

# ACHIEVEMENTS OF INSTITUTE FOR UNDERSTANDING SIKHISM (IUS)

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It is matter of great pleasure to report the achievements of the Institute for Understanding Sikhism (IUS). The year 2008 was very auspicious for the (IUS) since it completed its ten years of study of Gurbani and Sikhism. Therefore, to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the IUS two Seminars on “SABD GURU” were held during September 2008. ‘Sabd’ and ‘Guru’ are two words, which have been used extensively in the Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS). Although these words have been discussed in the ancient philosophy from time immemorial, they have special meanings and applications in the AGGS. Therefore, to understanding the intrinsic values of ‘Sabd’ and ‘Guru’ and their implications the IUS held two seminars on SABD GURU. Since the 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Gurgadi Divas was also being celebrated during this year, therefore, during these two Seminars some papers on the bestowing of Gurgadhi onto the Granth (Holy Scripture of the Sikhs) were also presented by some authors.

The first Seminar was held at Kitchener in collaboration with Mr Kuldip Singh Bachher, President of Golden Triangle Sikh Association and Dr Gurdev Singh Sangha, President of Sikh Social and Educational Society of Ontario at the Gurdwara Sahib of Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario on September 13, 2008. It was attended very well.

The second Seminar was held at the Civic Center, Dollards des Ormeaux, Quebec, on September 20, 2008. All speakers, who participated at the Kitchener Seminar, presented their papers at Dollards des Ormeaux, Quebec. Besides, a few more speakers joined at this Seminar. Prof Dharam Singh, Editor, Sikh Encyclopedia, Punjabi University, Patiala was the Chief Guest and Dr Kulbir Singh Thind, the pioneer of developing Gurbani CD was Special Guest of Honor. Hon. Baljit Singh, Privy Council, Government of Canada was a Chairperson for one session. Mr Abnash Singh, McGill University was Chairperson of another Session. However, the first Session was chaired by Dr Harjeet Singh Bhabra, Concordia University, Montreal. This Seminar was attended by most of the Sikh scholars of Montreal.

Prof Dr Devinder Singh Chahal, President of the Institute for Understanding Sikhism (IUS) was invited to present papers at two great International Conferences held during this period of celebration of Tenth Anniversary of the IUS..

1. *The International Interfaith Conference*, held by the Takht Sach-Khand Sri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib at

Nander, Maharashtra, on September 25-28, 2008. At this conference Prof Chahal presented a paper on “SABD GURU” and he also present his recent book, *NANAKIAN PHILOSOPHY: Basics for Humanity*, to Bhai Sahib Mohindr Singh Ji, Chairman of the Conference and President of Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha (GNNSJ), Birmingham, UK; and to Rev. Dr William Leshner, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions, Chicago, USA. Besides, copies of the above book were presented to Bhai Sahib Sukhbir Singh (GNNSJ), the Convener of the Conference; to Amam Ulmair Ahmed Ilyasi, Secretary General, All India Organization of Imams of Mosques, New Delhi; to Dr Mimpal Singh, Doctor of Medicine, Lahore, Pakistan and to many other academicians.

2. Prof Chahal was also invited to present his paper in “*Relevance of Sri Guru Granth Sahib and Contributions of Guru Gobind Singh*”, to be held by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Amritsar with collaboration of Mumbai University, at Mumbai on October 1-2, 2008. Unfortunately when he reached Nanded and found that this conference had been cancelled all of a sudden for unknown reasons.

## Objectives of IUS

The **Institute for Understanding Sikhism** was founded in 1998 with the following objectives:

- To promote *Sikhi* (Sikhism) and *Gurbani* (spiritual teachings of the Sikh Gurus) that has been incorporated in the Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS) by publication of a regular journal, **Understanding Sikhism – The Research Journal**, books, booklets, and tracts, and through the electronic media, Internet, Group Discussion, and TV etc., and also by maintaining a Website: <http://www.iuscanada.com> and <http://www.nanakianphilosophy.com>
- To organize lectures, seminars, and conferences to promote Sikhism and Gurbani in their real perspective and to free them from the ancient philosophy, mythology and rituals introduced intentionally or ignorantly. To present papers on other conferences.
- To create dialogues between different religious groups for mutual understanding and respecting the other religions and their followers; and to strengthen Multiculturalism.

