

JAAGAT JOT SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB SATKAR ACT, 2008

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS THE JAAGAT JOT SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB SATKAR ACT, 2008. (PUNJAB ACT 21 OF 2008) (As amended upto the 22nd May, 2026) Govr. OF 2026 THE JAAGAT JOT SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB SATKAR ACT, 2008 Sections CONTENTS 1 .Short title and commencement. 2.Definitions

3. Printing, publication, storage, distribution and supplying of the [Saroops] of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru

Granth Sahib.3A. Central Register of Saroops of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib. 3B. Duties and responsibilities of custodian. 4.Prohibition. 4A. Investigation of offences. 4B. Classification of offences. 5

.Punishment. 6.Protectin of action taken in good faith. 7.Repeal and saving. THE JAAGAT JOT SRI

GURU GRANTH SAHIB SATKAR ACT, 2008 (Punjab Act No. 21 of 2008) [Received the assent of the Governor of Punjab on the 9thJune, 2008, and was first published for general information in the Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), Legislative Supplement, dated the 20th June, 2008.] 1 Year 2008 2

21 3 Short title 4 Whether repealed or otherwise affected by the legislation The Jaagat Jot Sri Amended by

Punjab Guru Granth Sahib Act No. 07 of 2008. Satkar Act, 2008. An Act I [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 Gurudwara 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 deterrent 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 Whereas it has been felt that while printing, publishing, storing, distributing and supplying the 2 [Saroops] of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib, private

persons are committing grammatical errors and misprinting the proper words and are not following the Substituted by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 3(i). Substitution of words "Bir" and "Birs" by Punjab Act

No.7 of 2026, section 2. Short title and commencement. 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 1 [Saroops] of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib; Whereas it has been felt that incidents of sacrilege of the [Saroops] of

Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib at the time of their printing, publication, storage, distribution and supply by private persons have increased manifold; 3 [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 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 4[Saroops] of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib by the private persons And to deter the unscrupulous elements from any act of sacrilege of the Saroop(s) of Jaagat Jot Sri

Guru Granth Sahib.] 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. Substitution of words "Bir" and "IBirs" by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 2. Substitution of words "Birn and "Birs" by ibid, Inserted by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 3(ii). Substitution of words

"Bir" and "Birs" by ibid. Substituted and added by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 3(iii). Definitions. 2. (2) (1) It shall come into force at once. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires.- (a) (b) (bb)

"I[Saroops] 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; "custodian" means any individual, institution, or Gurdwara Committee to whom a Saroop of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth 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;] "Deputy Commissioner" means an Officer-in- charge of a district,

who is appointed as such by the State Government; "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; "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 Substitution of words "Bir" and "Birs" by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 2. 2 Inserted by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 4(i). Omitted word "and" by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 4(ii). 4 Inserted by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 4(ii) (c) or by visible representations or through electronic means or otherwise, which is of such nature as to hurt the religious feelings of persons professing the Sikh faith;] and "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. 3. (1) The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee or Printing, anybody authorised by it, shall print, publish, store, distribute and publication, storage, supply the 1 [Saroops] of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib. distribution and (2) The intimation with regard to the volumes of the supplying of 2 [Saroops] of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib whether finally printed the 1[Saroops] or under process, existing at the time of the commencement of the of Jaagat Jot Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008, with any person, Sri Guru Granth shall be given by the person concerned in writing to the Deputy Sahib. 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 Bheta of the existing volumes of the 3 [Saroops] of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib, namely:- (a) One member, to be nominated by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee; 1 Substitution of words "Birn and "Birsli by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 2. 2 Substitution of words "Bir" and "Birs" by ibid. 3 Substitution of words "Bir" and "Birs" by ibid. (b) (c) (d) One officer, who should be a Sikh, not below the rank of the Extra Assistant Commissioner, to be nominated by the Deputy Commissioner; One person, who should be a Sikh, engaged in the business of printing and publication, to be nominated by the Deputy Commissioner; and 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 1 [Saroops] 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 detennined, 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 anybody, authorized by it for distributing, providing or supplying the 2 [Saroops] of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Substitution of words "Biri' and "Birs" by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 2. Substitution of words "Bir" and "Birst" by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 2. Central Register of Saroops of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Duties and responsibilities of custodian. 1[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) (b) (c) (d) Unique identification number of each Saroop of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib; date of printing and publication; date and place of supply; place of storage; and 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 uploaded 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,- (a) safe custody, protection from damage, misuse, or loss in any manner and observance of Sikh Rehat Maryada; and Inserted by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 5. (b) No Prohibition. Investigation of offences. 4. immediate reporting of any incident involving damage,

disappearance, or suspected sacrilege to the concerned police authorities and also to the concerned management authority.] person, other than the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee or anybody authorised by it, shall print, publish, store, distribute and supply the 1[Saroops] of Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib after the commencement of the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008. 2[4A. (1) The investigation in relation to offence(s) under this Act shall be completed as expeditiously as possible. (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 offences. cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable. (2) The offence(s) punishable under this Act shall be triable by the Court of Sessions.] Whosoever contravenes the provisions of this Act and 5. Punishment. rules 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 Substitution of words 'iBir' and 'Birst' by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 2. Inserted by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 6. Substituted by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 7. Protection of action taken in good faith. Power to make rules. Repeal and saving. 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.] 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. 1 [6A. The State Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, makes rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.] (1) The Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Ordinance, 7. 2007(Punjab Ordinance No.9 of 2007), is hereby repealed. (2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the Ordinance, referred to in sub-section (1), shall be Inserted by Punjab Act No.7 of 2026, section 8. deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.