

**High Commission of India**  
**Kuala Lumpur**

High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur participated in the Baisakhi celebrations organised by the Sikh Diaspora in different Gurudwaras from 12-15 April 2019 across Malaysia. Participation of the High Commission in these programmes was aimed at strengthening our engagement and connect with the Sikh diaspora in Malaysia in run up to the celebrations commemorating 550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji in the pursuance of the directive of the Ministry.

2. For widespread coverage of Baisakhi celebrations across several states, including, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Perak, Kedah, Johor, Penang, and one federal territory i.e. Kuala Lumpur, five officers from the Mission, including High Commissioner joined the Sikh diaspora at different events.

3. High Commissioner Sh.Mridul Kumar along with Counsellor (Community Affairs) Sh.Nishit Kumar Ujjwal, joined the Sikh community at the 100-year old Gurudwara Tatt Khalsa Dewan in Kuala Lumpur on 14 April. Besides attending the special prayers on the occasion, High Commissioner also joined the Langar with devotees. The gesture received favourable response from over 1500 strong Sikh diaspora present there, and in a special gesture, High Commissioner was requested to address the congregation.



4. Similarly, on 15April, High Commissioner and his wife Smt. Sumita Goyal participated in the Baisakhi celebrations at Wada Gurudwara Sahib in Penang. This 120-year old Gurudwarais one of the oldest running Gurudwaras in entire South-East Asia, and is known as the mother Gurudwara for sheltering Indians coming to Penang in 19<sup>th</sup> century.Striking agood rapport with devotees who were present there in more than 500



numbers, High Commissioner praised the efforts of Wada Gurudwara Sahib Penang for instilling values of community service and teaching Gurmukhi to children in school within the premises of Gurudwara, with the help of volunteers from the Sikh Community. Besides interacting with the devotees, High Commissioner also joined the Langar.



5. Furthering the Mission's Community outreach among the Sikh diaspora, Counsellor (Community Affairs, Labour & Education) ShriNishit Kumar Ujjwal participated in the celebrations organised in Gurudwara Sahib Petaling Jaya (Selangor) on 12 April which was attended by around 200 Sikh families. Counsellor addressed the congregation and released a book "Sounki's Duniya" written by an eminent local Punjabi writer, Mr.K.Shounki.





6. Similarly, Counsellor joined the Baisakhi celebrations and Langar at Gurudwara Sentul, Kuala Lumpur on 13 April and interacted with members of the Sikh community. Mr. Tony Pua Kiam Wee, Member of Parliament representing Damansara and political secretary to the Minister of Finance of Malaysia also attended the Baisakhi event. Around 1500 devotees visited the Gurudwara on that day.



7. Targeting the Sikh diaspora of Northern part of Peninsular Malaysia, First Secretary (Political and HoC) Sh. Lakshmikant Kumbhar joined the Baisakhi celebrations at Gurudwaras in Buntong (Perak) and Alor Setar (Kedah) on 13 and 14 April respectively. The event was attended by a number of devotees. This effort resulted in establishing fresh connection with Sikh Community there.



8. In a bid to strengthening our ties with the Sikh families residing in the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, Second Secretary (Labour) Sh. Shiv Sagar, joined the celebrations in the Gurudwaras of Seremban, Port Dickson (Negeri Sembilan) and Puchong (Selangor) on 12, 13 and 14 April 2019.



Similarly, Attache' (PS) Sh. Rajiv Ahuja participated in the Baisakhi celebrations and Sri Akhand Path Bhog at the historical Gurudwara Sahib Johor Bahru (Johor) on 13 April. He also participated in the celebrations organized by the Sikh community in the Gurudwara in the UNESCO World Heritage city of Melaka in southwestern Malaysia. Both officers interacted with the diaspora members and joined the langar also.



9. As a closing ceremony of Baisakhi events 'Baisakhi Open House' was organized by Khalsa Diwan Malaysia in association with state Government

of Perak in the state of Perak on 28th April 2019. Khalsa Diwan Malaysia is a century old Sikh association founded in the year 1903 to take care of religious, economic and, social welfare of Sikh Community throughout Malaysia. Approximately 8000 Sikh diaspora members participated in the grand Baisakhi celebrations. The celebration involved Punjabi dance, song, music etc. The event was attended by Sh. Nishit Kumar Ujjwal, Counsellor (Community Affairs, Labour & Edu); Chief Minister of Perak Mr. Ahmed Faizal; State Minister (EXCO) of Perak Mr. Sivanesan; Member of Parliament, Mr. Sivakumar and other local dignitaries.







10. The Mission's effort to join the Baisakhi celebrations in this wide spread manner yielded good dividend as Sikh members of Malaysian Indian Community numbering more than 15000 were interacted with directly in 11 different Gurudwaras across the country. Across the board, it received positive response and the Sikh diaspora appreciated the efforts made by the Mission to strengthen the engagement. The prominent members of the Sikh Community expressed their willingness to partner with the High

Commission in its any community outreach endeavour particularly Gurunanak Devji Jayanti celebrations.

\*\*\*\*\*



