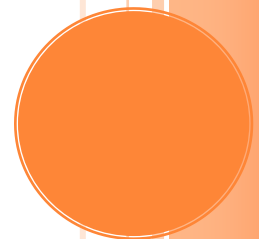


SCOTTISH SIKHS | BRIEFING

Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee

Guru Tegh Bahadur Gurdwara, St. Andrews Drive
Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Otago Street
Central Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Berkeley Street
Guru Granth Sahib Gurdwara, Albert Drive
Edinburgh Gurdwara
Irvine Gurdwara
Dundee Gurdwara
Aberdeen Gurdwara

Glasgow Gurdwaras Council
September 2013



Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee | A Summary

Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) will be visiting Scotland on Saturday 21st – Monday 23rd September.

Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee or **DSGMC** is an autonomous organization which manages Gurdwaras in Delhi state. *DSGMC* also manages various educational institutions, hospitals, old age homes, libraries and other charitable institutions in Delhi. It is headquartered in Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib, near Parliament House.

Current President **Manjit Singh G.K** represents Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) party and was recently elected to a four-year term in January 2013. Current General secretary is Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee comprises 51 members, one member representing each of 46 wards; and five nominated members. 4 Nominated members are Jathedars of 4 Sikh Takhts namely Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Amritsar, Sri Keshgarh sahib, Anandpur Sahib, Sri Patna Sahib & Sri Hazoor Sahib. It is governed by a Chairman and a President as per Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Act of 1971. The term of DSGMC is four years, formed through elections conducted by Directorate of Gurdwara Elections of Delhi Government. Of over a million Sikhs living in Delhi, around 450,000 are registered voters for the DSGMC elections.

Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee is counterpart of Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee but operates independently. SGPC nominates one member to Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee.

Discussion

These topics are suggestions only. As an individual you can address other topics relevant to you, your members, your family or your community.

1. Sikh Identity Issue (Dastaar, Panj Kakkar)

Sikhs across the world are facing many challenges to their Sikh identity, from young people in schools to turban wearing Sikhs in airports, this issue is having an impact on the everyday lives of our community.

Glasgow Gurdwara Council has been working closely with Scottish Courts Services and other bodies to educate officials on Panj Kakkar and Dastaar and have successfully changed policies to enhance understanding of Sikhs.

a. How is the DSGMC tackling this issue in India and abroad e.g. France?

b. How can DSGMC support diaspora Sikhs to make effective changes to Government policy or employment policies?

2. Welfare of Sikhs in prisons

Scottish Sikhs have campaigned extensively against the use of the death penalty on individuals, such as Balwant Singh Rajoana and Prof. Bhullar. We have taken these cases to the highest levels reaching Scottish Parliament and Westminster.

a. How is the DSGMC tackling this issue in India?

b. What action has DSGMC taken to support diaspora Sikhs with this issue?

3. Justice for 1984 victims

The genocide of 1984 is still alive in the minds of Sikhs. Scottish Sikhs commemorate the victims annually as we remember those who died and those who are living with the memories of such horrific act.

a. What role is DSGMC taking to rehabilitate families into society?

b. What steps are being taken by DSGMC to get justice against those individuals that organized and participated in 1984 and other atrocities?

4. Treatment of Sikhs in India

Cases of mistreatment of Sikhs (men, women, young people) are disheartening for the Sikh population. There was a recent attack on a Sikh family in Amritsar where the women was pulled by her hair. This was reported to Shiromani committee with no action taken.

a. Is DSGMC standing up for the rights of Sikhs and supporting organisations that do?

5. Education

A fundamental element of a Sikh's life –

a. How is the DSGMC promoting religious and academic education amongst Sikhs?

b. Why is there no formal educational experience for visitors to all major historical Gurdwaras, i.e. tour guides, leaflets, audio tours?

6. Constitution of India

The constitution states that 'reference to Hindus shall be construed as including persons professing the,.... Sikh religion.'

a. What action is DSGMC taking to change this to mark Sikhs as independent to their own religion, faith, culture and tradition?