



SIKH Religious Society

Gurdwara Palatine



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501 (c) (3) Non-Profit organization IRS Tax ID# 36-4048422R05

Press Release

June 9th, 2026

On May 17, 2026, the Consul General (“CG”) of India visited the Sikh Religious Society (“SRS”) premises in a personal and devotional capacity, not by invitation or in any official function. As is the case with all who enter the Gurdwara Sahib with reverence and humility, the visitor was welcomed as a Sangat member. The Gurdwara is open to all, without distinction of background, position, or affiliation, who come in the spirit of devotion and respect. This has always been and will always remain the standard of this institution.

No stage time, no formal recognition, and no honors were planned or pre-promised for this visit. This was already discussed and conveyed to the people anticipated to oppose the visit and agreement was reached that there will be no disruptions prior to the arrival of the CG.

Three individuals, none of whom are members of SRS, arrived on the morning of the visit and sought to prevent it from proceeding. Their identity is being verified. The President and the Religious Secretary, along with a few community members engaged with them respectfully and gave them the same message that was conveyed to other individuals who questioned the CG’s visit earlier and maintained that peaceful protest on public grounds outside the premises was their right. Disruption inside the Gurdwara was not; to which they agreed.

When the CG arrived, these individuals rushed out and physically obstructed his path and others in the hallway to the Langar Hall, shouting allegations and slogans. They were joined by a few members of SRS on both sides, adding to the disruption. While the President and a member of the SRS Safety & Security team intervened to prevent conflict, one of the individuals continued shouting slogans and one individual remained committed to making a video while the third stood silent. Opposing provocative slogans also appear to have been shouted by some that are being identified. At this time, the CG proceeded to walk towards the Langar Hall. The three individuals then departed.

This conduct which was aggressive, disruptive, and intimidating, was a serious violation of the sanctity of the Gurdwara and the dignity expected of anyone on its premises. It caused embarrassment to the institution and the whole community, and distress to all present. The incident is fully documented. Appropriate action against individuals engaging in this conduct is being planned.

In response to the embarrassment caused by the disruption, the President extended an unplanned gesture of respect by offering the CG a brief moment on stage. The CG thanked the Sangat and spoke briefly on community solidarity and added if he can be of any help, he is always approachable. The CG presented a gift, a book on Guru Nanak Dev Ji, in a gesture of goodwill and respect. At that moment, the President, moved by the spirit of hospitality, honored the visitor with a Siropa.

The President acknowledges transparently that a Siropa is traditionally reserved for individuals who have rendered exemplary Seva to the Sikh community and is not a general gesture of courtesy or hospitality. The President’s intent was sincere, rooted in the Sikh value of honoring a devotee who had come in humility, presented a gift as bheta - a Book on Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and been received with hostility through no fault of his own. The decision was made in the moment and in good faith. It is acknowledged that it fell outside standard practice and will ensure that future recognitions strictly follow the guidelines for all such honors.

The SRS stands firmly on its values. The Gurdwara is a house of the Guru, a space of peace, dignity, and seva for the entire Sangat. It is not a place for disruptive aggressive behavior. The use of the Gurdwara's premises for such disruption and intimidation will not be tolerated and appropriate action will be taken.

The Constitution and Code of Conduct of SRS govern all activities, conduct, and recognitions on its premises and in its programs. They exist to protect this institution and the entire Sangat it serves. The SRS Board will make every effort to uphold these tenets without exception.

On June 7, 2026, the Executive Secretary attempted to deliver a letter regarding allegations of disorderly conduct to Vikramjeet Singh from the May 17th, 2026 incident. Mr. Singh declined to accept the letter. The attempted delivery and refusal were documented for the record.