

English Section



Editor : Diljit Singh 'Bedi'

DAYS COMMEMORATING HISTORICAL EVENTS
(16th May to 15th June)

- 16 May (a) The Sikhs attacked Lahore. Ahmed Shah Durani's Regent offered the Sikhs right to collect custom duty on all the goods coming from Multan side. The Sikhs rejected Durani's offer. (16-5-1764)
- (b) Akali Dal passed a resolution that only Amritdhari (baptised) Sikhs should be given job in Gurdwaras. (16-5-1939)
- (c) British "Cabinet Mission" released its report. Pakistan conceded. (16-5-1946)
- 17 May Sant Harchand Singh Longowal elected president of Shiromani Akali Dal. (17-5-1981)
- 22 May Kamagata Maru ship with Sikh passengers reached Vancouver (Canada). (22-5-1914)
- 23 May (a) Sahibzada Ajit Singh led Sikh army to punish Ranghars of Nuh. (23-5-1699)
- 25 May Delegation of 16 Brahmins from Kashmir, escorted by Bhai Kirpa Ram Dutt, visited Chakk Nanaki and requested Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib to help them against forcible conversion of Hindus by the Mughal regime. (25-5-1675)
- 26 May (a) Arrest of Sikh Guru Arjan Sahib. Guru Sahib imprisoned and tortured for three days. (26-5-1606)
- (b) Publication of Sikh papers, 'Akali' and 'Parbhat', stopped by government. All the employees arrested and sent to jail. (26-5-1960)
- 27 May Indiscriminate firing by police at Gurdwara Dukh Niwaran Sahib Patiala. (27-5-1984)
- 29 May Moghul emperor ordered charging Jaziyah at double rate from the Sikhs. (29-5-1711)
- 1 June (a) Maharaja Ranjit Singh got Koh-i-Noor diamond. (1-6-1813)
- (b) Seventh Shaheedi Jatha (group of martyrs) left Akal Takhat Sahib for Jaito. (1-6-1924)
- (c) Hindi and Punjabi made medium of instruction in the schools of Punjab. (1-6-1948)

- (d) Indian forces fired at Sri Harimander Sahib and killed 11 Sikhs.
(1-6-1984)
- 2 June (Maharaja) Ranjit Singh captured Multan (after abortive attempts in 1802,1805,1807,1810,1812 and 1815). (2-6-1818)
- 3 June Indian army occupied the whole of the Sikh Homeland. Curfew imposed and undeclared Martial law promulgated. (3-6-1984)
- 4 June (a) Indian forces invaded Sachkhand Sri Harimander Sahib, Sri Darbar Sahib, Sri Amritsar and more than 36 other shrines. Thousands of Sikhs killed. All the Akali leaders arrested.(4-6-1984)
- (b) U.S.Congressmen condemned Indian atrocities on the Sikhs.
(4-6-1987)
- 5 June Indian army's attack and killing of the Sikhs continued. Several Sikhs killed with their hands tied on their backs. Bomb thrown on the Sikh pilgrims after their arrest. (5-6-1984)
- 6 June (a) Indian forces occupied the Sikh shrines, archives, libraries, museums. Most of them were, later, set ablaze. (6-6-1984)
- (b) Several thousands Sikhs marched towards Amritsar to stop sacrilege. Hundreds of Sikh marchers were shot dead. Several thousand Sikhs, including women and small children were arrested.
(6-6-1984)
- 7 June Sikh soldiers rebelled in protest against army attack on Sri Harimander Sahib, Sri Darbar Sahib, Sri Amritsar. Several Sikh soldiers killed, thousands arrested. (7-6-1984)
- 9 June (a) Baba Banda Singh Bahadur's son tortured to death, his heart pulled out and thrust into Banda Singh's mouth. Baba Banda Singh cut limb by limb. Several other Sikhs too were killed the same day. (9-6-1716)
- (b) Martydom of Bhai Tara Singh of Wan (Amritsar). (9-6-1726)
- 10 June (a) 8th Shaheedi Jatha (Group of martyrs) left Akal Takhat Sahib for Jaito. (10-6-1924)
- (b) The Sikhs took out huge procession at London, New York and in the Capitals of all the major countries throughout the world to protest against attack on Sri Harimander Sahib. (10-6-1984)
- 11 June The Sikh soldiers left army barracks at Ramgarh to protest against the attack on Sri Harimander Sahib, Sri Darbar Sahib, under 'Operation Blue Star' and began march to Amritsar. (11-6-1984)

