

AISAKHI 2024 , Dr JASDEV SINGH RAI

Mr Speaker, Rt Hon Secretary of State, Michael Gove , Shadow Foreign Secretary

Mr David Lammy, MPs, Guests and the many volunteers, welcome to the seventeenth Vaisakhi at Westminster.

This function is now a permanent fixture at Westminster thanks to the kind hospitality of Speaker Rt Hon Lindsay Hoyle.

It has also become quite popular. We have over 90 organisations and Gurdwaras represented here. We could not accommodate everyone.

Perhaps Mr Speaker may have to build an extension to accommodate this amount of interest.

This last year British Sikh Consultative Forum has concentrated on building an inter faith group. We are glad that we have quite a few young people now engaged in it. Interfaith is important as it promotes peace as well as better understanding among faiths.

We are promoting value based education as vital for future generations. I am sure all political parties agree on this.

With the number of Sikh schools, this is proving to be an asset within the community.

I wont take much more time and I hope everyone here enjoys the 17th Vaisakhi at Westminster.