

Importance and Purpose of Two Years Correspondence Course of Sikh Studies: SGPC Amritsar

It is historical fact that today the Sikh religion attains the remarkable and honorable place among the major religions of the world. In fact Sikhism is a universal religion which unites all human beings, worship One and only One God-Ek-Onkar and also recognise the human race as one. According to Gurbani for a Sikh the entire mankind of this world is veritably a place to practise dharma in its real perspective. Due to that Sikh history, culture, music and Bani of Sri Guru Granth Sahib attracting the researchers and academicians all over the world. From last two decades even Sikh Philosophy have also achieves higher place in the academic field. Now Sikh Studies stands as the significant and necessary part of the curriculum of religious studies in the prominent universities of the world.

No doubt advancement in Science and Information Technology makes life easier and luxurious with new inventions. The modern man becoming more interested in materialistic gains and sought to build for himself a kingdom of heaven on earth. But these advancements also added frustrations, futility and infirm man's faith in religious dogma. Man is becoming unable to overcome these problems leading more frustrations, hypertension and forcing them to commit suicide.

I am sure that Bani of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji helps the modern man to overcome these problems. Gurbani provides proper guidance to the balanced daily life under the shadow of Shabad Guru. Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji enshrines the values of universal brotherhood and harmony. It shows the leading path to the people of all walks of life surpassing all barriers of countries and creeds.

Sikhism is the youngest faith of the modern world. It was founded by Sri Guru Nanak Sahib Ji about five centuries ago. The whole humankind is the offspring of the same singular Supreme Being hence they can not be divided in four varnas (Brahman, Khatri, Vaish and Sudar) or dubbed as high or low, rich or poor, and superior or inferior in the society. All the Sikh Shrines have been opened in the four directions signifying welcome to the whole humanity from every quarter of the world. Loving devotion for God and ever seeking the Grace is the creedal essence of Sikhism. Living, based on honest labour, service of mankind and morality are as essential as praying to earn God's Grace to attain salvation. Thus for a Sikh to love a human being is to love for God. Basically Sikhism is the harbinger of peace. Clash

between civilizations is looming large in the minds of world community. To eradicate this problem it is must that the spiritual values have to be propagated to unite the world community. To achieve this goal, spirit of goodwill and co-existence have to be inculcated in the inner self of humanity.

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee always eager to educate whole humanity regarding the teachings of Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji. To fill up the desires of the seekers Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee initiates correspondence course in Sikh Studies. We are fully aware about the busy schedule of students and the common man. This course provides basic information about Sikh History, Gurbani, Sikh Culture, Sikh Code of Conduct, Gurmat Sangeet etc. at the doorstep of every student. The course is already in progress in Punjabi and Hindi language. Near about 3000 students have got admission in it. Keeping in mind the demand of Non-Punjabi Hindi students we have decided to extend this correspondence course in English languages also.

To achieve the goal with modern techniques in education we got services of Dr. Jasbir Singh Sabar, who retired from Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar after serving more than 34 years. Prof. Sabar is renowned Sikh Scholar in the field of Sikh Studies.

Now this two years correspondence course of Sikh Studies is open for every human of the world relating to any religion, cast, creed or class etc. I congratulate all the students who come forward to join this course and appeal to all sikh family to avail this golden chance.

(Avtar Singh)
President,
Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee,
Sri Amritsar.

Rules and Regulations

1. Duration of this Correspondence Course of Sikh Studies is two years.
2. The Course includes Sikh History, Sikh Literature, Sikh Philosophy, Gurmat Sangeet, Sikh Code of Conduct (Rehat Maryada) etc.
3. There are total eight papers which will be covered in two years.
4. Registration fee is Rs. 100 (for Indians), £ 20 and U.S. \$ 30 (for abroad students or foreign nationals) once for all.
5. Registered candidates will receive Prospectus, Study Material etc. free of cost by post. Moreover there will be no examination fee or any other charges related to this course.
6. Related Study material will be prepared by renowned Scholars of Sikh Studies in a very simple and precise, but in meaningful form.
7. Questionnaires will be sent to the students by this office and after solving it they are required to return them at their own cost.
8. To promote the knowledge and update it, we will conduct Personal Contact Programmes (PCPs). In these Programmes lectures will be delivered by well learned Scholars of Sikh Studies.
9. PCPs may be for 2 to 4 days. Traveling will be made by the students at their own cost. Dharam Parchar Committee may make some arrangements for langar (Free Kitchen) in Gurudwaras.
10. PCPs will be conducted at the appropriate time. Holidays, Sundays and vacations will be included in the PCPs schedule.
11. These PCPs will be conducted in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, M.P., H.P. states & state headquarters of India. Students from abroad will have to come India to attend the PCPs if the number of students are below 100 in their respective countries or cities. All the students have to bear the expenses to attend these PCPs at different centers in India and abroad.
12. Students must complete 80% attendance in their PCPs.
13. Course is open for Matric to M.A. students. It is open for Medical, Non-Medical, Science, Arts, Engineering, Information Technology etc. faculties.
14. Course is also remains open for householders, businessmen & women, servicemen & women and housewives above the age of 20 and they must know Punjabi or Hindi upto read and written level to understand this fully well.