- 12 June (a) "Khalsa Akhbar" launched by Professor Gurmukh Singh and Giani Jhanda Singh. (12-6-1886)
- (b) The Sikh procession at Delhi fired at by police. Harbans Singh and three others were killed and several were injured (some of them died later). (12-6-1960)
- 13 June Master Tara Singh became the president of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee. (13-6-1936)
- 14 June Dr. Ganda Singh returned Padam Sri Award to Govt. of India as a protest against invasion of Sri Darbar Sahib by the Indian army. (14-6-1984)

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' 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,
Amritsar.*

In continuation with the last edition:

SRI GURU TEGH BAHADUR SAHIB JI
(1621-1675)

-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).

Dacca

News of the birth of his son

Chittagong

Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji reached Dacca at the end of October 1665 A.D. passing through Gedagari and Gopalpur. According to Teja Singh Ganda Singh "There flourished quite a net work of prosperous Sikh Sangats and ministries all over. From Raj Mehal in the west of Sylhet in the east, from Dhubri in the north to Bansbhali and Fateh Kachehri in the south, there was hardly a place of importance during the days of Moghul viceroyalty where some Sikh temple did not exist or some Sikh ascetic (Udasi) had not established himself and gathered a number of followers around him. The movement had spread even to some islands like Sondip, as early as Shah Jahan's time. These Sangats were not only places of worship but as usual served the useful purpose of wayside inns where food and shelter were given free to the poor and indigent way-farers.¹ These Sangats had been well-organised by Almast and Natha Sahib. Dacca was the Hazuri Sangat or the head Sangat of these parts with a number of others under it and in turn was controlled by the Guru Ji from Anandpur. Besides local Sangats, there were always a number of Sikh merchants from the Punjab and Sindh, who were always anxious to keep themselves connected with their spiritual guide. No wonder, the Guru Ji received great respect from the people of Dacca whose association with the Sikh faith was as old as its founder Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Bhai Bulaki, the local masand and Bhai Natha, the disciple of Almast did all what they could do to make the stay of the Guru Ji comfortable. The place where the Guru Ji used to hold Durbar to give audience to the people is marked by a Gurdwara. Tradition has it that a big Jagir was later assigned to it by Nawab Shaista Khan the then Mughal governor of Bengal in token of his goodwill towards the Sikh Sangat. However, there is no reliable record of this jagir available. It was here that he received the welcome news of the birth of his son at Patna on December 26, 1666. He wrote a letter of thanks to

the Sangat of that place for looking after his child. From this letter and others, it appears that there was no prospect of his return in the near future because he hoped that his family would continue to be looked after as before. From Dacca the Guru Ji left for Jantia Hills and Sylhet (early in the year 1667 A.D) where he established a missionary centre known as the Sylhet Sangat.² After spending the rainy season at Sylhet, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji moved south towards Chittagong and Sondip. He passed through Shairtaganj and stopped at Agartala, the capital of independent Tripura State. From here he went to Chittagong where he stayed towards the end of the year 1667 A.D.³ During his stay at Chittagong he established a large religious centre of his faith (Sangat) which flourished as much that during the times of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji provided weapons and war material for the freedom fighters passing through Noakhali, Chandpur and Narayan Ganj. Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji reached Dacca in 1668 A.D.

Meeting with Raja Ram Singh-Guru Sahib Tour in Assam

In December 1667 A.D. the Ahoms captured Gauhati and Aurangzeb, in order to retrieve the lost prestige, resolved to despatch a strong contingent to oust the Assamese. Accordingly, Raja Ram Singh son of Mirza Raja Jai Singh was issued formal orders on January 6, 1668 to achieve the task, which was obviously very difficult, firstly, because the climate of Assam was not congenial for the soldiers to keep fit; and secondly, the Assamese were feared because of their command over black magic. To enthuse the soldiers and to build their morale, Raja Ram Singh took with him five pirs of Malda.⁴ While reaching Dacca, the Raja, who had deep reverence for the house of Nanak and regarded Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji a rich repository of spiritual power resolved to take Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji along with him. Accordingly, he requested the Guru Ji to accompany him.⁵ Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji who had already wished to have a tour of Assam accepted the request.

