



KHALSA COLLEGE



PHTPB



SAARC



TOURISM MINISTRY
GOI



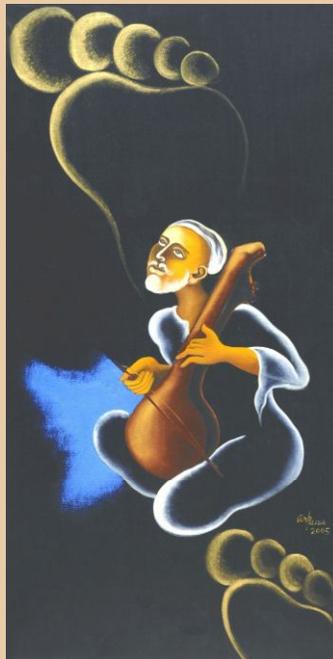
ARPANA CAUR

REPORT

International Sufi Festival

October 20 and 21, 2012

Khalsa College, Amritsar



Organized by
Foundation Of SAARC Writers And Literature
SAARC APEX BODY
and
Punjab Heritage And Tourism Promotion Board
Government of Punjab
in collaboration with
Khalsa College, Ministry Of Tourism, Arpana Caur

INTERNATIONAL SUFI FESTIVAL

AMRITSAR

OCTOBER 20TH AND 21ST, 2012

The strength of Sufism is in its offering of one's complete self: the body, the heart, the mind, the soul and the conscience. Through this complete surrender emerges the strength of unity, of power, of being, and of embracing. In this mastery and slavery is hidden the control of the entire universe because it is the outcome of love for Almighty, and all His creation; love that transverses all religions and beliefs, and is larger and more profound than any doctrine or faith.

The reason behind holding an **International Sufi Festival in Amritsar is that it is perhaps the only city that has been founded by the Fourth Sikh Guru; it is the seat of Sikhism which has its very roots in Sufism. The Foundation of the Golden Temple was laid by the Sufi Saint Saen Mian Mir who was invited from Lahore. Its holy Book: The Guru Granth Sahab includes couplets and verses by great sufi saints like Baba Farid and Kabir, and the essence of this city is secular, and one of mutual co-existence and plurality.**

In this city, a visit to the Darbar Sahab at the Golden Temple, one can feel the reconciliation of opposites: the outer and the inner, the material and the spiritual, the finite and the infinite, the here and the hereafter, the human and the divine. Here one can understand why 'Sufi Tradition' has the capacity to bring and bind people together, generate peaceful relations among all humans, and eliminate the centuries old antagonism that one community has been holding against other, and transcends the caste distinctions.

The Festival was aimed not at any particular religion or religious preachings. It was planned as a Meet and a celebration that would make a collective endeavor to re-discover the spirit of Tasawwuf or Mysticism; something that the world needs today in the highly charged atmosphere of terrorism, communalism and the derogatory racism.

Since we were aiming at getting as many participants as possible, we set out to invite Scholars and Performers of Sufi Thought and Music from all the countries where Sufism is said to have been born and developed, as well as the countries where it has travelled and struck root. In the process we contacted scholars, musicians and performers from Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh,

Sri Lanka, Nepal, Turkmenistan, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan and of course from all over India.

It was our good fortune that we received a positive response from almost all the countries, their Sufi shrines [Dargahs], Universities and Institutes of Islamic and Oriental Studies.

We then began our own sorting regarding the choice of scholars, their past work and contribution, and the performers and musicians, their style and form, and most importantly, the popularity of their performance.

Most organizations that are in the field of organizing International Cultural Festivals and Conferences are Delhi-centric, because they wish to showcase their work to the powers that be. **On the other hand our belief is that all cultural and literary activity should be spread out, all over the country.** In case of Sufism our desire to move away from Delhi was particularly acute because we wished to take the message of peace and harmony to the masses and spread the seed of mysticism as far and wide as possible.

After a lot of in-house discussion and consultation with organizers from other cities and states, we zeroed down on Amritsar, which is well connected by air and train. This is also a city that is close to the Indo-Pak border, has access to Central Asian countries by air and most importantly has been for the last five hundred years home to the Ganga-Yamuni Tehzeeb.

We were fortunate that almost at the inception of our search we got a very positive response from the Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board, Govt. of Punjab. The Project of the International Sufi Festival was supported and cared for by the Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board [PHTPB], with Dr. Geetika Kalha, Principal Secretary Dept. of Tourism, personally looking into each and every phase of its management and presentation.

After the initial discussion on the fundamentals of functioning of the Festival, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between FOSWAL and PHTPB with the acknowledgement that the event would be made an annual event, extended over three years.

Once the modalities of the Sufi Festival and the support being extended by PHTPB had been worked out, the Chief Coordinator of FOSWAL Dr. Noor Zaheer travelled to Amritsar and together with the representative of PHTPB, Ms. Simran Sekhon, met

the Principal of Khalsa College, Amritsar, to explore the possibility of holding the Sufi Festival on its premises. The Principal, Prof Daljeet Singh, agreed to let us have both the inner hall, for the Academic Seminar and discourses, and the outer open air amphitheatre for holding the evening performances and Sufi expositions. In consultation with the PHTPB authorities and our own officials in FOSWAL, the dates for the International Sufi Festival were finalized for October 20th and 21st, 2012.

On the basis of the correspondence, the work study and the abstracts of the papers forwarded to the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature, Ajeet Cour, President FOSWAL, and Dr. Noor Zaheer, Chief Coordinator, FOSWAL, and Dr. Refaqt Ali Khan, the Director of the Festival, then drew up a final list of participants. Letters of formal invitations were then sent out both to Scholars, Poets and Sufi Performers.

Once the venue, date and major participation was finalized, Principal Secretary, Dr. Geetika Kalha approached His Excellency Shivraj Patil ji, Governor of Punjab, and Sri Prakash Singh Badal ji, Chief Minister of Punjab to inaugurate and be Guests of Honour at the International Sufi Festival. Both of them were kind enough to agree to be present at the inauguration of the Festival and to give inaugural speeches.

The FOSWAL team arrived in Amritsar a week before to oversee the arrangements of the Festival. The PHTPB team was also present and the Amritsar office of PHTPB also worked round the clock to make all the arrangements water tight.

Since this was a very big event as far as Amritsar was concerned, and this was the first time something like this was the happening in Amritsar, the curiosity about the Sufi Festival was very high. On our side too, we wished to highlight the role of Sufism as a mediator and peace maker.

So it was decided to hold a Press Conference on the eve of the event, on October 19th. We usually hold a Press conference to apprise the media with our work and the immediate event. This press conference was presided over both by Dr. Geetika Kalha and Ajeet Cour, so that maximum information could be reached to the general public about this major event in the city of Amritsar and the state of Punjab through media.

Members of the Press were present in full strength and the next day each and every paper in Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and English carried the coverage and information about the International Sufi Festival.



KHALSA COLLEGE



PUNJAB
India begins here
PHTPB



SAARC



TOURISM MINISTRY
GOI



ARPANA CAUR

International Sufi Festival

October 20, 21, 2012, Khalsa College, Amritsar

Organized by
Foundation Of SAARC Writers And Literature
SAARC Apex Body
 and
Punjab Heritage And Tourism Promotion Board
 Government of Punjab

In collaboration with
 Ministry Of Tourism (Government of India), Arpana Caur
 & Khalsa College

Academic Sessions : 10.00 am to 01.30 pm
Performances : 07.00 pm to 09.00 pm
Poetry : 21st Oct. : 05.00 pm to 07.00 pm



Eminent Performers :
 El-E-dri Group, Turkey
 Dilafuz Kodirova, Uzbekistan
 Malang, Faqir Fahem Ali,
 Wahid Bukhsh, Pakistan
 Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, Bangladesh
 Saparovich Group, Turkmenistan
 Muhammed Shoaib's Group, Afghanistan
 Darbari Raagi Surtinder Singh Jodhpuri Jee,
 Punjabi Folk Orchestra, Sammi Dance, India

Important Scholars and Poets :
 Sargut Cemalnur Hoca, Turkey,
 A.K. Rashid, Afghanistan
 Ahmed Salim, Saad Ullah Jan Barq,
 Shahzad Qaiser, Zahrah Nasir,
 Fahem Chaudhry, Aysha Zee Khan, Pakistan
 Md. Nurul Huda, Bangladesh
 Daya Dissanayake, Sri Lanka,
 Abhi Subedi, Nepal
 Ibrahim Vahedi, Maldives,
 G.R. Mahdavi, Iran
 Mahyaya Abdurrahmonova, Uzbekistan
 Salibeg Sabiev, Tajikistan

**30 International Sufi Scholars, 25 International
 Poets, 50 Sufi Musicians,
 Singers and Dancing Dervishes from 12 countries:
 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Iran,
 Nepal,
 Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkey,
 Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.**

One of the several Hoardings of the INTERNATIONAL SUFI FESTIVAL,
spread all over Amritsar.



Historical Building of Khalsa College, where the Festival was held.

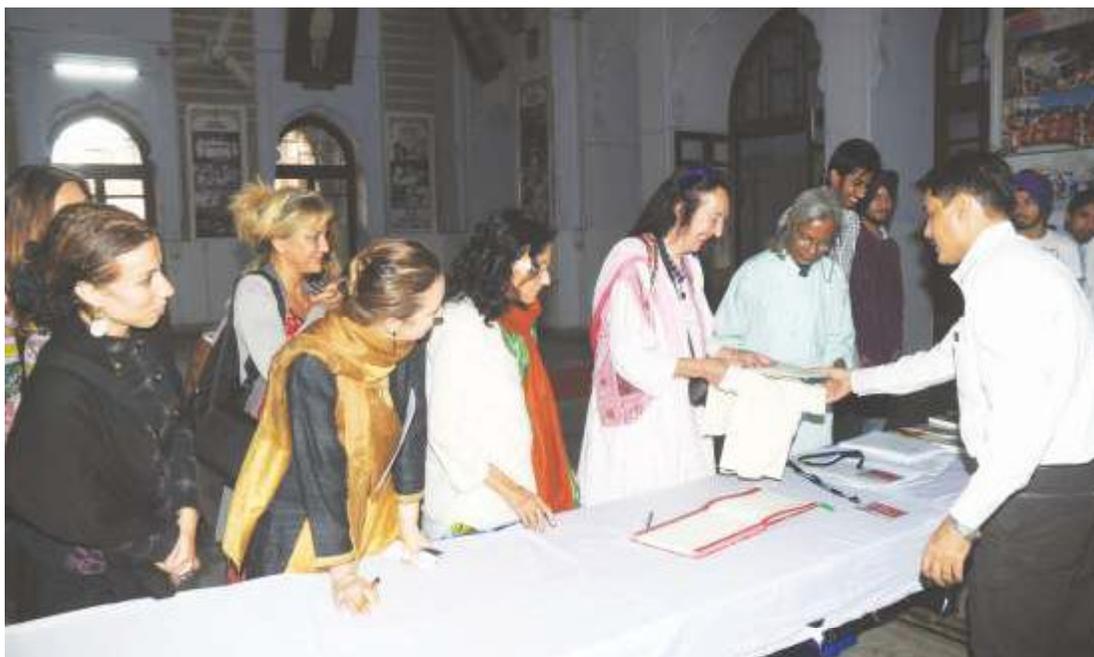
20th OCTOBER

INAUGURATION

OF THE ACADEMIC SESSION

Registration of the Delegates: 9.30 am

The Registration Desk outside the Seminar Hall of Khalsa College was opened at 9.15 am and delegates began to arrive, signing and collecting their delegate cards



Registration of Delegates.

from 9.20 am. There was considerable interest in the publications of FOSWAL that had been displayed in the reception area. The Report and published papers of the previous International Sufi Festivals and Conferences were of particular interest to the participating scholars and visitors.

Special bags had been prepared for the Sufi Festival, with cloth patch-work design to give a feel of the 'Darvesh jhola' to the participants and to set the mystic mood of 'Tassawuf'. These were gifted to the scholars who presented papers. Inside the bags was a shawl, a writing pad and a booklet of photographs and bio-datas of the participating scholars and performers, and a book on Sufism brought out after our last Sufi Festival.



