

Best Practices

- **Title: Environmental Sustainability**

Goal: Sri Guru Gobind Singh College has taken the initiative to sensitize the students, faculty and stakeholders of the College and community towards the importance of environment conservation and its role in sustainable national development. Keeping in mind both the teachings of the Gurbani, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals announced by the UN, this best practice has been undertaken to bring to the forefront issues of sustainability and environmental concerns.

Context: The most important reason behind the necessity for environmental sustainability is protecting the environment from degradation due to human activities and alarming climatic changes due to global warming. We, as a socially conscious community, and educationists with a vision for the future, have come forward to take measures to conserve and preserve our environment by motivating and involving the younger generation in practices that are beneficial to the environment. Drawing inspiration from the teachings of the Gurbani, we have deduced that a regeneration of the ecosystem by planting native species of trees and creating their seed bank is a viable solution.

The Practice:

Sri Guru Gobind Singh College pioneered several steps to help reduce the carbon footprint of the region.

- The College created a mini urban forest on campus, named Guru Nanak Sacred Forest, having 550 saplings of 37 native species as a tribute to Guru Nanak Dev Ji's ideology. This natural habitat is created with the objective to promote sustainable environment and biodiversity conservation. Trees and forests have been given great importance in *Gurbani*, hence most of the species selected have socio-cultural roots besides their ecological importance, for instance, *Kikar*, *Jand*, *Neem*, *Pipal*, *Bohr*, etc. The purpose of creating this forest is to make a meaningful contribution towards the regeneration of the ecosystem and spreading awareness among the youth who need to understand the concept, the significance and the threat to biodiversity. It is only then that they can play a positive role and take measures for its restoration, conservation, and sustainable use of the vulnerable ecosystem.



Entrance to Guru Nanak Sacred Forest



Plantation in Sacred Forest



Guru Nanak Sacred Forest in full bloom



Aerial View of Guru Nanak Sacred Forest

- A Board displaying the common names, botanical names and pictures of 37 species of trees planted in the Forest has been installed. An aesthetic landscaping of the surrounding area adds to the serenity of the forest. An irrigation system partly sponsored by the Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Punjab has been devised especially for watering the Forest and trained staff for upkeep and maintenance has been deployed.



Trees in Guru Nanak Sacred Forest being irrigated

Commemorating 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji

ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰੀਤਰ ਸੰਗਠ
GURU NANAK SACRED FOREST
Established : April 03, 2019
Sri Guru Gobind Singh College
Sector-26, Chandigarh

