

Dr. Jaspal Singh

Vice Chancellor, Punjabi University, Patiala

Former Indian High Commissioner to Mozambique and Swaziland.



Dr. Jaspal Singh joined as Vice Chancellor of Punjabi University Patiala on December 11, 2007. The University has witnessed a multi-dimensional expansion on all fronts in addition to raising a number of new institutions have been established in the University, such as: Women's Study Centre, Academic Staff College, Baba Farid Centre for Sufi Studies; Centre for Diaspora Studies; Centre for

Census Studies and Research; Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre; a monumental Media Centre; and School of Social Sciences. The overall development of Punjabi, language, literature and culture has been the major thrust area with launching of *Punjabipedia* on the lines of Wikipedia, starting of All-India Punjabi Conference to mark University's Foundation day, and *Mission Punjabi-2020* as the highlighting factors.

- After securing his **Master's degree in Political Science** and **Diploma in Foreign Affairs** from Aligarh Muslim University in 1975, he did his **Ph.D** from Panjab University, Chandigarh on the topic: "*The Concept of State as Reflected in Sikh Scriptures and Historical Writings*" in 1989.
- He has a total 30 years of teaching experience (23 years in Khalsa College, Dev Nagar, University of Delhi, and Seven years as Principal of Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi).

The **Sahitya Akademi** has bestowed the prestigious *Bhasha Sanman* on Dr. Jaspal Singh in recognition of his significant contribution to the classical and medieval literature on August 16, 2015. This, in particular, relates to his historic works done in the area of "Medieval Punjabi Literature and in the Patronymic text of India's traditions of thought, Guru Granth Sahib."

Dr. Jaspal Singh is former **Indian High Commissioner** to Mozambique and Swaziland. During his stint as India's High Commissioner, he played a stellar role in identifying newer and some unexplored areas of cooperation for enhancing the scope and vistas of understanding and strategic cooperation among the countries concerned. This, inter alia, included signing of agreement for the establishment of Indo-Mozambique Joint Cooperation Commission, Indo-Mozambique Draft Agreement for Cooperation and Indo-Swaziland Trade Agreement.

Dr. Jaspal Singh has authored well-acclaimed books including

- **'Raj Da Sikh Sankalp'** (The Sikh Concept of State), Navyug Publisher, New Delhi, 1990.
- **'Sikh Dharam Te Rajniti'**, (Sikh Religion and Politics) Navyug Publisher, New Delhi, 1997.
- **Sri Guru Granth Sahib: Sadivi Prerna Srot**, Punjabi Academy, Delhi Government, 2007.
- **Sri Guru Granth Sahib: The Sikh Scripture**, New Delhi, 2009.
- **Sikh Virasat: Sidhant Te Vihar**, New Delhi, 2010.

Published more than 250 articles on Medieval Literature, with particular focus on The Sikh Scripture-Guru Granth Sahib and historical and traditional writings, Punjabi language and culture and on the various issues of social and political concerns.

A medley of presidential and keynote addresses delivered by him at various national and international seminars and conferences have earned him the distinction of an erudite scholar. Few of these addresses include

- **'The Religion, Ethic and Rights'** International Conference organized by the UNICEF at *Kathmandu, Nepal*, March 1996.
- **'Crises of Sikh Identity: Traditional and Historical Perspective'**, International Conference, *Michigan University, USA*, 1996.
- **'Mata Sundari Memorial Lectures'** on Mata Khivi ji and Mata Ganga ji, *New Delhi*, 1993 and 1996.
- **'Global View of Guru Nanak'** at World Punjabi Conference in *University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, USA*, July 20, 1997.
- **'Nature of Monarchy under Maharaja Ranjit Singh'** at Maharaja Ranjit Singh Bi-Centenary Celebrations in *United Kingdom*, August 2001.
- **'International Peace through Religious Cooperation: Sikh Perspective'** in the International conference on Religious Co-operation at *Taipei, Taiwan* on September 18, 2001.