Inaugural Session : on the dais from left : **Ajeet Cour**, **Mr. Surjit Patar**, **Janab Syed Ahmed Shah Cheshti** from Afghanistan, **Dr. Mustafa Zaman Abbasi** from Bangladesh, **Mr. Saad Ullah Jan Barq** from Pakistan, **Dr. Geetika Kalha**, Principal Secretary, Culture and Tourism, Government of Punjab, Sufi Teacher **Sargut Cemalnur Hoca** and **Ms. Sehvar Tukek** from Turkey, **Prof. Akhtarul Wasey** of India, **Prof. Abhi Subedi** from Nepal, **Prof. Daya Dissanyake** from Sri Lanka, **Prof. Mukhayyo Abdurakhmonova** from Uzbekistan.

Ajeet Cour together with **Dr. Geetika Kalha** opened the proceedings of the First Academic Session, by welcoming all the delegates.

Leaders of all the delegations from various countries represented at the Festival were invited to be honoured. **Ajeet Cour** then welcomed all the delegates and presented each one of them with a Kashmiri Pashmina shawl.



Ajeet Cour welcoming the Delegates.

In her welcome speech **AJEET COUR** said:

The greatness of the Philosophy of Sufism is that it is not a religion. One can be a Muslim, Jew, Hindu, Sikh, Christian or anyone and still be a Sufi. It does not have a doctrine to be strictly followed.

It is a search of the self and the one who has created this self.

She said that the organization had to search for a whole year across the world to locate Sufi scholars, Sufi Poets and Writers, Sufi Musicians and also Sufi Murshids and Dervishes.

She said that Khushwant Singh had written that “Punjab is the land of Sufism”. That was precisely the reason why the Sufi Festival was being organized at Amritsar.

She said that the Fourth Guru, Guru Ramdas jee had invited the great Sufi Saint



Dr. Geetika Kalha delivering her Address in the Inaugural Session.

Mian Meer from Lahore, to lay the foundation stone of the great Golden Temple.

The PHTPB had also arranged to give gifts to each of the delegates and Dr.

Geetika Kalha presented these to the leaders of the delegations of each country on the dias. On behalf of the PHTPB and the city of Amritsar, Geetika ji then welcomed the delegates.

Speaking on Sufism she said that Punjab had always been the recipient of new ideas and concepts and perhaps that is why it had become most receptive to new

philosophies. The sociological make up of the people of this region is such that they are progressive and liberal. While they lived life to the hilt, they also opened their heart and soul to all the ways and means of reaching the “ultimate bliss”: that of unity with the Maker.

She cited the example of the presence of the innumerable Sufi poets in Punjab and the fact that each one of them had preached brotherhood, love and harmony.

She also formally announced that this festival would now be taking place every year. She assured the delegates that Amritsar would always be home to them, because of the generosity and large-heartedness of Punjab, and that it would



Ajeet Cour honouring DR. GEETIKA KALHA, Principal Secretary, Culture and Tourism, Government of Punjab, with a Shawl and memento.



Ajeet Cour honouring Sufi Teacher SHEIKHA SARGUT CEMALNUR HOCA from Turkey, with a Shawl and memento.



Ajeet Cour honouring JANAB SYED AHMED SHAH CHESHTI from Afghanistan, with a Shawl and memento.



Ajeet Cour honouring PROF. ABHI SUBEDI from Nepal, with a Shawl and memento.



Ajeet Cour honouring PROF. AKHTARUL WASEY, with a Shawl and memento.



Ajeet Cour honouring MR. SURJIT PATAR, the Punjabi Poet, with a Shawl and memento.



Ajeet Cour honouring MR. SAAD ULLAH JAN BARQ from Pakistan, with a Shawl and memento.



Ajeet Cour honouring PROF. DAYA DISSANAYAKE from Sri Lanka, with a Shawl and memento.



Ajeet Cour honouring DR. MUSTAFA ZAMAN ABBASI from Bangladesh, with a Shawl and memento.



Ajeet Cour honouring PROF. MUKHAYYO ABDURAKHMONOVA from Uzbekistan, with a Shawl and memento.



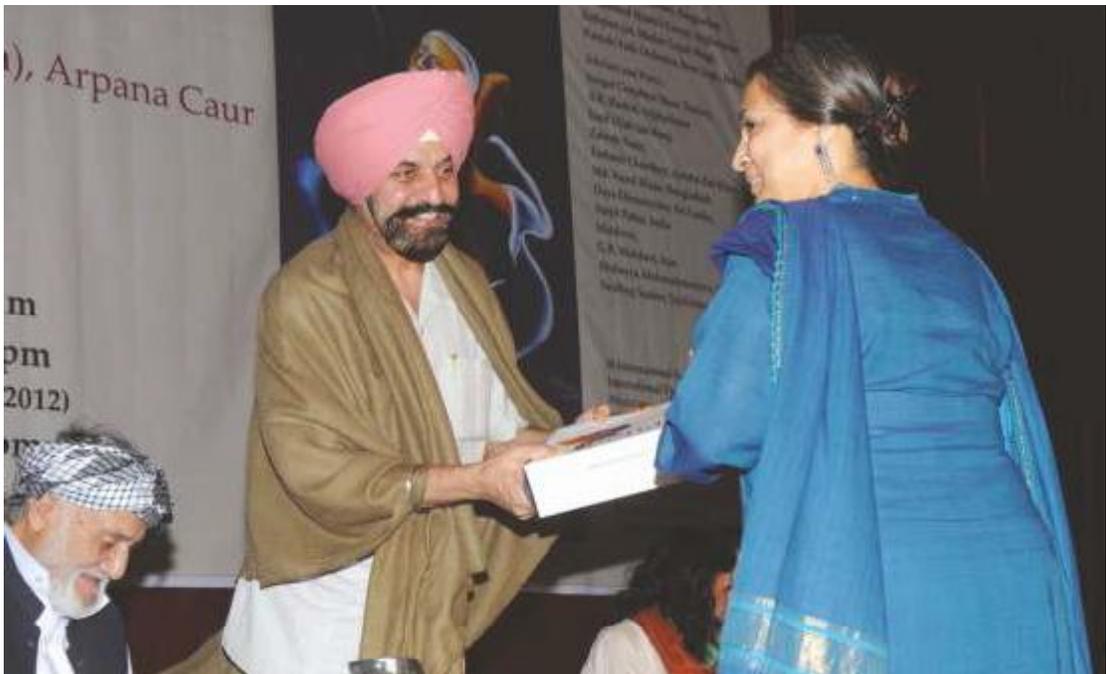
Ajeet Cour honouring PROF. DALJEET SINGH, Principal of Khalsa College, with a Shawl and memento.



DR. GEETIKA KALHA, Principal Secretary, Culture and Tourism, Government of Punjab, presenting a gift to PROF. ABHI SUBEDI from Nepal.



DR. GEETIKA KALHA, Principal Secretary, Culture and Tourism, Government of Punjab, presenting a gift to PROF. AKHTARUL WASEY.



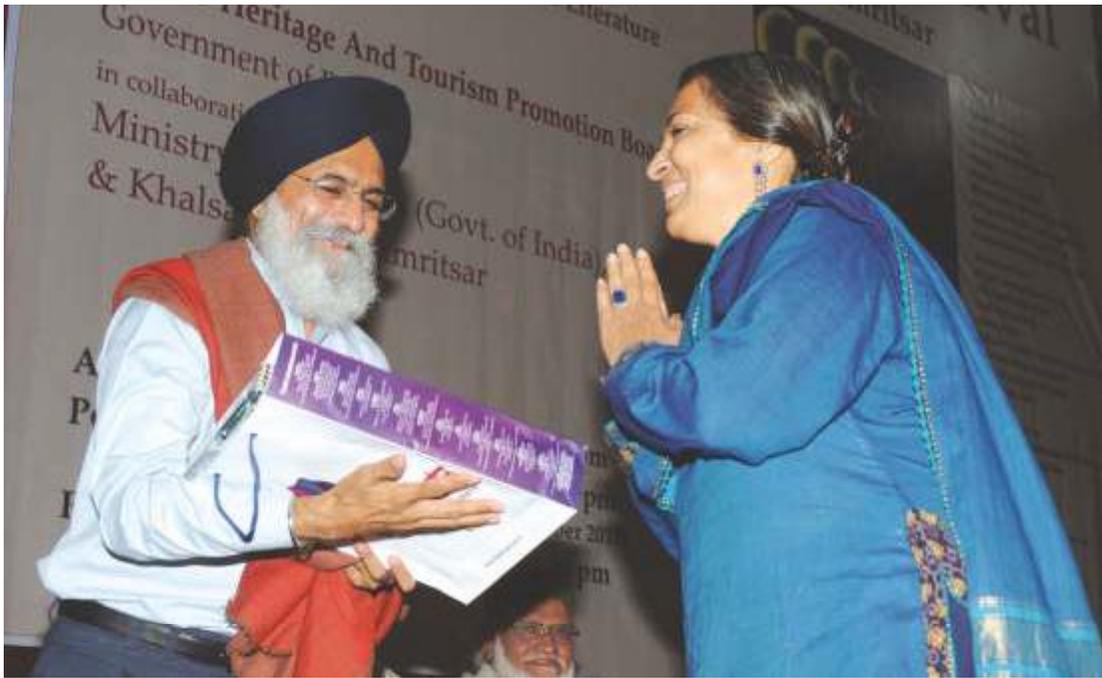
DR. GEETIKA KALHA, Principal Secretary, Culture and Tourism, Government of Punjab, presenting a gift to PROF. DALJEET SINGH, Principal of Khalsa College.



DR. GEETIKA KALHA, Principal Secretary, Culture and Tourism, Government of Punjab, presenting a gift to PROF. MUKHAYYO ABDURAKHMONOVA from Uzbekistan,



DR. GEETIKA KALHA, Principal Secretary, Culture and Tourism, Government of Punjab, presenting a gift to MS. AJEET COUR.



DR. GEETIKA KALHA, Principal Secretary, Culture and Tourism, Government of Punjab, presenting a gift to MR. SURJIT PATAR,



DR. GEETIKA KALHA, Principal Secretary, Culture and Tourism, Government of Punjab, presenting a gift to MR. SYED AHMED SHAH CHESHTI, from Afghanistan.



DR. GEETIKA KALHA, releasing the book of MR. MANMOHAN SINGH MITWA, poet and scholar. Ajeet Cour and Ayesha Zee Khan share the happy moments.



DR. GEETIKA KALHA, releasing the book of MS. AYESHA ZEE KHAN, poet and scholar from Pakistan. Ajeet Cour and Manmohan Singh Mitwa, share the happy moments.



Delegates looking at FOSWAL's books at the Book Exhibition.

always welcome them with open arms, each one of them, always.

Each one of the delegates then gave a short speech on how they perceived Tassawuf and what role they expected it to play in world peace and harmony.

These were :

Sufi Master (murshid) **Shiekha Sargut Cemalnur Hoca** from Turkey who is the only Woman Sufi Murshed in the world at the moment. She has a very large following, and at her centre in Istanbul, is continuously debating the importance and role of Sufism as a way of life.

The other leaders of the delegation were :

- **Mustafa Zaman Abbasi**-Bangladesh
- **Ahmed Shah Cheshti Maududi**- Afghanistan
- **Saad Ullah Jan Barq**-Pakistan
- **Sufi Teacher Sheikha Sargut Cemalnur Hoca**-Turkey
- **Sunil Motiwal**-Bhutan
- **Mukhayyo Abdurehmanova**-Uzbekistan

- **Prof. Abhi Subedi-Nepal**
- **Prof Daya Dissanayake-Sri Lanka**
- **Prof. Akhtarul Wasey-Delhi, India**
- **Surjit Patar-Punjab, India**

FIRST SESSION :

After the inauguration of the Academic session and a tea break, the first session of the Academic Seminar was chaired by **Mustafa Zaman Abassi (Bangladesh)**. The Keynote Address was given by **Prof. Akhtarul Wasey**, eminent scholar and head of the Dept. of Islamic Studies, Jamia University, and Hon. Director Zakir Husain Institute of Islamic Studies.

The participating scholars in this session were :

1. **Saad Ullah Jan Barq** [Pakistan]
2. **Prof. Daya Dissanayake** [Sri Lanka]
3. **Dr. Noor Zaheer** [India]
4. **Prof. Bal Bahadur Thapa** [Nepal]



MR. SAAD ULLAH JAN BARQ, eminent scholar from Pakistan, presenting his Paper.
On the dais from left **Dr. Noor Zaheer**, **Prof. Daya Dissanayake** from Sri Lanka,
Prof. Mustafa Zaman Abbasi from Bangladesh, **Prof. Akhtarul Wasey** of India.