Sr. No.	Common Name	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਨਾਂ	Botanical Name	Species Type
1	Semal	ਸੰਮਲ	<i>Bombax ceiba</i>	Canopy
2	Baheda	ਬਹੀਤਾ	<i>Terminalia bellerica</i>	Canopy
3	Arjun	ਅਰਜੁਨ	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>	Canopy
4	Phulai	ਫੁਲਾਈ	<i>Acacia modesta</i>	Tree
5	Shaasham	ਸ਼ਾਸ਼ਮ	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	Tree
6	Jhingam	ਝੰਗਮ	<i>Lannea coromandelica</i>	Tree
7	Palash	ਪਲਾਸ਼	<i>Butea monosperma</i>	Tree
8	Babool/ Kikar	ਬਾਬੂਲ	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	Tree
9	Sohanjano	ਸੁਹਾਜਾਨਾ	<i>Moringa concanensis</i>	Tree
10	Jand	ਜੰਡ	<i>Prosopis cineraria</i>	Tree
11	Roheda	ਰਹੀਤਾ	<i>Tecomella undulata</i>	Tree
12	Jamun	ਜਮੁਨ	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Tree
13	Gular	ਗੁਲ	<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	Tree
14	Papdi	ਪਾਪੜੀ	<i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i>	Tree
15	Desi mango	ਦੇਸੀ	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Tree
16	Harad	ਹਰਾਦ	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	Tree
17	Mahua	ਮਹੂਆ	<i>Madhuca longifolia</i>	Tree
18	Pikhan	ਪੀਕਾਨ	<i>Ficus virens</i>	Tree
19	Neem	ਨੀਮ	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Tree
20	Peepal	ਪੀਪਲ	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	Tree
21	Bargad/Bohar	ਬਰਗਦ	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	Tree
22	Lasura	ਲਸੂਰਾ	<i>Cardia myxa</i>	Tree
23	Anaalis	ਅਨਾਲੀਸ	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Sub tree
24	Khair/ Katha	ਖੈਰ	<i>Acacia catechu</i>	Sub tree
25	Harshingar/ Kusam	ਹਰਸ਼ਿੰਗਰ	<i>Nycanthes orbar-tristis</i>	Sub tree
26	Lasora / Gaanda	ਲਸੂਰਾ	<i>Cardia dichotoma</i>	Sub tree
27	Chamror	ਚਮਰੋਰ	<i>Ehretia laevis</i>	Sub tree
28	Khara Jal/Pilu/Meswak	ਖਰਾ ਜਲ	<i>Salvadora oleoides</i>	Sub tree
29	Meetha jal	ਮੀਠਾ ਜਲ	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	Sub tree
30	Karir	ਕਰੀਰ	<i>Capparis decidua</i>	Sub tree
31	Dhanak	ਧਨਾਕ	<i>Anogeissus pendula</i>	Sub tree
32	Gum arabic	ਗੁਮ ਅਰਬਿਕ	<i>Acacia senegal</i>	Sub tree
33	Karonj	ਕਰੋਂਜ	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	Sub tree
34	Vosoka	ਵੋਸੋਕਾ	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i>	Shrub
35	Karonda	ਕਰੋਂਡਾ	<i>Carissa caronda</i>	Shrub
36	Guggul	ਗੁਗੁਲ	<i>Commiphora wightii</i>	Shrub
37	Nirgundi	ਨੀਰਗੁੰਡੀ	<i>Vitex negundo</i>	Shrub

550 Saplings with 37 Native Species of Native Trees
Area: 180 Sq Metres | Density: 3.6 Saplings Per Sq Metre

Board displaying common and botanical names of trees

- To strengthen the idea of Environmental Sustainability and Heritage Preservation, *Desi Beriyan (Zizyphus sp)* were planted along the boundary of the Sacred Forest in order to attract birds. The Ber is an endemic tree and has an intimate connection with Sikh heritage, being related to many Sikh shrines. Encouraging a spirit of brotherhood and mutual cooperation, 150 *Beri* saplings were gifted to the college by Beerh Mallan Society, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab.



Plantation of Desi Beriyan (*Zizyphus sp.*)

- An Observation and Research Centre has been constructed to involve the students and faculty of various streams. Students of Botany and Zoology are involved in the study of restoration of native plant habitat vital to preserving biodiversity since it forms the ecological basis upon which life depends. The forest has improved the biodiversity index of the area by attracting many species of birds and insects, which had become almost extinct. Students of Chemistry and Biotechnology are involved in projects for *in vitro* antioxidant potential and phytochemical screening of the native species of trees. In a way, this forest has provided a platform for inter-disciplinary research. Students of History, Literature and Religious Studies are involved in studying and preserving the historical, cultural and religious significance of the various species of trees growing in the sacred forest. The Sacred Forest amalgamates the aspects of ecosystem diversity, curative diversity (a wide variety of medicinal plants) and cultural diversity (including spiritual values) very successfully.



Mr Aditya Sharma, Hydrometrologist, Central Ground Water Board, Chandigarh with his team and faculty



**Mr Aditya Sharma, with his team and faculty at the
Observation and Research Centre**

- The Guru Nanak Sacred Forest, aiming to provide holistic and multidisciplinary education, falls in congruence with the basic essence of National Education Policy 2020. The merging of tradition and modernity provides a sound solution to biodiversity management and planning. In the true sense of trans-disciplinary experiential education, it also involves the disciplines of Humanities and Sciences. Students of NCC, NSS, graduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels studying in this Institute and other colleges under Panjab University, Chandigarh, students belonging to various regions of India and different socio-cultural backgrounds, considerable number of foreign students studying in our Institute are involved in creating this forest – all future Ambassadors of the Environment, worked together to help realize our shared vision of environmental sustainability. Transcending borders and institutions, several government agencies, private companies and NGOs also joined our cause, making this endeavour more inclusive and intersectional.

