



### **Celebrations Mark 150 Years Since First Call for Home Rule in India on Basant Panchmi at House of Lords**

Hindu Council UK and Universal Peace Federation

On Wednesday 27th February 2008, Lord King of West Bromwich organized a landmark programme to applaud tributes and respects to Satguru Ram Singh on His 192nd birth anniversary. The celebrations were supported by Hindu Council UK and Universal Peace Federation.

The birth place of India's independence is Sri Bhaini Sahib, in Punjab, where on Thursday 3rd February 1816, holy incarnation of Satguru Ram Singh took place during Basant Panchmi.

The Sikh faith is the religion of 'Gurus' and belief of 'Nam' (mantra). Unlike predecessor incarnations (avtars) of God, Sikh

Gurus were not born to affluent parents as Raja Lord Ram or Lord Buddha. Satguru Nanak Dev was a son of a village Hindu Patwari (accountant) and His message was the same to whoever came to Him. Nam japo (meditate), kirt karo (work hard) and vand ke chhako (share one's earnings with others). Sikh Guru's sympathised with the poor, downtrodden, neglected and the unprivileged.

In England, since its civil war, religion has played a minor role in politics while the tradition of religion (or guidance) in the running of State has not proved unusual in India. All the great movements in India have begun with a new spiritual thought and usually a new religious activity including Guru Nanak Dev's Sikh religion.

Satguru Ram Singh's contribution lay in re-building the confidence in the Khalsa at a time when it had suffered a humiliating defeat in the

hands of the British. No one could think that the pomp and glory of the Durbar of Maharaja Ranjit Singh would fade into oblivion.

For uprooting fear and wickedness from the minds of the Indian society 12th Sikh Master, Satguru Ram Singh injected courage, determination, service and sacrifice into the body of politics of the country. He made His Sikhs a part and parcel of an army of patriots. The teachings of Satguru Ram Singh were so effective that patriotism was revived amongst the masses and they considered an honour to sacrifice their lives joyfully for their motherland. Within 10 years of its inception the reformed Namdhari Sikhs claimed over a million ardent followers.

Members of both House of Lords and House of Commons, politicians and leaders of various organizations in the United Kingdom, praised and honoured Satguru Ram Singh, who



photograph : Dheeraj Dixit

## *Basant Panchmi Celebration*

on the eve of the festival of Baisakhi, 12th April 1857, hoisted the white triangular flag of the Kuka or Indian Independence Movement at Sri Bhaini Sahib, in Punjab, India

It was this single act of defiance that, combined with the first ever recorded use of the political tool of the boycott, heralded the beginning of a 90-year movement of non-violent passive resistance, non co-operation and peaceful civil disobedience, that ended with the British Raj leaving India in 1947.

Amarjeet-singh Bhamra, who helped to organise the celebrations at the House of Lords, said 'Satguru Ram Singh launched an unrelenting mission of social deliverance, economical uplift, political emancipation and religious salvation it brought for mankind.'

### **The following Resolutions were unanimously passed:**

1. Establish the recognition and installation a permanent monument to Satguru Ram Singh, a tribute to the spirit of compassionate resistance in London.

2. Install at the Houses of Parliament, a remembrance plaque on Satguru Ram Singh's first ever call for non-violence home rule as the master planner of the freedom movement in India. It was a single act of defiance that combined with the first ever recorded use of the political tool of the boycott.

### **Speakers included:**

The Lord King of West Bromwich  
The Lord Dholakia of Waltham Brooks OBE, DL  
Varindra Sharma MP Southall and Ealing  
Dr J C Sharma, Chairman, Hindu Council UK, London  
Robin Marsh, General Secretary of Inter-religious International Federation for World Peace  
The Mayor of Waltham Forest Cllr Liaquat Ali  
Deepak Dogra, Editorial Advisor - A Mystic World magazine  
Pritiam Singh Chaggar, Broadcaster, Slough  
Dr Shiv Pande, Hindu Council UK, London  
Surjit Singh Jeet, Historian, Namdhari Sangat UK

Chris Gopaul Maritius Hindu Community UK

Dr Raghunandan Sharma, Ayurvedic Doctor

Dr M Farrukh Hussain, Vice President, India Muslim Association  
Parminder S Dhariwal, Editor- A Mystic World magazine

Ravi Jain, Creative Advisor - A Mystic World

Samina Bilal, Urdu/Punjabi Poet

Mahanta Srishta, Nepali Community UK

Kamal Bedi, Editorial Advisor - A Mystic World magazine

Gurpal Gill, Valmiki Society UK

Manjit Singh Matharu from Phagwara, Punjab, India

Margaret Ali, Director, Universal Peace Federation

Amarjeet-singh Bhamra

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