

Water-less in Land of Five Rivers Badal Vows to block canal

The Shiromani Akali Dal passed a resolution saying it will not allow the Centre to construct the Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal.

Once it is finished, the canal is meant to ferry 3.5 million acre-feet of water - to Haryana!

“We have decided that we will fight politically to ensure that injustice is not done to Punjab,” Akali chief Parkash Singh Badal said after a political affairs committee meeting of his party. Avoiding mention of the apex court, Badal said Punjab had not water to spare for its neighbour. “They can divert water from the Ganga for Haryana. We are not against the people of Haryana. Had the erstwhile Congress government not withdrawn Punjab’s plea in the Supreme Court in the early eighties, the water issue would have been solved much earlier, Badal said: “We will not allow Punjab to be further betrayed by the centre,” he warned.

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Honour for Bhai Nirmal Singh Khalsa

The 2009 Republic Day honours list includes a pleasant surprise. The Darbar Sahib’s Hazuri Ragi, Bhai Nirmal Singh has been awarded Padma Shri in recognition of his classical Gurbani Kirtan over nearly three decades. Known for his mellifluous voice and adherence to the Gurbani Sangit tradition, he has won wide appreciation among Sikh Sangat. We rejoice in this recognition of his talents.

[Courtesy: *The Daily Desh Darpan*, 29 /1/09]

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SGPC’s Grant for N.Y. Gurdwara

The SGPC sanctioned a Rs. One Million grant to the Sikh Cultural Society, New York for rebuilding the Gurdwara which had been gutted in a fire in 2008.

[Courtesy: *The Daily Desh Darpan*, Kolkata]

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Hockey Tournament in Memory of Sardar Balwant Singh Kapur

The distinguished Banker and former CMD Allahabad Bank, Sr. Harbhajan Singh has instituted a running trophy” The Mata Prakash Kaur Cup” for the best Hockey team for school boys under 17.

The Jalandhar-based tournament, now in its fifth year, and named in honour of his father Late Sr Balwant Singhji Kapur, was the key sports event, last January at Surjit Hockey stadium, with entries from several top schools, including teams from Ranchi and Rourkela.

Olympian and Padma Shri recipient Ajit Pal Singh has guided the tourney from the front. Besides the Trophy, the winning team receives a handsome cash prize. The matches, from the semi final stage, are invariably televised by ‘DD Sports’ and other channels - in view of popularity of hockey among youth.

- A.S.

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Eminent historian Dr. Kirpal Singh receives D. Litt (Hon. Causa)

The Punjabi University, Patiala has, in its 32nd Convocation on Dec. 29, 2008 conferred on the wellknown historian and member of ***The Sikh Review*** Editorial Board, the degree of D. Litt (hon. Causa) for his contribution in the field of history of Punjab, in particular, the Sikh history and culture. Dr. Singh has been a Member of the Kolkata based Asiatic Society's Managing Board for two terms. Our hearty congratulations to the learned Doctor.

- Ed. SR

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Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Message to Barack Obama

"I have great pleasure in conveying my heartiest congratulations on your election as the President of the United States. Your extraordinary journey to the White House will inspire people not only in your country but also around the world.

"The people of India and the United States are bound by their shared commitment to freedom, justice, pluralism, individual rights and democracy. These ideals provide a solid bedrock for friendship and strategic partnership between our two nations. We have strong ties between our peoples and I look forward to working with you to realize the enormous potential for cooperation that exists between India and the United States. Our two countries working together to address global issues and challenges will be an important factor for world peace, stability and progress.

"I hope you will find an opportunity to visit India soon. A warm welcome awaits you."

"As you assume your high responsibility as President of the United States, I convey my best wishes for your success in office and for your personal well-being."

[Courtesy: *SPAN Magazine*]