- **Relevance to National Mission/Priorities**

The creation of Guru Nanak Sacred Forest on the campus will contribute towards the National Mission and Environment Priorities of the Government in a big way by involving the youth as evident from the various policies enlisted below.

- The Government of India has time and again garnered people's attention and support towards the cause of the environment. Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has launched numerous initiatives to safeguard the environment and steer India towards being a leader in restoration of Green Global Environment.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) named the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron as joint 'Champions of the Earth' in the policy leadership category.
- A Green Skill Development Programme was launched in June 2017 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. 'Green skills' refers to those that contribute to preserve and restore environment and create a sustainable future. Hence, the programme focuses on developing skills among the youth in the environment and forest sector.
- National Bio-Diversity Target 2020: The target of the Government under NBT (National Biodiversity) by 2020 is that the youth, right from their formative years, should be acquainted with the value of biodiversity and take positive steps to conserve and use it sustainably.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will receive World Bank's Global Environment Facility Grant for India's Ecosystem Services Improvement Project (ESIP). As part of this, models will be developed and tested for improving forest quality through effective management of invasive alien species.
- The Green India Mission (GIM) aims to improve forest quality over five million hectares and develop new forests over another five million hectares. The ESIP project in alignment with GIM will develop and implement innovative approaches and field-based activities for invasive species removal, replanting with native species and biological control. It will result in an enhanced national knowledge base to support the policy on containing the geographic spread of such invasive species.
- In order to build a greener campus, the College has formed two committees, "Campus Beautification Committee" and "Dharat Suhavi Environment Society". The Committees work towards raising and maintaining plant diversity (Algae, Bryophytes, Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms and Angiosperms) with special emphasis on giving

practical demonstrations to medical students. The botanical garden also includes a special spot for raising economically important herbal and medicinal plants. This garden is used as a nursery for raising horticultural plants. These plants are later planted in various parts of the college for decoration. Some of these plants are gifted under the “*Saugaat*” – Gift-a-Sapling scheme, to various dignitaries and guests who visit the college on different occasions.



**Saplings to felicitate dignitaries visiting College –
An initiative under ‘*Saugaat*’ Scheme**

- A **solar greenhouse** (10 m x 6 m) equipped with micro-sprinklers (DST sponsored) is a special feature in the botanical garden that is used to cultivate ferns and to protect plants from extreme environmental conditions. The botanical garden also has a pond containing lotus, lilies, algae and other aquatic plants. Various bird feeders are installed in the botanical garden for attracting birds.



Solar Green House in Botanical Garden



Aerial View of College Botanical Garden



Lily and Lotus Pond



College Botanical Garden



Succulent Area



Aquatic Plants

- **Medicinal plants:** The College has a special herbal spot with a collection of approximately 100 species of medicinal plants like Mint, Coriander, Peppermint, Tulsi, Basil, Thyme, Oregano, Fenugreek, Cardamom, Clove, Bayleaf, Kewda, Brahmi, Ashwagandha, Vacha, Lemon, Lemongrass, Calotropis, Fennel, Chives, Turmeric, Ginger etc. which aid in teaching of Ethnobotany and in research by students of Botany, Biotechnology and Chemistry. For the above said purpose, these plants are cultured and maintained annually at their designated spots.
- **Flowering plants:** A plethora of seasonal and perennial flowering plants adorn the college, some of which include Dahlia, Chrysanthemum, Zinnia, Poppy, Dianthus, Petunia, Phlox, Marigold etc. These flowering plants have fetched many laurels to the College in various flower shows.



Saplings of Seasonal Plants



Seasonal Flowers on Campus

- **Fruit Plants:** The College has a wide variety of indigenous and exotic fruit trees such as mango, jackfruit, amla, pear, plum, peach, jamun, lemon, mausami, grapevine, dragon fruit. To commemorate Forest Day, 20 different species of fruit plants were planted.
- **Rare plants:** The College has a collection of some rare plants like Rudraksh, *Zamia furfuracea*, *Rhapis excelsa*, *Ravenala madagascariensis*, *Vanda* and Bird-of-Paradise.
- To improve fertility of the soil, a Composting Unit consisting of a simple compost pit, a bacterial compost pit, a vermicompost pit and a vermiwash was installed which also

provided hands-on training to students. The unit is also used under the project pertaining to management of leaf litter which usually turns out to be a big menace for the municipal corporation every year in the City.