SECOND SESSION

The **second session** of the seminar that began after a lavish Lunch was chaired by **Prof Abhi Subedi (Nepal)**. The scholars who spoke in this session were :

1. **Gallele Sumannasiri** [Sri Lanka]
2. **Keshab Sigdel** [Nepal]
3. **Ayesha Zee Khan** [Pakistan]
4. **Parvez Nazir** [India]

The PHTPB had been good enough to arrange for the sight seeing and excursion of the Amritsar City, and most of the delegates left for the tour of the city and the Golden Temple after LUNCH.



On the dais, from left :
Prof. Mohammad Nurul Huda
from Bangladesh,
Prof. Keshab Sigdel from Nepal,
Prof. Gallele Sumanasiri
from Sri Lanka.

In the audience, from left :
Jahanara Tabassum from
Pakistan, **Sukhwinder Amrit**,
Surjit Patar, **Ajeet Cour**
and **Ramesh Sharma**.





In the audience, from left :
Janab Syed Ahmed Shah Cheshti from Afghanistan,
Dr. Parvez Nazir of India,
Mr. Walishah Bahrah from Afghanistan,
Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, Head Islamic Studies, Jamia University,
Prof. Keshab Sigdel from Nepal,
Prof. Mohammad Nurul Huda from Bangladesh,
Ms. Asma Abbasi from Bangladesh.



Saeen jee Anil Mehra sharing views with the delegates.



Saeen jee Anil Mehra and **Arpana Caur**, with **Dr. Geetika Kalha**.

EVENING PERFORMANCES

In the evening the beautiful building of Khalsa College with its grand domes and imposing minarets was lit up for the Formal Inauguration of The First International Sufi Festival, Amritsar, which was INAUGURATED by the **CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB, SRI PRAKASH SINGH BADAL** with the GUEST OF HONOUR being **HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR OF PUNJAB, SRI SHIVRAJ PATIL**.



His Excellency Governor of Punjab, **Shri Shivraj V. Patil**, and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, **Shri Prakash Singh Badal**, being escorted to the Performance venue.



On the dais : His Excellency, Governor of Punjab, **Shri Shivraj V. Patil**, and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, **Shri Prakash Singh Badal**.



Ajeet Cour honouring His Excellency the **Governor of Punjab, Shri Shivraj V. Patil**, with a Shawl. **Dr. Geetika Kalha** shares the happy moments.



Ajeet Cour presenting Sufi Festival Memento to His Excellency **Governor of Punjab, Shri Shivraj V. Patil**. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, **Shri Prakash Singh Badal** and **Dr. Geetika Kalha**, share the happy moments.



Ajeet Cour presenting books of the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature to His Excellency, Governor of Punjab, Shri Shivraj V. Patil.



Ajeet Cour honouring Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Prakash Singh jee Badal, with a Shawl and memento. Dr. Geetika Kalha shares the happy moments.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Prakash Singh jee Badal presenting gift to Ms. Ajeet Cour. Ms. Geetika Kalha shares the happy moments.



Audience watching Sufi performances with rapt attention.

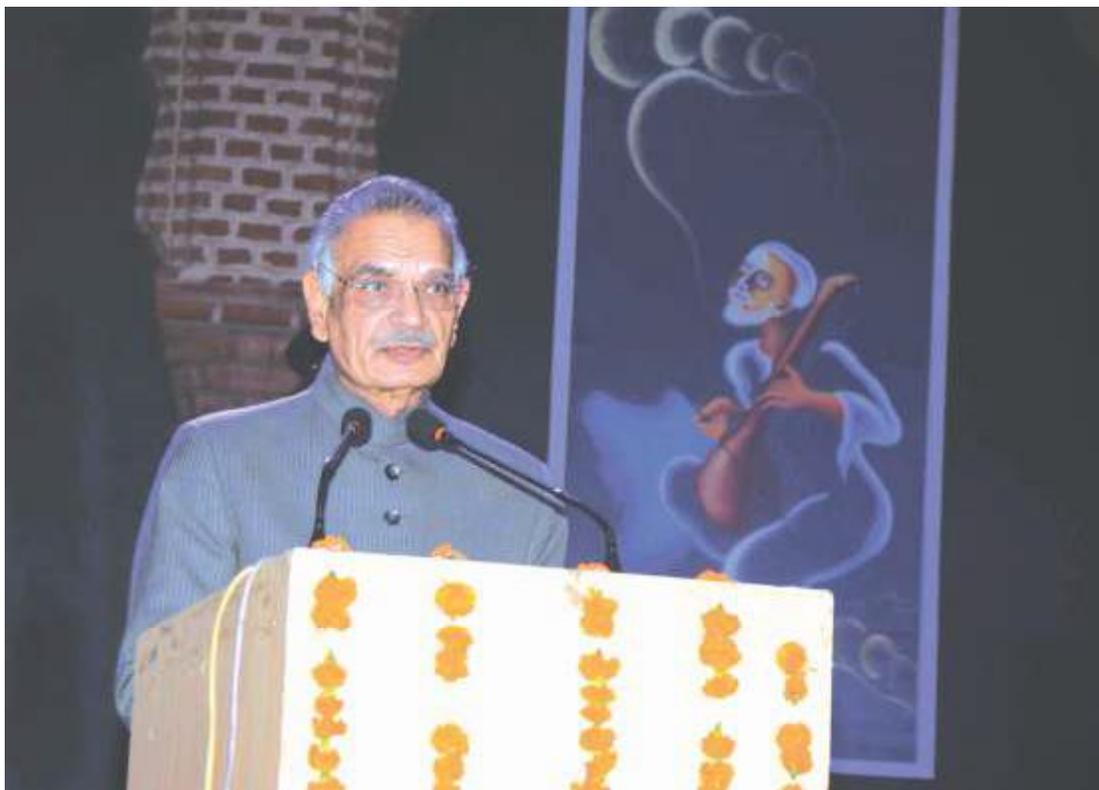
His Excellency the Governor of Punjab, Shri Shivraj Patil ji and the Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Prakash Singh Badal ji, arrived on schedule and formally inaugurated the International Sufi Festival. As the Governor and the Chief Minister took their seats on the dais, Ajeet Cour, the President of FOSWAL, presented each of them with a Kashmiri Pashmina Shawl and a collection of the important publications of FOSWAL.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

by Governor of Punjab, Shri Shivraj Patil ji.

“I would like to congratulate Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature, PHTPB and Khalsa Collge for organizing this International Sufi Festival in Amritsar. Punjab is known as the land of the gurus. It has been blessed with the presence of great masters. Baba Farid, Baba Namdev, the 10 Sikh Gurus to name a few.

The Sufi thought has impacted the cultures for several countries across the



His Excellency Governor of Punjab, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, presenting the Inaugural Address.



Audience listening to the Address of Governor of Punjab with rapt attention

world. The love of god and love of the gurus has been expressed in song, dance, poetry and literature, and I am happy to see that this festival aims to capture all these forms. Sufism has effected southern & eastern Europe, north and central Africa, the Middle East, China and of course our very own country. Today we have participants from 13 countries. I welcome them all and hope that this festival continues each year and bring more countries to participate.

The Sufi message of love, tolerance and unity of god, are the need of the hour to see each man and woman as a creation of one god as a brother and sister. Such occasions tell us the need to renounce violence and aggression.

The Khalsa College is an appropriate venue for this festival, not only because of its beautiful architecture of the building, designed by S. Ram Singh of Amritsar itself, but also because it has played an important role in Indian freedom movement.

Amritsar City known as the Holy City has been the center of Punjabi heritage, and it has taught the people the concept of "Seva" [service] and in this I would like to make a special mention of Baba Kulwant Singh who is selflessly cleaning the path of the Panj Sarovar walk twice a week. I urge all citizens of this city to live up to their heritage and feel contribute towards, a clean,

beautiful visitor friendly city. The Punjab Govt. as mentioned by Hon'ble CM has initiated several projects which aims to make this a world class tourist destination. This festival should new form point to adopt this as an annual festival.

I congratulate Ms Ajeet Cour, Padam Shri, who has worked tirelessly in coordinating and bringing all these poets, scholars and artists from several countries. FOSWAL's work in the field of Art and Promotion of harmony is well known and deserves to be lauded. I also appreciate Mrs. Arpana Caur's wonderful gesture for donating this wonderful painting of Mardana in Guru Nanak footsteps, to the city.

I also appreciate the effort of the PHTPB, Ministry of Tourism for making this festival possible. I welcome you all and hope you enjoy your stay and visit in this remarkable historic city and take back its message of peace with you”.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, Sardar Prakash Singh jee Badal:

“His Excellency Governor Sahib, and Distinguished delegates from 12 countries,

I welcome all 135 delegates consisting 27 poets, 80 performers and 28



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Prakash Singh Badal, presenting his views on Sufism.

scholars from 12 countries. It gives me great pleasure to be present here on the occasion of the 1st Sufi Festival in the holy city of Amritsar.

It is the only city in the world founded by a Guru, Sri Guru Ramdas ji and ever since its foundation the 'Bani' has been sung here. It is therefore befitting that this city should be the venue for such festival.

It gives me great pleasure to emphasize that the feeling of love, for God and his people is sung & recited the over and over with the same depth of feelings.

I must congratulate the Department of Tourism for bringing this festival to Amritsar. As I have already announced that government is determined to make Amritsar a world class tourism destination. Many projects have been completed and many are in the pipeline.

The Heritage Village will be opened next year showcasing the rich folk tradition of Punjab. A new food court and 'haat' is coming up in Sri Guru Teg Bahadur hospital area. The Ram Bagh Garden, and the Gobindgarh Fort, after century of neglect at the hands of the British, is finally been taken up by my government for restoration and will be opened next year.

Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board has taken initiatives to develop Rural Tourism in the state . Experience of stay in our rural rustic Punjab is our USP and we are taking all possible measure to ensure in promoting the same. Farm Tourism product is being appreciated by the tourists.

Number of Tourists visiting Punjab have increased from and helped our state jump from 28th rank to 12th rank in India as per the latest statistics released by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

For this largely visited city, we are planning for a cleaner Amritsar, and a systematic traffic management system. I think a festival like this will go a long way in further establishing this city as the cultural capital of the country and for the Sufism in particular. This event will be made annual festival. The department is also planning organising series of activities including fairs and festivals throughout the year, specially during tourist seasons to attract large number of tourists.

I would like to thanks Mrs. Ajeet Caur for her untiring efforts and Ms. Arpana Caur for gifting us her most beautiful and precious work of "Mardana in the footsteps of Guru Nanak Dev Ji". On Behalf of all Amritsar I Thank her.

I must also congratulate the Khalsa College and District Administration, the



His Excellency Governor of Punjab, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Prakash Singh Badal, floating flower petals in the water to Inaugurate the Performances.

police and Ministry of Tourism for their support and I congratulate the Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board for taking the initiative in organizing this wonderful event.

I also appreciate the effort of the PHTPB, Ministry of Tourism for making this festival possible. I welcome you all and hope you enjoy your stay and visit in this remarkable historic city and take back its message of peace with you.”

On their way down from the stage both of them floated red rose petals in the Urli to mark a colourful and fragrant start to the Sufi Festival. It was a matter of great pleasure and pride for both PHTPB and FOSWAL that both the dignitaries, with such busy schedules, sat through the entire three-and-a-half hour long performances of Sufi music and dance.

Ajeet Cour commented that it was the first time in her entire life that she saw the two most powerful leaders of Punjab : the Governor and Chief Minister, sit through the programme for three and a half hours ! Particularly the Chief Minister Badal jee, considering his advanced age.

It was like a miracle !

It created history !

Perhaps it was due to the influence that the Principal Secretary, Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board Dr. Geetika Kalha has created in his heart because of her visionary work in Punjab, promoting culture and tourism.

The artistes and groups that performed on the first evening were:

- **Sami Dance: INDIA**
- **El Adri Group; Instrumental and Vocal Orchestra: TURKEY**
- **Sufi Dance : UZBEKISTAN**
- **Instrumental and Vocal: AFGHANISTAN**
- **Malangs : Whirling Darveshs from PAKISTAN**
- **Sufi Songs by Madan Gopal Singh and his accompanists : INDIA**



Sami dancers and singers of Punjab, presenting their performance.



The Music Group of Turkey 'Le Edri' performing at the evening performances.

The Music Group of Turkey reaching a crescendo during their rendering of the mystical music.



