

THE BRITISH SIKH ASSOCIATION CELEBRATED BSAIKHI

On the 23rd of March 2017, the British Sikh Association hosted its annual dinner at the Lancaster Hotel in London, to celebrate the festival of Vaisakhi aka Baisakhi, when the Order of the Khalsa was created by Sri Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th Sikh Guru. The Chief Guest at event was the Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Fallon, MP and Secretary of State for Defence, and the Guest of Honour was H.E. Y.K. Sinha, the High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom. Over 650 distinguished guests were in attendance. The event commenced with a spectacular Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas performing the national anthems of India and the United Kingdom, followed by a one-minute silence to remember the bravery and sacrifice of PC Keith Palmer, the bravery of all emergency service men and women, and those who lost their lives or were injured in the terror Attack in Westminster on 22nd March 2017. An emotional video presentation on Sikh involvement in the British Army and both

World Wars was given by Matthew Ward of 'History Needs You.' Another special video presentation on the same subject, courtesy the BBC, was shown followed by a speech by Dr. Rami Ranger, CBE, Chairman of the British Sikh Association. He spoke of the growing need for the contribution of Sikhs to be taught as part of the curriculum in schools. It is not widely known that over 84,000 Sikh soldiers died and over 109,000 were injured over the two world wars, and there ought to be a better understanding of our shared history. He also spoke of the need to resurrect a Sikh regiment within the British army to keep alive the bravery of those who defended the empire with their lives, stating that the regiment should only be so in name and be open to people



from all faiths to join, as Sikhs by their very nature believe in being inclusive and are never insular. Dr. Ranger, apropos, was met with rousing applause when he announced a UK£ 1 million pledge for the recruitment campaign for the Sikh regiment. He closed his address with a request to Virendra Sharma, MP for Southall and Ealing, and Ealing Council leader Cllr Julian Bell, to support the BSA in its call to erect a memorial in Southall for the fallen Sikh soldiers.

INDIAN WATER DELEGATION TO VISIT DENMARK

The Danish embassy in New Delhi, under the auspices of DANIDA, is poised to take a delegation of key Indian decision-makers and potential business partners to visit Denmark over five days, between 29th May and 2nd June this year. With an urban population approaching 400 million by 2025, India faces a monumental task in following the growth of its cities in terms of water infrastructure. One of the biggest and most basic challenges is urban water supply, which currently is inadequately equipped to serve increasing needs, making access to safe drinking water, sanitation, water energy provision etc., a priority for India. The delegation will take relevant Indian public and private stakeholders to Denmark to visit Danish companies that have water solutions to offer India. Tentative Indian participants are to include public stakeholders, officials from Gujarat and Rajasthan States from municipalities like Udaipur, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Vadodara, members of other dgovernment arms such as the Water Resource and the Urban Planning departments both at the federal as well as the local levels. Private stakeholders like Indian companies working on Smart Cities and water infrastructure, especially in Gujarat and Rajasthan, are also likely to participate. For more information, one may contact the Confederation of Danish Industry's India office.

-Denmark Bureau

मदद के लिए आगे आई सुषमा



भारत सरकार में विदेश मंत्री सुषमा स्वराज ने इस्लामाबाद में भारतीय उच्चायोग को निर्देश दिया कि वह पाकिस्तान में फंसी भारतीय महिला के पासपोर्ट को रिन्यु करे और उसकी देश वापसी की व्यवस्था करे। पाकिस्तान में महिला का पति कथित तौर पर उसे प्रताड़ित करता है। सुषमा स्वराज से 44 साल की हैदराबाद की रहने वाली महिला के पिता ने उसकी स्वदेश वापसी में मदद मांगी थी। इसके बाद कई ट्वीट करके सुषमा ने जानकारी दी कि उन्होंने भारतीय उच्चायोग से महिला के पासपोर्ट का नवीनीकरण करने और उसकी भारत वापसी की व्यवस्था करने को कहा है। सुषमा ने ट्वीट किया, 'मैंने भारतीय उच्चायोग से उनकी भारत वापसी की व्यवस्था करने को कहा है।'