National Institute of Panjab Studies
Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan, New Delhi

cordially invites you to an International Seminar
dedicated to

650th Birth Anniversary of Sant Ravidas

Begampura: Towards a Just Social Order

Thursday, 26th November, 2026
Time: 10:00 am

Conference Hall, Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan,
Bhai Vir Singh Marg, Gole Market, New Delhi



Inaugural Session | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Invocation : ***Shabad- Begampura sahar ko nao***
Students of Guru Granth Sahib Vidya Kendra

Welcome : **S. G.B.S. Sidhu,** President, BVSSS

Introduction : **Dr. Mohinder Singh,** Director-General,
National Institute of Panjab Studies

Inaugural Address : **Sh. N.N. Vohra,**
Former Governor of J&K & Chairman, The Tribune Trust

Keynote Address : **Prof. Mark Juergensmeyer,** Founder-Director,
Centre for Global Studies, UCSB, US

Presentation 1 : **Dr. Winand Callewaert,** Professor Emeritus of Sanskrit & Hindi,
Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium
Raidas in Rajasthani Manuscripts

Presentation 2 : **Prof. Gurinder Singh Mann,**
Director, Global Institute for Sikh Studies, US
From Begampura to Kartarpur

Vote of Thanks : **Prof. Kiranjeet Sethi,** Hony. General Secretary, BVSSS

Lunch Break | 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Academic Session | 2:00 PM - 3:45 PM

Social Justice & Equality in Practice

Chair : **Prof. Ronki Ram,**
Professor Emeritus, Institute for Development and Communication,
Chandigarh & Formerly Dean Panjab University, Chandigarh

Paper 1 : **Dr. Manmohan,** Eminent Writer and Sahitya Akademi Awardee
Philosophy of Sant Ravidas in Context of Guru Granth Sahib

Paper 2 : **Prof. Devinder Singh,** Public Intellectual
Langar: Practising Equality in Daily Life

Paper 3 : **Dr. Malavika Binny,** Inherit Fellow, Humboldt University, Berlin
Intersections of caste-power and gender

Tea Break | 3:45 PM - 4:00 PM

Valedictory Session | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Valedictory Address : **Prof. Purshottam Aggarwal,** Leading Public Intellectual, Former Faculty of JNU and Member UPSC

Chair : **Prof. Mridula Mukherjee,** Former Professor of History at JNU and Former Director, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library

Vote of Thanks : **Dr. Nina Puri,** Vice President, BVSSS

ਬੇਗਮ ਪੁਰਾ ਸਹਰ ਕੋ ਨਾਉ ॥
Begam puraa sahar ko naao ||

(ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ,ਅੰਗ ੩੪੫)
(Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Ang 345)

ਬੇਗਮ ਪੁਰਾ ਸਹਰ ਕੋ ਨਾਉ ॥ ਦੂਖੁ ਅੰਦੋਹੁ ਨਹੀ ਤਿਹ ਠਾਉ ॥
Begam puraa sahar ko naao || Dookh andoh nahee tih thaao ||

ਨਾਂ ਤਸਵੀਸ ਖਿਰਾਜੁ ਨ ਮਾਲੁ ॥ ਖਉਫੁ ਨ ਖਤਾ ਨ ਤਰਸੁ ਜਵਾਲੁ ॥੧॥
Naa tasvees khiraaj na maal || Khaof na khataa na taras javaal ||1||

ਅਬ ਮੋਹਿ ਖੂਬ ਵਤਨ ਗਹ ਪਾਈ ॥ ਊਹਾਂ ਖੈਰਿ ਸਦਾ ਮੇਰੇ ਭਾਈ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥
Ab moh khoob vatan gah paaee || Oohaa khair sadaa mere bhaaee ||1|| Rahaao ||

ਕਾਇਮੁ ਦਾਇਮੁ ਸਦਾ ਪਾਤਿਸਾਹੀ ॥ ਦੋਮ ਨ ਸੇਮ ਏਕ ਸੋ ਆਹੀ ॥
Kaa-im daa-im sadaa paatisaahee || Dom na sem ek so aahee ||

ਆਬਾਦਾਨੁ ਸਦਾ ਮਸਹੂਰ ॥ ਊਹਾਂ ਗਨੀ ਬਸਹਿ ਮਾਮੂਰ ॥੨॥
Aabaadaan sadaa mashoor || Oohaa ganee basah maamoor ||2||

ਤਿਉ ਤਿਉ ਸੈਲ ਕਰਹਿ ਜਿਉ ਭਾਵੈ ॥ ਮਹਰਮ ਮਹਲ ਨ ਕੋ ਅਟਕਾਵੈ ॥
Tio tio sail karah jio bhaavai || Mahram mahal na ko atkaavai ||

ਕਹਿ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਖਲਾਸ ਚਮਾਰਾ ॥ ਜੋ ਹਮ ਸਹਰੀ ਸੁ ਮੀਤੁ ਹਮਾਰਾ ॥੩॥੨॥
Kah Ravidass khalaas chamaaraa || Jo ham sahree su meet hamaaraa ||3||2||



Bhai Vir Singh Niwas Asthan at Amritsar, where the poet spent creative years of his life, is preserved by the Sadan as a memorial. The house has been converted into Museum-cum-Library showcasing Bhai Sahib's life through photographs, paintings, personal relics and first-editions of his writings.



Established in 1958, Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan is a hub of literary, cultural, academic and charitable activities. Sadan houses rich collection of sacred texts in original and digitized form and has a rich archive of images of relics associated with the Gurus and revered Sikh personalities collected from different parts of India and abroad. Sadan's public library is a treasure of valuable rare books and tracts as well as recent works on Sikh and Punjab Studies.

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