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Media Release

National Commemoration of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's 350th Martyrdom Anniversary at Australian Parliament House

Sikh Volunteers Australia, in collaboration with the Australian Sikh community, is honoured to host a historic commemoration at the Great Hall of the Australian Parliament House in Canberra to mark the 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, revered as the *Shield of Humanity*.

This event, held under the dome of Australia's democracy, brings together community leaders, parliamentarians, religious representatives and interstate guests to reflect on Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji's ultimate sacrifice in defence of religious freedom, human rights, and peaceful coexistence.

Guru Sahib Ji stood against oppression and chose martyrdom in 1675 rather than witness the forced conversion of minorities. His sacrifice continues to inspire global conversations on the freedom of belief, conscience, and respect for diversity, principles enshrined in the very foundation of modern Australia.

This national event includes:

- The ceremonial arrival of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, the eternal Guru of the Sikhs,
- Kirtan (devotional hymns) by international and local musicians,
- Traditional Ardaas (prayer) and Hukamnama (divine command),
- Reflections by faith leaders and federal parliamentarians,
- Presentation of awards recognising exceptional service to humanity,
- An exhibition of rare religious relics and interfaith scriptures,
- Langar, reflecting Sikh principles of equality and humility.

Artifacts exhibited include hand-written manuscripts from multiple religions such as the Bhagavad Gita penned by a Sikh, and Sikh Nitnem prayers written by a Hindu, symbolizing the rich cultural tapestry and harmony upheld by Guru Sahib Ji's life and message.

The event is a heartfelt tribute by the Australian Sikh community to celebrate our shared national values of inclusivity, multicultural harmony, and freedom of faith. It is an occasion of pride and remembrance, made more significant by the support of the Canberra Sikh community, Sikh organisations across five states, and the presence of the Five Beloved Ones (Panj Pyare) symbolising national unity.

Quotes attributable to the event organizers:

"This event is a milestone for the Australian Sikh community and a proud moment of unity for all Australians. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji gave his life to uphold the rights of others his legacy belongs to humanity, and today we honour that in our nation's Parliament."

– Jaswinder Singh, CEO, Sikh Volunteers Australia Inc.

We express our deepest gratitude to the Australian Parliament, all participating dignitaries, volunteers, and community members for joining in this momentous spiritual and civic milestone.

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