



September 30, 2023

Summary Report on 2023 International Sikh Research Summit (Sikhi in a Globalized World)

Vidya Veechaari taa(n) Par-upkaaree¹ – ‘knowledge becomes beneficial when it is used for the welfare of others,’ is an essential maxim from Sri Guru Granth Sahib, the sacred Sikh scripture, and a foundational cornerstone of Guru Nanak Institute of Global Studies (GNI). It is not only a beacon for all who care to learn, but it also puts a burden of responsibility on all learners to put their education to work for the collective good of others.

On September 23rd and 24th, 2023, Surrey witnessed the confluence of thought leaders at the second annual International Sikh Research Summit. This year's resonant theme, *'Sikhi in a Globalized World,'* attracted an ensemble of accomplished academicians, innovative researchers, eminent authors, profound thinkers, and eager learners from across the globe.

It is heartening to recognize that Sikhs, in the intricate tapestry of our global society, are not mere spectators but vibrant contributors, ardently striving to elevate the world we inhabit.

Before the summit officially began, Jasdeep Kaur played Raag Bhairi on the Dilruba (classical stringed instrument), with Baljit Singh providing a rhythmic backbone on the tabla. Their combined musical talents transported the audience to a realm of tranquillity. Raag Bhairi is one of the musical measures in Sri Guru Granth Sahib, traditionally performed during the early morning hours, that evokes a mood of devotion and meditation. Specific note patterns and sequences with profound emotional impact characterize its melodic structure.

After some technical hiccups, the air pulsated with excitement and expectation as the summit commenced. Dr. Kamaljit Kaur Sidhu graced the lectern, exuding an aura of grace and authority. Her welcoming address, warm and hopeful, forged an immediate bond among the attendees,

¹ ਵਿਦਿਆ ਵੀਚਾਰੀ ਤਾਂ ਪਰਉਪਕਾਰੀ (Guru Nanak – Sri Guru Granth Sahib page 356)

fostering a sense of unity and mutual appreciation. Sukhvinder Kaur Vinning led the gathering in the Sikh Ardas, a profound invocation for divine blessings and guidance. As the hall lapsed into contemplative quietude, Kevin Kelly of Kwantlen First Nation, drawing from the deep-rooted indigenous traditions, delivered a prayer that underscored the sanctity of our bond with the land and the Great Spirit. Invoking ancestral wisdom, he emphasized the necessity of equilibrium and reverence in all undertakings. This melding of spiritual introspections laid a thoughtful foundation for the summit, underscoring the essence of intercultural understanding and cooperative engagement.

After greetings from the Rt, Hon. Justin Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada, and the Hon. David Eby, the Premier of BC, were read, Hon. Harry Bains, BC's Minister of Labour, welcomed delegates and acknowledged GNI's research on Sikhs' influence on BC. He discussed Sikhs' vital contributions to BC and the challenges Sikhs faced in the 1900s, including discrimination. He recalled a past BC Minister of Labour's derogatory remarks about Sikhs. However, inspired by Sikhi principles, our predecessors showcased resilience, promoting a more inclusive Canada. Minister Bains highlighted the contrast between past biases and the current position of influence. He concluded, emphasizing the importance of upholding individual dignity.

Subsequently, NDP MLA Garry Begg underscored the pervasive issue of ignorance. He championed education as the primary tool to combat it and implored scholars to empower individuals with knowledge, fostering informed decision-making to transform society positively.

Acting Mayor of Surrey, Pardeep Kooner, graciously extended a warm welcome to all participants. Emphasizing the significance of the occasion, she expressed immense pride and honour felt by the City of Surrey in being chosen as the host for the 2nd International Sikh Research Summit. Ms. Konner highlighted the city's commitment to promoting intercultural understanding and fostering connections; this summit is a testament to that commitment.

