RASHTRA JYOTI

REPORT BRIEF
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Caste Discrimination · From the reporting archive

Can One Gurudwara Per Village Break Punjab's Caste Barriers?

Original reporting by **Swati Goel Sharma**

Punjab's Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee launched a campaign for one gurudwara per village after years of caste segregation in worship. A Dalit couple's exclusion from a village gurudwara and doubts over whether Sikhs would worship in a Ravidasi shrine show what a merger has to overcome.



Representational image (Wikimedia Commons)

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- In Maanwala, Sangrur district, a Dalit Sikh couple were refused permission to hold funeral rites at the main gurudwara and denied the use of its utensils.
- The rights initiative Abroo found examples of Dalit Sikhs being given amrit from a separate utensil and barred from serving langar.
- The SGPC began its village merger campaign in February. In Faridkot district's Dhurkot, villagers agreed to remove a wall built inside a gurudwara nine years earlier.
- In Ludhiana district's Dhurkot, Ravidasi committee member Budh Singh wondered which of the five gurudwaras would be chosen and whether others would worship at his.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in April 2018. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.