The chorus of the 'Le Edri Music Group'.



His Excellency Governor of Punjab, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Prakash Singh Badal, enjoying the Sufi performances.



Madan Gopal Singh and his group, presenting their Sufi music and songs.



The 'WHIRLING DARVESHES', called the MALANGS, who dance in divine ecstasy in Shah Hussain's 'mazaar' in Pakistan. They captured the hearts of the people.



Performed from the soul, by 'Malangs' from Pakistan.



Khwaja Mohammad Ebrahim from Afghanistan, playing flute.



Dilafuz Kodirova from Uzbekistan presenting her Solo Sufi Dance.



Audience watching Sufi performances with mesmerised attention.

21st OCTOBER

THIRD SESSION

The second day and the third session of the Academic Seminar was opened by the GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH, HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL J.J. SINGH.



His Excellency Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, General J.J. Singh, being escorted to the Auditorium, by Ajeet Cour, President Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL), accompanied by Arpana Caur and Mr. Vidya Bhushan Kumar, Executive Director Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board,



His Excellency Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, General J.J. Singh, being honoured by Ajeet Cour, President of Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL).



Ajeet Cour presenting the Sufi Festival Memento to His Excellency the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, General J.J. Singh.



Ajeet Cour honouring Mr. Vidya Bhushan Kumar, Executive Director Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board, with a Shawl.



Ajeet Cour honouring **Prof. Daljeet Singh**, Principal Khalsa College, with a Shawl.

In his inaugural speech General J. J. Singh said that one of the great contributions of the Sufi Saints was that many of them were great poets, who wrote in the language of the people. Thus they transmitted the words of great Prophets and gave instructions of life in a simple manner, bringing them great following amongst the common masses.



He also pointed out the beauty of nature as it comes to man and that man has returned this gift in the form of great philosophies and literature, imbibing these blessing of the Divine to bless his life and of the creatures around him.

At the end of his speech, His Excellency the Governor welcomed all the delegated who had come from other countries and wished them a successful



Ajeet Cour welcomes His Excellency, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, General J.J. Singh.

seminar and a fruitful stay in India.

Ajeet Cour, well-known fiction writer, author of twenty five books, peace and human rights activist, while thanking the Governor for being present at this very important event, narrated her struggle of the last twenty seven years. More than a quarter of a century back, when she had embarked on the journey to organize cross-country conferences and festivals in an effort to bring highlight the

message of peace through writers, scholars, peace activists, artistes and other creative people to the forefront. She elaborated her belief that the binding force between all the people of the world was their literature, music, beliefs, myths,



Dr. Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, Ajeet Cour, Excellency General J.J. Singh, Syed Janab Ahmed Shah Cheshti.

legends and the folklore.

This was the Forty Third Conference being organized by the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature. The focus of all the conferences has been on subjects which bind our region culturally and civilizationally, starting from Central Asia and Turkey, and flowing down Middle East, down to South Asia.

The one great binding force of this region is Sufism. This belief binds us through Love and Compassion, Reconciliation and Understanding and respecting the otherness of others.

Ajeet Cour expressed her gratitude to the Punjab Government, and in particular to the Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board for supporting this great cause for humanity, peace and harmony.

She also talked about her daughter, the well-known painter Arpana Caur, who always pitches in with her own personal resources, to help out in these Festivals and Conferences. However this Festival of Amritsar was very special since here Arpana Caur would be donating her painting “MARDANA” to Amritsar City.

Ajeet Cour also thanked all the scholars from all over the world who had answered her call for participating in this Festival for Sufism, with its message for peace, humanity and brotherhood to the whole world.

FOURTH SESSION

The Fourth Session of the Seminar that began after a lavish Lunch was chaired by



On the dais, from left : **Dr. Noor Zaheer, Zehra Naseer** from Pakistan, **Prof. Mohammad Nurul Huda** from Bangladesh, **Prof. Mukhayyo Abdurakhmonova** from Uzbekistan, **Prof. N.S. Tasneem, Prof. Aslam Khwaja** from Pakistan.

MOHAMMAD NURUL HUDA, the well-known poet from **Bangladesh**. The scholars who spoke in this session were :

1. **Samanta Illangakoon** [Sri Lanka]
2. **Prof N.S.Tasneem** [India]
3. **Prakash Subedi** [Nepal]
4. **Mukhayyo Abdurakhmonova** [Uzbekistan]
5. **Aslam Khwaja** [Pakistan]

FIFTH SESSION

The Fifth and the last session of the seminar that began after a tea break was chaired by VEN. GALLELE SUMANASIRI of **Sri Lanka**, who is an upholder of inter-faith dialogue and a Buddhist Monk.

The scholars who presented their papers in this session were :

1. **Syed Najeeb Ali** [Pakistan]
2. **Mohammad Nurul Huda** [Bangladesh]
3. **Farheen Choudhary** [Pakistan]
4. **Dr. Yakub Ali Khan** [India]



On the dais, from left : **Dr. Noor Zaheer**, **Ms. Kazi Sufia Akhtar** from Bangladesh, **Prof. Yaqub Ali Khan** of India, **Dr. Najeeb Ali Shah** from Pakistan, **Dr. Parwez Nazir** of India and **Prof. Daya Dissanayake** from Sri Lanka.

RESOLUTION

The Sufi Conference was closed with the presentation and passing of a Resolution. This Resolution made a demand for tolerance and peaceful coexistence of all faiths and religions. It demanded that such conferences on Sufism should be made an annual event and each year they should ALSO be held in a different country of the SAARC region in addition to Amritsar so that the message of Sufism and its ideology can be spread far and wide.



The Audience



From left : Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, Ms. Simran Sekhon, Ajeet Cour, and Ms. Farheen Chaudhry from Pakistan.

THE RESOLUTION

“We the delegates and participants of the International Conference on Sufism, held on 20th and 21st of October, 2012 at Khalsa College, Amritsar, Punjab, India, assembled from countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, Egypt, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan agree:

- That all humankind is born equal and has a right to equality in practice of Religion, culture, traditions and rituals.
- We affirm that it is now time to declare the beginning of the era of 'no war'. Let the entire earth be declared a 'no war' region.
- We accept that Sufism, the teachings of the great Sufi Saints and the practice of Sufism is the right counter to terrorism. Hence it has to be brought to the foreground and propagated as a doctrine of love, peace, brotherhood, mutual respect and co-existence.
- So great is the need of the times for Sufism that we wish that this International Sufi Conference should be made an Annual Event that should be held in different countries of SAARC every year.
- If they are held in the same country then the venue should be changed each time, so that the message of Sufism is spread far and wide.
- We are happy and proud that the International Conference on Sufism was organized by FOSWAL, under the able guidance of Ajeet Cour and her untiring effort to bring peace and unity to the SAARC Region through Literary and Cultural efforts.
- We request that the grant for this Annual International Sufi Conference should be included in the Annual Financial Budget of the concerned Ministry.

At the end Cemalnur Sargut proposed that the next conference should be held in Konya, Turkey, near the Mazaar of the great Sufi Saint and Poet Rumi.

After lunch, the delegates were taken for the HERITAGE WALK of the old city of Amritsar that still has the medieval buildings with traditional carvings and the heritage Gurdwaras with the water colour wall paintings and murals and old architecture.”

EVENING PERFORMANCES AND POETRY

The evening cultural programme began with the formal presentation and donation of Arpana Caur's famous painting “Mardana at the Feet of Guru Nanak”. On behalf of the Punjab Government, Dr. Geetika Kalha accepted it.

Arpana Caur narrated how she had made this painting several years back and



Arpana Caur presenting her painting to Dr. Geetika Kalha for Museum in Amritsar.



Arpana Caur presenting her views about Sufism and her painting.

the great painting. She assured the audience as well as Arpana ji that a place of honour would be found for the work, and that this painting would always be the logo for the International Sufi Festival- Amritsar; for all time to come.

had not had the heart to part with it or sell it. Now she is at peace in her heart and soul since it has come to its rightful place, that is the city of Amritsar.

Accepting the painting Geetika ji said that she was both proud and humbled by the fact that it was she who was accepting



Dr. Geetika Kalha presenting her views about Sufism.

POETRY SESSION

An hour and a half long poetry session in which the following poets participated :
Surjit Patar, Parminderjeet, Mohanjit, Manmohan, Swaranjit Savi, Paul Kaur,



The Audience



Dr. Geetika Kalha with Ajeet Cour.



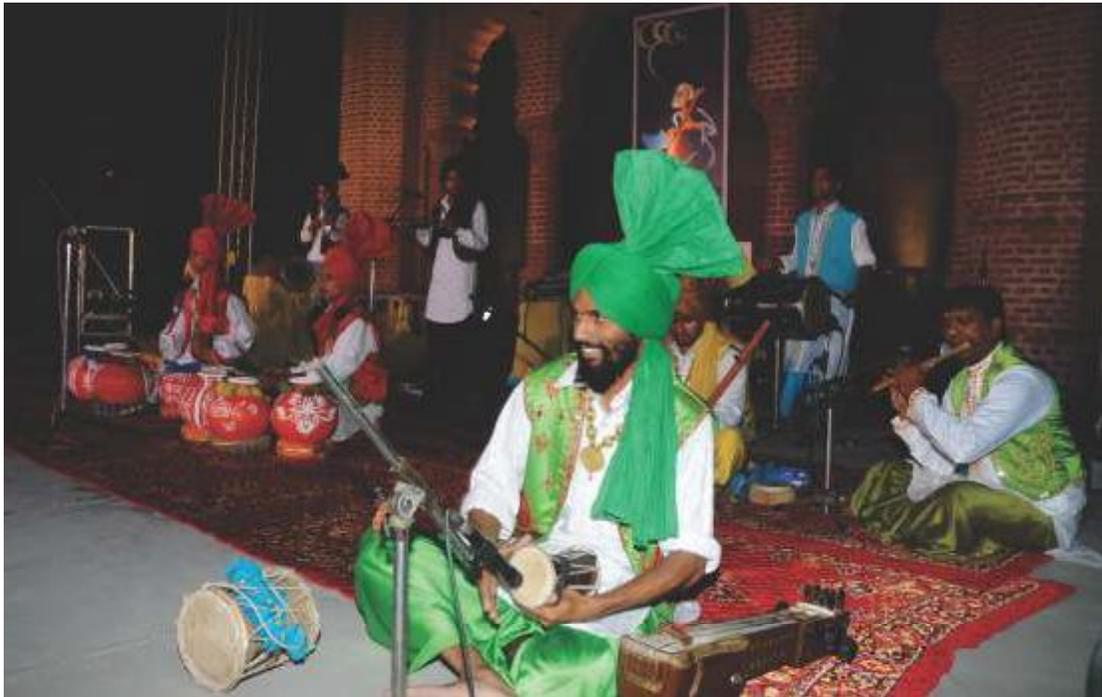
Ajeet Cour with Dr. Sunil Motiwal, Director SDF, SAARC Headquarters, Bhutan.

Tarannum Riyaz, Sukhwinder Amrit, Manmohan Singh Mitwa, Artinder Sandhu, Vishal, Dev Dard, **India**; Muhammad Nurul Huda, **Bangladesh**; Jahanara Tabassum, Bushra Farrukh, Mohammad Hanif Saqi, Musab Rafique, Farheen Chaudhry, Najeeb Ali Shah, Ayesha Zee Khan, **Pakistan**.

EVENING PERFORMANCES

To close the International Sufi Festival- Amritsar, enthralling recitals of music, dance, sama, and song were held. The following artistes performed during the evening performances:

- **Traditional Folk Instruments of Punjab: Khalsa College : INDIA**
- **Jodhpuri ji and Group : INDIA**
- **Mustafa Zaman Abbasi : BANGLADESH**
- **Solo Sufi Dance : UZBEKISTAN**
- **Devinder Singh Nirman and his Group : INDIA**
- **Waheed Bakhsh : Sufi Songs : PAKISTAN**
- **Malangs: Whirling Darvesh from Lahore : PAKISTAN**
- **Sufi Songs : Madan Gopal Singh and his accompanists : INDIA**



Khalsa College Music Band Group presenting their performance.



Malangs : The Whirling Darveshs.



Surinder Singh Jodhpuri jee Ragi and his accompanists, presenting Kabir's *Bani* from Gurbani.



Dilafroz Kodigoeva from Uzbekistan presenting her Solo Sema Dance.