Raja Ram Singh and Guru Ji left Dacca some time in the middle of December, A.D. 1668 and reached Dhubri in February, 1669 A.D. Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji camped at Dhubri while Raja Ram Singh camped at Rangmati, the Moghul outpost near the frontier of Assam.

Notes and References

1. Sikh relics in East Bengal by G.B. Singh in the Sikh Review July. 1915.
2. Sylhet provided war elephants to Guru Gobind Singh.
3. Guru Tegh Bahadur by Dr. Trilochan Singh, p.230
4. Shah Akbar, Shah Bagmar, Shah Saran, Shah Safi and Shah Kamal.
5. from a manuscript document in possession of Mahant Bachitar Singh of the Gurdwara at Dhurbl, it is learnt that Rai Singh counted upon the Guru's ability, to undo the effects of the black arts for which Kamrup had a reputation all over India and which in the estimations of the Raja were sure to be against himself and his army." quoted from Dr. T.S. Guru Tegh Bahadur.

Cont...

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04.5.16

Smt. Sushma Swaraj Ji,
Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Govt. of India,
8-Safdarjang lane,
New Delhi-110011.

Sub: Vandalisation and desecration of Gurdwara Sahib in Sialkot (Pakistan).

Respected Madam,

In a highly commendable incident, a Gurdwara building was Vandalised and desecrated by some miscreants in Sialkot a few days ago.

The wall paintings comprising of paintings of Sikh Gurus and lines from Gurbani were destroyed and erased and kalma was written at their place in Gurdwara 'Babe di Ber' in Sialkot Pakistan. The frescos should have been preserved for coming generations to learn about their religion.

Moreover, the land of Gurdwara Sahib is being illegally occupied by making a grave on it. The elders residing in the region categorically state that there was no grave on the Gurdwara land earlier. Grave resentment is prevailing in the minds of Sikhs across the world due to their religious sentiments having been hurt on account of the above two issues.

The undersigned, being the President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Sri Amritsar, the apex religious representative body of the Sikhs that takes care of the issues confronted by the Sikh Community across the globe urge your goodself to take up the above matter With the Pakistan government. So that the perpetrators of such heinous crime are brought to book.

Regards,


(Avtar Singh)
President,
Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee,
Sri Amritsar.

Copy to- 1. Janab Sadiq-ul-Farooq, chairman, Pakistan Evacuee Trust
Property Board
2. S. Tara Singh President, PGPC. Pakistan

Smt. Sushma Swaraj Ji,
Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Govt. of India,
8-Safdarjang lane,
New Delhi-110011.

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04.5.16

**Sub:- Regarding recovering the stolen Saroop of
Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.**

Respected Madam,

In a highly unfortunate and condemnable incident, a sacred saroop of Sahib Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji has been stolen from the Gurdwara Sahib of village Haji Shaher of Distt. Katchi in Balauchistan province of Pakistan.

Sahib Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji is the symbol of universal brotherhood, is respected by all the religions across the world and is treated as living Guru by the Sikhs. The unfortunate incident of theft of the sacred saroop of Sahib Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji has hurt the religious sentiments of the Sikhs. There is wide spread resentment in the Sikh diaspora globally.

The undersigned, being the President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Sri Amritsar, the apex religious representative body of the Sikhs that takes care of the issues confronted by the Sikh community across the globe, urge your goodself to take up the matter with the Pakistan government to direct its officials to recover the stolen saroop at the earliest. The issue of Sikhs identity and hate crimes against the Sikhs also needs to be taken up with the governments of various countries to dispel the false notions about the Sikhs in the minds of the people of their countries.

Regards,


(Avtar Singh)

President,
Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee,
Sri Amritsar.