

TV Relay of Gurbani Kirtan

Dear Sir,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 12th November 2007 addressed to Shri P.R. Dasmunshi, Hon'ble Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, regarding public grievance of TATA Sky's unilateral withdrawal of ETC Pbi, Channel's live Kirtan from Golden Temple. Your request has been forwarded to concerned Officer in the Ministry for necessary action.

Yours sincerely,

MANOJ KUMAR AGARWAL, IAS

Private Secretary to the Minister of Information & Broadcasting
Govt. of India, Shastri Bhavan

New Delhi 110 001

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Book Review (Nov. 2007) of "*Mard-e-Kamil*" by Ajit Singh

Sir,

To understand Dr. Iqbal on Guru Nanak, his quoted poem in "*Bang-e-Dara*" is truly exquisite. But let us not forget his heartfelt lament expressed in the last stanza of the same poem (not quoted in the article); "bwirS-ey-rihmq huel, lyikn zmlN kwibl nw QI]" (It was a rainfall of Grace, but unfortunately, the land was barren). Is it not a reminder to us, the Sikhs in slumber?

All over the world scholars marvel at our heritage, but when will we wake up to live up to it?

Jasbir Singh Sethi, M.S.P.E.

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Sahaj Yoga: An Ambiguous Posture!

Sir: Mr. Gera's article: "Sahaj Yoga: Way To Effortless Bliss" [SR:Sept. 2007] issue of *The Sikh Review*, is thought provoking. However, what he writes is just a modification of a chapter under the title "The Law of Least Effort" in a book by Deepak Chopra: '*The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success*.' Indeed his explanation is hazy and vague, in comparison with the more eminent Indian in USA.

While speaking of the present time as a gift of God, he chooses to remain ambiguous; perhaps he refers to the present time. However Deepak Chopra has explained this concept more clearly, as follows: ".....if you stop fighting and resisting, you will experience the present, which is a gift. Someone once told me, the past is history, the future is mystery and this moment is a gift. This is why this moment is called 'the present'."

Further, the three components: Acceptance, Responsibility, and Defenselessness lead to Effortless Bliss, but the writer of Sahaj Yoga did not clarify how one component leads to the other, or how to achieve the goal of 'Effortlessness Bliss', whereas Deepak Chopra has explained, this aspect fairly clearly.

If any reader of *The Sikh Review* has read this book of Deepak Chopra, I would like to discuss further to shed light on this subject, in context with the specific *Pauri* of Japuji Sahib – '*Saram Khand*', where Guru Nanak Dev Ji has enlightened the disciple to chisel out, '*surat, matt, mann, budh*'.

Kulwant Singh

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Enhance Hemkund Yatra Amenities

Neena Kaur's account (SR: Youth Sec. Oct. 07) raises some important points. The porters should be allowed inside the Gurudwara and Langar, both as help to the aged and for seva.

Regarding sanitation and adequacy of toilets, we should follow the example of Gurudwaras at Panja Sahib and Nankana Sahib, where management has built adequate toilets and employs sanitary staff who do an excellent job. Drinking water and rest rooms between Gobind Dham and Hemkund should be arranged through the existing tea stall owners, who can be subsidized.

An opportunity also exists to start a couple of primary schools for local children. This will generate goodwill and help the porters' families.

Bhupinder Singh Walia

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UK's Lord Sheikh writes to Sr. Tarlochan Singh, MP

Thank you for your Email. It was thoughtful and considerate of you to write to me. It was indeed a delight for me and my wife to attend the World Punjabi Organisation. The event was indeed enjoyable, particularly Punjabi singers who sang my favourite songs. The music was admirable.

Although I was born in East Africa, my roots are in Amritsar. I am indeed proud of my Punjabi heritage. I always make a point to speak in Punjabi at our community gatherings and my favourite quip is 'Punjabi awal punjabi'.

Indeed, my father was the President of the Indian Association in our home town for 30 years. He was, for some time, President of the Sikh Union! The Sikhs wanted my father to help them in acquiring a prime piece of land for building their Gurudwara, and my father was able to do this and the Sikhs did make him President of the Sikh Union.

Although I am, a practising Muslim, I believe in community cohesion, and quite often visit Gurudwara at the request of the Sikhs. I am the Patron of Associations lead by the Sikhs and have in fact given talks on similarity between Islam and Sikhism.

I have started research for a book on Maharaja Ranjit Singh. It is my intention to visit India with my wife, (accompanied perhaps by my researcher) in order that we can undertake research on the Maharaja and we intend to visit Amritsar as well as Lahore. If there is any assistance which you can provide to me in carrying out my research then please do let me know. You had said you were doing something special with regard to the Maharaja and I would be pleased to receive details.

General JJ Singh is in fact visiting London at the present time and I am attending a dinner in his honour tonight.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

LORD SHEIKH

(Peer of the United Kingdom)

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In your October issue Prof. I J. Singh of New York has written very thought provoking

and informative article under the heading 'Pilgrims Progress'. Let us compare ourselves in India and the Sikhs in USA, Canada and U.K. who have adopted *modern technology* in educating people about identity of the Sikhs. He has given a proper account of achievements in field of Films, Documentaries, Literature, Internet, Exhibition and Chairs in Universities etc. I have the privilege of attending many functions organised by various Sikh organisations during last five years. The Sikh Gallery in Smithsonian Museum, Washington DC is a landmark. In the Spinning Wheel Festival, New York, 17 films on Sikhs were screened. I will send a list of all those for your readers. It was a great occasion when I presented the award to Shonali Bose for Films Ambu in New York. The Sikh Art Film Society has done a great service in recent years in USA. Sardar Teji Bindra and his illustrious father S. Isher Singh Bindra (New York) have done great service. We need to follow the successful experiments in West by our community. **The Sikh Review** should provide more such information. I admire Prof. I. J. Singh.

TARLOCHAN SINGH, M.P.
New Delhi

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I am grateful to Veer Gurmukh Singh (UK), Prof. Sajjan Singh Bajwa, Ph.D. and Dr. Jaswant Singh Sachdev, M.D. (USA) for their Gurmat based articles featured in **The Sikh Review**, Nov. 2007. Readers would definitely benefit from their Guidelines and follow "Gurbaani and Gurmat" as taught by our illustrious Gurus Sahiban. If we all raise our voice against the un-Sikh approach being practiced by some of our institutions, it will have salutary effect.

It would be much appreciated if you don't print "Surnames" as desired in the Hukam Nama dtd. 28 April 1985.

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Note: Much as we would wish to observe the directive, the best course is to leave it to the discretion of the author of any article how he/she wishes to be known or designated. - Ed. SR.

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