Wahid Baksh, Sufi Singer from Pakistan, presenting his Performance.



Madan Gopal Singh and his group, presenting Sufi Music and Songs of Bulleh Shah and Sultan Bahu.



Devinder Singh Nirman jee Raagi and his group,
presenting Sufi hymns from Gurbani.



Musical Group from Herat, Afghanistan, presenting the Sufi music of Afghanistan.



Mr. Sharif Ahmed, Du Tar player from Herat, Afghanistan.



Arpana Caur and Tavleen Singh : in deep discussion.



Dilafuz Kodirova from Uzbekistan presenting her Solo Sufi Dance.



Mr. Manmohan Singh Mitwa, honouring **Madan Gopal Singh** with a Shawl and Memento.
And shawls to three of his accompanists.

COVERAGE IN PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

There was wide coverage of the Festival in print and electronic media.

Because of the special respect the Doordarshan high officials hold for Ajeet Cour, one of the greatest Punjabi writers, they sent a special Doordarshan team of four, with the Chief Programme Executive, Mr. Ramesh Sharma, to cover the Festival. It will be played on National Doordarshan Channel, Bazm, Punjabi Channel, Lok Sabha TV etcetera.

As soon as we get a CD of the edited programme, we will send to Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board.

The First Sufi Festival, Amritsar, concluded with great fanfare. While it was an end of an event there was also the hope that similar event would be held every year and that there would be improvements and additions each year to make it an annual landmark that would be associated with the great Holy City of Amritsar.



**Prof. Abhi Subedi
Nepal**



**Mr. Surjit Patar
India**



**Ms. Tavleen Singh
India**



**Ms. Kazi Sufia Akhtar
Bangladesh**



**Mr. Saad Ullah Jan Barq
Pakistan**



**Prof. Yaqub Ali Khan
India**



**Dr. Najeeb Ali Shah
Pakistan**



**Ms. Sukhwinder Amrit
India**



**Ms. Nayyara Rahman
Pakistan**



**Ms. Jahanara Tabassum
Pakistan**



**Dr. Parwez Nazir
India**



**Dr. Noor Zaheer
India**



**Prof. Akhtarul Wasey
India**



**Mr. Parminderjeet
India**



**Ms. Ayesha Zee Khan
Pakistan**



**Dr. N.S. Tasneem
India**



**Prof. Keshab Sigdel
Nepal**



**Mr. Mohammad Nurul Huda
Bangladesh**



**Prof. Samantha Ilangakoon
Sri Lanka**



**Mr. Swarnjit Savi
India**



**Ms. Zehra Nasir
Pakistan**



**Mr. Aslam Khwaja
Pakistan**



**Ms. Paul Kaur
India**



**Mr. Mohanjit
India**



Sheikha Sargut Cemalnur Hoca
Turkey



Sayed Ahmad Shah Cheshti
Afghanistan



Mukhayyo Abdurakhmonova
Uzbekistan



Ms. Farheen Chaudhry
Pakistan



Mr. Sauman Das Gupta
Sweden



Prof. Gallele Sumanasiri
Sri Lanka



Prof. Prakash Subedi
Nepal



Mr. Muhammad Hanif Saqi
Pakistan



Ms. Tarannum Riyaz
India



Dr. Mustafa Zaman Abbasi
Bangladesh



Mr. Manmohan Singh Mitwa
India



Ms. Artinder Sandhu
India



**Mr. Ramesh Sharma
India**



**Mr. Walishah Bahrah
Afghanistan**



**Prof. Daya Dissanyake
Sri Lanka**



**Saheen jee Anil Mehra
India**



**Ms. Nasreen Anjum Bhatti
Pakistan**



**Dr. Ravinder
India**



**Mr. Dev Dard
India**



**Ms. Bushra Farrukh
Pakistan**



**Mr. Vishal
India**



**Mr. Musab Rafique
Pakistan**



**Mr. Bal Bahadur Thapa
Nepal**



**Mr. Manmohan
India**



His Excellency Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, General J.J. Singh with Ajeet Cour and Prof. Akhtarul Wasey.



Audience watching Sufi performances with mesmerised attention.

**RESPONSES OF THE PARTICIPANTS
FROM THE SAARC REGION**

My dear Ajeet,

It is nice to know about the grand success of the SAARC Sufi Festival and for this I congratulate you. I also share your concern and wish you continue to show your sensibility towards the noble cause of preservation of environment. I wish all success to your future endeavours.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

Murlidhar C. Bhandare

Governor, Odisha

•

Dear Ms. Cour,

I congratulate you for successfully organizing SAARC Festival of Sufism in Amritsar. I have gone through the reports on the event appeared in Indian media. Mr. Walishah Bahrah, one of the participants from Herat, met me today on his return to brief on the extraordinary success of the event. He appreciated a lot for the honour, respect and hospitality that was extended to them during their visit by you. During the meeting, we exchanged ideas and views on improving cultural ties between the two countries by organizing visits from both sides.

Regards,

Amar Jit Singh

Consul General of India

Herat (Afghanistan)

•

Dear Ajeetji,

First let me thank you for inviting me to the Sufi conference in Amritsar. I thought the performances were magnificent and felt bad that I had to miss the second day.

With warm regards,

Tavleen Singh (India)

•

Dear Ajeet Ji and Arpana Ji,

Hats off to the creativity and zeal of 2 souls, who happen to be the mother and daughter as well.. ..you won the hearts of Punjab and the delegates by this great event.through International Sufi Conference, where people from 13 countries realistically and honestly discussed the issues of the mankind today and tried to find solutions via love peace and harmony, the message of Sufis.

CONGRATES Arpana ji !!!!! ur painting was MATHY KA JHOOMER of the event. ... Govt of Punjab also deserves appreciation for conducting such an event successfully and the hospitality. ..All is well that ends well.

The tireless efforts of Parveen, Noor Zaheer Tamana, Sethi sb and many others made it memorable . . .

Thanx for providing such opportunities to learn and get enlightened...to many by many....such cultural and intellectual interactions definitely play vital role towards peace and harmony....much needed today...!

Love & Regards,

Farheen Chaudhry (Pakistan)

•

Dear Ajeet jee, Noor jee,

Congratulations on the very successful organization and conducting the Sufi Conference.

We are sorry we could not have a little time to talk. But we can always meet by e-mail.

Thank you for all your kind hospitality and for taking care of us during our visit.

With Metta

Indrani and Daya (Sri Lanka)

•

Dear Madame Ajeet,

Mr. Sauman Das Gupta and myself would like to give you a great big 'Thank you' for inviting us to the International Sufi Festival in Amritsar.

The event was absolutely wonderful on each and every level: We learnt much and made many new friends in Peace, including yourself of course, and look forward to further interaction in the future.

We cannot thank you enough Madame Ajeet and both look forward to being able,

at some point, to thank you in person.

In Peace & Love

Banafsha-Khomar Zahrah Nasir (Pakistan)

•

Dear Ammi Ji,

Many thanks for your sweet and thoughtful message. I hope the wish for solidarity and peace you have expressed becomes a reality one day.

The Sufi Festival was a sincere and beautiful effort towards just that, and I am very grateful for having been part of it.

Thank you, for everything you do.

I hope the Dussehra Festival was joyful.

Buhat Pyar,

Aap ki Beti,

Nayyara Rahman (Pakistan)

•

DEAR DIDI

SALAM

JUST CAME BACK FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL EID RECEPTION AND FOUND YOUR LOVELY LETTER WAITING.

WE ENJOYED YOUR HOSPITALITY AND AFTER PAYING OUR RESPECTS AT SIRHIND SHARIF AND NIZAMUDDIN AWLIA AND BAKHTIYAR KAKI CAME BACK ON THURSDAY .

THE SUFI CONFERENCE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AS IT HAD ALL THE TOUCHES OF MY DIDI.

MY HEARTFELT THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN US.

THANKS TO ARPANA JEE, DR. NOOR ZAHIR AND DR MONMOHAN MITWA .

WITH PROFOUND REGARDS

MUSTAFA ZAMAN ABBASI (Bangladesh)

SINGER –WRITER

•

Dear Ajeet ji, Arpana ji, Tamanna ji and other members of your team,

Many many thanks for such an enthralling and soul invoking program. Listening

to eminent scholars gave a new perspective of Sufism in the modern context. Evenings elevated us to a different world with such a picture perfect venue as the backdrop, every performance was beyond words to describe.

The relaxed and non-formal environment also helped in creating a wonderful aura overall, only thing somewhat missing was college student's participation in such a highly informative event.

All best wishes for future programs and initiatives.

Best Regards

Bhavesh Swami (India)

•

Dear didi,

Extremely sorry for not being able to write to you after coming back.

This is just to thank you for your wonderful hospitality.

We enjoyed every moment of our stay at Amritsar, be it the academic sessions or the music or the tour to the magnificent golden temple.

Thank you so much for such an opportunity.

I look ahead to receiving your blessings and love in the days to come, too.

With gratitude,

Prakash Subedi, Kathmandu

•

Dear Didi,

We returned Kathmandu safe.

I am writing to thank you for all your affection and love for us.

The Conference was a great success both in terms of scholarship and cultural exposure and sharing.

I express my gratitude for making us a part of that great event!

sincerely,

Keshab Sigdel, Nepal

•

WELCOME ADDRESS

– AJEET COUR

“Punjab is the land of Sufism and of Sufis,” says Khushwant Singh. That is precisely the reason for holding this Sufi Festival in Amritsar.

Tracing the influence of Sufism on Sikhism, particularly Gurbani, the divine poetry written by the Sikh Gurus, Khushwant Singh says, “The Sufis lived in villages and their vocabulary was refreshingly rustic. The day-to-day activities of peasants, artisans and their women folk, the complicated emotional relationships between the various members of joint families – a sister’s love for her brother, the tension between co-wives, and the tyranny of a mother-in-law – gave them the similes and metaphors they needed. The Sikh Gurus, particularly Nanak, made use of these familiar pastimes and situations to convey their message”.

When the Fourth Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Ramdas jee started the construction of Harimandar Sahib, he invited the Sufi darvesh Mian Meer jee from Lahore to lay the foundation of the Harimandar.

Sufism and Bhakti were two almost parallel movements which grew and flourished in the sub-continent almost simultaneously, grew out of the native soil, spoke in the mysticism-tinted language of the masses, and gave a healing touch to a turbulent and violence-ridden society. Guru Nanak, Mavlana Jalal-Ud-Din Mohammad Rumi, Sant Kabir and Dadu Dayal, Hazrat Usman Ali Hajvery, popularly known as Data Sahib, and Mian Mir, Sheikh Nooruddin and Lal Ded, Shah Hussain and Sultan Bahu, Bulleh Shah and Sheikh Farid, Lalon Faqeer and Amir Khusro, all of them had the same vision.

The driving force behind this endeavour of Sufi Festival is love for the people living around us ! Love for the whole humanity ! Love for the one Infinite Presence merged in the Universe like soft fragrance ! The one who created the Universe in Love !

Anyone who walks the path of Sufism is a lover, a slave, a seeker, a beloved, a being fulfilled, and then again, the one who is forever thirsty. Time might revere a Sufi or treat his ecstatic devotion as insanity, for not to everyone is revealed the

unheard melodies and not all can dance to the rhythms of silence.

Such is the strength and reach of Sufism that it can help the human being realize the presence and closeness of the Supreme Being. In the merger of the physical with the metaphysical it is possible to touch, feel and attain Him within the mortal being.

Sufism is the ultimate realization of oneness with the Maker. It is ultimate submission to the All-Powerful, and attainment of immense power in that subjugation.

Sufism is a search that is both within and without. It is an exploration of the deepest crevices and unknown fissures and depth of one's mind, heart and soul, and a flight to reach the intangible and the undisclosed.

The essence of Sufism proclaims that the only way to love the Almighty, is to love all His creation in all its manifestations.

Our Foundation has chosen to hold an International Festival on Sufism in collaboration with Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board, because it is the reconciliation of all opposites: the outer and the inner, the material and the spiritual, the finite and the infinite, the here and the hereafter, the human and the divine. In this spirit, Sufism has provided a way to reconcile some of the religious doctrines of earlier cultural and religious systems in a crystallized amalgamation.

Sufism is a feeling of pure elevation ! Of merging your Self in One Creator, the Omnipresent Being !

“I searched for God and found only myself . I searched for myself and found God.”