Vermicompost Pit



Bacterial Composting Pit



Compost Pit



Inauguration of Vermicomposting and Bacterial Composting Unit

- In order to conserve potable water, treated tertiary water is used on campus for watering the lawns, botanical garden and playground.
- The College uses renewable energy resources such as solar energy. Solar panels installed on the roof of Boys' Hostel are used to heat water. Solar lights are also installed in the premises.



Solar Water Heater on roof of Boys' Hostel



Solar Lights on College Campus

- To achieve a '*paper-light*' working environment, the College has adapted proficiently to digital methods of communication for administrative work, admissions, maintenance

of academic records, leave application, notice broadcasting. This has greatly helped in reducing the carbon footprint.

- The College celebrated ‘National Biodiversity Day’ on May 22, 2019 to spread awareness about the importance of biodiversity as well as focus on global issues including biodiversity laws.
- Dharat Suhavi Environment Society of the College contributed in a big way in sensitizing the students about environmental sustainability by organizing numerous activities. To name a few, World Environment Day, Akshay Urja Diwas, Green Consumer Day, Mega Swachhta Pakhwada were celebrated through Expert talks delivered by renowned scientists such as Dr. Harinath Kasiganesa, ex-DRDO scientist, focusing on Agrarian Medicine and Dr. Amritpal Toor, ex-Coordinator, Energy Research Centre, PU Chandigarh on renewable energy resources.



**Dr Harinath Kasiganesa being felicitated after the lecture
on Integrated Agrarian Lifestyles**

- To promote the Reuse and Recycle policy, the Campus Beautification Committee and the Dharat Suhavi Environment Society organized ‘Say No to Plastic’ Drive on campus on Feb 27, 2020. Jute and handmade cloth bags made by students were distributed among the staff and students. The use of thermocol glasses and plates have been banned in the College Canteen. The College organized a Painting Competition on the theme ‘Plastic Free Chandigarh’ on Sep 19, 2019. To make the campus plastic free, an

awareness-cum-cleanliness drive on 'Ban on Single Use Plastic' was conducted by NSS volunteers on Sep 20, 2019.



Distribution of Cloth Bags



Door-to-Door Campaign to shun the use of plastic bags

- *Langar* (community kitchen of Gurudwara serving free meals to all visiting members and staff) prepared by students and staff of the College was served to all on eco-friendly sustainable green *pattals* (plates made from leaves) on College Founder's Day as part of a regular green practice.



Langar being served on Green Pattals

- With the primary focus on Plastic Waste Management and awareness towards the detrimental effect of uncollected plastic waste on human beings, animals and the environment, the College participated in *Swachhata He Sewa* (SHS) 2019, a *jan-andolan* for Swachhata from Sep 11 to Oct 02, 2019.
- A 02-Day ICSSR sponsored International Conference on the theme 'Roadmap to Sustainability: Environment and Health' was organized from Mar 05 – Mar 06, 2020.

Dharat Suhavi Environment Society of the College distributed herbal saplings like Parsley, Lemon Grass, Basil, Mint, Celery and Rosemary amongst the participants and the resource persons to promote the use of medicinal plants in daily life.



**ICSSR-sponsored two-day International Conference on
'Roadmap to Sustainability: Environment and Health',
March 05-06, 2020**

- The Conference aimed at exploring innovative, practical and sustainable ways of protecting health and environment.
- The Faculty is involved in various Research Projects related to environment conservation.

Evidence of success:

The creation of the Sacred Forest in our College will be of great significance towards documentation and preservation of genetic heritage. It will involve a study and documentation of traditional ways of collecting and storing seeds of native species. We need to study how tiny forest spaces can act as safe refuges for insects, birds and other fauna that are gradually disappearing from the ecosystem. It will contribute towards Environment related policies of the Government by mobilizing people with foresight from academia, youth, government and private agencies.

