



GLOBAL PUNJABI ASSOCIATION

(Registered under the Societies Registration Act.No. XXI of 1860)
Regd. No. 306 of 2022-2023

S. Iqbal Singh Lalpura
Patron

Dr. Kulwant Singh Dhaliwal
President

Dr. Jaswinder Singh Dhillon
Honorary Secretary

Ref. No. 105/2026

Dated.05/10/2026

INVITATION FOR PAPER WRITING & PRESENTATION

FOR A HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR

ON

THE FUTURE OF SIKHISM

Proposed Venue: Chandigarh **Proposed Date:** Last Week of October 2026

Respected Sir/Madam,

Greetings from the Global Punjabi Association.

The Sikh community today stands at an important juncture. Rapid social, economic and technological changes, evolving aspirations of Sikh youth, developments in Punjab, and the expanding global Sikh diaspora have created a compelling need for informed, thoughtful and constructive dialogue on the future of Sikhism, Sikh institutions and the Sikh community. Contemporary Sikh society is experiencing a range of opportunities and challenges, including institutional governance and credibility, social cohesion, preservation of Sikh identity and heritage, transmission of Sikh teachings and values to future generations, and the evolving role of Sikh institutions and the community in public life.

At the same time, the use or misuse of religious identity by extremist, divisive or violent elements, and the exploitation of sensitive issues concerning the Sikh community, may have wider implications for peace, communal harmony, social cohesion and the interests of Punjab and India. These developments warrant serious scholarly examination and a constructive, democratic and constitutional dialogue.

Against this background, the **Global Punjabi Association** proposes to convene a **High-Level Seminar on “The Future of Sikhism”** in Chandigarh during the last week of October 2026.

The seminar is envisaged as a **non-partisan, scholarly and constructive platform** bringing together eminent Sikh scholars, academicians, historians, intellectuals, professionals, legal experts, social leaders, youth representatives and distinguished members of the global Sikh diaspora.

The objective is to examine the historical evolution of Sikh thought and institutions, understand contemporary challenges, and explore practical and forward-looking approaches for strengthening Sikh institutions, preserving Sikh identity and heritage, promoting social cohesion, and carrying the timeless values and teachings of Sikhism into the future.

PROPOSED AREAS OF DELIBERATION

Sikh Renaissance: A Thematic and Historical Framework

9 A-5, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar-143001 (Pb.) India

☎ 9815150030, 9501114411

E-mail : globalpunjabiassociation.org@gmail.com

Website : globalpunjabiassociation.org



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The seminars may deliberate on history, Philosophy, Evolution, Emergence of Sikh institutions, Sikh Ethos, etc. The objective is to devise a program of action and vision paper for the 100 years after Independence through the following broad historical phases:

A. The Guru Period — 1469–1708

B. The Concept of Khalsa Raj, Rise of Misl and Establishment of Khalsa Raj under Maharaja Ranjit Singh — 1708– 1849

C. The Sikhs and British Period — 1849–1920 and 1920-1947

D. Sikhs after Partition 1947-1967 Sikhs and Punjab (Developments in Punjab after partition, Non- Sikh Leadership and Punjab — 1947–1967),

E. Developments in Punjab and Terrorism — 1967–1997

F. Sikhs and Punjab Developments — 1997–2015

G. The present situation and proposed road map for Future of Sikh Renaissance — 2026 — 2047

Note: The above historical and thematic framework may be further divided into specific sub-themes. Scholars and participants may select an appropriate topic for the preparation and presentation of their research/concept paper.

SUGGESTED THEMATIC AREAS FOR PAPER WRITING & PRESENTATION

1. Future of Sikh Institutions

Accountability, transparency, institutional governance, credibility, reform, participation and restoration of public confidence.

2. Sikh Values, Identity and Heritage

Preservation and transmission of Sikh philosophy, teachings, traditions, language, literature, history, heritage and cultural identity to future generations.

3. Sikh Youth and the Global Sikh Diaspora

Engaging younger generations, addressing contemporary aspirations, strengthening global Sikh networks and developing meaningful Punjab–diaspora partnerships.

4. Sikhism and Constitutional Democracy

Religious freedom, constitutional values, democratic participation, rights and responsibilities, institutional autonomy and constructive engagement within a democratic framework.

5. Punjab and the Sikh Community

Education, employment, entrepreneurship, social development, agriculture, technology, cultural preservation, economic opportunities and constructive participation in public life.

6. Peace, Social Cohesion and Communal Harmony

Addressing extremism, militancy, violence and divisive narratives through democratic, peaceful and constitutional approaches, while promoting dialogue, coexistence and social harmony.

7. Sikhism, Government and Wider Society

Developing constructive and institutionalised channels of dialogue with the Government of India, State Governments and wider Indian society on issues concerning Sikh institutions, heritage, rights, development and public participation.

8. Sikhism in the Digital and Technological Age

The impact of artificial intelligence, social media, digital communication and emerging technologies on Sikh education, religious discourse, identity, institutions and global community engagement.



‘ ਗੁਰਮਤਿ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਭਾ ’ GLOBAL PUNJABI ASSOCIATION

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9. Sikh Education and Intellectual Renaissance

Developing contemporary approaches to Sikh studies, research, universities, educational institutions, scholarship, translation, publications and the global dissemination of Sikh intellectual traditions.

10. Women and Inclusive Participation in Sikh Institutions

Examining the historical, contemporary and future role of Sikh women and promoting meaningful participation and leadership across Sikh religious, educational, social and community institutions.

11. Peace, Hindu- Sikh unity, Resolving emotional/ religious issues and Interfaith harmony

12. Global Sikh Identity and International Engagement

The changing character of the global Sikh community, diaspora institutions, international representation, cultural diplomacy and constructive engagement with global society.

13. A Vision for the Future of Sikhism

Developing a forward-looking framework for the next generation based upon Sikh philosophy, the teachings of the Gurus, constitutional values, democratic institutions, social responsibility, global citizenship and the changing needs of Sikh society.

PROPOSED OUTCOME

The seminar may culminate in a “**Chandigarh Declaration on the Future of Sikhism**”, incorporating key observations and practical recommendations emerging from the scholarly deliberations.

The proposed Declaration may provide a framework for continued academic, institutional and community engagement on matters relating to Sikhism, Sikh institutions, Punjab and the global Sikh community.

We respectfully invite you to **write and present a scholarly paper** at this important seminar and share your knowledge, research, experience and perspective with fellow scholars, intellectuals, professionals, community leaders and distinguished representatives of the global Sikh diaspora. Your scholarly contribution, presence and participation would add considerable intellectual value to the deliberations and help promote a meaningful, substantive and forward-looking dialogue on matters of importance to Sikhism and the global Sikh community.

We would be grateful for your consent to write and present a paper and participate in the seminar's deliberations. We would also sincerely welcome your guidance and suggestions in making this initiative a meaningful and substantive contribution to the continuing intellectual and institutional development of Sikhism and the global Sikh community.

With deep regards,

(Dr. Jaswinder Singh Dhillon)
Honorary Secretary