood. He advised his disciples also to earn livelihood through honest earning, without becoming rich. In 1757 this great man expired at Jammu. This was the time when Panjab was suffering from political termoil caused by Ahmed Shah Abdali's invasion.

After 1757, Sewa Panthis made a lot of progress as regards general popularity and organisation. Many Dharamshalas were raised in different parts of the country. Bhai Aya Ram ji, Bhai Ranga ji, Bhai Daya Ram ji, Bhai Dayal ji, Bhai Soma ji, Bhai Paras Ram ji were the most important among many Sewa Panthis of the later Mughal period. Paras Ram being a Pingla could not walk easily, but still the zest for service which he showed was unsurpassed. The Dharmshala from where he operated still stands in the Jangi Shivala Bazaar, Amritsar. He and his disciples did not allow the earthen lamp to extinguish in Harmandir Sahib during the times of Zakariya Khan when the government was bent upon destroying the Sikhs root and branch.

Many other Sewa Panthis served Sikhism and people. Bhai Jawahar Singh of Mitha Tiwana was another luminary of the galaxy of the line who served the people from 1900 to 1950. Now his disciple Sant Nischal Singh has been serving the people of Haryana from his headquarter at Jagadhari.

Conti....



ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਨਨਕਾਣਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ ਤੋਂ ਅੰਤਰਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਦੀ ਆਰੰਭਤਾ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਕਰਵਾਏ ਸਮਾਨਗਾਂ ਸਮੇਂ ਓਕਾਫ ਬੋਰਡ ਦੇ ਚੇਅਰਮੈਨ ਡਾ. ਆਮਿਰ ਅਹਿਮਦ, ਸਕੱਤਰ ਜਨਾਬ ਤਾਰਿਕ ਵਜ਼ੀਰ ਖਾਨ ਅਤੇ ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ ਸਿੱਖ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਸ. ਸਤਵੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਸਨਮਾਨਿਤ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਟੈੱਫ ਗ੍ਰੰਥੀ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਗਿਆਨੀ ਜਗਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ, ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਭਾਈ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਲੌਗੋਵਾਲ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਮੁੱਖ ਸ਼ਖ਼ਸੀਅਤਾਂ।

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Monthly **GURDWARA GAZETTE** August 2019

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Sri Amritsar.



1 ਅਗਸਤ 2019 ਨੂੰ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਦੇ 550ਸਾਲਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਪੁਰਬ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਰਪਿਤ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਨਨਕਾਣਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਤੋਂ ਸਜਾਏ ਅੰਤਰਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਦੇ ਵਾਹਗਾ-ਅਟਾਰੀ ਸਰਹੱਦ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਭਾਰਤ ਅੰਦਰ ਪ੍ਰਵੇਸ਼ ਕਰਨ ਸਮੇਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਭਰਵੇਂ ਸਵਾਗਤ ਦਾ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼।

ਗੈਲਡਨ ਆਫਸੈੱਟ ਪ੍ਰੈਸ, ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਰਾਮਸਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਲਈ ਮਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟਰ ਤੇ ਪਬਲਿਸ਼ਰ ਨੇ ਛਪਵਾ ਕੇ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ, ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਤੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤਾ।

Date: 16-08-2019

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