Various observations and studies will be done during the growth of the forest:

- Multi-layered dense forest with various canopies – shrub, sub tree and tree
- Natural biodiversity habitat for pollinators

- Regeneration of ecosystem
- Soil conservation
- 100% organic, zero pesticides

Collaboration with Government Agencies:

The College collaborated with the following Government offices for assistance in further development and expansion of the Forest at various stages:

Punjab Biodiversity Board (PBB), ENVIS Centre, Department of Environment, Punjab State Council for Science & Technology, CREST Chandigarh Renewal Energy Science & Technology Promotion Society, Forest & Wildlife Preservation Department, Department of Soil & Water Conservation.

Visit by Important Dignitaries to the Guru Nanak Sacred Forest:

- S Kahan Singh Pannu, IAS Secretary, Agriculture & Soil Conservation & Mission Director, Tandrust Punjab and Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration and Director, Environment & Climate Change, highly appreciated the contribution of the College towards regeneration of ecology.



Visit of Dignitaries to the Guru Nanak Sacred Forest

- S Kamaldeep Sangha IAS, Secretary, Punjab State Agricultural Marketing Board and Secretary, Punjab State Rural Development Board; Mr Kanwarpal Gujjar, Minister of Education, Forests and Tourism, Haryana; Dr (Mrs) Amrinder Kaur IFS, Principal

Chief Conservator Forests Haryana; Mr T P Singh, IFS, Chief Conservator Forests, Haryana, also an alumnus of our College; Mr Alok Verma, IFS Asst. Principal Chief Conservator Forests & Wildlife, Haryana; S Kundan Singh, father of S Harjit Singh Sajjan, Minister of National Defence and Member of Parliament, Canada; S Jaswant Singh Khaira, Secretary Akal College Council, Gurusagar Mastuana Sahib, Punjab and Mr Aditya Sharma, Hydrometeorologist, Central Ground Water Board, Chandigarh visited along with his team on the occasion of World Sikh Environment Day. They all highly appreciated the contribution of the College towards regeneration of ecology.

Best Environment Society Award

The novel Sacred Forest Project and the outstanding environmental awareness activities of the Dharat Suhavi Environment Society fetched the National Green Corps Best Environment Society Award 2020 under the aegis of Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration.



**National Green Corps Best Environment Society Award
2020 awarded for the outstanding environmental
awareness activities during the year 2019-20**

Research Papers/Projects by Faculty on Environment Sustainability:

Keeping in mind their role as forebearers and mentors to the catalysts of change, our faculty members also published and presented several Research Papers centred around environmental sustainability:

- ‘Afforestation and Conservation of Native Species to tackle Climate Change: A Practical Strategy adopted by Sri Guru Gobind Singh College, Chandigarh’ was declared as ‘Best Paper’ at an **International Conference** on Road Map to Sustainability: Environment & Health, March 5-6, 2020
- ‘Ecological Restoration through Mini Urban Forests created Native Species of Trees’ was presented at **National Conference** on Environment, Human Health and Sustainable Development and World Environment Day 2020 organised by ESDA Delhi, June 05-06, 2020.

Following Minor Research Projects related to environment conservation were sanctioned to the Faculty:

- 'Potential Threat to standing trees of Chandigarh by Bracket Fungi' sanctioned by DST Chandigarh.
- 'Comparing the Efficacy of Vermicomposting and Bacterial Composting Units supplemented on fallen tree leaves (Chandigarh)' sanctioned by DST & RE, Chandigarh Administration.
- ‘Development of carbon nanotube based Biodegradable inkjet printed electrodes for routine analysis of Haemoglobin’ was sanctioned by DST & RE, Chandigarh Administration.

Paper Presentations by Faculty Members during the Two Days ICSSR sponsored International Conference on the theme ‘Roadmap to Sustainability: Environment and Health’:

- ‘Screening of fruit and vegetable waste for bioactive compounds having therapeutic potential’
- ‘Lignocellulose degradation by fungi isolated from rice straw’

- ‘Screening and analysis of polythene degrading microorganisms from soil’
 - ‘Bioinformatics and its Applications in Environmental Science’
 - ‘Screening of fruit and vegetable waste for bioactive compounds having therapeutic potential’
 - ‘Role of nanocomposites as environment cleaner’
- Afforestation and Conservation of native species to tackle climate change: A practical strategy adopted by Sri Guru Gobind Singh College, Chandigarh’ was awarded as best paper in the International Conference on Roadmap to Sustainability: Environment and Health at SGGS College, Chandigarh, Mar 05-06, 2020.

