

# Promises Made to The Sikhs and Promises Never Kept:

## India, The Compulsive Liar

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1. **In 1929, Congress, at its Lahore session**, incorporated the Sikh national color into the Indian national flag and adopted a formal resolution stating that Congress would ensure the Sikhs that no solution in the future Constitution would be acceptable to Congress unless it gave the Sikhs satisfaction. (ibid.607)
2. **In 1931**, Mahatma Gandhi, **speaking at Gurdwara Sisganj in Delhi**, stated, " Sikh friends have no reason to fear that Congress party will betray them. For, the moment it does so, the Congress would not only thereby seal its doom but also that of the country. Moreover, the Sikhs are great people. They know how to safeguard their rights by the exercise of arms if it should ever come to that." (*Young India March 16, 1931*)
3. **In July 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru, while speaking at the Congress** committee meeting, declared that:

"The **Braves Sikhs of Punjab** are entitled to special consideration. I see nothing wrong in an area set up in the north where the Sikhs can also experience the glow of freedom."
4. In another resolution adopted by the Congress committee **on January 5, 1947**, it was declared **that, by the British cabinet's scheme of May 16, 1945, the rights of the Sikhs should not be jeopardized.**
5. **In June 1947, Hindu and Sikh members of the Legislative Assembly unanimously** passed a resolution that: "In the divided Punjab, special Constitutional means are imperative to meet the just aspiration and right of the Sikhs."
6. British parliament "**Transfer of Power Act 1947**" also provides: -" that the Indian Constitution will be a federal loose-center government exercising power on only three subjects, namely, **communications, defense, and foreign affairs.**"
7. As far back as **1920, at the Nagpur Congress** session, it was decided to carve out linguistic states, as Nehru states on page 22 of his book, "*A Glimpse of World History.*"

"In 1947, the governor of Punjab, Mr. C. M. Trevedi, issued certain instructions to all the deputy commissioners of Indian Punjab. These were to the effect that without reference to the law of the land, the **Sikhs in general, the Sikh migrants, in particular, must be treated** as 'a criminal tribe'. Harsh treatment must be meted out to them to the extent of shooting them so that they wake up in the political realities and recognize **who are the masters and who are the enslaved people.**"

8. **Delhi and other places in the critical and turbulent days** of the partition. Various names were given to the Panjabis. They were held up to ridicule, and not a single day passed when Mahatma Gandhi would not only criticize the Punjabi refugees, especially the Sikhs. Not a day would pass when Mr. Nehru would not order his police and army to shoot at the site of the so-called rioters. There was an occasion during the Delhi disturbances when, in the **Karol Bagh** area, standing in front of street number 9, **Beadonpur**. Pandit Nehru tried to snatch a rifle from the hands of a soldier to shoot at a Punjabi whom he suspected of looting an empty house of a Muslim. It was lucky for him that he did not do so because, in the eyes of LawLaw, if he killed a rioter, he would have been guilty of manslaughter. Still, it shows how strongly he felt for the Muslim minorities and how deeply he hated all the Punjabis, especially the Sikhs. (*Nehru Unlimited* by A.N. Bali pg. 69.)
9. The question of separate linguistic identity remained dominant even after Independence. **Master Tara Singh**, a prominent Akali leader, on October 19, 1949, said, "Every minority except the Sikhs have been given justice. The Muslims demanded Pakistan; they got it." The Shiromani Akali Dal was in favor of forming provinces **based on linguistic and cultural** grounds; however, this proposal was rejected. **In December 1953**, the Government of India appointed the State Reorganization Commission. **In 1955**, Akalis launched a nonviolent agitation for a Punjabi Suba. Twelve thousand Sikhs went to jail for 64 days. My father also went to prison in this morcha. All other fourteen languages in the Constitution were granted statehood except the Sikhs. The growing popularity of Master Tara Singh created fear, and the government brought in Sant Fateh Singh as a new leader of the Akali movement. After a struggle for more than a decade, **in 1966, the Sikhs** were granted a state. Panjab was divided into three states. Sikh-dominated Punjab and Hindi-speaking dominated Haryana. Mountain regions were transferred to Himachal Pradesh.
10. The reorganization did not resolve the issues related to greater autonomy for the states, the apportionment of river waters between Punjab and Haryana, the reallocation of Punjabi-speaking areas, and the transfer of Chandigarh. Chandigarh was to be Panjab's capital, and Haryana was to get a new capital. Even after 58 years, Chandigarh has not been transferred to Panjab; in fact, it is under the control of the central government. In 1973, the Anandpur Sahib resolution was passed by the Akali Dal, advocating for greater autonomy for all states.
11. During Indira Gandhi's emergency rule, the Akali Dal and Sikhs continued their agitation to secure their long-deserved rights. To take revenge, Indira Gandhi started Operation Blue Star, an attack on the Golden Temple and many other Gurdwaras, killing thousands of innocent Sikhs, including women and children—an attack on multiple other Sikh gurdwaras. After Indira Gandhi was assassinated, Rajiv Gandhi and Congress started the Sikh genocide in Delhi and other areas.

