

Facilitating devotees' visit to shrines in Pakistan

Gill pitches for visa centre in Amritsar

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Dr M.S. Gill, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, said he would take up the matter of setting up a visa center at Amritsar to facilitate the visit of the hundreds of devotees who wanted to pay obeisance at holy shrines situated in Pakistan.

The Union Minister said he would also be taking up the issue of setting up of the Kartarpur Sahib corridor with the concerned ministry so that Sikh devotees could visit the dera associated with the first Sikh master, Guru Nanak Dev.

Dr Gill was in the city to pay obeisance at the Golden Temple after taking over as Union Minister. Incidentally, today was also his birthday and the minister paid obeisance at the Akal Takht.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) honoured him with siropa (robe of honour) and a model of the Golden Temple. The minister also vis-

ited the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial and the Durgiana Temple.

The minister, along with Deputy Commissioner and other Congress party leaders, received flak for not removing their shoes during the ardas held for the inauguration of laying of synthetic Astroturf at the Guru Nanak Dev University complex.

However, Amardeep Singh Cheema, vice-president, Nehru Yuva Kendra, said there have been major lapses on the part of the organisers as they had not informed them about the minute to minute programme. He said not even a senior official had come to the airport to receive the minister.

Among those present on the occasion were MM Cheema, member AICC, Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, MLA and Tript Bajwa, Suwinder Singh Kathunag, Harpartap Ajnala, all former MLAs.

Union Sports Minister M.S. Gill along with DC K.S. Pannu in Amritsar on Sunday. Photo: Vishal Kumar

