

**Government of India
National Commission for Minorities**

Dated 28.10.2024

PRESS NOTE

The National Commission for Minorities took suo moto cognizance of the incidence of sacrilege of Gutka Sahib in Perth, Australia on 27th August 2024 and had taken up the matter with Ministry of External Affairs.

Ministry of External Affairs vide communication dated 26.10.2024 have informed that the miscreant who perpetrated the deplorable incident tried to incite hatred among various communities, but could not succeed. The High Commission of India in Canberra and Consulate General in Perth raised concerns with the federal and local authorities for taking immediate action, and maintained close contact with community organizations. There was strong condemnation of the incident by several Australian elected representatives and the Premier of Western Australia visited Canning Vale Gurudwara Sahib and conveyed Government's strongest condemnation and zero-tolerance for such deviant acts.

Following investigations, the Western Australia Police arrested Khizar Hayat Sial, a Pakistani-origin student on 6th September 2024, who was subsequently released by the local court with the direction to do community service over a period of six months. The High Commission of India in Canberra and Consulate General in Perth continue to remain engaged on the matter.