Day 1 - September 23, 2023 Presentations

Dr. Baljit Singh, Vice President of Research at the University of Saskatchewan, delivered a compelling keynote at the event's opening. He stressed the imperative for institutions to craft resilient, steadfast, and impactful organizations capable of navigating the complexities of an ever-evolving society. For entities like GNI, agility in responding to shifting dynamics, capitalizing on emergent opportunities, and confronting or mitigating looming challenges is paramount. Dr. Singh's astute insights were particularly resonant for GNI, a budding institute transitioning into its adolescence.

Dr. Nabila Rehman, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jhang in Pakistan, a renowned academician and researcher, captivated the gathering with her riveting exploration of 'Multilingual and Cultural Diversity and Sri Guru Granth Sahib.' Her unique blend of eloquence and erudition

illuminated facets of the Sikh scripture that left even devout Sikhs familiar with Gurbani, in awe. While the Sri Guru Granth Sahib is penned in Gurmukhi script, it celebrates the linguistic tapestry of the Indian subcontinent by incorporating a staggering 26 languages and over 200 dialects. This multilingual mosaic is a testament to the region's rich linguistic heritage.

The depth and richness of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib extend far beyond its impressive linguistic tapestry. It stands as a universal beacon of inclusivity, drawing wisdom from diverse religious traditions of the subcontinent and resonating with spiritual teachings from around the globe. While it profoundly captures the cultural vibrancy and pluralism of South Asian regions such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, the timeless wisdom of its verses has touched hearts and minds in every corner of the world. While deeply rooted in the subcontinent's multilingual and multicultural milieu, the scripture transcends regional boundaries, emphasizing global unity. It advocates for harmonious coexistence among various cultural, religious, and linguistic communities within the subcontinent and across the vast expanse of our interconnected globe.

While the presenters were real people in real life, Dr. Harjinder Singh Sandhu, Vice President of Technology Strategy at Nuance Microsoft and a specialist in Artificial Intelligence (AI), acquainted us with the near-term future of technology and how it would impact our society. Demystifying the nature of AI, he very skillfully presented the emerging landscape, enabling and empowering us all to connect with the wisdom and knowledge of the ages and hold conversations with intellectual stalwarts in distant lands or times, or no longer in our midst.

Prof. Satinder Kaur Brar, holding the esteemed Chair of Environmental Engineering position at York University, regrettably could not attend the summit to present her findings. Her pivotal research, which delves into the intricate nexus between environmental engineering and its ramifications on the holistic well-being of the global populace, will be duly incorporated into our forthcoming publication.

Gurduaras, revered as the Sikh places of worship and assembly, have consistently represented the heart of Sikh societal dynamics throughout our historical trajectory. Given the profound significance, one is compelled to inquire: Are we sufficiently vigilant in ensuring these pivotal institutions are primed to cater to the evolving needs of the community? Dr. Satvir Singh, a renowned scholar and researcher affiliated with the University of Texas at El Paso, USA, and an expert in international business organizational behaviour and law, illuminated his preliminary research spotlight on the instrumental role of 'granthis' within Gurduaras and the pressing imperative for reform.

Dr. Singh's research should be eye-opening for Gurduara management committees and the broader Sikh community. It underscores the necessity to intensify our focus on the comprehensive training, motivation, and overall well-being of these pivotal personnel. When granthis, entrusted with the

monumental task of serving the community's multifaceted needs, grapple with unmet material and perceptual requirements, their dedication and enthusiasm for service risk being compromised.

Dr. Gurmail Singh, head of Religious Studies at Punjabi University, Patiala, embodied humility, dedication, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to selfless service. He eloquently presented an overview of a GNI ambitious initiative that intricately weaves together the insights and interpretations of fifteen distinguished researchers and academicians on each stanza of Gurbani as found in the revered Sikh scripture, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Since February 2022, this monumental endeavour has engaged the expertise of 33 research scholars under the aegis of GNI. In addition, Dr. Singh highlighted how the design shortcomings in all existing Gurmukhi fonts prompted a research project to develop a new family of fonts “Nanaklipi” that enables academics and researchers to reproduce the words and verses in Gurbani more efficiently and accurately.

