

“Jin Prem Kio”

Sir, - The November 2004 issue is commendable particularly for its Editorial, by DG Singh, brimming with love. It must have overwhelmed the Journal's readers everywhere. I stand as one of those. The language so effective, the style simple and the thoughts so pious – excellence prevailed in each line, in each paragraph. Mr. Singh needs to be complimented, and thanked for sending such a good message, disseminating religious know-how and spreading of love - which is the prime force in Sikhism that, unfortunately, has been neglected by Sikh leaders.

My compliments for writing such a beautiful editorial.

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Awaiting Response

Sir, - Will someone in Govt. of India kindly let us know the latest position of the following:

1. Why Article 25 of the Constitution has not been amended in respect of “SIKHS” as an independent religion, at par with Christianity, Islam and Hinduism?
2. Why the Sikh Gurdwaras Act 1925 cannot be amended in regard to its jurisdiction, currently restricted to the territories of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pardesh and Chandigarh?
3. How long Chandigarh will continue to be the Capital of three Govts?
4. What efforts have been made to revoke the unconstitutional Sections 78, 79 and 80 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966?

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Sikh Commemorative Stamps and Coins

Sir, - The year 2004-05 is quite significant for Sikhs. We are in the midst of celebrating or observing three great and momentous events in this year. These are:

(1) 500th birth anniversary or the Quincentenary of Shri Guru Angad Dev Ji: The 2nd Guru of the Sikhs, Shri Guru Angad Dev Ji was born on 31.03.1504. His 500th birth anniversary is being celebrated in a big way by the Sikhs not only in India but throughout the world.

(2) 400th anniversary of the installation of Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji: The holy scripture of the Sikhs, Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji was installed (Pehla Prakash) in the year 1604 in the Harmandir Sahib. Subsequently in 1708 the 10th Guru Shri Guu Gobind Singh Ji observed that after Him, the line of living Gurus will come to an end and that henceforth all Sikhs should regard the Granth Sahib as their Guru. Since

then, this holy book has being revered as the Shabad Guru of the Sikhs. It is quite an unique scripture and contains the sayings of not only the Sikh Gurus but also that of 32 other great saints, sufis and bhaktas like Namdeo, Kabir, Surdas, Farid, Parmanand and Dhanna, etc.

(3) 300th death anniversary of the Sahibzadas: All the four young, innocent but courageous children of the 10th Guru Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, laid down their lives in the year 1704. Two of them - Sahibzada Ajit Singh, 17 and Jhujhar Singh 15, died fighting the Mughal forces at Chamkaur. The younger Sahibzadas, Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh were deceitfully captured by the Nawab of Sirhind and then on their refusal to embrace Islam, were bricked alive at Shri Fatehgarh Sahib.

In the light of this fact that these three great events are being observed this year, it shall be a fitting tribute if appropriate Commemorative Stamps and Coins are issued to mark these events. The Sikh Community appeals to and look forward to the Central Government for issuing the same. Further it also seeks the support of all the political parties to have the same got issued.

Further, the State Government of Punjab is requested to establish a national level study and research centre of Sikh art and culture. The state government is also requested to organize some meaningful programmes and seminars all over the country, on these occasions to highlight the importance of these events. Sikhs all over the country are requested to organize such seminars in their cities in addition to the Guruparabs and Prakash Utsavs organized at Gurdwaras.

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SR for the Public Libraries

Sir, You are rendering tremendous service to the Sikh community through **The Sikh Review**. For last several years, the articles published are very well researched, pertinent to the community and have extremely high teaching value; most relevant to the present generation.

DSGPC on its own part has declared “educating Sikh values” as one of its major initiative. Our area representative Jathedar Manjit Singh , who also heads the Dhadram Parchar Committee of Greater Kailash Gurdwara is doing excellent service in this regard.

Action of DSGPC in not renewing the distribution of “**The Sikh Review**” in Delhi Libraries, as published in your November issue, is therefore most puzzling. Kindly consider:

1. Take up this issue at the highest personal level and please do persist with your efforts.
2. Do keep repeating your “Dilemma at page 65” in ;your future issues to draw large number of your readers’ suggestions.