Panel discussion on ‘Sustainable Environment’ was held on Mar 06, 2020 at the Two Day International Conference on Roadmap to Sustainability. The Panellists put forward their views on the burning issue of environment degradation and farmers’ plight including factors like chemical farming, paddy growing, monopolised selling of seeds.



Panel Discussion on Sustainable Environment during the ICSSR-sponsored two-day International Conference on ‘Roadmap to Sustainability: Environment and Health’, March 05-06, 2020

Green ThinkerZ Academic Excellence Award 2019:

The College bagged *Green ThinkerZ Academic Excellence Award 2019* under Institution category for remarkable contribution in the field of holistic education during 4th International Convention on Interdisciplinary Research for Sustainable Development (IRSD) organized by Green ThinkerZ Society, IIT Bombay, FOSS Community and Western Sydney University, Australia on Jan 10, 2020.



Green ThinkerZ Academic Excellence Award 2019

Accolades and Appreciation in Flower Shows

Seven prizes were won in categories of flower competition during the 11th Panjab University Rose Festival held from Feb 07-09, 2020. In the Potted Flower Category, first position was bagged in 'Dahlia' and second in 'Geranium' and 'Marigold'. In Cut-Flower Category, the first position was won in 'Dahlia' and 'Dianthus' and second in 'Dahlia' and 'Gladiolus'. The College also participated in 48th Chandigarh Rose Festival held on Feb 28, 2020.



Award winning Entries at various Flower Shows in the City

The pedestrian path of the College is lined with permanent heritage mango trees, which provide a green canopy over the path. Fruit trees all across the college campus attract birds and frugivorous mammals.



Pedestrian Path lined with Mango Trees

Van Mahotsav is celebrated every year by Campus Beautification Committee, Dharat Suhavi Environment Society, NCC and NSS students of College by tree plantation.

Use of solar geysers in the Boy's hostel, solar and LED lights has helped to conserve energy.

Problems Encountered and Resources required:

- Due to the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, the maintenance of College Gardens became challenging.

Best Practice

- **Title: Cultural and Heritage Preservation**

Goal:

To preserve and maintain culture and heritage for the benefit of future generations and to live in harmony with nature. The objective is to bring the youth closer to their roots.

Context:

In an effort to reconnect the students with their own culture and encourage them to appreciate it, the College undertakes the practice of Cultural and Heritage preservation. The underlying principle of this practice is to develop a deeper understanding of the diverse culture and to develop profound respect for the rich heritage of the region. The College provides a platform

for social, cultural and extension activities that helps students to enhance their creativity and sensitise them towards various aspects of our culture and heritage.

The Practice:

Preservation of Culture and Heritage through Education:

The pedagogy used is contemporary, thereby keeping students in line with the changing scenario in the educational arena, amalgamating this with value systems imbibed through the teachings and lofty ideals of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, after whom the College is named.

The College is unique in terms of imparting teaching in Religious and Sikh Studies, a subject offered by Panjab University, Chandigarh. The syllabus intends to provide with a comparative study of different religions, inculcating a holistic understanding of religious and cultural traditions and promoting a secular atmosphere.

The Centre for Sikh Religious and Cultural Studies provides a platform to the students for learning Gurmukhi, Gurmat Studies, Sikh String Instruments (Rabab/Sarang), Percussion Instruments (Jorhi/Tabla) and Shabad Gyan and free Gurmat Sangeet classes to equip them with skills that would be useful in their professional lives.



Students singing Shabad during 550th Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Skill-based Training to Students

The College gives skill-based training to students to revive the fading heritage and folk art of Punjab. With this training, students develop the potential to become self-employed.

Creation of Heritage Walls

Heritage walls have been created in the College with the assistance of Panjab Digital Library to sensitize the youth towards their heritage and ancient monuments.



Heritage Walls

Inspiration to Students to live in Harmony with Nature and Preserving our Heritage to improve our Environment:

Guru Nanak Sacred Forest was created on campus with the idea to promote the rich legacy of micro-history of environment in Gurbani – the Sikh Gurus have always inspired mankind to live in harmony with nature and its Creator and have taken initiatives in planting trees with medicinal value in different parts of Punjab. We made an effort to delve into this rich heritage for creating the Sacred Forest to bring about an ecological equilibrium.

