

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Hon'ble Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities, during his 02 days official tour of Uttarakhand from 30 Nov 2021-01 Dec 2021, called upon Shri Pushkar Singh dhami, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Uttarakhand at his residence in Dehradun. During their discussion, Shri Lalpura raised the point of construction of the Historical Gurdwara Gyan Godri Sahib in Haridwar which originally existed at Har-ki-Pauri in Haridwar and was acquired by the State Government in 1978 for expansion and beautification of Har-ki-Pauri. Shri Lalpura apprised the Chief Minister that the petition regarding construction of Gurdwara Gyan Godri Sahib at an alternative place on banks of Ganga and installing a memorial placard and Nishan Sahib at the original place is pending in National Commission for Minorities since 2000, and despite the directions issued by the Commission in 2001, implementation has not been done. Shri Dhami assured that the government of Uttarakhand will extend all possible assistance in construction of Gurdwara Gyan Godri Sahib as per the guidelines issued by National Commission for Minorities.

In a separate meeting in Haridwar on 01 Dec 2021 with the District Magistrate, Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department Uttarakhand, Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department Uttar Pradesh and other senior district officials , Shri Lalpura expressed displeasure regarding non-implementation of the directions of the Commission even after 20 years. Hon'ble Chairperson observed that it has been established from the records that Gurdwara Gyan Godri Sahib existed at Har-ki-Pauri before 1978 and during

its acquisition in 1978, though the owner of the property was compensated, however no compensation and place for construction of Gurdwara was provided to Gurdwara Management which was operating there on tenancy basis. Mentioning that 'Justice Delayed is Justice Denied' Shri Lalpura said that despite the directions of National Commission for Minorities in 2001 and 2003, no action has been taken by the district administration. Hon'ble chairperson sensitized the officials about the significance of Historical Gurdwara Gyan Godri Sahib and that the sentiments of the Sikh Community all over the world are associated with it.

National Commission for Minorities vide order dated 12.02.2001 issued directions that District Magistrate Haridwar should explore the possibility of the allocation of some land at another place on banks of Ganga for the construction of a Gurdwara and should also explore the possibility of installing a memorial placard exactly at the same place where the Gurdwara Gyan Godri existed, indicating the historical event of the visit of Guru Nanak Dev Ji to Haridwar and significance of place. The possibilities of installing a Nishan Sahib at that point may also be explored. In order to ensure time-bound implementation of its directions, a Committee headed by the District Magistrate Haridwar has been constituted by National Commission for Minorities on 03.12.2021, and has been asked to submit the roadmap for implementation of directions within 01 month. The committee will also submit the status update status every 10 days to the Commission