

S.G.G.S COLLEGE SECTOR 26, CHANDIGARH

**INSTITUTIONAL
DISTINCTIVENESS**

**SRI GURU GOBIND SINGH COLLEGE
SECTOR 26, CHANDIGARH**

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Institutional Distinctiveness

Sri Guru Gobind Singh College, Chandigarh stands out in its distinctive endeavour for holistic development and commitment to the cause of academics supplemented with philanthropy, morality and social sensitivity amongst youth. The pedagogy used is contemporary amalgamated with value systems imbibed from the teachings and lofty ideals of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, after whom the College has been named. The paramount aspiration of the College is to inspire, prepare and empower students to be successful in the ever-changing world by adopting the democratic and secular values of *Manas ki jaat sabhe eke pehchanbo* (all mankind is one) and *Sarbat da bhala* (Well-being of all mankind) along with the unique Sikh practice of *Seva* (service) integrated in the academic and routine functioning of the College. In keeping with the National Education Policy 2020, the College thus aims to create an inclusive environment for equitable learning.

To raise the sensitivity towards community service, all mandated NCC and NSS programmes are executed with unmatched enthusiasm to further instil 'service before self'. The Department of Youth Affairs has selected two NSS volunteers of the College for the prestigious National Service Scheme Award from the President of India. The recent pandemic has brought the aspect of *Seva* (service) to the fore when the NSS units organised a Covid Awareness Camp. Carrying it further, the NCC cadets received training and were designated as Frontline workers. Generous contributions were made by all faculty members towards the PM CARES Fund for Covid, Punjab Flood Relief and Poor Patients Assistance Cell, PGIMER, Chandigarh.

The spirit of discipline and teamwork is imparted through intensive training in different Sports by the College, producing sportspersons with global competence. They have won laurels for the Institute at National and International levels. The College has the distinction of upholding Sir Shadi Lal Trophy for 11 consecutive years among affiliated colleges of Panjab University, Chandigarh.

The College upholds the best practices of Environmental Sustainability and Heritage and Cultural Preservation through various initiatives. As a tribute to Guru Nanak Dev ji's ideology to live in harmony with the environment, the College initiated a novel idea of creating a mini urban forest on-campus in April 2019 with an objective to promote a sustainable environment. The mini forest integrates the aspects of ecosystem diversity, curative diversity (a wide variety of medicinal plants) and cultural diversity (including spiritual values) successfully. This habitation has flourished into a natural air-purifying dense forest with 550 trees comprising 37 different native species of the region planted in an area of 180 square metres. This novel

initiative amalgamates the tradition by selecting species native to the region and the modern Miyawaki technique thereby promoting natural restoration of land. A multi-layered natural forest has been created by grouping the plants into different layers- shrub, sub tree, tree and canopy – in each sq m. It is developing into a hub of natural biodiversity and is a step towards reducing the carbon footprint of the region. This is a significant contribution towards the National Biodiversity Target 2020 of the Government of India which stresses on the need to spread awareness involving young minds and intelligentsia to play a positive role for restoration, conservation and sustainable use of the vulnerable ecosystem. This modern scientific approach synthesizes the rich heritage of the micro-history of the environment in *Gurbani*.

An Observation and Research Centre has been created in the Guru Nanak Sacred Forest: A Mini Urban Forest with Native Trees, to involve students and faculty of various streams in research and development on the theme of environmental sustainability. Students from faculties of Science, Social Sciences and Languages undertake interdisciplinary research initiatives based on the native species grown in the mini forest. The faculty has presented and published several research papers along with noteworthy research projects. A related Community Outreach Programme involves distribution of saplings of native species to various schools, colleges, Panjab University, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, SES Management, College staff and students. An ICSSR-sponsored International Conference on ‘Roadmap to Sustainability: Environment and Health’ organised in the College saw global participation. The College has been awarded the prestigious Best Environment Society Award for two consecutive years 2018-19 and 2019-20, besides the Best Herbal Garden Award 2022 by the Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration. Green ThinkerZ Academic Excellence Award 2019 under Institution category was won by the College for its remarkable contribution in the field of holistic education.

In order to promote Heritage and Cultural Preservation, the College offers the subject of Religious and Sikh Studies which embraces a comparative study of different religions of the world inculcating a spirit of tolerance and secular traditions. As per tradition, Sri Akhand Paath is organised on the College Founders’ Day and langar prepared by students and Faculty members is distributed. The students voluntarily hold a monthly prayer service, Sukhmani Sahib Paath, for peace and well-being of all on every Sangrand (first day of each month of Indian solar calendar). The Gurmat Vichar Sabha and the Centre for Sikh Religious and Cultural Studies of the College provide a platform to students for the contemplation of spiritual

knowledge. Skill and Vocational training is imparted to students to encourage self employment, at the same time reviving the heritage and folk art of Punjab by developing expertise in Embroidery (Phulkari and Cross stitch), Pakhi making, Folk Orchestra, Peerhi making, Bagh and Crochet. Heritage Walls have been created in the College in collaboration with Panjab Digital Library and various buildings, gardens and societies of the College are named with titles reflecting historical and cultural significance to make students value and imbibe their culture and heritage. Abiding by the core principle of National Education Policy 2020, the vibrancy of Punjabi Maa Boli (mother tongue) is thereby preserved.

The unique Institutional Distinctiveness of Sri Gobind Singh College is evidently imbibed and carried forward by the Alumni who are serving the nation at various prestigious positions in Civil Services, Armed forces, Police Services, National and International Sports Players, Education, Politics, Medicine, Business, Media, Performance Arts, etc besides well-established NRIs.