

US Ambassador in London celebrates *Vaisakhi*

VIJAY DUTT

IT TURNED OUT TO BE AN ICONIC, historic event, the hosting of *Vaisakhi* festivities by the US Ambassador Robert H Tuttle at the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square in London, in close collaboration with Raj Loomba, himself of Punjabi origin. It was the first time ever that an Indian festival was celebrated at the heavily-secured Embassy Building.

The celebration of the Indian festival also led to an informal setting up of US-UK and Indian Relations forum for “spreading friendship across two oceans”.

Speaking at the launch of the events, Tuttle said the Sikh community had come to his country on the west coast in early 20th century. A hardworking community, they helped build railroads, in developing farm lands. He added that there was a greater influx during the immigration wave in 1965, and now around half a million in America, they have been a great asset to “our country.

The Ambassador decided, he said, to host *Vaisakhi* at the Embassy, after a visit last year to Leicester where he and his wife were overwhelmed by the “warm hospitality”. They also realised the progress the Sikh community has made there.

A brief history of how *Vaisakhi* originated and the forming of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh, 309 years ago, was related by Bhai Saheb, a leading Sikh figure in the UK. It was followed by a *bhangra* performed by a Lymington Spa group of young Sikh boys and girls.

[Courtesy: *Hindustan Times*]

Gurbani creates history

Gurbani Singh created history by winning the All-India at the tender age of 13, the youngest All-India winner ever, a record recognized by Rolex at a recent felicitation event. Gurbani beat Lavery Kumar 2up in the 36 hole final at the RCGC, Tollygunge, Kolkata. India.

Sikh Youth excel in sport

ASC Centre North's (Gaya) Mukhtiar Singh in action in the tent pegging championship at the 57th Kolkata Horse Show at the Pat Williamson grounds