*The Institute for Understanding Sikhism is the pioneer institute in the world for dissemination of NANAKIAN PHILOSOPHY scientifically and logically for the humanity and the philosophers of the Current Science Age (The Age of Understanding).*

**Achievements of the IUS during the last 10 years are listed as follows:**

**Seminars held by the IUS**

2008: Sabd Guru

2004: Philosophy and Teachings of the Aad Guru Granth Sahib

2003: Doctrine of Guru Nanak in JAP.

2002: Sabd Guru, Conscience and Consciousness.

2001: GURDWARA: History, Meaning and Functions of Gurdwara.

Proceedings of all the seminars are available in print as well as online on website:

**UNDERSTANDING SIKHISM: [www.iuscanada.com](http://www.iuscanada.com)**

**Books Published by IUS**

The IUS has published books with specific objective to explain Nanakian Philosophy scientifically and logically. The first book published was on *JAP* – The very first Bani in the Aad Guru Granth Sahib, which represents the Essence of Nanakian Philosophy.

Then the IUS took up publication of second book – *Sabd Guru to Granth Guru*, which discusses the intrinsic values of Sabd and Guru and how the Sabd Guru was changed to Granth Guru.

The third publication, *Salient Principles of Sikhism*, was published as a ready reference to familiarize the young Sikhs with major salient principles of Sikhism..

The fourth book, *NANAKIAN PHILOSOPHY: Basics for Humanity*, was published during 2008 on the eve of celebration of **Tenth Anniversary of the IUS**. It is based on the 30 years of study of Gurbani by the author (Devinder Singh Chahal). It covers the philosophy of Guru Nanak on some of the very important topics scientifically and logically. This book is becoming very popular as a reference book on philosophy of Guru Nanak.

**List of Books:**

Chahal, D. S. 2008. Nanakian Philosophy: Basics for Humanity. Institute for Understanding Sikhism, 4418 Martin-Plouffe, Laval, Quebec, H7W 5L9, and Singh Brothers, S.C.O. 223-24 City Centre, Amritsar – 143 006.

Chahal, D. S. 2005. Some Salient Principles of Sikhism. Institute for Understanding Sikhism, 4418 Martin-Plouffe, Laval, Quebec, H7W 5L9.

Chahal, D. S. 2004. Sabd Guru to Granth Guru – An In Depth Study. Institute for Understanding Sikhism, 4418 Martin-Plouffe, Laval, Quebec, H7W 5L9, and Singh Brothers, S.C.O. 223-24 City Centre, Amritsar – 143 006.

Chahal, D. S. 2003. JAP: The Essence of Nanakian Philosophy. Institute for Understanding Sikhism, 4418 Martin-Plouffe, Laval, Quebec, H7W 5L9, and Singh Brothers, S.C.O. 223-24 City Centre, Amritsar – 143 006.

Chahal, D S. 2004. Sikh Perspectives on Bioethics. In John F Peppin, Mark J Cherry, and Ana Iltis (Editors), Annals of Bioethics, Volume 2: Religious Perspectives. Taylor & Francis, The Netherlands, Leiden, London and New York ISBN 90 265-1967 2. This chapter is the first of its own kind in the Sikh literature that Sikh Perspective on Bioethics has been discussed.

**Dissemination of Gurbani and Sikhism**

Gurbani and Sikhism have also been disseminated scientifically and logically by delivering lectures in different Gurdwaras of the world by Prof D. S. Chahal. He has also been participating in various conferences held in different countries by presenting lectures on various topics from time to time.

Gurbani and Sikhism have also been presented through many Radio Talks and TV interviews.

**DVDs**

Mr Jafry of *Jafry Communications*, Toronto approached the IUS for preparing a series of discussions to cover certain topics on Sikhism for Broadcasting on TV. The IUS accepted his offer gladly. Thirteen (13) DVDs, about 45 minutes each on '*Discussion on Sikhism*', were prepared in collaboration with *Jafry Communications*, Toronto. These were broadcasted twice on the *Sikh Virsa TV Program* at OMNI 2, Winnipeg, Manitoba during 2008. Now this series of '*Discussion on Sikhism*' is being broadcasted through various ethnic TV programs in Canada and USA. It has been accepted very well.

**Web Sites**

<http://www.iuscanada.com>

It includes research articles explaining Gurbani and Sikhism scientifically and logically.

<http://www.nanakianphilosophy.com>

It includes philosophy of Guru Nanak embodied in his Bani explained scientifically and logically.

**For further information contact:**

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