

## **Enhanced Tourist Status of Harmandir Sahib**

Sir: Harmandir Sahib, the Golden Temple, Amritsar has been recently ranked as No. 6 Tourist spot in the world, relegating Taj Mahal to No. 10 position.

However, we need to improve the facilities available there so that the tourist visiting Golden Temple feels inspired and becomes more knowledgeable about Sikh history, culture and traditions. A few suggestions in this regard are given below:

- The reception office of the Golden Temple should be a five star facility where tourists feel really welcome. They can keep their shoes and other belongings in an adjoining room. English educated guides should be at the entrance to take the tourists to the existing information/reception office.
- Young Sikh youths knowing English, French, Spanish, Italian and German, etc. should be available free of act as guides and take the tourists to the Harmandir complex and explain to them the historical background of various historical sites.
- A free coloured brochure explaining in brief the Sikh history, culture, traditions and importance of Golden Temple should be provided to all the foreign tourists. Usually Sewardars do not allow anybody to stay inside the main Harmandir Sahib for more than a few seconds and keep on making gestures to move out fast. If one cannot really see and appreciate the beauty and the special spiritual atmosphere of Harmandir Sahib it does not give you the satisfaction you come looking for.

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## **Hurting Sikh Sentiment**

Sir: I refer to a highly objectionable and wholly frivolous comment published by *The Economic Times*, in its issue dated 28.11.2002, in its Travel Section. The so-called joke is in very poor taste. I sent a letter of protest, through email to Editor, Arindam Sengupta. Neither any acknowledgement nor any reply has been received. I propose that self-respecting Sikhs must boycott the Newspaper. We cannot, and should not allow the print media to denigrate the Sikhs like this.

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