Sufi Tradition has the capacity to bring and bind people together. It can eliminate antagonistic images the people have been holding against each other due to historical reasons. It can show that true belief can wipe out the demarcations of 'mine' and 'thine', and build a world that is 'ours.'

The Festival is not about religion or religious poetry. It is about bringing together and fastening the hearts, the minds and the conscience of the people from the world and beyond, through love, compassion and mutual respect. It is a Meet that would endeavour to re-discover the spirit of Tasawwuf or Mysticism.

Sufism erases the narrow boundaries within the human psyche and creates a voice for secularism and composite culture. Thus becoming the ideology of connectivity, tolerance, love, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Sufism is mystic poetry of love, dialogue and friendship, and respecting the otherness of the others. It conveys the message of pluralistic dialogue, trans-cultural understanding of the myriad ways man has found to reach that inner core of peace which resides within !

The beauty of Sufism, for us in Asia and Middle East in particular, lies in the fact that we can trace in it the Centuries-old philosophy of advaita, the two thousand five hundred years old philosophy of Buddhism, and the beautiful merging of Bhakti Movement and Sufism since the tenth century.

Through Sufism we re-discover and re-interpret Orientalism and become conscious about the necessity of creating democratic and secular spaces.

Sufism is a great philosophy of deep, infinite feelings, but it is not a religion. One can be a Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Jew, yet be a Sufi too, because Sufism is an exalted state of mind where love and peace resound like a soft melody, echoing and re-echoing in the depth of one's soul, creating a new ideological state of mind overflowing with love !

In this age of rat-race for self gratification, of our thousands of never-appeased hungers for amassing wealth, of being surrounded by beautiful bodies and cars and posh bungalows and land much beyond our need, in the age of globalization and consumerism, the lyricism of Sufism brings us peace, because it takes us across to the nowhere land where peace and love and selflessness reign supreme !

It is only through love that we can reach the heights of self-evolvement and enlightenment. Love with the Creator of this Universe, and with the Universe He has created, and with all the living beings which are ordained to share the bounties of this universe : the planet earth and millions of planets in eternal rotation in infinite void, without any accidents ! The days merging into nights, and nights giving way to glorious, sun-drenched days ! In an eternal cycle of merging and re-emerging, like the cycle of Death and Life. And all the living species sharing this planet in an eternal harmony, where even tiny ants and bees and butterflies have their special roles to play, along with giant trees, all the green vegetation, ever-flowing rivers, majestic mountains, roaring oceans !

This is the universe we human beings were placed in, to comprehend the meaning of Love and Compassion, not only with other human beings, but with all His Creation

too !

That is the only way to unravel the great mystery of Life, and the greatest mystery of that Masterly Magician who created it all, and is keeping all of it in a delicate balance!

We in South Asia, Middle East, Central Asia and Turkey are particularly blessed to know and understand this wonderful mystic experience. The luminescent vision and the sweep of Sufism and Bhakti movement, the two cultural-literary-poetic-mystic streams that taught us the everlasting lesson of tolerance, pluralism, love, compassion and reconciliation. The unique vision, because in these turbulent, war and conflicts-ravaged times, Sufism and Bhakti can act as a palliative to relieve anger, revenge and anguish, and to take us towards peace, reconciliation, understanding, tolerance and the realization of the essential Oneness of Being.

Sufism is a worldview, a refined and perceptive way of looking at things that are often expressed in soul-stirring mystical verse and music. It can also be very rational, earthy and this-worldly because all the Sufi and Bhakti poetry is written in the language of common people.

While many Sufi events, some fashionably elite and some conveniently localized, have been organized by certain organisations and individuals, they focused exclusively on Sufi music. No one had the vision, the stubborn tenacity, the persistent courage to pursue academic excellence of Sufi Scholars, and to organize a Conference of Sufi/Bhakti scholars, practitioners and followers which could take stock of the Sufi-Bhakti heritage and work out its relevance in contemporary times.

In this global effort if we are able to emphasise that Sufism is not a fashionable fad that is periodically resurrected to provide titillation to the rich and the elite, nor is it just a genre of music characterized by its soul-stirring melody and gyrating rhythmic patterns heady enough to enthrall audiences, we will feel that our endeavour has been successful.

Because, in reality, Sufism is much, much more than all this. It is an all-encompassing way of life, a powerful vision, an uplifting experience. It is particularly suited to oriental cultural pattern of South Asia, Middle East, Turkey, and Central Asia where it has grown and spread in its various hues and manifestations. Here, Sufism is an infinite melody which keeps the Universe enthralled ! In a warm embrace ! In celebration of love !

This Sufi Festival is an attempt to keep alive the fire of yearning and love that burns deep within human hearts !

The menace of terrorism, religious fanaticism and communal violence has only added to an already dark situation all over the world. Terrorism perpetrated in the name of religion is the death of human values.

Terrorism has become a challenge for humanity because terrorism is the enemy of futuristic dreams of man. Shunning and defying the aesthetic and the poetic, it aims at pushing mankind towards hatred and violence.

Sufism creates a voice for secularism and composite culture becoming the ideology of connectivity, tolerance, love, compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

Everything in Sufi ideology stands opposed to terrorism.

For this International Conference and Festival of Sufism, we had to investigate across large parts of the world to locate Sufi Scholars, Sufi Poets and Writers, Sufi Musicians, as also practising Sufi Murshids and Dervishes.

The ecstasy that is reached by being in love with one's Maker is expressed in many forms by the Sufi saints who dance, sing, recite verses and whirl in abandon. This ecstasy forms the basis of Sufi performances which shall be an integral part of the Sufi Festival. Evenings shall be dedicated to Sufi poetry, music and dance from all the thirteen participating countries.

30 International Sufi Scholars, 25 International Poets, 50 Sufi Musicians, Singers and Dancing Darveshs from 12 countries :

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

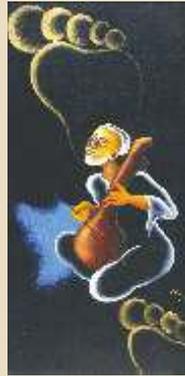
The current International Conference on Sufism is our 42nd mega event organised by our Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature. This time we have strong partnership and collaboration with Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board, Punjab Government, and as usual, the painter Arpana Caur, my daughter, who fills up all financial gaps.



International Sufi Festival

October 20, 21, 2012, Khalsa College, Amritsar

Organized by
Foundation Of SAARC Writers And Literature
SAARC Apex Body
 and
Punjab Heritage And Tourism Promotion Board
 Government of Punjab
 in collaboration with
Ministry Of Tourism (Government of Punjab)
 and Arpana Caur



Eminent Performers :
 El-Edri Group, Turkey
 Dilafruz Kodirova, Uzbekistan
 Saeen Zahoor, Malangs, Faqir Faheem Ali,
 Wahid Bukhsh, Pakistan
 Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, Bangladesh
 Saparovich Group, Turkmenistan
 Mohammed Shoeb's Group, Afghanistan
 Jodhpuri jee, Madan Gopal Singh,
 Panjabi Folk Orchestra, Been Jogis, India

Important Scholars and Poets :
 Sargut Cemalnur Hoca, Turkey,
 A.K. Rashid, Afghanistan
 Ahmed Salim, Saad Ullah Jan Barq,
 Shahzad Qaiser, Zahrah Nasir,
 Farheen Chaudhry, Ayesha Zee Khan, Pakistan
 Md. Nurul Huda, Bangladesh
 Daya Dissanayake, Sri Lanka,
 Abhi Subedi, Nepal
 Ibrahim Waheed, Maldives,
 G.R. Mahdavi, Iran
 Mubayya Abdurrahmonova, Uzbekistan
 Saidbeg Saidov, Tajikistan

Academic Sessions: 10.00 am to 01.30 pm
 Poetry : 06.00 pm to 07.00 pm
 Performances : 07.00 pm to 09.00 pm

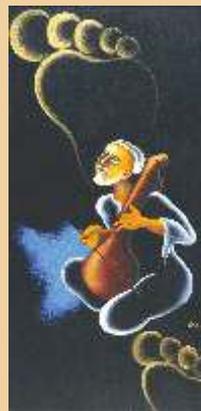
30 International Sufi Scholars, 25
 International Poets, 50 Sufi
 Musicians,
 Singers and Dancing Darveshs
 from 12 countries:
 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India,
 Maldives, Iran, Nepal,
 Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan,
 Turkey, Turkmenistan,
 Uzbekistan.



International Sufi Festival

October 20, 21, 2012, Khalsa College, Amritsar

Organized by
Foundation Of SAARC Writers And Literature
SAARC Apex Body
 and
Punjab Heritage And Tourism Promotion Board
 Government of Punjab
 in collaboration with
Ministry Of Tourism (Government of Punjab)
 and Arpana Caur



Eminent Performers :
 El-Edri Group, Turkey
 Dilafruz Kodirova, Uzbekistan
 Saeen Zahoor, Malangs, Faqir Faheem Ali,
 Wahid Bukhsh, Pakistan
 Mustafa Zaman Abbas, Bangladesh
 Saparovich Group, Turkmenistan
 Mohammed Shoeb's Group, Afghanistan
 Jodhpuri jee, Madan Gopal Singh,
 Panjabi Folk Orchestra, Been Jogis, India

Important Scholars and Poets :
 Sargut Cemalnur Hoca, Turkey,
 A.K. Rashid, Afghanistan
 Ahmed Salim, Saad Ullah Jan Barq,
 Shahzad Qaiser, Zahrah Nasir,
 Farheen Chaudhry, Ayesha Zee Khan, Pakistan
 Md. Nurul Huda, Bangladesh
 Daya Dissanayake, Sri Lanka,
 Abhi Subedi, Nepal
 Ibrahim Waheed, Maldives,
 G.R. Mahdavi, Iran
 Mubayya Abdurrahmonova, Uzbekistan
 Saidbeg Saidov, Tajikistan

Academic Sessions: 10.00 am to 01.30 pm
 Poetry : 06.00 pm to 07.00 pm
 Performances : 07.00 pm to 09.00 pm

30 International Sufi Scholars, 25
 International Poets, 50 Sufi
 Musicians,
 Singers and Dancing Darveshs
 from 12 countries:
 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India,
 Maldives, Iran, Nepal,
 Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan,
 Turkey, Turkmenistan,
 Uzbekistan.

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਜਾਗਰਣ

ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਫੀ ਪੀਰ ਪੈਗੰਬਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਗੁੜ੍ਹਤੀ ਮਿਲੀ

ਸੂਫੀ ਮੇਲਾ

ਅੰਤਰ-ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਸੂਫੀ ਮੇਲੇ ਦਾ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ 'ਚ ਹੋਇਆ ਉਦਘਾਟਨ

ਰਾਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਾਠ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ :

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਹੇਰੀਟੇਜ ਤੇ ਟੂਰਿਜ਼ਮ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਲੋਂ ਸਾਰਕ ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਨਾਲ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ ਅੰਤਰਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਸੂਫੀ ਮੇਲਾ ਉਸ ਵਕਤ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਰਹਿ ਗਿਆ, ਜਦੋਂ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਕਾਲਜ ਦੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਹਾਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਦਘਾਟਨੀ ਸਮਾਰੋਹ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਬਾਰਾਂ ਆਏ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ੀ ਮਹਿਮਾਨ ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਹੀ ਫੁਰਸੀਆ 'ਤੇ ਬਿਰਾਜਮਾਨ ਇਸੇ। ਮੇਜ਼ਬਾਨ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਕਾਲਜ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਤੇ ਅਹੁਦੇਦਾਰ ਤਾਂ ਇਖਾਈ ਦੇਣੇ ਕਿਤੇ ਦੂਰ, ਇਕ ਵੀ ਵਿਦਿਆਰਥੀ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀ ਡਰਨੀ ਮੁਨਾਸਬ ਨਾ ਸਮਝੀ।

ਸਾਰਕ ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਤਾਬਤ, ਅਫਗਾਨਿਸਤਾਨ, ਸ੍ਰੀਲੰਕਾ, ਬੰਗਲਾਦੇਸ਼, ਡੁਟਾਨ, ਮਾਲਦੀਵ, ਨੇਪਾਲ, ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ ਦੇ ਸਾਹਿਤਕਾਰਾਂ ਤੇ



ਮੌਚ 'ਤੇ ਬੈਠੇ ਹੋਏ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ੀ ਸੂਫੀ ਡੈਲੀਗੇਟਸ।

