

## National Seminar

On

### Understanding Socio-Political Ideas of Guru Nanak Dev Ji in the Present Context

4-5 October, 2019

The year 2019 is being celebrated as the 550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Sikh guru and the founder of Sikhism. He sought to liberate mankind from narrow thinking and biased approach and stood for socio-economic and political equality. Amidst the darkness of blind ritualism, orthodox practices, ignorance and sectarian practices, the birth of Nanak happened to be an assuaging force. Through his values and principles that he professed, propagated and brought in practice he sought to morally rejuvenate and regenerate the then society that was at its lowest ebb. Eventually, the noble soul who condemned all irrational divisive forces and inhuman practices soon began to be revered as a Guru. The uniqueness of his deep philosophical insights gave birth to a new religion Sikhism which beginning from Guru Nanak to all his nine successors and finally the Holy scripture Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji have laid emphasis on equality, liberty, justice, ethics and morality and also, on the rights of vulnerable sections of society. The divine teachings of the Sikh Gurus and the saints and Bhagats of different religions and social background remain beautifully and respectfully preserved in Guru Granth Sahib ji that have aesthetic, spiritual and practical significance so are read and often consulted for finding rightful directions. Yet, the problems remain persistent, social and economic divisions seem to be rigid and indissoluble and often have mild to profound manifestations and so is the case of the mistreatment and human rights violation being meted by the people who are the mercy of those in political and administrative authority. The reported and the unreported cases of violence, genocide, torture, ostracisation, denial of basic rights to a particular section of society, communal and sectarian practices, ritualism etc are a testimony. Having said this, the relevance of Guru Nanak's teachings is undeniable.

Although there is no dearth of scholarly works on Guru Nanak but the political, social and economic uncertainties are continually creating fear, insecurity and unrest that can irrefutably be pacified and overcome through the path shown by the first master of Sikhism. On this 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary year it therefore becomes pertinent that the teachings of Guru Nanak are re visited, understood, internalised and incorporated and brought in practice in regular day to day working then only the world be a safe place to live and would be a true tribute to Guru Nanak. Against this background the department of Political Science, Punjabi University, Patiala makes a humble endeavour to celebrate the 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary year inviting scholarly works of worthy colleagues, academicians and researcher for the forthcoming seminar entitled **Understanding Socio-political Ideas of Guru Nanak Dev ji in the present Context** to be held on 4-5 October, 2019 and bring to light the teachings and approach of Guru Nanak to overcome some of the perennial social, political and economic issues. The aim of this seminar is to understand Guru Nanak's teachings in the Present context as well as to analyse how far teaching of Guru Nanak Dev are relevant in the present century in touching upon various issues afflicting the present society. The various sub themes and broad areas for the seminar are given below that can give direction and idea for contribution of scholarly papers for the seminar. However, the list is not exhaustive. The worthy contributors may present papers on sub themes related to the theme of the seminar and are purposeful for the society.

## **Sub Themes for the Seminar in the Context of Guru Nanak's Teachings**

1. Political Ethics
2. Concept of State
3. Good Governance
4. Human Rights.
5. War Ethics
6. Social Ethics
7. Gender, Caste and Class
8. Multiculturalism
9. Kirt Karo, Naam japo, wand chako
10. Work Ethics
11. Religious Pluralism
12. Educational philosophy of Guru Nanak
13. Environment concerns
14. Secularism
15. Guru Nanak's Global vision.
16. Relevance of Guru Nanak's teachings in the present context

**Call for Abstracts:** The soft copy of the abstract with a maximum of 500 words, double spaced written in English (Times New Roman, font size 12) or in Punjabi (Asees font) should be sent for acceptance at [politicalsci2012@gmail.com](mailto:politicalsci2012@gmail.com) on or before 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

**Final Submission of Papers:** The soft copy of the full paper, double spaced written in English (Times New Roman, font size 12) or in Punjabi (Asees font) within 6000-8000 words should be sent at [politicalsci2012@gmail.com](mailto:politicalsci2012@gmail.com).

**Registration:** All participants are required to register. The registration fees (which includes accommodation and food for two days) for faculty members/Academicians is Rs. 800/-, the registration fees for research scholars are Rs. 500/-

**Mode of Payment:** On the spot in cash.

**Accommodation:** The organizers will provide accommodation to the paper presenters only.

**Publication:** The proceedings of the Seminar will be duly published by Publication Bureau, Punjabi University, Patiala.

**Contact Information:** contact the under mentioned.

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