Immediately following the luncheon break, the Hon. Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Childcare of British Columbia, addressed the assembly, emphasizing the substantial presence of scholars and researchers as a testament to GNI’s distinguished leadership and steadfast dedication to community service. “Knowledge has been the cornerstone of Sikhi,” remarked the Minister. Through the lens of Sikhi, we understand the importance of knowledge. Insights gained from this summit will lay the groundwork for global education. Hon. Singh also discussed the measures her government has initiated to ensure student safety and tackle racism in schools. She emphasized her deep passion for these causes and her dedicated efforts to introduce an anti-racism action plan. She stressed the importance of all students taking at least four credit courses on the history and culture of indigenous people in Canada. Further, her government is committed to providing the necessary funding for this education initiative.

During the afternoon, participants had the choice of attending one of three simultaneous workshops:

- a) The University of Victoria (UVIC) partnered with GNI for a roundtable addressing challenges international students face in Canada. This discussion was expertly moderated by Dr. Victor Ramraj, a law professor at UVic and the Director of the Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives (CAPI). The panel comprised esteemed scholars: Dr. Sharada Srinivasan from Guelph University, Dr. Lisa Ruth Brunner from UBC, Dr. Mandeep Kaur Mucina from UVic, and Jaspreet Singh, a representative, a person with lived experience (PWLE) and founder of International Sikh Students Association of Canada.

The roundtable discussion shed light on the political and economic reasons that attract Punjabi students to Canada. During the dialogue, various significant challenges facing the students upon their arrival were identified, including financial hardships, extended work hours, stress-related mental health issues and suicide, inflated fee structures, housing

challenges, student exploitation, and a particular vulnerability among female students. GNI is compiling recommendations to address these issues and will present them to provincial and federal governments for consideration and action.

- b) Under the guidance of Bhupinder Singh Hundal, Global BC News Director, the workshop “Discussion with Sikh and Indigenous Elders: Keeping the Ethos Alive” was held. The panel featured the insights of Wade Grant from the Musqueam First Nation, Sukhvinder Kaur Vinning, a Decolonization Consultant, and Kiran Singh, an award-winning journalist from CBC News, Vancouver.

The forum highlighted the commonality between the Sikh and the Indigenous communities. It was a rich conversation that explored the challenges faced by both communities – both have suffered intergenerational issues and trauma. Emphasis was placed on Sikh ethos and navigating what is acceptable and not permitted. One takeaway that stood out for participants was ‘when you walk into a room – leave your emotions at the door and have a free and open discussion,’ and ‘when you walk out, leave those discussions inside.’ Those kinds of open and frank conversations are good for learning, growing and nurturing the global community. We all have a lot to learn and grow!

- c) The workshop focusing on "Mental Health and Sikhi" was moderated by Dr. Bali Sohi, a psychologist. The panel brought together a range of expertise, including Dr. Birinder Singh Narang (Clinical Assistant Professor at UBC and a practicing family physician), Dr. Grace Kaur Gulati, a psychiatrist, Dr. Aridaman Singh Mahal, a herbal consultant hailing from Punjab, and Kulpreet Singh, a PWLE and consultant.

Mental health is a crucial aspect of overall well-being. However, a lot of stigma surrounds it within the South Asian community, which was identified as a systemic barrier for many seeking help. Some even face derogatory comments, like “Who would marry them?” due to their mental health conditions. The panelists addressed why it is essential to understand how to access mental health services and the role of various treatments, including psychotic reactions to medication. Beyond that, the Punjabi community’s understanding of mental health is still evolving. Dr. Aridaman Singh suggested how different kinds of foods might influence our mental state. The topic of psychedelics and their potential role in mental health was also discussed. Overall, the emphasis was on staying informed and supportive as a society, ensuring everyone gets the help they need.

