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## Surrey gurdwara election throws up new equations

**Sikh Youth Slate win underlines return to the traditional way**

**WSN Bureau**  
SURREY

**I**n signs of changing equations, rise of the Sikh youth power and the community's urge to connect with the highest temporal seat of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, the election to Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara, Surrey has returned as victorious the Sikh Youth Slate.

Led by Bikramjit Singh Sandhar, the results underline the determined struggle of the youth to restore the tradition of Gurdwara Sahibs to their pristine glory and ensure that Gurdwaras accomplish the purpose for which they are built.

The Sikh Youth Slate saw its eighteen candidates win the Gurdwara elections with a decisive margin of 13,400 to 7,200 of the Harjinder Singh Thana group. Incidentally, the Thana group had last time defeated then president Balwant Singh Gill and Sadhu Singh Samra groups.

The Sikh Youth Slate's mission is clear and focused, "We are a group of progressive-minded Sikhs, consisting of men and women, students, businessmen, entrepreneurs and professionals from fields such as law, finance and software development. We genuinely desire to work towards the betterment of the community, and share a common focus and direction, centered on unity: We are all Sikhs!"

Not to be outdone with rhetoric and whimper, they seem to have done not only their homework well from the electoral point of view but also emphasized the inclusive character of Sikhism. "It is time to stand shoulder-to-shoulder as Sikhs - whether we are Amritdhari or non-Amritdhari, whether we are Keshdhari, or Sehajdhari, whether we have been walking the Sikh path for decades or we are just taking our first baby steps" said their campaign.

And for the cynics, who may still be imputing motives to the youth, the Sikh Youth Slate had this to say, "We

**The youth slate members, mostly in their 30s, ran on a two-pronged platform of a return to traditional religious observance and an expansion of gurdwara programs mostly to respond to the needs of young families and youth. They promise better maintenance of the buildings and tighter management of finances.**

are prepared and dedicated to create a progressive gurdwara environment, inclusive to all Sikhs. We consider ourselves to be sevadars tasked with the responsibility of changing the gurdwara from being a place of divisive politics, to being a positive place for congregation, open to everyone!

Not stopping at the Sikhs, they have also clarified that they would be working for humanity at large and ensure that the Gurdwara becomes the fulcrum of community outreach services encompassing all Canadians and those in and around Surrey in particular.

With veteran Sikh-baiter Balwant Singh Gill and company accepting defeat, the stage is set for a new president in Bikramjit Singh Sandhar in early January next year. "This service is done by the grace of God, for the well-being of humanity."

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Tankhah to Jhinda, explanation from Prof Darshan Singh

## Intra-Sikh bitter warfare binds community in strange binaries

**WSN Bureau**  
AMRITSAR

**I**n the continuing intra-community bitter warfare, the top Sikh clergy that met at Sri Akal Takht Sahib on Tuesday pronounced religious punishment of 'tankwah' upon a leader of the so-called Adhoc Haryana SGPC, Jagdish Singh Jhinda, who is likely to serve the sentence but seemed defiant about his stance.



**Jagdish Singh Jhinda**

In a separate case, the clergy, led by Akal Takht jathedar Giani Gurbachan Singh, has also taken the unprecedented step of seeking clarification from former Akal Takht jathedar Prof Darshan Singh for allegedly narrating a rather objectionable tale by connecting it to the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh.



**Prof Darshan Singh**

In a video of the objectionable speech of Prof Darshan Singh that the WSN watched, he narrated the story claiming that it found mention in the Dasam Granth and thus wanted to prove that such a 'granth' cannot be the Guru's composition or acceptable but it turned out that the story he narrated was a sort of cocktail of multiple stories and was in no way connected to the tenth Sikh Master.

Both instances, the Jagdish Singh Jhinda episode as well as the one connected with Prof Darshan Singh, only prove what the well known Sikhism scholar Prof Cynthiya Mahmood recently **Continued on page 22**

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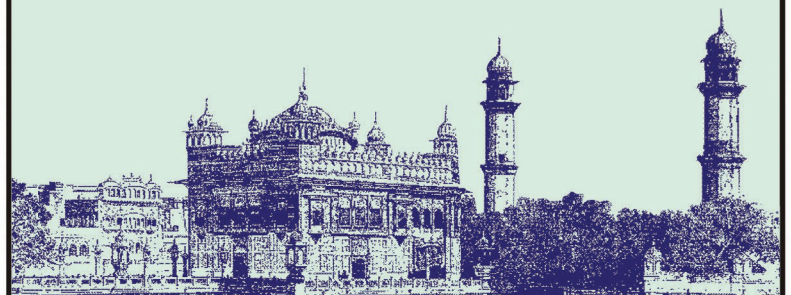


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