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਜਾਗਰਣ

ਲਿਖਾਰੀਆਂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਾਂਤੀ ਤੇ ਭਾਈਚਾਰਾ ਇਆਉਣ ਲਈ ਲਿਖਾਰੀਆਂ ਤੇ ਸਾਹਿਤਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਆਪਸੀ ਮਿਲਣੀਆਂ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਕਦਮ ਵਜੋਂ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਕਾਲਜ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੋ ਰੋਜ਼ਾ ਸੂਫੀ ਮੇਲਾ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਸਾਰਕ ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਆਏ ਮਹਾਨ ਸੂਫੀ ਸੰਤ, ਗਾਇਕ, ਲੇਖਕ ਤੇ ਸਾਹਿਤਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੰਗਠਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਦਘਾਟਨੀ ਸਮਾਰੋਹ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਹੇਰੀਟੇਜ ਅਤੇ ਟੂਰਿਜ਼ਮ ਪ੍ਰੋਮੋਸ਼ਨ ਬੋਰਡ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਸੀਪਲ ਸਕੱਤਰ

ਗੀਤਿਕਾ ਕੱਲਾ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਗੁਰੂਆਂ ਪੀਰਾਂ ਤੇ ਸੂਫੀ ਸੰਤ ਫਕੀਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਧਰਤੀ ਹੈ। ਇਥੇ ਹੀ ਸੂਫੀਵਾਦ ਜਵਾਨ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਫੀ ਪੀਰ ਪੈਗੰਬਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਗੁੜ੍ਹਤੀ ਮਿਲੀ।

ਇਸ ਮੇਲੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਾਮ ਨੂੰ ਸਾਰਕ ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਆਏ ਮਹਿਮਾਨ ਕਲਾਕਾਰਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸੂਫੀ ਗਾਇਨ ਤੇ ਨਾਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ, ਜਿਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਾਦਲ ਤੇ ਗਵਰਨਰ ਸ਼ਿਵਰਾਜ ਪਾਟਲ ਨੇ ਸ਼ਿਰਕਤ ਕੀਤੀ।





● ਬੀ. ਐਡ. ਕਾਲਜ ਬਾਦਲ ਦੀਆਂ ਵਿਦਿਆਰਥਣਾਂ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਡਾਂਸ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਹੋਈਆਂ। ਤਸਵੀਰ : ਨਿਰਮਲ ਸਟੂਡੈਂਟ

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਸ਼ਵ ਪੱਧਰ ਦਾ ਸੈਲਾਨੀ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਬਣਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ-ਸ਼ਿਵਰਾਜ ਪਾਟਿਲ

ਸੂਫੀ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਸੂਫੀ ਦਾਨਸ਼ਵਰਾਂ, ਵਿਦਿਆਰਥੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੰਬੋਧਨ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਅੱਜ ਦੁਨੀਆ ਪੂਰੀ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਵੰਡੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ, ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਫੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਹੀ ਇਕੱਠ ਰੱਖ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ। ਗੁਰੂਆਂ ਪੀਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਧਰਤੀ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਹੋ ਰਹੇ ਸੂਫੀ ਮੇਲੇ 'ਤੇ ਆਪਣਾ ਸੰਦੇਸ਼ ਦਿੰਦਿਆਂ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਪਾਟਿਲ ਨੇ ਖ਼ਾਲਸਾ ਕਾਲਜ ਨੂੰ ਮੁਕੱਦਸ ਸਥਾਨ ਕਰਾਰ ਦਿੰਦਿਆਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਦੀ ਇਕ-ਇਕ ਇੰਟ ਦੀ ਤਾਮੀਰ ਸਿੱਖ ਗੁਰੂਆਂ ਤੇ ਸੂਫੀਵਾਦ ਦੇ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਨਾਲ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਸਾਰਕ ਰਾਈਟਰ ਐਡ ਲਿਟਰੇਚਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਹੈਰੀਟੇਜ ਐਡ ਟੂਰਿਜ਼ਮ ਪ੍ਰਮੋਸ਼ਨ ਬੋਰਡ ਅਤੇ ਖ਼ਾਲਸਾ ਕਾਲਜ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਨੂੰ ਉਕਤ ਸੂਫੀ ਮੇਲਾ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਵਧਾਈ ਵੀ ਦਿੱਤੀ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਸੂਫੀਵਾਦ ਦਾ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਥੋਂ ਮਨੁੱਖਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਲੁਕਾਈ ਦੇ ਭਲੇ ਦਾ ਸੰਦੇਸ਼ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਸੰਬੋਧਨ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਸ: ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਾਦਲ ਨੇ ਐਲਾਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਕਿ

(ਸਵਾ. ਦੀ ਥਾਕੀ)

ਸੂਫੀਵਾਦ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ 'ਚ ਅੰਤਰਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਬੋਜ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਸਥਾਪਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਇਹ ਵੀ

**ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ
'ਚ ਦੋ ਰੋਜ਼ਾ ਸੂਫੀ
ਮੇਲਾ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ**

ਐਲਾਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਕਿ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ 'ਚ ਇਹ ਸੂਫੀ ਮੇਲਾ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ। ਸ: ਬਾਦਲ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸੂਫੀ ਸੰਤ ਬਾਬਾ ਫਰੀਦ ਨੂੰ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੇ ਪਹਿਲੇ ਕਵੀ ਹੋਣ ਦਾ ਮਾਣ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸੂਫੀ ਬਾਇਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਖ ਅੰਗ ਬਣਾਇਆ, ਜਿਸ ਸਦਕਾ ਹੁਣ ਸਾਡੇ ਦੇਵਾਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੇ

ਸਾਂਝ ਹੋਰ ਪਕੇਰੀ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ। ਪ੍ਰਸਿੱਧ ਸਾਹਿਤਕਾਰ ਪਦਮਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਅਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਨੇ ਰਾਜਪਾਲ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਸ਼ਿਵਰਾਜ ਪਾਟਿਲ, ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਸ: ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਾਦਲ ਅਤੇ ਗੀਤਿਕਾ ਕਲਾ ਪ੍ਰਮੁੱਖ ਸਕੱਤਰ ਸੈਰ ਸਪਾਟਾ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਦਾ ਸਨਮਾਨ ਕੀਤਾ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਬੀ. ਐਡ. ਕਾਲਜ ਬਾਦਲ ਦੀਆਂ ਵਿਦਿਆਰਥਣਾਂ ਨੇ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਡਾਂਸ ਅਤੇ ਮਦਨ ਗੋਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਰੁੱਪ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸੂਫੀਆਨਾ ਕਲਾਮ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਸੈਰ ਸਪਾਟਾ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਸਰਵਣ ਸਿੰਘ ਫਿਲੌਰ, ਸ: ਸਤਿਆਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਮਜੀਠੀਆ, ਮਾਲ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਬਿਕਰਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਮਜੀਠੀਆ, ਕੰਬਿਨਟ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਅਨਿਲ ਜੋਸ਼ੀ, ਮੁੱਖ ਸੰਸਦੀ ਸਕੱਤਰ ਸ: ਵਿਰਸਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਲਟੋਹਾ ਤੇ ਸ: ਇਦਰਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੁਲਾਰੀਆ, ਵਿਧਾਇਕ ਓਮ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਸੋਨੀ, ਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਛੀਨਾ, ਖ਼ਾਲਸਾ ਕਾਲਜ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਿ: ਦਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ, ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਰਜਤ ਅਗਰਵਾਲ ਆਦਿ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਸਨ।



बुल्ला का कलाम, मोहब्बत का पैगाम

>>> एशियाई सूफी फकीरों ने 12 देशों से आए सैकड़ों >>> अफगानिस्तान से आए सूफियाना उमंग से खत्म होगी हुमरानों का एक मनिफेस्टो
 >>> भिटा दी सरहद की लकीरें >>> सूफी कलाकार व फनकार मोहनुद्दीन विशती के वंशज >>> जग : अहमद शाह विशती बांटो व राज करो : सादउल्ला

कार्यालय बंदबंदाना, अमृतसर : दिल में बुल्ला का कलाम और जुबों पर मोहब्बत का पैगाम। एशियाई सूफी फकीरों की आमद ने सरहद की लकीरों को मिटा दिया। सूफियाना, इंसकार के बीच एशिया में जैसी की गई-ब्याज सल पड़ी। लालजुब की चान याद है कि सूफी को जग उदरगम हुआ, वही आंच आलाक का यम है। सूफी की आंखें भी कहीं न कहीं नम हैं, पर सूफी इंसक है, सूफी इबादत है। तफरत की दीवार की सुश्रियाना इंसकार में लोडने के लिए एशिया के बाहर देशों के सूफी कलाकार और फनकार बुल्ला के कलाम को सोने से लगाए अपने का पैगाम देने के लिए पंजाब की धारण गुरु सभरी की धरती पर उतर आए।

दो दिवसीय इटरेन्सिबल सूफी फेस्टिवल का बुधवार सूफी के माध्यम से एशियाई देशों में दोस्तों के चमन को विहरीबलाने की कशिश के साथ हुई। एकेडमिक, सेशन के दौरान समागम में अजमेर के खानाबा मोहनुद्दीन विशती के वक्ता बनते सैयद अहमद शाह, सिद्दी हैशम अपेन्सिबलता से जुड़े। सैयद अहमद शाह की आंखों से नूर टपक रहा था, लेकिन सूफी की धरती पर कल्लोगरत की ओर में जिन्दी पीछा को भी उल्लेख छोड़ा महारथी। विशती ने कहा कि उनके वंशज अजमेर में रहते थे। एक हजार साल बाद खानाबा मोहम्मद शाह विशती भारत आए थे। जब वह यहां आए, है। बकालत विशती, एशियाई देशों में सूफी के उमंग से ही आलोक और



तुर्की में महिलाओं ने थाम रखा है सूफी का झंडा

तुर्की में महिलाओं ने सूफी का झंडा भोजपुरी से थाम रखा है। इस्लामसल सूफी फेस्टिवल में अहमद शाह विशती व अफगानिस्तान से पुराने राजा हो आए हैं, लेकिन तुर्की से एक दर्जन सूफी महिलाएं आई हैं। तुर्किया यूरोप कल्चर एशियाशन इस्तांबुल की तरफ कि सूफी का महत्व अहमद केमलपार सरपुट ने कहा कि सूफी का महत्व अहमद में बुरा हवा को अंगिकरना केवल सूफी पुरखों में खोजा है, लेकिन नारी की पहिचान के बिना वह अधूरी है।

किस काम के, जो इस्लाम के पाठ पढ़ना हो। हुकूमतों ने बहरे खोपीं। पुराना खड़ी की। जग कलवाई। सूफी दोस्तों को अट्ट और एशिया को एकजुट करने का अच्छा माध्यम है। कान्स्टेबल से आए जाने-माने सूफी संहित्यकार पुराना जमान अख्तारी ने कहा कि ना कम ये, ना धर्म से सूफी एशियाई देशों के बीच दोस्ती का दम अंगे। एशिया के सभी देश फाई बनकर बानहार करें और एक-दूसरे को मदद करें तो आज हम पर मामले में दुनिया में बिहार पर होंगे।

पाकिस्तान से आए सूफी सत साद उल्लाह जग बर्क ने कहा कि डिवाइड एंड रूल की नीति को अंगेज लेड गग, बिसे एशिया के हुकूमतों ने पकड़ लिया। इंसर, हुकूमतों का एक ही मनिफेस्टो है एशिया और शाय करे, पर काम तक। 50 साल से सूफी साहित्य से जुड़े बर्क कहते हैं कि सूफी एशिया के 85 फीसदी अंशम को समर्पित है। जग के लिए कालीम और येशती की जखल है। वह हमें सूफी से मिलती है, लेकिन हुकूमतों के लिए वह

इटलेसिबल सूफी फेस्टिवल में हिस्सा लेने अफगानिस्तान से आए खबजा मोहनुद्दीन विशती के वंशज अहमद शाह विशती से आशीर्वाद लेती हुई एक महिला।

अमृतसर सवेरा

जालंधर, रविवार, 21 अक्टूबर 2012

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सूफी धारा शोध केंद्र बनेगा

- 1. सुफायती का सूफीवाद को अस्तित्व करने का प्रयास
- 2. खालसा कालेज में 2 दिवसीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सूफी मेले का आयोजन