Dr. Satpal Singh, who holds the distinguished title of Professor Emeritus at the State University of New York, Buffalo, USA, showcased his expertise and depth of understanding of what went on during the day. Demonstrating an impressive ability to grasp the core essence of multiple topics, he masterfully summarized the day’s presentations. His review not only provided a concise recap

of the exhibits but also highlighted salient points and interconnections, allowing attendees better to appreciate the overall theme and intricacies of the event.

The evening dinner event was a blend of exquisite culinary offerings and profound intellectual insights as the Summit delegates gathered to share a Punjabi meal, further discuss and explore the topics presented on Day 1, establish global academic connections, and begin preliminary dialogues about potential research areas. The highlight, however, was the Keynote fireside chat with the Hon. Navdeep Singh Bains, former minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development in the government of Canada and currently the Chief Corporate Affairs Officer of Rogers Communications. Neesha Hothi (GNI Media Strategist) was not pulling any punches, as she raked Minister Bains over red-hot coals while the participants were all ears. The clear message - 'maintain focus' is as applicable for dealing with pressed-for-time senior government leaders as it is in any form of business or steering GNI towards its destined glory. He emphasized the importance of aligning educational or research projects that resonate with governments' broader objectives and showcase benefits for the larger community.

Day 2 - September 24, 2023 Presentations

The second day of the Summit unfurled with an ethereal start. Jasdeep Kaur, gracefully handling the Dilruba (stringed instrument), immersed herself in playing Raag Asa. Baljit Singh adeptly accompanied her on tabla as the notes flowed, creating a rhythmic harmony that reverberated through the conference center. There was an unmistakable aura of serenity and calmness that enveloped the listeners. Raag Asa is one of Sri Guru Granth Sahib's 31 primary Raags (musical modes).

The summit proceeded with a Sikh prayer led by Sukhvinder Kaur after a notable acknowledgement of indigenous territories. David Byng, former Deputy Minister of Education of British Columbia, delivered an insightful keynote address highlighting GNI's remarkable journey since its inception. Based on his extensive experience, David praised GNI's rapid growth and achievements, noting that he rarely saw an organization evolve so swiftly. He emphasized the significance of impactful research, elucidating how GNI could influence geopolitics, globalization, climate change, and economic disparities and bridge the gap between the affluent and the underprivileged. He stressed that our research should align with our national leaders' goals and raise awareness about community issues that require their attention, showcasing the power of collective action in driving transformative progress, especially evident in GNI's strides over a mere 20 months.

Central to David's message was encouraging GNI to cultivate relationships with various institutions and stakeholders. GNI can leverage collective strengths, disseminate vital knowledge,

and broaden its influence through these collaborations. While partnerships aren't a novel concept, David presented an innovative perspective on how GNI might optimize these alliances to bolster its visibility and reach. He visualized that by nurturing these connections, GNI could adeptly address complex challenges, establishing itself as a trailblazer in setting global standards. To achieve this, he suggested GNI draw inspiration from entities like Asia Pacific, which are at the forefront of policy development.

Sikh diaspora and networks of resistance were very skillfully elucidated by Dr. Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra, a respected historian, publisher, and dedicated educator. It was entirely due to the faith and commitment of the Sikhs more than a hundred years ago that there is a large, vibrant, and progressive Sikh community in British Columbia and elsewhere in Canada. Consistent with their historical traditions, the Sikhs stood their ground and refused to be cowed down. Very grudgingly, the established white community – not all of whom could be accused of racism, saw the merit in Sikhs' indomitable spirit, hard work, energy, and a solid desire to coexist peacefully and respectfully.

It was very inspiring to hear her narration of how the first gurduara, atop the highest plateau in the area, was built with the labour of love and respectfully adorned with a Sikh ensign atop an eighty-foot mast that served as a beacon for all over a vast territory.

Dr. Taranjit Singh Butalia, a Research Associate Professor at the Ohio State University, where he directs the coal combustion products program, and a long-standing member of the Parliament of World's Religions, took the participants for an emotional journey across the great divide between the two parts of Punjab in India and Pakistan, Charda and Lehnda. A video presentation accompanied by his powerful narrative showed how faith, mutual respect, and dedication can bridge differences. Often, the missing part is the will to do so.

