

## **The Sikh Review presented to Mayor of Vancouver**



It seemed a good gesture of promoting multiculturalism that a copy of internationally acclaimed monthly magazine **The Sikh Review**, Calcutta was presented by Gian Singh Kotli to His Worship Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan on the occasion of Eid celebration on January 7, 2008 at the Vancouver City Hall.

It is commendable that Gian Singh Kotli a community activist and a messenger of goodwill presented **The Sikh Review** to Sam Sullivan on the occasion of Eid-Al-Adha, a most significant celebration of the

Muslim community. The celebration was observed in the true spirit of solidarity and pluralism and attended by prominent members of several Faiths. The eminent speakers from the Muslim community conveyed the message of love, goodwill, cooperation, peace and fruitful co-existence to the followers of different faiths in the world.

The November, 2007 issue of **The Sikh Review** contains on page 70 a photo of Mayor Sam Sullivan adorning a turban on his head and inspiring news wherein he addresses the children in Punjabi at a Youth Gurmat Camp in Vancouver. The Mayor said, "I am very pleased to know that with the creation of Khalsa, Guru Gobind Singh Ji gave the message of love and equality to the whole human race. I convey my heartiest love and blessings to all children. I pray to God to bless the children with higher education and high spiritedness so that they may glorify the name of their parents, Vancouver City and Canada."

### **The Sikh Review**

, a theological, educational and socio-cultural monthly was founded by Captain Bhag Singh in 1953 with the active support of his team of dedicated members and since then it has effectively spread the universal message of love, harmony, oneness of God, oneness of the human race and service to mankind all over the world. Contributed by scholars of the highest caliber **The Sikh Review** has come to be known as the "Source Material" in the world and many writers have been referring to it to prove their point.

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## **Navtej Singh Sarna appointed Ambassador to Israel**

The external affairs ministry spokesman, Mr Navtej Singh Sarna, has been named the new Indian ambassador to Israel, replacing Mr. Arun Singh who is to move to Washington as Deputy Chief of Mission.

The 51-year old 1980 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer has been the longest-serving spokesman in the ministry having been in this post since October 2002. Mr Arun Singh moves to Washington taking over from Mr. Ramindar Singh Jassal who had been Mr Sarna's predecessor before moving to Israel as Indian Ambassador before Mr Arun Singh.

Son of the noted Punjabi poet and top accounts officer, Sr. Mohinder Singh Sarna, and graduate in commerce and law, with a diploma in journalism, Navtej had earlier served in various capacities in Indian missions in Russia. Poland and Iran besides at the

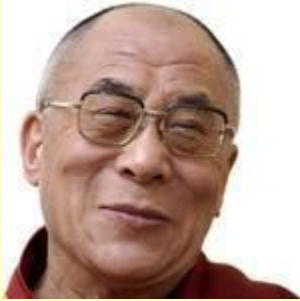
headquarters here. Before being appointed as the MEA spokesman, he served as Minister (Press) in the Indian Embassy in Washington. Mr Sarna is to take up his assignment shortly, according to an official release.

[Courtesy: *The Statesman*]

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## **Dalai Lama named Recipient of Hofstra's Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize**

*First international award recognizing efforts at dialogue between religions to be presented in India*



Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY – His Holiness the 14th

Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, has been selected as the first recipient of Hofstra's international **Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize**, Hofstra President Stuart Rabinowitz announced last March.

The \$50,000 prize, which recognizes efforts at interfaith dialogue, will be presented to His Holiness on November 18, 2008 in India by a delegation including Hofstra officials, the family of Sardar Ishar Singh Bindra, which established the prize at Hofstra, and former Indian Prime Minister I.K. Gujral, a member of the Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize Honorary Committee. The Dalai Lama has agreed to visit Hofstra in the near future.

"There are few missions as important for a university as the advancement of understanding among all peoples," said Hofstra University President Stuart Rabinowitz. "Awarding this prize allows us to recognize those who bring together people of all faiths, which now, more than ever, is important for the peace and prosperity of our world. We are pleased to bestow Hofstra's inaugural Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize on a person as worthy and renowned as His Holiness the Dalai Lama."

Tashi Wangdi, the Dalai Lama's U.S. representative, accepted the prize today (via telephone) on behalf of His Holiness during a news conference at Hofstra. "We are very happy that this award has been given to His Holiness in recognition of his many years of promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding," he said.

Tejinder Singh Bindra, son of Ishar Singh Bindra, said "We are immensely pleased with the selection. There could be no more deserving candidate than his holiness, and to me what stands out most is that Guru Nanak stood for brotherhood, peace and wonderful relations between communities, and I think His Holiness personifies that the best."

The prize, to be awarded every other year, was established in 2006 through an endowment from the family of Sardar Ishar Singh Bindra to be given by Hofstra University to individuals or organizations that have worked to facilitate the religious dialogue that is indispensable to reducing religious conflict. The prize was named for the founder of the Sikh religion and was meant to encourage understanding of various religions and to build bridges between faith communities. Guru Nanak believed that all humans were born equal regardless of skin colour, ethnicity, nationality and gender.

There were 75 individuals and groups nominated for the first prize, representing interfaith efforts in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, as well as throughout the United States and Canada.

The establishment of the prize by Mr. Bindra's family followed the creation of Hofstra's Department of Religion in 2005 and the endowment of chairs in Sikh, Catholic and Jewish studies. The Sikh chair – the Sardarni Kuljit Kaur Bindra Chair in Sikh Studies, named for the family matriarch – was also established through an endowment from Mr. Bindra's family. Both gifts are intended to increase understanding of different religions, including Sikhism, a world religion with more than 25 million adherents.

Hofstra University is a dynamic private institution where students can choose from about 145 undergraduate and 155 graduate programs in liberal arts and sciences, business, communication, education and allied human services, and honors studies, as well as a School of Law. With a student-faculty ratio of 14-to-1, our professors teach small classes averaging 22 students that emphasize interaction, critical thinking and analysis. Hofstra offers a faculty whose highest priority is teaching excellence, cutting edge technology, extensive library resources, internships and special educational programs that appeal to their interests and abilities. The Hofstra community is driven, dynamic and energetic, helping students find and focus their strengths to prepare them for a successful future.

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### **Sotheby's stops Sikh armour sale**

The auction of the Sikh armour at the London's auctioneers Sotheby's, scheduled to be put up in the forthcoming Arts of the Islamic World sale to London on April, and which created controversy among the Sikh community, has been cancelled.

A spokesman of the Sotheby's said the auction of the armour had been withdrawn on the request of the consignor. A press note said, "Sotheby's announced that lot 269. A Rare Sikh Steel Armour Plate, North West India/Pakistan, 18th Century (estimated at £ 10-12,000) was withdrawn at the consignor's instruction."

According to reliable sources, the consignor, (whose identity is not known) did not appreciate the uproar the armour had created within the Sikh community and the media and has now asked Sotheby's to solicit the interest of suitable members from within the Sikh community. So Sotheby's, after withdrawing the armour from the auction, will now hold a private sale. Several names from amongst the Sikh NRIs here and in the US are being mentioned.

But the auctioneers stressed that the armour was not that of Guru Gobind Singh, as was suspected to be one by some Sikh groups. The Indian government, too, had asked the High Commission to inquire into the genuinity and the finding was that it definitely did not belong to the Guru. In fact, in an exclusive conversation with HT. Sardar Ranjit Singh in London, who has collected almost 600 arms and other Sikh artefact, said he was sure the armour on sale was not of the Guru." It is too intricate and no one could make such armour at Anandpur Saheb.

[Courtesy: HT]