

Emerging Religious Issues and Punjabi Language

EDITORIAL

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Editor-in-Chief

This issue contains only those articles presented by Professor Devinder Singh Chahal during February 2016 in the Punjab. Prof. Chahal was invited by Dr Paramvir Singh, Head, The Encyclopaedia of Sikhism, Punjabi University, Patiala to present the **Keynote address** at the National Conference, *Religion: Emerging Issues and Concerns*, held on February 23-24, 2016.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Amritsar invited prof. Chahal to present papers at the *World Punjabi Sammelan (Conference)*, to be held at Baba Banda Singh Bhahadur Engineering College on February 5-6, 2016. But it was postponed second time to be held on June 26-27, 2016. It was again postponed third time to be held positively on September 25-26, 2016 at Anadpur Sahib. Originally this conference was to be held on October 23-24, 2015. Keeping in view the uncertainty two papers, for presenting on this *Sammelán* (conference), are being reproduced in this issue.

The Keynote Address, *Religion: Emerging Issues and Concerns*,

discusses emerging issues and concerns about religion with special reference to Sikhism and also solution to work for peace in the world through scientific and logical approach as well as through the application of basic principles of Nanakian Philosophy.

The first paper, *The Origin of the Punjabi Language: Its Progress and Expansion*, for the World Punjabi *Sammelán* (Conference) discusses that currently the Punjabi language is not considered to be one of the ancient languages of India. Sikh theologians, researchers, and historians go back only to the time of Sufi Sheikh Farid of 12th century, whose verses (bani), written in Punjabi, have been incorporated into the Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS). The exact date of origin of Punjabi language could not be traced out, nevertheless, the ancestors of the Punjabi speaking people are known to have inhabited the Indus Valley as far back as 2,500 BCE .

The second paper, *What is the Language of the Holy Scripture of Sikhism?* discusses that Sikh theologians, linguists, researchers and

writers accept that the verses (bani) found in the holy scripture of Sikhism contains many languages: Sanskrit, Sehskrit, Prakrit, Persian, and Apabrahmsa, which includes Sant Bhasha, Braj, Punjabi, Hindi, Gujrati, Bengali, Bihari, etc. However, this paper will discover the accurate name of the language used by Sufis, Bhagats, Guru Nanak and Sikh Gurus, whose bani were included in the holy scripture now called "Aad Guru Granth Sahib".

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