

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

Meeting No. 28 | Date: 09 April 2025

Occasion: Celebration of Vaisakhi

Venue: 95, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi

Organised by: National Commission for Minorities (NCM) & Global Punjabi Association (GPA)

Chief Guest

- **Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal Ji**
Hon'ble Union Cabinet Minister, Government of India

Guest of Honour

- **Shri Harsh Malhotra Ji**
Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Government of India

Special Invitees / Distinguished Guests

- **Shri Major Tiwari**
- **Sardar Tarlochan Singh Ji**
Former Chairman, National Commission for Minorities
- **Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi Ji**
Former Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India

ATTENDED BY

- **Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura Ji**
Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Minorities
Patron, Global Punjabi Association
- Dr. Kulwant Singh Dhaliwal, President GPA
- **Col. Jaibans Singh**, Vice President GPA
- **Dr. Jaswinder Singh Dhillon**
Honorary Secretary, Global Punjabi Association
- **Dr. Jaswinder Kaur Sohal**
Cashier, Global Punjabi Association
- **Shri Raman Gupta**
Secretary (Finance), Global Punjabi Association
- **S.Ajayveer Singh Lalpura**
- **Mrs.Jasmine Kaur USA**
- **Brig. Harcharan Singh Bhoparai**
- **S. Kuldeep Singh Khalon**
- **S. Harinder Singh Khalon**

- **S. Kulbir Singh** – Former AGM
- **S. Parvinder Singh**
- **S. Gkinder Pal Singh**
- **Shri Varun Gulati**
- **Shri Sagar Mehta**
- **Shri Jatinder Singh Sahni**
- **Dr. Parmeet Singh Chadda**
- **S. Arjunpal Singh Marwaha**
- **Prof. Gurmeet Singh**
Vice Chancellor
- **Dr. Mannu Kapila**

Meeting No. 28 of the Global Punjabi Association was held on **09 April 2025** at **95, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi**, in collaboration with the **National Commission for Minorities**, to celebrate the sacred and culturally significant festival of **Vaisakhi**. The celebration was organised in keeping with the mandate and objectives of the Global Punjabi Association to observe and promote all major festivals of India that symbolise **communal unity, interfaith harmony, national integration, and cultural heritage**.

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome to all dignitaries, members, and invitees. The organisers highlighted that Vaisakhi is not merely a harvest festival but a historic and spiritual occasion of profound importance, especially for the Sikh community, marking the formation of the **Khalsa Panth** by Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji in 1699. At the same time, it stands as a celebration of gratitude, prosperity, and unity across communities in different parts of India.

In the opening address, the representatives of the **National Commission for Minorities** emphasised the Commission's commitment to promoting interfaith dialogue, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence among all communities. It was stated that festivals like Vaisakhi provide a powerful platform to strengthen social cohesion and reinforce India's composite culture, where diversity is celebrated as a collective strength.

The leadership of the **Global Punjabi Association** reiterated that, as per the Association's mandate, GPA shall continue to celebrate all major national and community festivals that reflect the spirit of **communal harmony and shared heritage**. The Association underlined that such celebrations are a conscious effort to **revive, preserve, and transmit cultural values, traditions, and heritage to future generations**, particularly among the youth and the Punjabi diaspora.

Speakers during the proceedings reflected on the relevance of Vaisakhi in contemporary times, stressing that the values of **service (seva), equality, courage, and collective responsibility** associated with the festival are essential for building a just and inclusive society. The concept of **Sarbat da Bhala** (welfare of all) was highlighted as a universal message that transcends religious boundaries and resonates with the constitutional ethos of India.

The programme also acknowledged the role of cultural traditions—folk music, language, history, and shared memories—in cementing bonds between communities. Members

expressed that such celebrations help counter social divisions and promote understanding by bringing people together in a spirit of joy, respect, and shared belonging.

During the discussions, it was unanimously appreciated that the joint initiative of the National Commission for Minorities and the Global Punjabi Association serves as a model of institutional cooperation aimed at fostering **interfaith harmony and national unity**. Participants noted that regular observance of such festivals at national forums contributes significantly to cultural awareness and strengthens people-to-people connections.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to continue organising similar programmes in the future, covering festivals and occasions of different communities, thereby reinforcing India's age-old tradition of unity in diversity. A vote of thanks was extended to the National Commission for Minorities, office bearers of the Global Punjabi Association, and all participants for their active involvement and support in making the Vaisakhi celebration meaningful and successful.



