

# Jathedar of Akal Takhat Visits West Coast Gurdwaras

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Singh Sahib Gurubachan Singh, the Jathedar of Akal Takhat Sahib, visited gurdwaras in New Mexico, Arizona and California during a west coast visit Jan. 6 to 9 at the invitation of Bhai Sahib Satpal Singh Khalsa, ambassador of Sikh Dharma and chairman of the New Mexico-based Guru Ram Das Sikh Mission of America.

Accompanied by Giani Ranjit Singh, head of the Granthi Bangla Sahib, and Satpal Singh Khalsa, his first stop was in Espanola, New Mexico, where he attended the Jan. 6 evening kirtan program in remembrance of the June 6 attack on Akal Takhat Sahib in 1984.

Sikh Dharma ashrams across the nation and internationally celebrate this particular day on the 6th of every month of the year following a tradition initiated by Yogi Bhajan to remember the martyrdom of Akal Takhat Sahib on that fateful day in 1984.

In his address to the gathering, the Jathedar spoke of the services of Harbhajan Singh Khalsa Yogiji to the Sikh Panth and his role in bringing thousands of westerners to the Sikh faith.

The Jathedar said that he was impressed and inspired by the dedication of the local sangat and their role in continuing the mission started by Yogi Bhajan. He appealed to all members of Sikh Dharma International to work in unity to promote the mission started by Yogi Bhajan.

At the end of his address, he was honored with a saropa from

Sardarni Guru Amrit Kaur Khalsa, Siri Sikdar Sahiba of Sikh Dharma International.

The next stop was Phoenix, Arizona, where on Jan. 7 the Jathedar visited the Guru Nanak Dwara Ashram and was shown the new gurdwara building under construction. He was welcomed by Sikh Dharma International and local community members and was given a saropa at the Gurudwara. He also visited several other local community members in the afternoon.

The Jathedar arrived in Los Angeles in the evening of Jan. 8 and went directly to the Walnut Gurdwara, where he was honored with a saropa by the management committee. In response, he said that as Akal Takhat Jathedar he was always there for the entire Sikh community and could be contacted at the office of the Akal Takhat for any information or help.

While addressing the Walnut Gurdwara sangat, he said there is a need for Sikh parents to bring the values and teachings of the Siri Guru Granth Sahib to our children.

Giani Ranjit Singh said that the entire Sikh community must adhere to the Hukamnamas and directions from the Akal Takhat as it is the supreme authority of the Sikhs.

The second stop was at Buena Park Gurdwara, where the Jathedar said that he was happy to come to the Southland and visit the local sangat of the Sikhs. In his address, he emphasized the fact that all Sikhs must adhere by the teachings of the Shabad Guru and also tell their next generation to live by the Shabad Guru.

He noted that while the de-



From left to right: Giani Ranjit Singh, Bhai Sahiba Bibiji, Bhai Sahib Satpal Singh, Jathedar Akal Takhat Giani Gurubachan Singh, and Siri Sikdar Sahiba Guru Amrit Kaur at Espanola Gurdwara, New Mexico, Jan. 6.

voted have a television in every room in their homes and listen to all kinds of music and watch TV shows, most families do not have the Siri Guru Granth Sahib in their homes. He said that we must teach our children Punjabi and instill in them the teachings of the Shabad Guru.

On Jan. 8, the Jathedar visited the Vermont Gurdwara in North Hollywood along with Giani Ranjit Singh, where he was honored by the managing committee of the Gurdwara with a saropa, and several members brought a number of Sikh issues to his attention.

The Jathedar assured them that he would address the issues along with the other Jathedars of other Takhts and bring a uniform code of conduct for all Sikhs.

The Jathedar then visited the Lankershim Gurudwara, where Giani Ranjit Singh stressed the need for all Sikhs to abide by and respect the office of the Akal Takhat. He reminded everyone that after the Guru Granth Sahib and the Panj Payaras, the Jathedar of Akal Takhat is the next highest person

in the Sikh Panth, which must have the respect of all Sikhs.

The three-day visit was Giani Gurubachan Singh's first to the United States after assuming the office of Jathedar of Akal Takhat Sahib. In all his speeches at various Gurdwaras, he asked the Office of the Ambassador of Sikh Dharma to continue to promote the teachings of the Shabad Guru in the western countries and inspire more people to live by the teachings of the Siri Guru Granth Sahib.