**12. BJP replaced the Congress government 10 years ago. Everything has gone from bad to worse.**

**Constitution and Rules, BJP (September 2012)**

**Article 4: commitments**

The party is committed to **nationalism** and **national integration, democracy**, and a **Gandhian** approach to **social and economic issues**, aiming to **establish an egalitarian society free from exploitation**. It advocates for **positive secularism, that is, Sarva Dharma Shambhav, and value-based politics**. The party stands for **the decentralization of economic and political power**.

Let us examine each of the commitments made by the BJP.

**A. The Gandhian philosophy of nonviolence is merely on paper.** Violence against minorities, including the Dalits, is an everyday phenomenon in present India. Indian prime minister and his cronies have been openly declaring "**Gus Ke Mareng**," which means we will intrude into your home and kill you. They have killed Sikhs and Kashmiris in Pakistan by paying money to the Taliban. They killed Sikh activists in Surrey, Canada, and England. The FBI has thwarted another Sikh activist assassination in the USA.

**B. Let's examine the idea of decentralization:**

**C.**

- 1) Kashmir has been divided into three different states under the **direct control** of the central government.
- 2) In the state of Punjab, the Governor of Punjab is a BJP activist from Madhya Pradesh. The Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court is now also from the same state.
- 3) The Bakhra Beas management board, which controls the water sources of Punjab, has all its members nominated by the central government, and none of them are from Punjab. The new plan is to divert the water from the Sutlej River, connecting the Jamna River, before the Sutlej enters Punjab. This will make Punjab a barren land.
- 4) There are five major universities in Punjab; their Vice Chancellors can be appointed only with the approval of the Governor of Punjab. **Three of the** five vice-chancellors have been brought out of Punjab. The Chief Minister of Punjab appointed a Sikh physician to be the Vice Chancellor of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences. The governor disapproved, and a new Vice-Chancellor from Delhi was appointed.
- 5) Even though Chandigarh is the capital of Punjab, Panjabis entering Chandigarh are treated like they are entering another country. For example, a taxi driver from Punjab must have a separate permit to drive in Chandigarh.
- 6) Article 355 of the Indian Constitution has increased the BSF's jurisdiction from 15 km to 50 km. Punjab is a relatively small state, and some of its major cities fall under that category.

**D. Respect for other religions is only a slogan.** According to the Sikh Gurdwara Board Election Rules, 1959, any Sikh more than 21 years of age who wishes to have their name registered as a voter in any constituency in which they are a resident may register their name with a revenue officer.

**In 2016, with the blessing of Mr. Adwani,** the Lok Sabha passed the Sikh Gurdwara (Management) Amendment Act, causing ripples in the Sikh community. This bill debars Sehjdhari Sikhs from voting in gurdwara management elections. As a result, SGPC voter numbers dropped by 50% in 13 years. This was done to divide the Sikh community.

**The Rashtriya Sikh Sangat "National Sikh Association" is a Sikh affiliate of the Rashtriya Swyasevak Sangh (RSS) and was created in 1986.** In 2004, Akal Takaht declared the organization to be "**anti-Sikh and antipathic.**"The primary purpose of this organization is to encourage Sikhs to adopt Hinduism. It has published many misleading books. It has 450 branches in Panjab and neighboring states. Its 3rd president, **Rulda Singh**, was assassinated in 2009.

The BJP government is trying to create disturbances in Panjab so that they can bring Panjab under the President's rule or make Panjab another Kashmir.

Sacrilegious incidences are increasing at an alarming rate in Sikh Gurdwaras.

BJP/RSS members are openly propagating violence against the Sikhs. An RSS leader, Mr. Suri, in Amritsar, was openly saying that you keep a gun and whenever you see a Sikh, kill him. No action was taken against him. He was killed by a young man whose business was affected because of his actions.

Recently, another RSS leader was celebrating the 1984 attack on the Golden Temple by distributing sweets. 3 Nihangs attacked him. Recently, there has been another attack by the Nihangs on Hindu shopkeepers in Amritsar. Some Nihang organizations are under government control. A similar organization also attempted to create disturbances during the farmers' agitation.

**My appeal to the people of Panjab, my Hindu and Sikh brothers, is not to become pawns of BJP/RSS. Any violence against each other will be detrimental to the interest of Panjab. Panjab is for all the Panjabis; let us fight together for the freedom of Panjab from the colonial rule of the Delhi government.**