



The Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008

Act No. 21 of 2008

Amendment appended: 7 of 2026

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PART-I

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, PUNJAB

Notification

The 20th June, 2008

No. 24-Leg./2008.—The following Act of the Legislature of the State of Punjab Received the assent of the Governor of Punjab on the 09th June, 2008, and is hereby published for general information :—

THE JAAGAT JOT SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB SATKAR ACT, 2008

(Punjab Act No. 21 of 2008)

AN

ACT

to provide for the prevention of printing, publication, storage, distribution or supply of the Birs of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib by any person, other than the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee or any body, authorised by it with a view to ensure their sanctity and respect in accordance with the Sikh Rehat Maryada and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto ;

Whereas it has been felt that while printing, publishing, storing, distributing and supplying the Birs of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib, private persons are committing grammatical errors and misprinting the proper words and are not following the Sikh Rehat Maryada and are thus hurting the religious feelings of the Sikh masses ;

Whereas the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee is an esteemed and apex body of the Sikh masses and has recognition all over the world and is vested with the duty of due observance of the Sikh Rehat Maryada in all respects and therefore, it should be entrusted exclusively with the pious work of printing, publication, storage, distribution and supply of the Birs of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib ;

Whereas it has been felt that incidents of sacrilege of the Birs of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib at the time of their printing, publication, storage, distribution and supply by private persons have increased manifold ;

And whereas in these circumstances, it is deemed expedient that a law should be made to prevent the printing, publication, storage, distribution or supplying of the Birs of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib by the private persons.

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Fifty-eighth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

Short title and commencement.

Definitions.

2. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

- (a) “Bir of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib” means the holy scripture of the Sikhs, printed in any size or form and bound in one single volume, which is regarded as Word incarnate, the embodiment and presence manifest or spirit of the Ten Sikh Gurus;
- (b) “Deputy Commissioner” means an officer in-charge of a district, who is appointed as such by the State Government; and
- (c) “Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee” means the Committee, named as such by the Board, constituted under the provisions of Part Third of the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925.

(2) The words and expressions used in this Act, but not defined, shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925.

Printing, publication, storage, distribution and supplying of the Birs of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

3. (1) The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee or any body authorised by it, shall print, publish, store, distribute and supply the Birs of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

(2) The intimation with regard to the volumes of the Birs of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib whether finally printed or under process, existing at the time of the commencement of the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008, with any person, shall be given by the person concerned in writing to the Deputy Commissioner within a period of fifteen days of coming into force of this Act.

(3) On receipt of the intimation, referred to in sub-section (2), the Deputy Commissioner shall constitute a Committee, consisting of the following members to assess and determine the Bhatta of the existing volumes of the Birs of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib, namely :—

- (a) One member, to be nominated by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee ;
- (b) One officer, who should be a Sikh, not below the rank of the Extra Assistant Commissioner, to be nominated by the Deputy Commissioner ;
- (c) One person, who should be a Sikh, engaged in the business of printing and publication, to be nominated by the Deputy Commissioner ; and

(d) If a Sikh Officer or person of the categories mentioned in sub-clauses (b) and (c) above, is not available, then the Deputy Commissioner shall nominate another respectable Sikh Officer or person of any other local body or organisation.

(4) The Committee, constituted under sub-section (3), shall assess and determine the Bheta of the volumes of the Birs of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib referred to in sub-section (3) within a period of thirty days from the date of intimation, to be given under sub-section (2), and convey the same to the Deputy Commissioner, who shall further inform the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and the person, who is in possession of those volumes.

(5) The Bheta, so assessed and determined, shall be paid by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee to the person concerned within a period of thirty days from the date of assessment and determination, made by the said Committee.

Explanation : In this section, the term "Bheta" means the token consideration, received from any person by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee or any body, authorized by it for distributing, providing or supplying the Birs of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

4. No person, other than the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee or any body authorised by it, shall print, publish, store, distribute and supply the Birs of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib after the commencement of the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008. Prohibition.

5. Whoever contravenes the provisions of this Act, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to two years and with fine, which may extend to fifty thousand rupees. Penalty.

6. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the State Government or its officer or official in respect of anything, which is done in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of the provisions of this Act. Protection of action taken in good faith.

7. (1) The Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Ordinance, 2007 (Punjab Ordinance No. 9 of 2007), is hereby repealed. Repeal and saving.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the Ordinance, referred to in sub-section (1), shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

REKHA MITTAL,

Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Legal and Legislative Affairs.

PART-I

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, PUNJAB

NOTIFICATION

The 20th April, 2026

No.8-Leg./2026.- The following Act of the Legislature of the State of Punjab received the assent of the Governor of Punjab on the 17th day of April, 2026, is hereby published for general information :-

**THE JAAGAT JOT SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB SATKAR
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 2026**

(Punjab Act No.7 of 2026)

AN

ACT

further to amend the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008.