To inculcate the habit of Environmental Conservation and Heritage Preservation among students and faculty, *Desi Beriyan (Zizyphus sp)* were planted along the boundary of the Sacred Forest, which led to wider diversity in the species of birds found in the College. The Ber is an endemic tree and has an intimate connection with Sikh heritage, being related to many Sikh shrines. Encouraging a spirit of brotherhood and mutual cooperation, 150 *Beri* saplings were gifted to the college by Beerh Mallan Society, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab.

The College also gifted some saplings to Panjab University and the Chandigarh Administration.

Through this unique initiative of establishing the Sacred Forest, our institution also made an effort to trace the ancient philosophy of *Vasudeva Kutumbakam* – the whole world is a family and we need to live in equilibrium with nature.

Inception of Egalitarian Philosophy in students and faculty

The Parkash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh Ji is observed as the Founder's Day of the College. It is marked every year with a three-day celebration where the bedrock of the egalitarian philosophy of Sikhism, i.e., Sangat, Pangat and Langar, is emphasized upon. Students and teachers take part in the preparation of Guru Ka Langar.

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). Within this framework, the unique Sikh practice of *Seva* – ‘*Service before self*’ is integrated in the academic and routine functioning of the College.

Cultural rights and freedom

It is imperative to involve the students in activities which will reconnect them to their culture and encourage them to appreciate it. ‘Seva-bhav’ is encouraged in student volunteers to organize such activities.

The volunteers of the Gurmat Vichaar Sabha recite Kirtan on every *Sangrand* (*First Day of each month of the Indian Solar Calendar*). In keeping with the tradition, this academic session also began with the Path of Sri Sukhmani Sahib followed by Kirtan. The underlying principle of this practice is to develop a deeper understanding of our diverse culture and respect for the rich heritage of the region.



Sri Sukhmani Sahib Paath at the occasion of Sangrand

Cultural and Heritage Activities

The College aims to encourage students' interest, participation and responsibility by providing social, cultural and extension activities which provide students an opportunity to develop their creativity and sensitise them towards the various aspects of the culture and heritage of the region.

- College Annual Magazine “Agammi Jyot 2019-20”, a compilation of articles contributed by students and faculty, was dedicated to the 550th Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- An expert lecture was organized on Gurbani and Science to highlight the scientific principles and nature of the Gurbani.
- Aiming to enlighten the students on Guru Nanak's Bani and teachings, the College organised several Inter-College Competitions.
- *The Naitik Sikhya Exam* was conducted for students.
- The College encourages healthy participation by the students during the Heritage Youth festival held every year and is contributing in reviving the heritage and folk art of Punjab.
- The Sikh Education Society confers Panth Rattan Jathedar Gurcharan Singh Tohra Memorial Award to eminent Sikh scholars for their contribution in the field of Sikh/Punjabi religion, education, social service and culture and heritage.
- The College library is named after the great Sikh scholar Bhai Kahn Singh Nabha and houses a rich collection of religious writings, and reference material based on our rich heritage and culture. It houses a total of 2401 books based on religious studies for the purpose of research.

Organization of Trips and Tours

Regular trips and tours are organised to educate students about the historical and cultural significance of religious places.

Evidence of Success:

The theme of the current issue of the College Annual Magazine “Agammi Jyot 2019-20” released on Jan 27, 2020 is “Uniting India with Many Languages, Many Cultures, Many Ideas”. It is dedicated to the 550th Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and his philosophy of universal brotherhood. The cover page depicts an inscription taken from the biographical

writing, Gian Ratnavali by Bhai Mani Singh describing a biographical episode of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's meeting with Abdul Rehman.

