

INTACH

JALANDHAR CHAPTER

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GURU NANAK: 550th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Sikhism's ethics is pusuit of truth by obedience to the authority of the 'name'.....source of all knowledge. " God is everywhere and in everyone . He is the truth –immortal ,creator,withoutfear,withoutenmity,unborn and self created.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji was the first Guru and founder of Sikhism, a poet, a wandering religious teacher, a social reformer, and a householder. The experience of one God, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, and beyond all form and name, determined every thought and deed of Guru Nanak. The social doctrine denying caste which Guru Nanak preached must be seen in the light of his experience of a God before whom all men are equal. His wanderings should be

acknowledged as an attempt to engage in dialogue with others and to spread his belief in one God who teaches tolerance. Guru Nanak's later life as a householder should be perceived as his compliance of God's command to all men to act responsibly within the world. Finally, the bani Guru Nanak composed and the passing of his Guruship to his successor can only be understood as devotional acts meant to instill

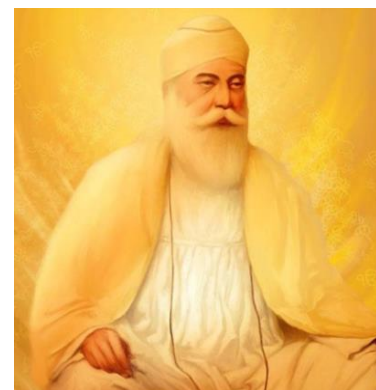


Figure 1: Guru Nanak Shah Faqir

among his followers a continued dedication to God. Guru Nanak belongs to the category of those great men who are not the monopoly of any particular sect, creed or religion, but are common to the whole human race. The following popular saying of Punjab neatly epitomizes the public feelings of respect and reverence for him:

Guru Nanak believed in a catholic, dynamic and comprehensive concept of religion. Throughout his life, he incessantly

strove to bridge the gulf between the various communities and culture-groups of India and preached to them the gospel of truth,

love, honesty and moral integrity.

The fact that, when he died, the Hindus claimed his body for cremation and the Muslims for burial

shows the extent to which he had succeeded in bridging the gulf between the Hindus and the Muslims by setting a personal example. - K.A Nizami (1975)

HERITAGE PERSPECTIVE OF MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH FORT, PHILLAUR(PUNJAB)

By: Kulbir Singh I.G.P.(Retd)

The Phillaur Fort near Ludhiana is situated on the banks of river Satluj. It is symbol of potent heritage of Panjab. The Fort was constructed in 1809 by Maharaja Ranjit Singh who ruled the powerful Sikh empire from 1799 to 1839.



Figure 2: (DilliDarwaza)

The heritage of Phillaur Fort is much more than what meets the eye. Its existence goes back to the 15th Century. So much was the geographical significance of location of Phillaur that through the ages it saw flags of Mughals, Rajputs, Sikhs, and British fluttering above its walls. The site where the Fort stands today was not a vacant piece of land but here stood a Mughal Carvan Sarai which also served as camp for Mughal Army . The Architectural style of gateways of sarai indicates its erection during regime of Shah Jehan (1628-1658). The year 1809 was however significant in the Indian sub continent when an

alliance took place between British and Sikh empire in the form of “Treaty of Lahore” on 25th April 1809. C.T. Metcalf represented the British and Maharaja Ranjit Singh the Sikh Empire. This treaty cemented a border between the two Governments with the river Satluj as the demarcating feature. Thereafter Ranjit Singh recognized Phillaur as a frontier town of his kingdom commanding the most frequent ferry of Satluj. The Maharaja initially sent Dewan Mohkam Chand to Phillaur to take possession of Imperial Sarai and got Thana(Police Station) of Lahore Darbar established here for administrative control.

The Mughal , Agra- Lahore highway entered the present Panjab near Shambu . Then passing through Rajpura, Sarai Banjara ,Sirhind ,Khanna, Sarai Lashkar Khan, Doraha, Ludhiana it reached Phillaur. From here the highway proceeded to Lahore via Nurmahal , Nakodar, Mahlian Kalan , Sultanpur Lodhi and Amritsar. Considering the strategic importance of this site , Maharaja Ranjit Singh decided to convert the Sarai into a formidable Fort . He sent his Italian General Ventura and French General Allard and Avitabile for this task. The Fort was constructed on the European architectural style. The fort has two imposing gateways named after two Mughal cities i.e Delhi gate and Lahori gate .The gateway is a majestic structure 13.35 mtrs. broad and almost equally deep..The entrance is high and broad archway measuring 3.7 mtrs. There are watch towers on the two gateways and high wall around the Fort. The front parapet has Baradari like dome structures. The brick work in layers of

lime is exceptionally fine. Red sandstone has also been used in the gateway. The channels were dug along the boundary wall of the Fort as a part of defensive plan . Four strategic citadels were constructed on four corners for the stay of troops. Its outer wall are inclined inward so as to deflect cannon balls. All these features made the Fort a very strong defensive position for Sikh Empire to match the threat from British, who had built a Fort at Ludhiana.



Figure 3: (An aerial view of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Fort Phillaur, presently housing Panjab Police Academy.)