Is Sikhi relevant today? Is it capable of adapting itself to the modern world through innovation? These were the challenges addressed in her presentation by Dr. Paramjit Kaur, Associate Professor at Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College, a researcher, an author, and a committed educator. In the modern world, there is a prevailing concern that individuals have become increasingly consumed by self-interest, dishonesty, fraudulent behaviour, deceit, hypocrisy, and a single-minded pursuit of wealth. The contemporary relevance of Sikhi lies in its promotion of values like equality, unity, mutual respect, and the sanctity of human rights. Sikh ideology acknowledges the dynamic nature of human society. It encourages people to proactively strive for continuous improvement through education and innovation rather than adopting a passive approach.

Dr. Akhtar Hussain Sandhu is a renowned professor and principal at Government. Islamia Graduate College, Lahore. Much sought after by the Pakistan media, Dr. Sandhu strongly believes that culture unites while religion divides. This provides food for thought and introspection in our

world governed by populism and opportunism, where the so-called leaders never shy away from using religion for mass hypnotism or manipulation. In his opinion, the Kartarpur corridor (Langha) is a powerful expression of human desire to bridge the gaps arbitrarily created by the departing British. Lines drawn on the map divided two peoples who had lived together for millennia. Kartarpur corridor has become a symbol of hope and peace amid strained relations between India and Pakistan.

Sikhs never tire of citing the principles of gender equality enshrined in the scriptures but fall short of practicing the same in real life. Dr. Mohinder Kaur Grewal, Principal at the Government College for Girls in Ludhiana, presented highly thoughtful insight into women's place and role in Sikh society.

In the Sikh faith, women can participate in all religious, cultural, social, and secular activities. Guru Nanak – the founder of the Sikh faith, emphasized the importance of women in society and highlighted their roles as a mother. The central figure in Sikh scriptures is a woman, and if we think dispassionately, the Sikh faith practiced in keeping with the scriptures renders the feminist movement unnecessary.

‘Spiritual Love in Gurbani’ was the theme of Dr. Tejinder Pal Singh’s presentation at the Summit. Dr. Singh is an Assistant Professor at the University College Miranpur in Punjab, and his entire professional life is dedicated to studying Sikh cultural heritage as encapsulated in the Sikh scripture. Dr. Singh’s masterly presentation provided a glimpse, through the lens of scriptures, of what one can experience if one were to transport oneself to a state of eternal bliss. However, that is possible only if one rises above the contemporary physical and material attachment form. We humans express love in physical or material terms, leaving the higher and deeper states of existence untouched.

After the lunch break, Mr. Kevin Falcon, the Leader of the Opposition in the BC Legislature, delivered his message of inclusivity and complimented the work GNI is doing.

The entire Sikh community, the world over, is concerned at the lack – or near absence, of Sikh youth in local, regional, or national organizations in cultural or religious domains. This sad state was highlighted in *‘Bridging the Gap: Engaging Sikh Youth in Today’s World’* by Mohnaam Kaur Shergill, a litigation associate at Farris LLP in Vancouver and a founding member of the Sikh Heritage Society of British Columbia.

Taking an intelligent, thoughtful, and provocative look at our only community institutions' sorry state of affairs. Ms. Shergill very astutely identified the problem, the potential solutions, and, more importantly, the barriers or obstacles in implementing the desired changes—a much-needed eye-opener for all of us.

Holding needless, long-drawn-out meetings at odd hours of the day, without concern for others, particularly mothers' family commitments, becomes a barrier to women's participation in community activities. Hopefully, we can find at least one Gurduara where the incumbent executive is willing to champion the cause of coaching and preparing their youth to take on the organizational responsibilities aimed at meeting our future needs in a professional, businesslike, and inclusive manner that will attract the attention of our youth and be inviting enough for them to be a part of it.

