

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

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It is a matter of great pleasure for me that the *Department of Guru Nanak Studies* in collaboration with the *Institute for Understanding Sikhism, Canada*, has taken the initiative to invite scientists, philosophers and scholars from allied fields to concentrate on the divine sayings of the great Guru, Nanak, and one of the leading prophets of India who is well-known in the East and the West for his deep concern for alleviating human beings from mental slavery, dogmatism, superstitions, external formalism by enunciating the philosophy of One God, universal brotherhood and truthful conduct.

I welcome Prof Jaspal Singh, Vice Chancellor, Punjabi University, Patiala, Prof Dr Devinder Singh Chahal, President, Institute for Understanding Sikhism, Canada, Dr Jaswant Singh Neki, New Delhi and all scholars and participants who have come from India and abroad to participate in the three day International Conference on the most significant theme '**Uniqueness of Guru Nanak's Philosophy**' and its relevance in the modern scientific age. Such attempts are most imperative for the guidance of the modern youth, for integration of personality, for keeping balance between the intellectual pursuits and spiritual

needs. We need to follow an innovative approach to bring change not only in the scientific fields but also in our attitude to life to bring peace and harmony in our relation to the whole cosmos.

I am informed that more than two dozen scholars from interdisciplinary fields, and most of them from scientific background, have come to participate in this three-day international conference. I hope that this gathering of scientists with philosophical approach and philosophers with scientific and religious vision would help a lot in presenting the pragmatic philosophy of the Great Guru in the true spirit and for the benefit of whole mankind.

I welcome you all in the holy city of Amritsar and especially in the campus of Guru Nanak Dev University. I congratulate the *Department of Guru Nanak Studies* and the *Institute for Understanding Sikhism* for organizing this conference. I wish for the success of the conference and express my thanks to all the scholars who have come all the way from India and abroad to participate in this international conference.