- **'Janam Sakhi Tradition'** at seminar, *India International Centre, New Delhi* on April 22, 2004.
- **'Concept of State in Guru Granth Sahib'** at Guru Granth Sahib Research Centre, *Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee*, on August 14, 2004.
- **'Bani of Guru Granth Sahib'** Keynote Address at Mata Sundri College, *University of Delhi* on December 12, 2004.
- **'Sri Guru Granth Sahib: Historical Perspective'** Keynote Address at Khalsa College, *University of Delhi*, New Delhi on March 17, 2005.
- **'The Concept of Compassion and Its Importance in 21st Century'**, organized by *Kagyu Yeshe Gatsal Buddhist Trust and Shri Aurobindo Society*, on March 20, 2005.
- **'Political Concerns in Guru Granth Sahib'** at International Seminar on 'Guru Granth Sahib and Its Context', *Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi* on November 1, 2005.
- **'Philosophy of Dasam Granth'**, Keynote Address at Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College, *University of Delhi* on January 14, 2006.
- **'Gurmat Sangeet : A Comparative Perspective'**, at *Punjabi University, Patiala* on February 28, 2006.
- **'Religion and Politics, Dr Harbhajan Singh Memorial Lecture'** at *Delhi University*, March 11, 2008.
- **'Baba Farid and His Message'**, International Sufi Conference, *Gujrat University, Pakistan*, July 19, 2008.
- **'Relevance of Guru Nanak Dev's Teachings in the Modern Context'**, at *Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar* on November 22, 2008.
- **'Historical and Ideological Importance of Ghadar Movement'**, Keynote Address at Ghadar Memorial Conference, *Sacramento, California, USA*, organized by *Ghadar Memorial Foundation of America*, August 22, 2009.
- **'Punjabi Kavita Utsav'**, Presidential Address, organized by *Sahitya Akademi*, at *Punjab Heritage Bhawan, Navi Mumbai*, October 25, 2009.
- **'Banda Singh Bahadur'** at National Seminar, *Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab*, April 24, 2010.
- **'Place of Banda Singh Bahadur in History'** at *Hindi Bhawan, New Delhi*, May 8, 2010
- **'The Sikh Concept of Inclusive Approach', Bhapa Pritam Singh Memorial Lecture**, organized by *Punjabi Sahit Sabha at Punjabi Bhawan, New Delhi*, September 25, 2010.
- **'Pluralistic Vision of Guru Granth Sahib'**, International Seminar held in collaboration with *Department of Culture, Government of India*, at *Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan, New Delhi*, December 17, 2010.

- **'The Sikh Concept of Pluralism'**, 'Dr. Harbhajan Singh Memorial Lecture', *University of Delhi*, February 7, 2011.
- **'Uniqueness of Guru Nanak's Philosophy'**, Presidential Address in the International Conference organized in collaboration with *Institute of Understanding Sikhism, Canada*, at *Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar*, February 23, 2011.
- **'Punjabi Language and Culture- A Global Perspective'**, World Punjabi Conference, organized by *Kalam Foundation*, at *Toronto, Canada*, August 5, 2011.
- **'Bhai Kahan Singh Nabha'**, at Seminar organized by *The Nabha Foundation*, August 17, 2011.
- **'Great Martyr Baba Banda Singh Bahadur'**, at Seminar organized by All India Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Sikh Sampardai, at *Dera Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, Reasi (J &K)*, August 21, 2011.
- **'Vachna Sahit and Guru Granth Sahib'**, at Seminar organized by Sahit Akademy at *University of Mysore*, September 18, 2011.
- **'Role of Panchayats in Rural Development'**, Valedictory Address at *CRRID, Chandigarh*, October 22, 2011.
- **'Punjabi Contemporary Literature'**, Seminar at *Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra*, December 7, 2011.
- **'Women and Dalit: the Sikh Perspective'**, National Seminar at *Panjab University, Chandigarh*, January 19, 2012.
- **'History, Society and Punjabi Novel'**, Seminar at *Panjab University, Chandigarh*, February 14, 2012.
- **'Baba Banda Singh Bahadur: Sikh Raj da Nayak'**, Address on the occasion of *Sirhind Fateh Diwas*, organized by *Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee* at *Fatehgarh Sahib*, May 12, 2012.
- **'Dr. Noor's Contribution to Indian Literature'**, Inaugural Address at Seminar organized by *Sahitya Akademi*, at *Shimla*, June 29, 2012.
- **'Beyond Politics'**, Presidential Address at *Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla*, July 24, 2012.
- **'Media and Literature in Punjabi'**, Seminar organized by *Sahitya Akademy*, in *Mumbai*, August 18, 2012.
- **'Ghadar Movement and India's Struggle for Freedom'**, Eastern Scholars Conference on Ghadar Movement (Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan Society) at *University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA, USA*, September 30, 2012.
- **'Place of Ghadar Movement in the Indian Freedom Struggle'**, Centenary Ghadar Memorial Conference, organized by *Ghadar Memorial Foundation of America*, at *Sacramento, California, USA*, July 13, 2013.

