

INSTITUTE OF SIKH STUDIES (REGD)

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August 16, 2014

President
Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha
Near Railway Station, Rourkela - 769001
Odisha

Dear President Sahib,

Wahguru ji ka Khalsa; Wahguru ji ki Fateh.

The annual seminar of the Institute of Sikh Studies is scheduled to be held in November. The Topic of the Seminar this year is:

Peaceful Co-Existence & Role of Sikhs

We live in a complex world today. A variety of political ideologies exist, which govern the various States of our planet. Further, on account of migrations across borders, their demographics are in a flux and have come to comprise of multi races, multi nations, multi religions, multi cultures, and so on. Apart from this, even theocratic States house various sects of the same religion. India, the largest democracy, not only houses various religious minorities but even the majority religion is itself sub-divided into various castes. Even a family nowadays may comprise of members from different faiths.

Intricate complexity, thus, marks the current scenario at the macro as well as the micro level. But Nations/ States/ Communities/ Castes/ Races/ Individuals appear to have failed to co-exist peacefully, as wars, communal riots, massacres, genocides, hate crimes, family disputes, and so on, plague our world today. Tendencies, such as, lust for power, desire to dominate, race for armaments, intolerance to others, self-centredness, assertion of superiority, egoism, lack of empathy, etc., have become huge barriers to harmonious co-existence.

The Gurus addressed the issue of co-existence over five hundred years ago, and stressed on accepting, respecting and protecting the rights of people, irrespective of their nation/ race/ religion/ caste/ gender. Their aim was to lead mankind to higher levels of existence. This lofty Ideal is the need of the hour, and needs not only to be disseminated to the world but also practised by us. As such, we need to delve, deliberate on the Guru's concept of harmonious co-existence as well as derive doable ideas whereby we can practically demonstrate the same to the world.

We invite you to contribute a paper on any aspect of the subject, at any level of co-existence. We shall be grateful, if you kindly confirm your participation, and intimate the Title of your paper along with a Brief of a page by the 30th September, 2014. The paper in the final form may kindly be sent by 30th October, 2014 at the address given above.

With kindest regards,
Yours sincerely,

(Birendra Kaur)
President