Maharaja Ranjit Singh expired on 27th June 1839 and thereafter fall of Sikh Empire started because of infighting and weak successions, In the First Anglo-Sikh war i.e Battle of Aliwal in 1846 ,the Sikh troops were defeated by Britishers and Phillaur Fort came under the control of British. It was made a cantonment with strong Artillery arsenal and magazine by British. Later on, in 1891 the Fort was handed over to Police Department. Police Training School was established in the Fort on 1st Jan 1892. Later the P.T.S was upgraded to Police Training College in 1967 and as Maharaja Ranjit Singh Panjab Police Academy in 1995 by Punjab Government..

The Fort at Phillaur with remnants of Imperial Sarai is a 400 year old Heritage legacy which we need not only to preserve, but also hand it over to the posterity in a healthy form so that golden chapter of our history is not lost.

Seminar on Sustainable Agriculture and Water Resource Conservation

Jalandhar

The grave ground water situation in Punjab had made headlines in past few months, particularly; the state's own report on the underground water situation, there is over-exploitation of groundwater to meet the agriculture requirements of the state. It says that about 79 percent area of the state is over-exploited. Of 138 blocks, 109 blocks are "over-exploited", two blocks are "critical" five blocks are "semi-critical" while only 22 blocks are in "safe" category.

Ever increasing demand for water – primarily for paddy cultivation, had brought the state to a situation where it stares at running completely dry by the year 2039 having overexploited its last aquifer. How is paddy cultivation to be blamed? Green revolution adopted enthusiastically by Punjab focused on paddy-wheat cultivation with high yield varieties of grains. What was not equally emphasised was that these varieties were highly dependent on fertilizer, pesticides and irrigation waters. In a blind rush to produce more and more, groundwater was tapped. The fact that Punjab was never a paddy cultivation

areas, with soil types suitable for maize, millets, wheat and black gram, was never considered. Hence, the inefficient use, rather misuse of water continued.

Even now, when the water situation is at a critical stage, not much is happening on ground. Farmers continue to cultivate paddy for lack of awareness and therefore, lack of choice. Traditionally, maize formed the major kharif crop along with Bajra and Jowar. Entire Jalandhar district was under cultivation of these primarily rainfed crops, this however, converted to mono-cropping of paddy. Resulting in waterlogged soils, saline soils and depleting groundwater. Similarly, wheat, along with gram and barley were Rabi crops, this is now converted to mono cropping of wheat. The ill effects of mono cropping are obvious, in terms of soil and water health.

Soil and water conservation go hand in hand. To address the desperate water situation in Punjab soil conservation and change in farming systems are the need of the hour, which need to be taken up on war scale. Towards this end Jalandhar chapter headed by Maj Gen Balwinder Singh organised a two-day seminar cum open discussion forum on 22nd and 23rd of July, 2019. It was inaugurated by the District Collector who provided insights into the water situation of the state as well as that of Jalandhar district. Dr.Ritu Singh from Natural Heritage division spoke on the occasion about the principles of sustainable agriculture, the relationship between soil and water and the traditional systems of the area.

She also answered questions from all participants in an open forum. This was attended by over 550 participants, including Sarpanchs, Panchs, district panchayat officers, district agriculture officer. The participants have communicated their willingness to take initiative on the same. Punjab government has also initiated the action to check this issue on emergency basis.



initiative by the INTACH. Maj Gen Balwinder Singh, VSM(Retd), Convener Jalandhar Chapter INTACH and Member of Governing council of India initially briefed the participants the purpose of Quiz test which primarily focus on our tangible and intangible Culture and Heritage. He mentioned that it is important to conserve our heritage and all those who forget their culture are likely to perish by themselves. Maj Gen JDS Bedi was a quiz master who kept the tempo of discussion very high. fox TV punjab covered live on face book. Fast ways and Doordarshan also covered the event.

MGN school participation in conduct of Quiz competition was really praise worthy. Officiating Principal Mr Gurjit Singh mentioned that MGN is fortunate to host such a event and felt that in the present environment there is dire need to hold such competitions and congratulated the INTACH for such a initiative.

The response was very encouraging. total 29 schools participated with 225 students. Poilce D A V school students came first

INTACH conducts Heritage QUIZ COMPETITION

Indian National trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage(INTACH) has conducted a Quiz test on our culture and Heritage at MGN Adharsh Nagar on 28 Aug. Mr DiparvaLakra ,IAS , Commissioner Municipal was the chief Guest as well as he is a INTACH member stressed the need to pay attention to our built as well as intangible culture. He stressed the need to take various measures for awareness so that our younger generation is able to conserve our culture and heritage. He felt that such competitions should be conducted more regularly and conveyed his much wanted





the man who usually dressed in a dhoti and shawl inspired men people all around the world. But the journey was not easy. Gandhi struggled with the idea of India and what it meant for her people.



Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi: 150th Anniversary

The exhibition was held at Virsa Vihar , Jalandhar, to commemorate his 150th birth anniversary, the man who brought Indians together and inspired them to fight for their rights.

Hailed as one of the greatest Indian leaders, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi set an unprecedented example of truth, freedom and non-violence. Considered the father of the nation, his life has been invariably intertwined with the idea of India and how his vision influenced his politics in the years to come. But

Know Your Members



Figure 4: Harpreet Singh Bal

He is an active member of INTACH Jalandhar Chapter. Works in a teaching profession and is life member of Chandigarh naturopathy society, a social worker who is associated with red cross, scouts, Yog society Chandigarh

He has worked as freelance journalist for Art and Cultural Society .



[JALANDHAR CHAPTER]

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