

## **“The Best of Khushwant Singh” Special issue**

It was an excellent idea to bring out a special issue comprising selected writings of Sardar Khushwant Singh. There are several courageous and perceptive observations, particularly his speech in Rajya Sabha after the October 1984 massacre, and the sense of shock to learn that his only son Rahul had shorn his hair. I would like to share these writings with my son, daughter & grandchildren.

Former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

AVTAR SINGH RIKHY

B-64, Paschimi Marg  
Vasant Vihar  
New Delhi 110 057

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## **Gurdwara Laws**

Sir: I wish to thank Dr. Kuldip Singh for his excellent article (SR: January 2003) on the “All India Sikh Gurdwara Bill” and enlightening the Sangat on the historical back ground of SGPC. It is a subject of far reaching consequence for the Sikhs. In my humble opinion we need to evolve and manage our institutions ourselves, within the confines of the Panth, under dictates issued by the Guru Granth Sahib, without any government interference through the electoral process.

Col. AVTAR SINGH (Retd.)  
Canada  
Email: singh.a@rogers.com

## **Dada Chellaram’s Initiative**

It is most gratifying to learn that Dada Chellaram Publication headed by Shri lachman Chellaram plan to offer translations of Sri Guru Granth Sahib in several languages, including English, Sindhi, Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali and Urdu. (SR May 2003, page 74). It appears that the total cost of this laudable project will be about Rs. one crore. It will be proper that the President, SGPC makes a courtesy call on Shri Lachman Chellaram to thank him for spreading the word of *Gurbani*.

The SGPC spends more than Rs. 200 crore of devotees’ offering every year. It promised to publish 300 standard books on Sikh religion, history and culture to celebrate 300th year of the Khalsa. But nothing was heard of the declaration. Rather, the year 1999 and the year following turned out to be an anticlimax for Sikhs - owing to the self-seeking leadership.

The SGPC must have planned for the 400th anniversary of the installation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib. The President, SGPC is requested to let the public know as to in what Indian and foreign languages the transliteration/translation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib and the standard books on Sikh religion, history and culture will be published, in addition to arranging the traditional programmes, to celebrate the great occasion.

BALWANT SINGH, I.A.S. (Retd.)  
Plot No. 97, Sector - 8  
Gandhinagar 382009

## **Kenyan honour for Sr. Baldip Singh Rihal, SR's Representative**

Sir, - As you might have heard and read in some news, Kenya is preparing a new constitution. A Commission, chaired by Prof. Yash Pal Ghai, an eminent international constitutional lawyer, has written a draft. Prof. Ghai is my former classmate, and currently teaches law in Hong Kong University. The draft is to be debated and approved by a National Constitutional Conference comprising of members of Parliament, political parties, civil societies, NGOs, religious societies and professional associations, starting on 28th April.

The professional associations have been given 15 seats, and I have been chosen as one of these delegates. The Sikh community has also been given a seat as part of the religious societies. In all, six delegates - out of total 640 - will be from the Indian community; nearly 1%, while our population is only about 0.5% of the country's total 30m. This shows that the Indian community still has some say on the future of Kenya. This is indeed history in the making and we all have a heavy responsibility on our heads!

**BALDIP SINGH RIHAL**  
Hon. Secretary, Sri Hemkunt Group of Kenya