

KALAM SOCIETY : PUNJABI SAHIT SABHA

THE TEACHINGS AND LEGACY OF SRI GURU NANAK DEV JI

A two-day international conference dedicated to the 550th Birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Ji was held at Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College, Dev Nagar. Scholars from Delhi, various cities of Punjab, Jammu as well as USA and England were present on the occasion. The inaugural session of the conference was chaired by Dr. Jaspal Singh, former Minority Commission, Government of Delhi and former Chancellor, Punjab University. He said that, "Guru Nanak has never been silent in view of the wrong values of the society. The whole of Sikhism is a reflection of this tone". Prof. Sukhdial Singh, in his keynote address at the conference, introduced a number of new points, saying, "The application of Sikhism is based on its (Granth and Panth)." As long as it lasts, Sikhism will survive.

Bibi Ranjit Kaur, (Vice-President of the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee) said, "Guru Nanak spoke of the dignity of women in those days." The chief guest of this session was Prof. Nasir Naqvi, referred to poems written in Urdu literature with Guru Nanak at the centre and also presented lines of some poems.

After this, Dr. Dhanwant Kaur spoke on 'Guru Nanak's Sakhi Tradition'. Along with this, Dr. Beant Kaur spoke on the topic 'Dialogues between ੴ and Dr. Karamjit Singh from nakodar, also introduced the 'Economic aspects of Guru Nanak Ji' to the audience.

Many more papers were read in different sessions on first day itself. Dr. Asif Rashid Wani, Dr. Baljit Singh and Dr. Tarvinder Kaur, read papers on the concept of 'life and death in Bani.' In the ongoing session on second place, Dr. Balvinderjit Kaur Bhatti explained the current relevance of the religion, Dr. Renu Duggal explained the four visits of Guru Nanak Ji and Dr. Bhagwant Kaur explained the difficulties of composing Babarwani through historical facts. After this, Dr. Kuldeep Kaur Pahwa touched an unique topic like 'the scientific wisdom of Guru Nanak's Bani.' Dr. Abhinash Kaur sheds the light on 'Guru Nanak's entire life and values.'

Second day : Five sessions

On the second day of this two-day conference, various papers were read at two places. In each session, five persons presented their views. In the morning session, Dr. Harpreet Kaur (Principal, Mata Sundri College) in a pamphlet titled 'Fundamentals of Guru Nanak's Ideal Society', said that 'Guru Nanak lived a self-sufficient life and also cultivated in Kartarpur.' Dr. Harbans Kaur Saggi marked the 'path of Guru Nanak's pilgrimage to Mecca' and displayed pictures of various shrines in Pakpattan and Pakistan. In the ongoing Sixth session, Dr. Darshan Singh Aasht, Dr.

Inderjit Kaur, Dr. Jasmeet Kaur Bhatia spoke on the 'Philosophy of Guru Nanak', Dr. Harbans Singh along with Dr. Parbhleen Singh presented papers. Harbans Singh discusses 'the Sargun and Nirgun Saroop of Aarti' composed by Guru Nanak Ji.

After this, in first session, Dr. Abhinash Kaur and Dr. Mandeep Kaur Samra read papers on various topics. Dr. Bhupinder Kaur spoke on women' issues in Guru Nanak's Bani. Dr. Vanita read a paper on 'Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Guru Nanak.' Dr. Deepmala spoke on the contemporary relevance of Guru Nanak's ideas and Harpreet Kaur Bahi read a paper on Sakhi Tradition.

In its last session, Dr. Rajwant Kaur mentioned 'Daulata Dai at the time of Nanak's birth' and highlighted the importance of Dai. Dr. Paramjit Kaur while talking about 'Baah Mah Tukhari' spoke about the serious damage being done to the environment nowadays. Dr. Rajveer Singh said that under the concept of 'Kirti', the most disrespect is being done to Kirti today, while Guru Nanak has called God as 'Karta'.

At the end of the conference, thanking everyone, Dr. Manmohan Kaur, (Principal of the College) said, "This conference is not the end but the beginning. These two days have been like workshops for all of us to learn something new."