15. There is no any upper age bar, no discrimination of gender, caste, creed, religion etc. Course is remain open for every human being of the world.
16. At present medium of course is Punjabi and Hindi and may be available in English from 2011.
17. For more information contact Dr. Jasbir Singh Sabar, Director, Two Years Correspondence Courses of Sikh Studies, Dharam Parchar Committee (S.G.P.C.), Sri Amritsar. Contact no. are 0183-2553962, 98884-60180 (Time 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.)
18. Disputes relating to any matter regarding this Course, the orders passed by the President, S.G.P.C., Secretary, Dharam Parchar Committee and Director, Correspondence Courses of Sikh Studies will be full and final.
19. Examination will be held in the month of December every year.
20. The main purpose of this Course is to provide authentic and basic knowledge of Sikhism.
21. There are four papers in each year as per syllabus which is already mentioned in prospectus.
22. Pass marks in each paper is minimum 35% and at aggregate level 40% in each year.
23. Candidates achieving 60% and above marks stands in Ist division, 50% and above stands in IInd division and 40% and above stands in IIIrd division.
24. There is no provision for re-evaluation or rechecking of any paper.
25. Successful candidates will be awarded with a certificate from Dharam Parchar Committee (S.G.P.C.), Sri Amritsar.
26. Moreover such institutions who motivate their students for this course will also got special honour.
27. Examination dates will be announced one month advance in the leading Newspapers. Examination centre, Roll No. and examination instructions etc. will be sent to the students through post 15 days advance from the date of exam.
28. Candidates who secure Ist, IInd and IIIrd positions will be honoured with Rs. 7100, 5100 and 3100 respectively. Besides, first 51 position holder candidates will also be honoured with Rs. 1100 each.

Syllabus

Note :

1. There are eight papers in total. Four papers in first year and four papers in second year.
2. Each paper carry 100 marks. Pass marks in each paper is 35% and 40% aggregate in each year.

First Year

1. Paper I : Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji: Basic Information
 2. Paper II : History of Sikh Gurus: Basic Information
 3. Paper III : Sources of Sikh History: Basic Information
 4. Paper IV : Sikh Code of Conduct (Rehat Maryada): Basic Information
-
1. Paper I : Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji: Basic Information
 - a. Revelation of Bani, History of its compilation & Importance.
 - b. Editing Scheme.
 - c. Contributors.
 - d. Bani's of Daily Prayer (Nitnem).
 - e. Study of Bani (Japji Sahib, Salok Sri Guru Angad Dev Ji, Anand Sahib, Lavan, Sukhmani Sahib).
 2. Paper II : History of Sikh Gurus: Basic Information
 - a. Sri Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Ji.
 - b. Sri Guru Anagad Dev Sahib Ji to Sri Guru Ramdas Sahib Ji.
 - c. Sri Guru Arjun Dev Sahib Ji.
 - d. Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji to Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji.
 - e. Sri Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Ji.
 3. Paper III : Sources of Sikh History: Basic Information
 - a. Varan Bhai Gurdas & Kabits.
 - b. Janam Sakhis.
 - c. Sri Dasam Granth Sahib.
 - d. Gurbilas & Panth Prakash.
 - e. Guru Partap Suraj Granth.

4. Paper IV : Sikh Code of Conduct (Rehat Maryada): Basic

Information

- a. Origin & Form: Guru Nanak Sahib Ji to Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.
- b. Khalsa Code of Conduct: Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
- c. Individual & Panthic (Social) Code of Conduct.
- d. Sikh Ceremonies (Birth, Name, Amrit, Anand Marriage & Death).
- e. Sikh Festivals: Gurupurab, Maghi, Hola Mohalla, Vaisakhi & Bandi Chhor Divas (Diwali).

Second Year

5. Paper V : World Religions & Their Scriptures: Basic Information

6. Paper VI : Biographies of Bhagats: Basic Information

7. Paper VII : Prime Sikh Concepts Ideals & Institutions: Basic

Information

8. Paper VIII: Prime Sikh Sects & Movements: Basic Information

5. Paper V : World Religions & Their Scripture: Basic Information

- a. Vedic Religion (Sanatan Religion).
- b. Jainism & Buddhism.
- c. Judaism & Christianity.
- d. Islam.
- e. Sikhism.

6. Paper VI : Biographies of Bhagats: Basic Information

- a. Baba Farid Ji.
- b. Bhagat Namdev Ji.
- c. Bhagat Kabir Ji.
- d. Bhagat Ravidas Ji.
- e. Bhagat Dhanna Ji.

7. Paper VII: Prime Sikh Ideals & Institutions: Basic Information

- a. Akal Purkh (God).
- b. Jagat (World).
- c. Human Life (Man).
- d. Shabad Guru.
- e. Gurdwara, Sangat & Pangat.
- f.

8. Paper VIII : Sikh Sects & Movements: Basic Information

- a. Sikh Sects (Udasi, Nirmala, Sewapanthi & Nihang).
- b. Obsolete Sects of Sikhism (Mina, Dhirmalias, Ramrayias & Masands etc.).
- c. Singh Sabha Movement.
- d. Gurdwara Reform Movement.
- e. Akali Morchas.