

# Centenary of Shaheedi Saka Panja Sahib

October 29, 2022

**In news**—The centenary of Shaheedi Saka Panja Sahib (martyrdom massacre) will be observed on 30th October 2022, at Hasan Abdal city of Attock district, Punjab province of Pakistan.

## **History of Shaheedi Saka Panja Sahib-**

- On October 30, 1922 two Sikhs died and several other Sikh protesters, including women, were injured at **Hasan Abdal railway station** after the railway authorities under the then-British government refused to stop the train ferrying Sikh prisoners from Amritsar to Attock.
- The Sikhs from nearby Panja Sahib wanted to serve langar (community kitchen food) to the Sikh prisoners but were told by the station master at Hasan Abdal station that the train would not stop at the station.
- In protest, the **Sikhs squatted on the railway tracks and as the train approached, the Sikhs**, who were determined to halt the train, continued to stay put, demanding their right to serve langar to the Sikh prisoners.
- **The train finally came to a screeching halt, but only after crushing many of Sikh protesters – of whom Bhai Karam Singh and Bhai Partap Singh died** after sustaining serious injuries.
- **Since then, both Sikhs are hailed as martyrs of Saka Panja Sahib** who sacrificed their lives fighting for rights of Sikhs against the British.
- The **roots of Hasan Abdal rail massacre lie in another Sikh movement against the British** – Guru Ka Bagh Morcha of Amritsar.
- To mark the first centenary of Shaheedi Saka (martyrdom massacre) of Panja Sahib in Pakistan, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), Pakistan Sikh

Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC) and Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) have jointly organised the celebratory events.

### Gurdwara Panja Sahib: Guru Nanak's visit-

- **The history of the shrine Gurdwara Panja Sahib, in Hasan Abdal of Pakistan, is far older than the Saka Panja Sahib incident.**
- **The gurdwara was built on the site believed to be visited by Sikhism's founder Guru Nanak Dev, along with his companion Bhai Mardana.**
- **It is believed that a local saint Wali Qandhari was rude towards Nanak and refused to give water to Bhai Mardana who was extremely thirsty, from a natural fountain near his dera.**
- **He also threw a boulder towards Nanak, but Nanak stopped it with his panja (hand) and a spring of water appeared there miraculously.**
- **The boulder with Nanak's handprint is still there. Later Maharaja Ranjit Singh and his general Hari Singh Nalwa got the gurdwara building constructed to commemorate Nanak's visit.**