- **'Defining Religion'**, Presidential Address, *Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla*, July 24, 2013.
- **'Universal Message of Sufism'**, Seminar on Sufi Tradition, *SDS University, Ajmer, Rajasthan*, July 25, 2013.
- **Lecture Series in Malaysia:**
 Delivered three lectures in Malaysia, organized by Indian Council of Cultural Relations, (ICCR) and *Indian High Commission, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*, August 8-10, 2013.
 - 1- **'The Sikhs and Indian Freedom Movement'**
 - 2- **'The Sikhism: History and Philosophy'**
 - 3- **'Guru Granth Sahib: A Scripture with a Difference'**
- **'Sikh-Sufi Connection'**, International Sufi Conference, *Jaipur, Rajasthan*, October 20, 2013.
- **'Higher Education: Achievements and Challenges'**, *Panjab University, Chandigarh*, October 26, 2013.
- **'The Sikh Concept of Miri-Piri'**, at Seminar organized by Institute of Sikh Studies, at *Panjab University, Chandigarh*, November 23, 2013.
- **'Bhai Veer Singh and His Poetry'**, seminar organized by *Chief Khalsa Diwan, Amritsar*, December 5, 2013.
- **'Minorities- Achievements and Challenges Post Independence'**, at Conference on the World Minority Day, *Uttarakhand Minorities Commission, Dehradun*, December 18, 2013.
- **'Contexts and Concerns: Punjabi Language, Literature and Culture in the first decade of 21st Century'**, at National Seminar organized by Sahitya Akademy and Department of Guru Nanak Sikh Studies, at *Panjab University, Chandigarh*, February 20, 2014.
- **'Punjabi Ghadr Literature'**, organized by **Sahitya Akademy** in collaboration with *Punjabi Sahitya Sabha* at *Kolkata* on November 22, 2014.
- **'Panjabiyat: Present and Future'**, organized by **Sahitya Akademy** at *Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan, New Delhi* on December 12, 2014.
- **'Memorializing a forgotten Chapter: The Komagata Maru Episode'**, at the Conference organized by *Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, West Bengal* on February 15, 2015.
- **'Locating Syncretism in the Northwest India: Sikh-Sufi Connection'**, Lecture delivered at ICSSR Regional Centre, *Panjab University, Chandigarh* on March 26, 2015.
- **'Contribution of Bhai Kahan Singh Nabha'**, at Seminar organized by *Guru Gobind Singh Study Circle, Ludhiana*, on August 31, 2015.

