

Outlook

SIKH  
BUSINESS LEADERS  
*of*  
INDIA



*S. Varinder Singh Walia*

CHIEF EDITOR- PUNJABI JAGRAN GROUP



**ਦੈਨਿਕ ਜਾਗਰਣ**

S.Varinder Singh Walia born on November 4, 1958 in Amritsar had a journalist mind since his childhood. After completion of his schooling he did Bachelor of Journalism from Punjabi University, Patiala and Masters of Journalism from Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana. While pursuing Bachelors he published his first book of short stories "Khabarnama". He also did M.A. Punjabi from Khalsa College, Amritsar one of the premier institute of North India. When he was a student and pursuing his studies in 1980 he launched monthly magazine "Pulangh" ( the step). After successful launch of magazine he never looked back and became Honorary Editor of " Mansarovar" and " Komal Punjab".

After completion of his Masters he was appointed as Information Officer, Punjab Civil Secretariat & was later promoted as DPRO in 1986. He wanted to write

fearlessly, boldly and truth which was very difficult to do in government job so he decided to resign from government job. After resigning he joined one of the most popular newspaper of North India "The Tribune" from Bathinda which was the biggest beat covering 7 districts of Malwa Region of Punjab. During his long stint at Bathinda he used to cover Sri Ganganagar and Hanumangarh districts of Rajasthan, adjoining parts of Haryana.

He very daringly covered fire tragedy of Mandi Dabwali which was horrifying experience to cover the great tragedy. In absence of internet he had to go extra mile to file the live coverages till midnight. He also covered several exclusive stories from Rajasthan.

Not only this he also covered important spots/events from Takhat Patna Sahib, Hazoor Sahib and several



S.Varinder Singh Walia interviewing S. Bhagwant Singh Mann Chief Minister, Punjab



S. Wala with Gatka players.



S. Wala with U. K Deputy High Commissioner



With M.P and Bollywood actor Sunny Deol.



Valia with family.

states of the country. After his long experience he was transferred to Amritsar in 1998. In Amritsar also he did several breaking news/reports. On the basis of his reports many Jathedars (Including Akal Takhat) were sacked. Even Bibi Jagir Kaur and other Jathedars were excommunicated from Sikh Panth on the basis of his news. The Tribune launched its weekly pullout, "Amritsar Plus" in 2004 which was published on the basis of research based exclusive reports.

While his stint at Amritsar he covered news from Pakistan as a Special Correspondent of The Tribune. He was the first Indian journalist who covered training Centres of Lashkar-e-Toeba and was first to interview former ISI chief Lt Gen Javed Naser because of which he was on banner headline in Tribune Trio). He also interviewed India's Most Wanted Terrorists which included Dal Khalsa Chief and hijacker Gajinder Singh in Pakistan. His dedication and hard work was finally rewarded when he was appointed as an Editor of Punjabi Tribune in 2009.

As an Editor he went to Canada and Germany with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, and also covered G 20 in Toronto. His Several international stories appeared in Tribune trio. He had an honor of interviewing Political Secretary of Netaji Subhash Chander Boss in Bangkok. He did various stories on Sikhs living in Thailand and Kashmir. His story on Kashmiri Sikhs helped them in resolving various long pending issues. He was honoured by several state, national and International organisations. He was awarded with Shiromani Literary Journalist by Punjab Language Department. He was also honored at Sarab Bharti Punjabi Conference Punjabi University, Patiala. He was also appointed as honorary Professor of Journalism at Punjabi University, Patiala. He has published 11 books in Punjabi including one in Hindi and English. His novel "Tankhahya" covering different aspects of terrorism in Punjab was one of the best sellers in year 2015. He is nowadays working as Editor of Punjabi Jagran Group one of the leading newspaper of Punjab.