- The students of the college are kept in touch with their cultural heritage through various activities conducted by The Centre for Sikh Religious and Cultural Studies and The Gurmat Vichar Sabha. All activities conducted by them saw enthusiastic and spirited participation by the students.
- Gurmat Vichaar Sabha celebrated the Parkash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Founder's Day of the College from Jan 26-28, 2020. Students performed the *Gatka*, *Vaar* and *Kavishri*. Bibi Sandeep Kaur Lehal (SGPC Amritsar) performed the Dhadi Kalan. Bhai Kawaljeet Singh (HazuriRagi Sri Darbar Sahib, Sri Amritsar) recited the *Gurbani Kirtan* after which *sangat* was served *Guru Ka Langar* prepared by the students and staff of the College.
- The Centre organized a three-day Gurmat Camp from Jan 24–26, 2020 in which 30 students participated and learned Gatka, Gurbani Recitation and Dastar tying. An Open Quiz Contest was organized during the Camp in the Open Ground on the subject "Guru Nanak: Life, Philosophy and Teachings."



Gurmat Camp organized by Gurmat Vichar Sabha, Jan 24-26, 2020



Students participating in Gurmat Quiz



Participants learning *Dastar* tying at Gurmat Camp



Gatka performance on Founder's Day

- About 75 Students are learning the art of classical vocal and instrumental music including Harmonium, Tabla and Rabab in free Gurmat Sangeet Classes conducted by the Centre and are equipping themselves with skill to pursue a career.
- The College encourages healthy participation by the students during the Heritage Youth festival held every year and is contributing in reviving the otherwise fading heritage and folk art of Punjab like Guddian Patole, Embroidery (Phulkari and Cross stitch), Pakhi making, basketry, Folk Orchestra, Peerhi Making, Prandha making, Rassa Vattna, Chikku making, Naala making, Khiddo making, Eennu making, Bagh, Knitting, Heritage Quiz etc. With this training, students develop the potential to become self-employed. Some of our students are selling these products.
- To connect to the roots and promote our rich culture and heritage, the College hires professional coaches to train students and prepare them to compete in Heritage stage events organized during PU Zonal Youth and Heritage Festival. Faculty members are assigned as Event In-Charges to encourage students to participate enthusiastically in Heritage Singing (Ladies traditional song, Kali, Kavishri, Vaar), Folk Orchestra, Folk Instruments, Bhand and Muhavredar Vaartalaap.

- A total of 39 prizes were won by our students at the PU Youth and Heritage Festival of Zone-A held in September 2019 at GCCBA College, Sector 50, Chd. 04 group-items and 06 solo-items from our College qualified to represent Zone A at the PU Inter-Zonal Youth and Heritage Festival, held at Guru Nanak National College, Doraha and our College won 08 Prizes in total.



Students participating in Shabad Competition at PU Inter-Zonal Youth and Heritage Festival



College Bhangra Team in a jubilant mood after winning First Prize at PU Zonal Youth and Heritage Festival (Zone A)

- An expert lecture on ‘*Gurbani and Science: Kete Ind Chand Sur Kete Mandal Des*’ was delivered by Dr. Tarlochan Singh Mahajan, Prof and Head Department of Physics,

GSSDGS Khalsa College, Patiala, on Oct 24, 2019. He focused on Guru Nanak's expansive vision and understanding of creation. He attempted to present Guru Nanak's comprehension of the creation of the universe with relevant quotes from Gurbani.



Lecture by Dr Tarlochan Singh Mahajan on Gurbani and Science: '*Kete Ind Chand Sur Kete Kete Mandal Des*'

- Aiming to enlighten the students on Guru Nanak's Bani and teachings, the College organised several Inter-College Competitions, comprising Group Shabad and Literary Events including Quiz, Elocution, Poetry Recitation, Poetry Writing and Essay Writing on Nov 07, 2019.
- *Naitik Sikhiyaa Exam* was conducted by Guru Gobind Singh Study Circle on Nov 05, 2019. 62 Students participated and received cash prizes.
- The students make use of the reference material and various religious writings available at Bhai Kahn Singh Nabha Library, which adds to their cultural knowledge.
- On Nov 20-21, 2019, 550th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, The Department of Religious and Sikh Studies organised a historical and religious trip to Sultanpur Lodhi, Khadur Sahib and Goindwal Sahib. 48 students visited the Gurudwaras.



Gurmat Vichar Sabha Volunteers at Sultanpur Lodhi on the occasion of 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Not many problems are faced in promotion of Heritage and Cultural Preservation since students show keen interest and willingness to participate in activities that promote rootedness.