

Website: “SriGranth.org”

The High-Tech Treasure of Sri Guru Granth Sahib

Waiting to be discovered

Prof Devinder Singh Chahal, PhD

** Institute for Understanding Sikhism, 4418 Martin-Plouffe, Laval, Quebec, Canada H7W 5L9*

Email: sikhism@iuscanada.com

For further information contact Dr Kulbir Singh Thind, MD: drksthind@yahoo.com

The website: SriGranth.org was established in June, 2000 by Jasjeet Singh Thind with the help of his father Dr Kulbir Singh Thind, MD. Dr Thind is the one who first invented different fonts of Gurmukhi in 1995 and first CD on Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS) in Gurmukhi with Transliteration in Roman and with English translation by Dr Sant Singh Khalsa was prepared. The new Web site, **SriGranth.org**, was completely updated on Guru Nanak *Parkash Ustav* (Birthday), in November 2005.

This is first site on SGGGS in **Unicode**, which has many advantages over other sites. Information regarding unicode can be read at: <http://www.gurbanifiles.org/unicode/> In fact, it will be very useful for any writer of Gurmukhi to know these advantages. However, it has been noticed that it is still a hidden high tech treasure for many researchers. I was using information from his old CD and other search engines but was never happy since I still have to go to other translations of the AGGS and many dictionaries to complete my research on Gurbani. It was very troublesome and time consuming besides having a computer in my lap. The current site, **SriGranth.org**, has updated database with two English translations of AGGS, one Punjabi translation and two *Teekas* (Punjabi translations with explanations) and is based on **Unicode fonts** (the industry accepted international standard). However, the site allows anyone to do Gurmukhi searches in Gurbani Lipi as well. **SriGranth.org** allows anyone to explore the hymns of SGGGS in ways never possible before.

I stayed with Dr Thind's family from June 4 to 11, 2006. This was my headquarter where from I went to Freemont Gurdwara to speak to the Executive and the Sangat about my new project about the discovery of a monument in the name of Guru Nanak in Istanbul, Turkey, to Barkley to have lunch with the Punjab Agricultural University alumni, and finally had a dinner with Mr Hardev Singh Grewal (host), Prof Balbir Singh and Dr Kulbir Singh Thind. All of them are the Sikh Diaspora Discussion Group members. But most of my time was spent with Dr Thind to explore the full potential of **SriGranth.org**.

This website not only provides advanced search ability to search SGGGS in Gurmukhi, Hindi or English with transliteration, but one can also view and read either of two English translations (by Dr Sant Singh Khalsa or Bhai Manmohan Singh), along with Punjabi translation by Bhai Manmohan Singh and either of two Punjabi Teekaas (by Prof Sahib Singh or Fridkotwala Teeka), **in an interactive way**. English as well Punjabi meanings of words found in SGGGS can also be viewed by simply clicking on any word. In fact, the English meanings become visible as the cursor is moved over any word. The meanings are provided from three dictionaries and also from '*Mahan Kosh*'. The word meanings can also be searched independently from the dictionaries. A list of words found in SGGGS is provided for help in doing easy searches.

There is also a feature provided to view any Sabd/Sloka or Pauri in SGGGS, by separating it into a separate page. It is possible to read SGGGS in Gurmukhi or Hindi and its English transliteration, translations and teekas by navigating to any desired page with ease.

The site is designed in such a way that most functions are available with ease. As most users would prefer to do simple searches by typing words in Gurmukhi, Hindi, English or

Transliteration, they can do it right in the home page. An image map to help type Gurmukhi words is provided and requires simple clicks over the displayed letters. However, it is also possible to type on the keyboard as well.

Clicking on the Advanced Search button in the home page takes one to another page where it is possible to do advanced searches in Gurmukhi, Hindi, English or phonetic transliteration. The advanced searches are very sophisticated and allow one to get to desired information with ease. One can thus limit searches to the sentences that begin with certain words/letters, or that contain any of the presented words or a combination of words. The searches can be further refined selecting appropriate Raga, Author, Page-range or Poetry-type.

A brief description of Search Features:

- A. In the home page the search query can be a word, a partial word or a combination of words (in exact sequential order).
- B. In the “Advanced Gurbani Search” page there are many options:
 1. One can limit searches to any Author, Raga, Poetry-type or Page range.
 2. One can do searches in Gurmukhi without *Laga-Matra* and with full characters instead of *paireen* (letter as subscript) characters. This is very helpful when one is not fully sure of the spellings of query words.
 3. One can limit searches to the beginning letters/words of any sentence.
 4. One can search for those sentences that contain certain words (the words do not have to be sequentially placed in the sentence of search). Partial words are good enough for searches.
 5. One can search for sentences that contain all of the specified words or any of listed words.

A brief description of Read/Print/Display/Copy features

1. One can read the related pages after doing searches in Gurmukhi or Hindi and with or without different translations, *Teekas* (commentaries in Punjabi) or phonetic transliteration.
2. One can go directly to a particular page of AGGS and then navigate back and forth between pages as desired.
3. One can chose Gurmukhi text of AGGS in regular format OR with inserted punctuation marks. The later is good for easy reading and is often used in *Teekas*.
4. One can read SGGs text in Devnagri (Hindi). This is useful to those who do not know Gurmukhi but know Hindi.
5. One can read Aad Guru Granth Sahib, as would be read in Gurmukhi but by reading in phonetic transliteration. This is useful to those who do not know Gurmukhi or Hindi but know English.
6. The SGGs text can be simultaneously displayed in Gurmukhi, Hindi and in Phonetic transliteration, as per choice and can be combined with a choice of English translation and a choice of *Teekas*, and with Punjabi translation by Bhai Manmohan Singh.
7. Following English translations are available for selection:
 - a. By Dr Sant Singh Khalsa, MD
 - b. By Manmohan Singh.
8. Following *Teekas* (Punjabi translations with commentaries) are available for selection:
 - a. By Prof Sahib Singh.
 - b. Faridkotwala Teeka.

9. Search and View / Print / Display / Copy Sabd with Gurmukhi text, Hindi Text, phonetic transliteration and English translation by Dr Sant Singh Khalsa, MD.
10. Select any 'Amrit Kirtan' Sabd from any of the lists in Gurmukhi, Hindi, English or Phonetic transliteration.
11. Search for a Sabd by doing a search for Aad Guru Granth Sahib text (as described above under Search AGGS) and from the search results click on appropriate "view Sabd/Pauri/Sloka" button.
12. While viewing any Sabd you can go to the corresponding page of SGGS and thus read any Sabd with all the options for Translations and *Teekas* etc that are available for reading AGGS text.
13. Copy/Paste/Print/Display the Viewed Text with any of the above described choices.
14. Read Meanings of any Gurmukhi Word of Aad Guru Granth Sahib and Search any Mahan-Kosh Topic. The transliteration and (when available) the English meaning of any Gurmukhi word of AGGS can be viewed by simply moving the cursor arrow over the word. Detailed meanings can be viewed by clicking on the word.

