

More saroops to be printed at US press: SGPC chief Dhami

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AMRITSAR, JUNE 11
Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) chief Harjinder Singh Dhami, who is heading a delegation of the Sikh body to the US, said they had received a large number of requests for providing more “saroops” of Guru Granth Sahib from the Sikh diaspora.

“The establishment of a printing press under the proposed Sikh religious preaching centre, Sikh Mission, and Gurmat (Guru’s wisdom) School in the US will meet the rising demand of saroops in the US and Canada,” he said.

The SGPC delegates inspected the land earmarked in Yuba City, California, for the establishment of a Sikh religious preaching centre. They also held a discussion with architects and local Sikh leaders regarding the development of the proposed project.

He pointed out that 14.5 acres of land for this purpose was donated by late Didar Singh Bains.

BEHBAL KALAN FIRING INCIDENT

SIT records former Jathedar’s statement, Sukhbir cries foul

MOHIT KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 11
Former Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh recorded his statement before the special investigation team (SIT) probing the Behbal Kalan police firing incident on Wednesday night.

He said the SIT had visited his residence yesterday evening and questioned him about the events leading to the incident. He reportedly told the SIT that SAD chief and former Deputy CM Sukhbir Singh Badal had acknowledged responsibility for the Behbal Kalan firing during proceedings at the Akal Takht and his admission, which is in public domain, was video-recorded and covered by several media institutions.

Former Takht Jathedar said his jurisdiction was limited to religious punishment that Sukhbir went through and he was not aware about the legal perspective and the SIT probe.



Giani Raghbir Singh

Giani Raghbir working on directions of AAP: Sukhbir
Sukhbir hit out at Giani Raghbir, alleging that he had been operating as a member of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). He said the AAP government was planning to implicate him in a false case and arrest him before the 2027 Assembly poll.

The SAD chief said, “Neither I am afraid of cases being registered against me nor I am afraid of going to jail. The very fact that former Akal Takht Jathedar is trying to implicate me in the Bargari

sacrilege case indicates he is working like an active member of AAP.” He asserted that such actions by the former Takht Jathedar were against the ‘maryada’ of the Takht.

Senior SAD leader Dr Daljit Singh Cheema said Giani Raghbir had violated the ‘hukamnama’ of the Takht — not to use any proceedings of the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs in court related cases.

He said former Jathedar Giani Joginder Singh Vedanti had given an edict that the proceedings of the Takht should not be presented as evidence in courts. “Strict directions were given to the Sikh sangat to ensure this was followed in letter and spirit,” Cheema said. Speaking about the deposition made by him before the Akal Takht on December 3, 2024, Sukhbir said, “As a humble Sikh, I took full responsibility for any fault committed by the SAD government and even for causing hurt if any to anyone.”

Amid renewed pact talks, SAD chief congratulates PM

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CHANDIGARH, JUNE 11

Amid speculation of renewed alliance talks with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal today congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for completing 12 years in office. While responding to a media query, Sukhbir said the historic landmark was a testament to the years of dedicated public service put in by PM Modi.

The congratulatory greeting came after several senior leaders, part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), shared words of appreciation in New Delhi for founding members of the NDA and recalled the role played by SAD patriarch Parkash Singh Badal.

Currency ‘crunch’ in banks gives jitters to customers

RUCHIKA M KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 11
With banks facing severe currency “crunch” across Punjab, customers are being asked to withdraw cash in a prescribed limit by bankers. Even automated teller machines (ATMs) are running dry in several areas and the currency loading exercise has extended from a few hours to several days.

This has led to panic among the people, who are wondering why despite having funds in their accounts, they are being denied withdrawals. Amit Kapur, who runs a pharmaceutical unit in Amritsar, said ever since the West Asia conflict began, shortage of currency has multiplied. “It has impacted our purchases and most pharma units in Amritsar are running at half capacity,” he said.

Senior bank officials said the problem was temporary and insisted that the Reserve Bank of India had been urged to pump in more currency into the banks in the state.



An ATM runs out of cash.

“The cash withdrawals in Punjab were record high during April and May. Generally, against the indent of cash sent to the apex regulatory bank for a region, the cash sent is 5-10 per cent. This has resulted in currency shortage at some banks. The situation is improving gradually and more cash will be pumped into banks during June,” a senior banker added.

Aparna Sharma, lead district manager, Punjab National Bank, Amritsar, admitted that the problem was being faced in Punjab and Chandigarh due to restricted cash flow in the region.

The politicians believe that cash flow was being deliberately slowed down ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

A property dealer in Muktsar said several banks had fixed a limit of currency withdrawal at Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 per day till the end of May. “The withdrawal limit has now been increased to a maximum of Rs 1 lakh per day. This is a huge problem for businesses like ours, which work on cash transactions,” he said.

Ajay Wadhwa, a farm leader from Abohar, said, “I had to visit different ATMs on a single day to withdraw currency to pay wages to labourers.”

In Jalandhar, sports goods manufacturer Chetan Dhir said there was less cash flow in the market.

(With inputs from Neeraj Bagga & Archit Watts)

Bond survives Partition; Pak college dedicates classroom to ex-CM Brar

ARCHIT WATTS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, JUNE 11

In a tribute to a friendship that transcended borders, religion and the passage of time, Aitchison College, Lahore, on Wednesday dedicated Classroom 108 to former Punjab Chief Minister Harcharan Singh Brar.

The dedication was made at the initiative of a Pakistan-based industrialist and philanthropist Syed Babar Ali, Brar’s lifelong friend and former classmate, who donated Pakistani Rs 4 million for the purpose. The ceremony was attended online by Ali, while Brar’s daughter Babli Brar, who travelled from India to Lahore for the occasion, unveiled the plaque outside the classroom.

A special feature of the plaque is the inscription “God



Babli Brar unveils the plaque at Aitchison College in Lahore.

is One” in English, Gurmukhi and Urdu, conveying a message of unity, harmony and mutual respect among people of different faiths and backgrounds. Speaking on the occasion, Ali recalled his enduring friendship with Brar, which began during their school days at Aitchison College before the Partition