

US Gurdwara's use of Sikh flag sparks row

A Sikh religious flag displayed at a soon-to-be opened gurdwara in California is at the centre of a controversy, with some residents saying the American flag should also be put up there.

Residents of Stockton have said that if the Gurdwara erects a flag with the Sikh religious emblem, it must also hoist an American flag even higher. "Maybe, they should be American first and use their religion second," said Dennis Regan, a 63-year-old air force veteran. "As a veteran, that offends me."

Sikhs have countered the idea by saying that no church flies an American national flag, so why should the gurdwara? "Nobody asks any church to have an American flag; they only ask the Sikh gurdwara," said Amrik Singh Dhaliwal, president of the Stockton Sikh Gurdwara. "I don't know why."

Said Jaspal Singh Brar, a committee member said: "America is all about freedom of religion, the pursuit of happiness. It's almost ridiculous, because the ideals of the Sikh religion are intertwined with American values."

[Courtesy: *Time of India*]

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Gurpreet Singh triumphs in rowing

Sr. Gurpreet Singh Dhillon, a former student of Khalsa English High School, Kolkata, who has represented India as Champion oarsman of West Bengal Rowing Association, recently undertook a unique venture, which featured a non-stop sculling by him on the Rabindra Sarovar, Kolkata, from morning hrs. to sunset. This was an unparalleled feat in the history of Indian rowing that enabled him to cover a distance of 65 kms. in a timing of 6 hrs. 42 mins.

Rabindra Sarovar is 1600 meter long (approx.) and to cover this distance one would require forty (40) up and down stream sorties. It is in this context, the feat of Sr. Dhillon is very much commendable specially in the light of his selfless move to solicit votes for the TAJ MAHAL, the pride of India's heritage, dedicated to love, peace and harmony among mankind.