अमृतसर, 20 अक्टूबर (विश्व सवेरा) - पंजाब के विभागीय मन्त्रालय के अंतर्गत अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सूफी धारा शोध केंद्र का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सूफी धारा शोध केंद्र का प्रयास अमृतसर में 2 दिवसीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सूफी मेले का आयोजन करके किया जा रहा है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सूफी धारा शोध केंद्र का प्रयास अमृतसर में 2 दिवसीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सूफी मेले का आयोजन करके किया जा रहा है।



अमृतसर में आयोजित सूफी मेले का शुभारंभ करते पंजाब के राज्यपाल दिलीप सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री प्रकाश सिंह बादल व अन्य।

अमृतसर में आयोजित सूफी मेले का शुभारंभ करते पंजाब के राज्यपाल दिलीप सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री प्रकाश सिंह बादल व अन्य। अमृतसर में आयोजित सूफी मेले का शुभारंभ करते पंजाब के राज्यपाल दिलीप सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री प्रकाश सिंह बादल व अन्य।

अमृतसर में आयोजित सूफी मेले का शुभारंभ करते पंजाब के राज्यपाल दिलीप सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री प्रकाश सिंह बादल व अन्य। अमृतसर में आयोजित सूफी मेले का शुभारंभ करते पंजाब के राज्यपाल दिलीप सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री प्रकाश सिंह बादल व अन्य।

अमृतसर केसरी

सोमवार MONDAY 22 अक्टूबर 2012

‘सूफीवाद का वर्तमान समय में भी पूरा महत्व’

अमृतसर, 21 अक्टूबर (ज्यो): खालसा कालेज परिसर में चल रहे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सूफी मेले के दूसरे दिन आज जे.जे. सिंह (सेवानिवृत्त जलदल भारतीय सेना) और राज्यपाल अरुणचल प्रदेश ने ध्यान लिया।

अकादमिक सेशन के उद्घाटन समारोह दौरान पंजाब की पवित्र धरती पर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सूफी मेले में अलग-अलग देशों की प्रसिद्ध हस्तियों के आने पर उनका स्वागत करते हुए कहा कि पंजाब गुरुओं, पीरों और पैगम्बरों की धरती है और ऐसे सूफी मेले करवाने बहुत ही पवित्र कार्य है।



जनरल जे.जे. सिंह को सम्मानित करते हुए गुरुमान्य।

भ्रम घाटी

भ्रम घाटी
SALMOND, SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER 2012

श्रीगुरुमहोत्सव के दिवस पंजाब 'ले मैलसों वेंसर दसों दिवस' तक लखी मतवाच दंडे धुमकेट लिआ दगां ऐ: रामधपत

श्रीगुरुमहोत्सव के दिवस पंजाब 'ले मैलसों वेंसर दसों दिवस' तक लखी मतवाच दंडे धुमकेट लिआ दगां ऐ: रामधपत। श्रीगुरुमहोत्सव के दिवस पंजाब 'ले मैलसों वेंसर दसों दिवस' तक लखी मतवाच दंडे धुमकेट लिआ दगां ऐ: रामधपत।

अभियुक्त
श्रीगुरुमहोत्सव 2012
6 अक्टूबर 2012
08:16-4-26 शुक्र 4:00

Daily News

Sri Lanka's National Newspaper Since 1918

daya dissanayake

Life into Arts



Love into arts

As I listened to the presentation, I felt proud to be a Sri Lankan when the speaker introduced himself as a Sufi Buddhist monk. This was at the International Sufi Festival held in Amritsar, the 'Ocean of Nectar'. It was indeed sweet nectar, the city itself, the Golden Temple and Ram Tirth where Valmiki is said to have written the Ramayana.

The festival had been organized by the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) along with the Punjab Heritage and Tourist Promotion Board, in collaboration with the Punjab Ministry of Tourism and Arpana Caur. Amritsar had been chosen because "Punjab is the land of Sufism and of Sufis", according to Kushwant Singh, Chairman of FOSWAL.

Ajeet Caur, Panjabi writer and President of FOSWAL, in her introductory address summed it up, "The driving force behind this endeavour of the Sufi Festival is Love for the people living around us! Love for the whole of humanity."

It was a gathering of writers, poets and academics from twelve countries in the region, along with Sufi musicians, singers and dancers. It was a total immersion for two days in Sufi philosophy, poetry and music, for all the delegates, which confirmed everybody's view that Sufi is a way of life, for the betterment of mankind.

It was a conference where there was not a single dissension, or debate, even among writers who believed in freedom of expression, and belonged to all faiths, Islam, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Christian.

This was best expressed by Rev. Prof. Gallele Sumanasiri thero in his presentation. We have to use terms like Sufi Buddhism or Islamic Buddhism, because of our self-imposed imprisonment inside different labels.

When we use terms like Sufism, Hinduism and Buddhism we are immediately isolating ourselves from the rest of mankind. We are building a group within a barrier and shutting off those who are outside the group. We look at them with suspicion, we try to see aggression and enmity in every word uttered by those outside our own group.

This is when conflicts begin as we let a few politicians and a few selfish humans to create suspicion and hatred. The most recent incidence was in Bangladesh when a grossly exaggerated report of a Qur'an burning led to the destruction of several Buddhist temples.

The word of God or the word of the Buddha cannot be destroyed by a mere mortal. Even if a book is destroyed the truth cannot be destroyed. People have been burning down religious books ever since religious books began to be written, but no religion was ever destroyed.

Most of the papers presented were based on Sufi poetry, music, and literature. Prof. Mohammad Nurul Huda from Bangladesh talked of the poetry of Rabindranath Tagore and Nazrul Islam. There were four poets from the Tribhuvan

University in Kathmandu. Bal Bahdur Thapa looked at Brothers Karamazov from a Sufi viewpoint, while Prakash Subedi who was born a Hindu, followed Buddha Dhamma and had studied Sufi way of life as he saw it. Keshab Sigdel looked at Human Rights, and their guru, Prof. Abi Subhedi also discussed Sufi poetry.

Dr. Noor Zaheer, the author of 'My God is a Woman', a Muslim turned atheist, presented the view of a woman as a Sufi. While everyone talked of Rumi and Khayyam, Farheen Chaudhury from Pakistan talked about her own life experience through Sufi eyes. We could look forward to Sufi fiction too, in time to come.

It is literature, art and music that can bring humanity together, break down all the man-made barriers, as we saw in the painting of Arpana Caur which symbolized the Sufi festival, and the contrasting performance of the Whirling Darveshes from Pakistan led by Wahid Bukhsh, who whirl around to the beat of the drum in remembrance of God, and the Mystical music as an instrumental and vocal orchestra by the El Edri group composed of scholars and academics from Istanbul. Sufi ideals were presented in the soft music by the group from Afghanistan, and in a solo dance by Dilafruz Kodirova from Uzbekistan.

There were no religious barriers that evening among all those who had gathered at the Khalsa College in Amritsar, convincing us that we have to overcome the faith barriers built by us. One major barrier is the labels which brand us and separate us. Let us do away with the labels. Or let us use a universally acceptable name instead of Sufism, Sikhism, Islam or Buddhism. Devanampiya Piyadassi, later identified by the British as Asoka, used the term Dhamma without specifying any particular faith. The word Dhamma could be used for almost all eastern faiths and philosophies.

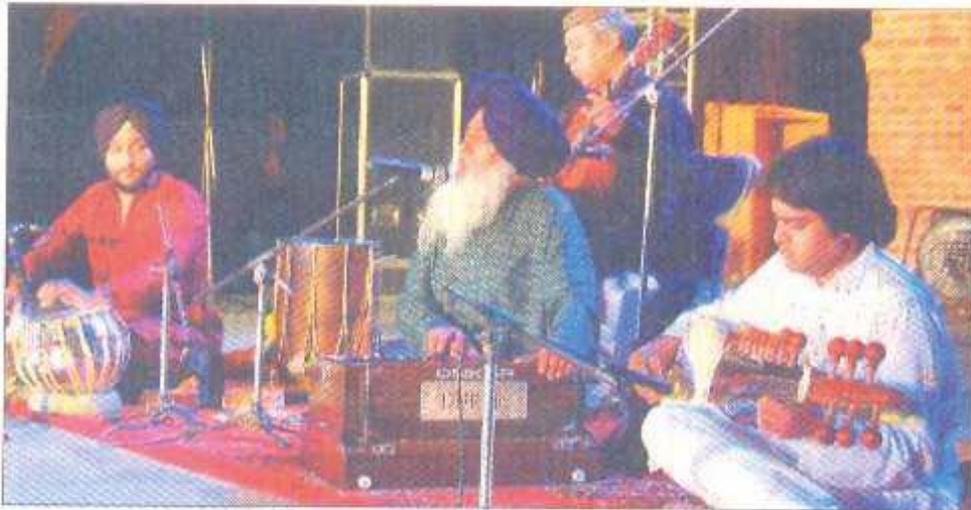
Mawlana Jalal-Ud-Din Mohhammad Rumi wrote - "Don't look for God outside. For Him, look inside". Bodhi Dharma wrote - "Don't look for Buddha outside. For Him, look inside". Rumi also said, "The rose does not care if someone calls it a thorn, or a jasmine". It is the language and the labels which place us apart and which causes misunderstandings and misguidedly fight with each other for the love of the same goal.

We recall Rumi's poem about the Persian, Arab, Turk and the Greek who wanted to buy four different things with one coin, not realizing that they all wanted the same thing. They were asking for grapes, but in four different languages. That is the lesson for all of us.

The best way to bring this unity is by translating all Sufi poetry into as many languages as possible, and read them with an open mind, as we should also do with Buddha Dhamma and all other religious teachings. Let us use poetry, paintings, music and dance to bring Love and unity among mankind, so we could all be Peaceful and Useful.



Colourful start to Sufi festival



An artiste recites poetry during the Sufi International festival at Khalsa college in Amritsar on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: SAMEER SENGAJ

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 20

The Sufi festival organised by the Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board, Foundation of SAARC Writers and the Ministry of Tourism commenced at Khalsa college here today.

The event witnessed participation of international scholars in two separate academic sessions. Tourism department Principal Secretary Gitika Kalha welcomed all the participants. Sufi singers, poets, music composers and intellectuals from India, Afghanistan,

Bangladesh, Maldives, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are participating in the two-day Sufi festival.

In the first academic session, Prof Akhtarul Wasey presented a keynote paper on the life of 13th century Persian Sufi mystic. Among the others who presented their views on various aspects of Sufism included Saadullah Jaan Barj from Pakistan and Daya Disanayake from Sri Lanka.

The second academic session witnessed key participation of Bal Bahadur Thapa and Humaira Subedi

from Nepal, Dr Noor Zaheer from India, Baba Mahmud Yahya Khan and Humaira Ishfaq from Pakistan. The sessions were chaired by Dr Mustafa Zaman Abassi of Bangladesh and Professor Abhi Subedi of Nepal, respectively.

Various speakers said Sufi saint Farid was the first Sufi poet of the Punjabi language. Baba Farid's 134 saloks were included in Guru Granth Sahib.

The intellectuals said Sufism could play a predominant role in bringing peace of mind between nations.

Lahore Edition

INTERNATIONAL

THE NEWS

Sunday

October 21, 2012



AMRITSAR, India: Uzbekistan dancer Dilaf Ruz performs during the inauguration ceremony of 'International Sufi Festival-2012' in Amritsar. Participants from various countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and India participated in the two-day event organised by the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature SAARC Apex body and Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board Government of Punjab. —AFP



SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION
CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

This is to certify that the status of a

SAARC Apex Body

has been renewed for

Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL)

at the Thirty-Fourth Session of the Council of Ministers

The aforesaid status will remain valid until 2 April 2017 and is renewable.

Given under my hand on this Eighth Day of December Two Thousand and Eleven.

SAARC Secretariat
Kathmandu, Nepal


Uz. Fathimath Imiyana Saeed
Secretary-General



SAARC

FOUNDATION OF SAARC WRITERS AND LITERATURE
SAARC APEX BODY

4/6, SIRI FORT INSTITUTIONAL AREA,
NEW DELHI - 110049

PHONES : 26498070, 26494554

Email : ajeetcourwriter@yahoo.co.in • foundationsaarcwriter@gmail.com

website : www.foundationsaarcwriters.com