

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CWP-32392-2019

Date of decision: 08.11.2019

Guru Nanak Hall & Library and another

.....Petitioners

vs.

State of Punjab and others

.....Respondents

CORAM: - HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR

Present: - Dr. Rau P.S. Girwar, Advocate,
for the petitioners.

Mr. Ayush Sarna, AAG, Punjab.

.....

Sanjay Kumar, J. (ORAL)

The writ petition was filed seeking a direction to the Deputy Commissioner, District Administrative Complex, Bathinda, State of Punjab, not to violate the petitioners' right to freedom of religion.

Dr. Rau P.S. Girwar, learned counsel for the petitioners, would contend that owing to the intervention of the authorities, no birth centenary celebrations of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji would take place or be permitted upon the premises of the petitioners. Learned counsel would draw the attention of the Court to the order dated 24.10.2019 passed by the District Magistrate, Bathinda, in support of his contention.

However perusal of the aforesaid order would demonstrate that the District Magistrate, Bathinda, took note of the faction feuds within the petitioners' organization and as a first step towards resolving such issues, he ordered constitution of a Committee

chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, Bathinda. He also ordered that a Sub-Committee of 5 persons should be constituted to assist the aforementioned Committee. The Members thereof were to be drawn from amongst the Members of the Club who were not affiliated to any of the warring factions or from society in general, being persons of repute with good social standing and an unblemished record. This Sub-Committee was directed to look after the day-to-day functioning of the Club as per the directions of the Committee. This arrangement was to remain in place till further orders and no development activity or any improvement or alteration to the existing infrastructure was to be undertaken without the express approval of the Committee, headed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bathinda.

In the light of the aforestated order, Mr. Ayush Sarna, learned Assistant Advocate General, Punjab, was asked to get instructions as to what developments had taken place after the passing of the said order and more so, in the context of the birthday celebrations of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Today, Mr. Ayush Sarna, learned Assistant Advocate General, Punjab, would inform this Court that the birth centenary celebrations of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji would be undertaken as per schedule at the premises of the petitioners' organization under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner, Bathinda, and that the apprehension of the petitioners that no such celebrations would either be permitted or take place is misplaced.

Recording the aforestated statement of the learned Assistant Advocate General, Punjab, the writ petition is disposed of.

No order as to costs.

(SANJAY KUMAR)
JUDGE

08.11.2019

rakesh

whether speaking/non speaking	:	Yes/no
whether reportable/non reportable	:	Yes/no