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India, as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026. Short title and commencement.
- (2) It shall come into force on such date, as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify.
2. In the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), for the words “Bir” and “Birs”, wherever occurring, the words “Saroop” and “Saroops” shall, respectively, be substituted. Substitution of words Bir and Birs in Punjab Act 21 of 2008.
3. In the principal Act, in the preamble,-
 - (i) for the first para, the following para shall be substituted, namely:-
"to provide for the prevention of printing, publication, storage, distribution or supply of the Saroops of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib by any person, other than the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee or anybody, authorized by it with a view to ensure their sanctity and respect in accordance with the Sikh Rehat Maryada, and to define and penalise the acts of sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib and to provide a deterrentAmendment in the preamble of Punjab Act 21 of 2008.

(CHTR 30, 1948 SAKA)

framework against the acts of sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib and for the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;"

(ii) after the fourth para, the following para shall be inserted, namely:-

"Whereas it has also been felt that incidents of deliberate sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib have increased manifold;" and

(iii) in the last para, at the end, for the sign ".", the sign "," shall be substituted and thereafter, the following words and sign shall be added, namely:-

"and to deter the unscrupulous elements from any act of sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib."

4. In the principal Act, in section 2,-

(i) after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(aa) "custodian" means any individual, institution, or Gurdwara Committee to whom a Saroop of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib has been formally supplied and/or who is responsible for the protection of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib and observance of prescribed Sikh Rehat Maryada;"

(ii) in clause (b), at the end, the word "and" shall be omitted and thereafter, the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:-

"(ba) "records" means all records maintained manually or electronically relating to the printing, publication, storage, distribution, and supply of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib;

(bb) "sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib" for the purposes of this Act means any wilful and deliberate act, committed with the intent of desecration by way of physical damaging, defacing, burning, tearing or theft of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib or part thereof, or by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or through electronic means or otherwise, which is of such a nature as to hurt the religious feelings of persons professing the Sikh faith; and".

Amendment in section 2 of Punjab Act 21 of 2008.

5. In the principal Act, after section 3, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:-

Insertion of sections 3A and 3B in Punjab Act 21 of 2008.

"3A. (1) The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee shall maintain a Central Register containing details with regard to the record of printing, storage, distribution, and supply of the Saroops of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib. The register shall contain,-

- (a) Unique identification number of each Saroop of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib;
- (b) date of printing and publication;
- (c) date and place of supply;
- (d) place of storage; and
- (e) name and address of custodian.

(2) The register or record shall be maintained in physical and electronic form which shall be available on the website of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

(3) The record shall be maintained and uploaded in the electronic form referred to in sub-section (2) within a period of forty-five days from the date of commencement of the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026. The register or records referred to in sub-sections (1) and (2) shall be updated on a monthly basis thereafter:

Provided that every such monthly update shall be duly certified by an officer authorised by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, and a record of such certification shall also be maintained.

3B. (1) Every custodian receiving a Saroop of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib shall ensure,-
Duties and responsibilities of custodian.

- (a) safe custody, protection from damage, misuse, or loss in any manner and observance of Sikh Rehat Maryada; and
- (b) immediate reporting of any incident involving damage, disappearance, or suspected sacrilege to the concerned police authorities and also to the concerned management authority."

6. In the principal Act, after section 4, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:-

Insertion of sections 4A and 4B in Punjab Act 21 of 2008.

"4A. (1) The investigation in relation to offence(s) under this Investigation of Act shall be completed as expeditiously as possible.
Offences.

(2) It shall be investigated by a police officer, not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police or Assistant Commissioner of Police, as the case may be.

4B. (1) The offence(s) punishable under this Act shall be Classification of cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable.
offences.

(2) The offence(s) punishable under this Act shall be triable by the Court of Sessions."

7. In the principal Act, for section 5, the following section shall be substituted, namely:-

Substitution of section 5 of Punjab Act 21 of 2008.

"5. (1) Whosoever contravenes the provisions of this Act and rules Punishment. framed thereunder, except the offence of sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib shall be punished with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to five years and with fine, which may extend to ten lakh rupees.

(2) Any person who commits an offence of sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib under this Act shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than seven years but which may extend to twenty years, and shall also be liable to fine which shall not be less than two lakh rupees but which may extend to ten lakh rupees.

(3) Any person who in criminal conspiracy commits an offence of sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib under this Act with the intention to disrupt peace or communal harmony shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than ten years but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and shall also be

liable to fine which shall not be less than five lakh rupees but which may extend to twenty-five lakh rupees.

(4) Any person who abets the commission of an offence under this Act shall be liable to the same punishment as provided for the offence so abetted.

(5) Any person who attempts to commit an offence under this Act shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees but which may extend to three lakh rupees."

8. In the principal Act, after section 6, the following section shall be inserted, namely:-

Insertion of section 6A in Punjab Act 21 of 2008.

"6A. The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act."

Power to make rules.

Sd/-

B.B.S. TEJI,

Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Legal and Legislative Affairs.