- **'Episode of Komagata Maru - 1914'**, Seminar sponsored by *Ministry of Culture*, Government of India at *Kolkata*, on September 19, 2015.
- **'Concept of Martyrdom and Baba Banda Singh Bahadur'**, Seminar organized by Bandyee Sampardaye in collaboration with *Takhat Sri Hazoor Sahib, Nander*, Maharashtra, on September 25, 2015.
- **'Sri Guru Granth Sahib- A Scripture for Humanity'**, Bir Memorial Lecture, organized by The Atam Science Trust and Gurmat Parchar Trust, at *India International Centre, New Delhi* on November 7, 2015.
- **'Philosophy of Guru Granth Sahib'**, National Seminar, Sri Guru Granth Sahib University, Fatehgarh Sahib, January 29, 2016.
- **'Literature of Bhai Vir Singh'**, National Seminar, Chief Khalsa Diwan, Amritsar, February 11, 2016.
- **'Punjabi Language, Literature and Culture: International Perspective'**, National Seminar, organized by Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Yamunanagar, Haryana in collaboration with Department of Higher Education, Haryana Government, Haryana, March 9, 2016.
- **'Sufism and its impact on Society'** Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Memorial Lecture, organized by Ghalib Institute, at Aiwan-e-Ghalib, New Delhi, May 28, 2016.

He has also been awarded a lot many fellowships and awards by various national and international institutions which include:

- **Best Prose Writing Award** by **Punjabi Academy**, Delhi Government, for the year 1990-91.
- **Vismad Naad Fellowship** awarded by International Gurmat Institute, Ludhiana in 1996.
- Awarded **Fellowship** by Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar in 1997.
- **Nishan-e-Khalsa** (Order of the Khalsa) presented at Anandpur Sahib on the occasion of Tercentenary Celebrations in 1999.
- **Honoured** by Kagyu Yeshe Galsal Buddhist Trust and Shri Aurobindo Society, New Delhi, March 19, 2005.
- **Punjabi Parchar Parsar Award** for outstanding contribution to the promotion of Punjabi Language and Culture by **Punjabi Academy** Delhi Government for 2005-06.
- **Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Award** by All India Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Sikh Sampradai, 2009.
- **Honoured** by Wilkes University, USA, June 24, 2009.
- **Honoured**, in recognition of outstanding contribution to Sikh Literature by **Chief Khalsa Diwan**, Amritsar, December 18, 2009.

- **Honourary Fellowship** by Punjab Academy of Sciences, February 7, 2010.
 - **Honoured**, in recognition of commitment and dedication to promote Punjabi language by Canadian Sikh Study and Teaching Society, Vancouver BC and Federation of Sikh Societies of Canada, August 10, 2011.
 - **Honoured** by Young Farmers Association Punjab in recognition of services to Rural Areas of Punjab at Kisan Mela, September 24, 2011.
 - **Bhai Kahan Singh Nabha Puraskar 2014**, in recognition of commitment for promotion of Punjabi language and culture, Nabha, February 9, 2014.
 - **Shiromani Sahit Puraskar-2014** by Puadhi Punjabi Sath in recognition of contribution to promotion of Punjabi language, Literature and Culture; and Religious Studies at Mohali, Punjab on November 30, 2014.
 - **Honoured by Punjabi Sahit Sabha**, New Delhi for outstanding contribution to Punjabi Literature and Culture, on January 18, 2015.
 - **Honoured by Bhai Vir Singh Shitya Sadan**, New Delhi for contribution to Punjabi Language, Literature and Culture at national and international level, at Patiala, on February 27, 2015
 - **'Bhasha Sanman'**, by **Sahitya Akademi**, New Delhi in recognition of significant contribution to the classical and medieval literature in Punjabi language on August 16, 2015.
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- **Member**, Advisory Committee, North-Western Regional Centre, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR).
 - **Member**, Senate, Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib.
 - **Member**, Governing Body, Centre on Studies in Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.
 - **Member**, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Madhya Marg, Chandigarh.
 - **Member**, Board of Governors, The Punjab Public School, Nabha.
 - **Former General Secretary and Senior Vice President** - Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, New Delhi.
 - **Former Chairman** - Guru Harkrishan Public School, India Gate, New Delhi.
 - **Founder Member** - Punjab Academy, Government of Delhi.
 - **Former Member** - Board for Centre for Dalits and Minorities, Jamia Malia Islamia, New Delhi.
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