

Congress - Back in Power

The Congress Party has once again shown that it does not give a damn about the feeling and sentiments of the Sikh Community. The party which is in power in Maharashtra, first removed Sardar P. S. Pasricha, the Police commissioner of Mumbai, and then Sardar U B S Madan IAS, the VP of MHADA. Both these upright officers were doing their work to the best of their abilities, but it perhaps did not suit the powers-that-be. And hence both were removed unceremoniously.

Now imagine if these officers were from any other religion (especially Muslim or Christian) or caste (Dalit), would the Congress Government have shown the same courage? No, never. These communities, unlike Sikhs, are Congress's votebank and the Congress dare not offend them. Also they are quick to rally against any such injustice. The Sikhs, however, can be taken lightly as they do not account much in terms of votes. And for this the blame lies with the community itself. Sikhs are too occupied with earning their bread and butter, and are busy enjoying their lives. They are, by and large, not concerned about the affairs of their community. None of them raised a voice against this unfair and unjust treatment meted out to two of its leading lights.

The Congress knows that the community does not count much in terms of electoral votebanks, specially in Mumbai where there are no Sikh leaders who can articulate the community's viewpoint. And that is why the Congress party can inflict wounds (like it did in 1984) and hope to get away. The community should unite and ask the Government and the Party to explain the circumstances in which these two outstanding officers were humiliated and removed when they were doing a good job. Also while voting in these elections, the community should keep this issue in mind.

PARAMJEET SINGH
Mumbai

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Stop Insulting Sikhs

I am shocked to read *The Hindustan Times* 'Lucknow Live' of 12th March 2004 column "Good Morning Funny Bone" about joke on Sardar. It not only hurts our feelings, I am at a loss to understand as to what these newspapers gain by frivolous and malicious references to Sikhs, mischievously prefixing "Sardar" with every, silly yarn. Why not "A Pandit" or a Maulavi? The editor of this column should have deleted 'Sardar'. Sikhs everywhere condemn such tactics. I feel sorry for Charu Chandra Anil for writing such intelligent jokes!

S. S. MAJITHIA
Retd. Sr. Central Govt. Officer
B-131, Mehdauri Colony, Allahabad

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"Lest We Forget" - Review by Jagpal Singh Tiwana

Sir, - I thank you the complimentary copy of Dec. 2003 issue of '*The Sikh Review*' containing a review of the book: '*Lest We Forget*'. By Jagpal Singh Tiwana of Nova

Scotia (Canada) which was received here some time ago. A copy of the magazine was forwarded to Capt. Amarinder Singh Hon'able Chief Minister, Punjab who is the author of the book, for his information.

On behalf of our Assn. President Capt. Amarinder Singh Hon'able Chief Minister, Punjab, and all members of our association, I would like to thank you sincerely for the kind gesture. Going through the review, it becomes quite obvious that S. Jagpal Singh had gone through the book in great detail before recording his comments/observations. His interest in the military history of India is indeed very praise worthy.

First edition of the book, with a foreword by Lt. General Harbaksh Singh P.V.B., P.B., VrC was released on 13th March, 1999 by Field Marshal SHFJ Manekshaw, M.C. in the presence of very distinguished gathering of civil and military officers in Maurya Hotel, New Delhi. The book was very well received and highly commented upon in the National Press. Second edition of the book was published in year 2000. I am enclosing herewith two copies of hand bills containing book reviews published by prominent English magazines and newspapers in 1999.

Once again over sincere thanks for sending us a complimentary copy of Dec. 2003 issue of '*The Sikh Review*'

COL. HARWANT SINGH, M.C., RETD.
New Motibagh Palace
Patiala – 147 001
Punjab

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Sir, - I wish to commend to your esteemed readers a special Video Tape: "*Japji Sahib and Jeevan Jaach*" a six hour set made by Satpal Kaur Sodhi of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The thirty-eight *Pauris* and *slokes* of *Japji Sahib* have been explained by providing a simplified Punjabi translation. The psychological and existential interpretation, which follows the translation of each *Pauri*, gently directs us as how to incorporate the essence and message of that *Pauri* in our daily living.

This videotape presents some of the many pearls of Guru Nanak Dev's spiritual wisdom such as: *Surrender to His Will* *His Naam heals all physical and mental ailments* *God creates us all and looks after us* His Hukum is supreme* Go with the flow*, and many more.

In modern day world of unrest and turmoil, this videotape can prove to be beneficial in reconnecting us with our Inner Being and thus enabling us to lead a joyous, balanced, peaceful and spiritual life. The cost of the videotape is \$15.00 (which includes postage) profit, if any, will be sent to charities. Kindly contact:

Satpal Kaur Sodhi, Karuna Productions, 22 Woodbank Terrace, Halifax, N.S. Canada, B3M 3K44, Ph: (902) 443-3269 email: psodhi@ns.sympatico.ca

JAGPAL SINGH TIWANA
Dartmouth, Canada

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Kar Sewa : Service above self

Sir, - *Kar-Sewa* literally means 'sewa' performed with hands. Wherever, in a religious place, manual labour is required it is referred to as *Kar Sewa*. The restoration of AKAL TAKHT, construction of amenities in a Gurudwara, de-silting of the Sarovar's all dedicated Kar Sewa. Members of the Sangat consider it a privilege, given to only the selected. Therefore any opportunity to do *sewa* (be it *Tan* or *Dhan* for a Guru's Sikh must be welcomed with all his heart and soul.

However, it was noticed that the Bank of Punjab donated five gold spades and as many silver bowls for the recent Sarovar *Kar-Sewa*. I am confused as to the objective behind this gesture. Is it that gold or silver appeals to God, therefore deserving of special benevolence? Or that the process of desilting with gold and silver implements is special?

Without questing the donor's motives, the bank perhaps needs to be reminded that God in our religion is referred to lovingly as '*garib niwaz*', one who honors and blesses the poor (mind you, not the rich!). The best thing would have been for the staff of the Bank to participate in the Kar Sewa.

COL. A. S. RATTAN
Principal
Guru Nanak VBT Polytechnic

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With Love from Kenya

Sir, - Thank you for your Sikh (Love) Review every month please continue this "Prasad". As I am working on an English theatrical dramatization of "Buddha: The Light of Asia", many students of higher learning visit my place and run through old copies with interest. I wish I could do more. If you like, I may contribute a bi-monthly Pictorial Page (sponsored) on Sikh-life related "news, views and people", in East Africa.

I find most articles informative, educative, and some are indeed enlightening, therefore I thank and indeed praise the spirit of the scholarly columnists. Baba Bless!

RAM SHARDA
P.O Box 56833, City Square
Nairobi 00200
Kenya, East Africa
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