Press Release
May 15th, 2023, Chandigarh

MP Vikram Sahney demands Return of Kohinoor and the Golden Throne of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh from Britain

MP Vikramjit Singh Sahney, who is also the International President of World Punjabi Organisation has demanded that British government must return Kohinoor Diamond and original throne of Sher-E-Punjab Maharaja Ranjeet Singh to India.

While appreciating the gesture of King Charles III and Queen consort Camilla who did not adorn Kohinoor in an apparent recognition of the sensitivities around the 105- carat oval Jewel, Sh. Sahney said that Kohinoor was acquired by great Maharaja in 1813 from Shah Shuja Durrani, whereas in 1849, after the death of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh ji Kohinoor was taken over by Britishers from Raja Duleep Singh Ji who was mere 10-year-old erstwhile. Sher-E-Punjab Maharaja Ranjeet Singh ruled the vast kingdom of Punjab from Khyber Pass in the west, to Kashmir in the north, Sindh in the south, and Tibet in the east from 1799 to 1849 in a very exemplary secular way.

Sh. Sahney also demanded that Maharaja’s original Golden Throne presently kept at Victoria & Albert Museum, formerly the South Kensington Museum should also be sent back to India as Britain have graciously returned many colonial artifacts to countries like Greece, Nigeria, Australia etc. they had acquired during their colonial quests.

Sh. Sahney added that, as of now, Kohinoor diamond is kept in the Jewel House at the Tower of London for Public display. During Imperialism, British took away lot of resources from India for which we still have not recovered economically. But keeping the past behind, Britain returning Kohinoor and Golden throne of Maharaja to India, will a great goodwill gesture and it will strengthen the bilateral socio-cultural relations between India and UK.