



ਅਖੰਡ ਕੀਰਤਨੀ ਜੱਥਾ ਇੰਟਰਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ (ਰਜਿ.)



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Rejection of so-called 'Hukamnama' by Self-Appointed 'Jathedar' Takhat Sri Patna Sahib, Iqbal Singh, on January 5th, 2017.

Guru Roop Khalsa Jio,
Waheguru Jee Ka Khalsa Waheguru Jee Kee Fateh.

Akhand Keertani Jatha completely and unequivocally rejects the inflammatory, divisive, and damaging statement made by the self-appointed so-called 'Jathedar', Iqbal Singh, at the 350th auspicious celebrations of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj at Takhat Sri Harmandir Sahib Patna on January 5th, 2017.

1. Using an occasion of Sri Dasmesh Jee's 350th Parkash Purab to issue such an unethical Hukamnama proves that enemies of the Panth always look for big gatherings to do more damage to Khalsa Panth. The so called 'Hukamnama' was a cover-up for a direct attack and challenge to the supreme authority of the Sri Akal Takhat Sahib and Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee published Sikh Rehat Maryada. The purpose of the Sikh Rehat Maryada is to keep Khalsa Panth unified on one platform. Every Sikh is duty bound to established protocols and uphold this basic doctrine. No Takhat Jathedar, especially the one who has been rejected by the Panth, has any authority to change it.
2. The so-called 'Jathedar' Iqbal Singh and his co-conspirators have falsely claimed their statement to be a 'Hukamnama'. Whereas in reality it is a 'Koorrh-Nama', a falsity and a misrepresentation of the truth. The so-called 'Jathedar' Iqbal Singh has no authority to declare a 'Hukamnama' binding for the Khalsa Panth. Ironically, the so-called 'Jathedar' Iqbal Singh on November 19th, 2003, together with the Jathedars of the Five Takhats at the time; Joginder Singh Vedanti (Jathedar Sri Akal Takhat Sahib), Tarlochan Singh (Jathedar of Takhat Sri Keshgarh Sahib, Anandpur Sahib), Balwant Singh (Jathedar of Takhat Sri Damdama Sahib), and Rattan Singh (Representative of Takhat Sri Hazoor Sahib); all signed a declaration at Sri Akal Takhat Sahib agreeing that such Hukamnama can only be made at directive of all five Takhat Jathedars at Sri Akal Takhat Sahib assembled for the specific purpose. Furthermore, the Sikh Rehat Maryada clearly states that any such edict binding to the Khalsa Panth can only be made by its supreme authority, which is the Sri Akal Takhat Sahib. By issuing such a deceptive statement at auspicious occasion of Sri Dasmesh Jee's Parkaash Purab, the so-called 'Jathedar' Iqbal Singh has disregarded all Panthic norms and brought himself and the Jathedari of Takhat Sri Patna Sahib into disrepute, which he has done on numerous occasions before.
3. In his 'Koorrh-Nama', the so-called 'Jathedar' Iqbal Singh has mischievously brought up issues that have already been thoroughly resolved in the Sikh Rehat Maryada, with the sole aim to bring about

disunity, disharmony, and confusion in the Khalsa Panth. All Sikhs of the Khalsa Panth regard Sri Guru Granth Sahib as the complete and undisputed living Shabad Guru of the Sikhs. The Sikh Rehat Maryada is clear about respect to Dasam Baani in which Dasam Baani has been included in the Nitnem Baanis, Panj Amrit Sanchar Baanis, and Baanis of all Ten Gurus is allowed to be sung in Keertan.