3. May appeal to the enlightened Sikh brethren to contribute for at least two annual subscriptions to replace the loss of 200 DSGPC subscription.
4. I will initiate with my contribution for two subscriptions for 15 years and enclose my cheque for Rs. 3700/- with post copy. Beneficiaries to be chosen by you please.
5. But please do persist with your efforts with DSGPC to make them see reason to continue with the primary task of Dharam Parchar;
6. All readers of **The Sikh Review** need to write individually to DSGPC to continue with the subscriptions and not discontinue with the same, as these serve useful purpose to the community.

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Sir, - Received your November issue few days ago and while browsing through it, I saw the report on page 65. I was shocked to read about the behaviour of DSGPC ,but not surprised. Our Committees have degenerated into political bodies for budding politicians. They have little time for efficient management of our Gurdwaras or *Dharam Parchar*. Instead, they are busy encouraging all types of *Karam Kand* in the institutions under their control.

There was a report in *The Tribune* about the sad state of affairs at the Gurmat College at Patiala wherein students went on strike for lack of proper teaching staff and students being sent to do *Akhand Paths*, a pure *Karam Kand*, to earn money for the Gurmat College. What an irony?

My humble submission to you is to forget about these Committees. You are doing a yeomen service to the Panth. Kindly continue with despatch of free Sikh Review to 200 Delhi State Public Libraries. In financial terms it means Rs 200,000 per year. I pledge to forward you Rs. 11,000 every year for the purpose. I am sure many others will chip in. I will try and get support for the cause from the local Sikh sangat here.

Enclosed please find a cheque dated November 24, 2004 for Rupees Eleven Thousand only, draw on the SBI Parliament Street, at New Delhi. Kindly acknowledge through email. My email address is: singh.a@rogers.com

Let us create self-supporting and self-sustaining Sikh institutions.

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Prof. Kirpal Singh to “edit” Suraj Prakash?

Sir: The Dharam Prachar Committee’s reported decision to have portions of Kavi Santokh Singh’s *Suraj Prakash* that are thought to be “in contradiction with” our current understanding of Gurmat removed and incorporated into a Appendix is disingenious at best.

The *Suraj Prakash* may indeed offend our sensibility, but it nonetheless remains an important source document that reflects the thinking and mind-set of an eminent Sikh from another time. And that is valuable. Surely no one knows this better than Prof. Kirpal Singh. Why edit it? Why not just add a cautionary Introduction and keep the integrity of the original intact? What are we trying to do here? Present only 'sanitised and authorised' versions of our texts? *Suraj Prakash* is hagiography, but what is to stop us from proceeding further and start expunging religious texts?

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DSGPC & SR

Sir, - I am surprised to know that Delhi Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee has stopped the circulation, among 200 libraries, of *Sikh Review*, having subsidised the Journal for over 50 years. Dissemination of the Sikh ethos among people of all faiths is the crying need of today. and SR is doing excellent work for Sikh community for 20 years. The Committee has plenty of funds, as stated in *Times of India* of 21 Nov. 2004. SR is the only Sikh magazine which goes all over the world. I am sure the new president will reconsider the subsidy for a noble cause. You have done a wonderful job indeed, for which I congratulate you. I enclose a cheque of Rs. 2,500/- as a small contribution and I hope you will get a response from others.

MOHINDAR SINGH

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Jap Ji's Structural Integrity

Sir, -This is with reference to my letter to editor published in the January 2005 issue of *The Sikh Review* [p. 75]. I had stated that 'It seems the author has erred by counting the **introductory** and concluding shaloks as *pauris*.' However, in the published letter it has been stated 'It seems the author has erred by counting the **introductory moolmantar** and concluding shaloks as *pauris*.' This editorial intervention seems to have created an error as the *moolmantar precedes* the Japji. The introductory shalok referred by myself "*aad sach jugaad sach haibi sach nanak hosi bhi sach*" is just after the word 'JAP' and it is from here that Japji Saheb begins.

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