4. The so-called 'Jathedar' Iqbal Singh has specifically attacked and targeted hundreds and thousands of Gurmukhs and Khalsa organizations, who have shown undisputed loyalty and commitment to the Khalsa Panth. There may be not be enough space to mention all those names; however, prominent Panthic leaders and scholars such as Maha Kavi Bhai Santokh Singh (Author of Suraj Partap Granth), Giani Gian Singh (Author of Panth Parkash), Bhai Sahib Kahan Singh Nabha (Author of Mahan Kosh), Giani Gurditt Singh of Singh Sabha Lehar, Prof. Gurmukh Singh of Singh Sabha Lehar, Pandit Tara Singh Nirotam, Pandit Kartar Singh Dakha, Principal Ganga Singh, Prof. Ganda Singh, Prof. Sahib Singh D.Lit., Prof. Pyara Singh Padam, Bhai Sahib Randhir Singh, Giani Sher Singh, Sant Kirpal Singh Babbar Akali and countless Shaheeds such as Bhai Fauja Singh and others. The so-called 'Jathedar' Iqbal Singh's disgraceful statement to 'boycott' and 'target' those who do not read the Raagmala is tantamount to treachery and betrayal of Panthic norms. Perhaps the so-called 'Jathedar' Iqbal Singh and his co-conspirators were hoping to break up the Khalsa Panth for ulterior gains.
5. It should be noted that the Sikh Rehat Maryada is very clear on its directive to the Khalsa Panth regarding the Raagmala. Following deliberations by Sri Akal Takht Sahib's Religious Advisory Committee on October 12th, 1936, and again on October 29th, 1945, under the Jathedhari of Singh Sahib Mohan Singh Ji, it was made clear that 'the reading of the whole Guru Granth Sahib (intermittent or non-stop) may be concluded with the reading of Mundavani or Raagmala according to the convention traditionally observed at the concerned place.' Ragmala was NOT read at the Sri Akal Takhat Sahib, Sri Nankana Sahib, nor at Sri Panja Sahib according to long established Khalsa traditions. To this day, various Khalsa Jathebandis including the Akhand Keertani Jatha conclude Paath at Mundavani, as per the directive mentioned in Sikh Rehat Maryada and Tat-Gurmat principles.
6. This is the same so-called 'Jathedar' Iqbal Singh who argued that Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji had three wives. This caused the then Sri Akal Takhat Sahib Jathedar Giani Joginder Singh Vedanti to make a public statement that without gaining a divorce; a second marriage by a Sikh would be a violation of Gurmat Maryada. This is the same so-called 'Jathedar' Iqbal Singh who was removed from his Jathedari of Takhat Sri Patna Sahib by the Sangat of Patna Sahib. This is the same so-called 'Jathedar' Iqbal Singh that was discredited by the Sarbat Khalsa in November of 2015.
7. This man has lost all credibility to address the Khalsa Panth in any shape or form. He has disgraced himself and has dishonored the Panthic position he refuses to let go. Together with his co-conspirators he has managed to misuse his position, made false claims, and tried to destabilize the Khalsa Panth. His provocative and controversial statement has caused distress to the Sikh Sangat worldwide and all those who have vowed their complete surrender to Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji and the Khalsa Panth under the authority of Sri Akal Takhat Sahib. The so-called Jathedar Iqbal Singh has a history of multiple controversies and his association with the RSS is also well documented. His real

motives have been exposed to the worldwide Sangat and can only conclude that he is a stooge of anti-Panthic groups who are hell bent on destabilizing the Khalsa Panth.

Akhand Keertani Jatha is a Panthic body and an inseparable part of the Khalsa Panth which recognizes the sovereignty of Sri Akal Takht Sahib as the supreme authority of the Sikhs. From its inception, members of the Jatha have contributed to all Panthic struggles with their mind, body, and soul. When the Panthic need was arisen, they have also laid down their lives attaining Shaheedi. The Jatha is respected and revered worldwide for adhering to Tat-Gurmat principles and committing their lives to Naam Simran, Akhand Kirtan, and Gurmat Rehat-Rehni.

We call upon the Khalsa Panth, including all Jathebandis and Gurdwaras around the world to categorically and firmly refute and reject the false declaration made by the so-called 'Jathedar' Iqbal Singh emphatically in a unified voice. We call upon all Khalsa Panth to unite under sovereignty of Sri Akal Takhat Sahib and place their full trust and faith in Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Those who attempt to challenge these institutions of Khalsa Panth should be dealt with according to Khalsa Traditions.

Forever at the feet of Guru Granth and Khalsa Panth.

Akhand Keertani Jatha (Worldwide)

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