Dr. Manpreet Kaur Sahota, an English professor, researcher, and radio talk show host, dealt with the issue of 'model minority narrative' for Sikhs and highlighted how understanding identity is paramount in a globalized era marked by multiculturalism. Her presentation delved into the connection between Sikhi, multiculturalism, and storytelling and emphasized the role of literature, contemporary media and social platforms in portraying Sikh identity amidst diverse narratives.

The afternoon was devoted to the two parallel workshops:

- a. Rena Kaur Heer, a media consultant, and Upkar Singh Tatlay, CTO of Oxus, co-chaired the Substance Use and the Toxic Drug Supply roundtable. Tatlay is instrumental in guiding healthcare innovations and experimental biotech projects concerning overdose crises and mental health. The panel of experts included Dr. Rupinder Kaur Brar, an Addiction Medicine Research Fellow; Brooke Kinniburgh, MPS, an Epidemiologist; Anmol Swaich, an SFU researcher focusing on unregulated drug supply toxicity and violence exposure among users; Kamaljit Singh Jugpal, a person with lived experience (PWLE) and the founder and Executive Director of Mukti Society; and Sherry, a grieving mother who lost her son to a drug overdose.

The discussion was profoundly emotional and heart-wrenching, bringing tears to many, including some panelists. A significant insight from this forum was the importance of being informed about the scale of deaths caused by drug overdoses. Open dialogue at community events and within homes is essential in reducing the stigma associated with drug use. This is not just a concern among Punjabis but across all communities. Discussions like these empower us to hold politicians accountable, especially during elections, by asking about their initiatives to combat this crisis. There is ample research available, and evidence-based treatments should be emphasized over mere safety protocols. Encouraging open conversations at home can empower children to discuss their concerns with their parents, ultimately reducing stigma and fostering understanding.

- b. Dr. Baljit Singh, Vice President of Research at the University of Saskatchewan, chaired an engaging panel discussion on 'Empowering Young Scholars and Researchers,' featuring

experts such as Dr. Balbir Kaur Gurm (Kwantlen Polytechnic University), Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia (The Ohio State University), Dr. Deepinder Pal Singh (Desh Bhagat University, Punjab), and Dr. Simarpreet Singh (University of Manitoba).

The primary focus of the discussion revolved around cultivating a new generation of young research scholars, particularly in diverse disciplines like sociology, political studies, and other fields. One of the pressing concerns raised was inadequate compensation for doctorate degrees, especially when transitioning to professorship roles. This financial imbalance and community peer pressures often divert attention towards high-paying professions, leading to a declining interest in research and pursuing doctoral degrees in these disciplines.

Given the millions of dollars the community invests in various projects, there was a unanimous agreement that more resources should be allocated toward supporting the aspirations of our youth. We can substantially bolster scholarship funds by redirecting even a fraction of this investment, encouraging young scholars to delve into various careers. This would not only produce thought leaders in every field but also lead to influential policymaking on national and global scales.

Ultimately, the broader vision is to elevate our young scholars to distinguished platforms, allowing them to contend for prestigious accolades such as the Nobel Prize and the Order of Canada. This narrative, focusing on championing the potential of our youth, is the crucial tale we must prioritize and share.

As the summit neared its final summation, I was entrusted with the task of elucidating GNI's evolution. Our journey, peppered with challenges, has been remarkable, and with the Guru's benevolence, we have successfully navigated and accomplished numerous milestones.

Delving into GNI's current academic and research pursuits, it was my honour to highlight our four distinctive diploma and two certificate programs, encompassing unparalleled subjects elsewhere. The Sikh community takes immense pride in our robust research initiatives. To enumerate a few:

- The Gurbani Arth Milaan initiative has engaged 33 scholars since February 2022.
- Our collaboration with Punjabi University, Patiala, gave birth to the NanakLipi Gurmukhi Font, which is now available for download.
- The poignant narrative of Nikkyan Jindan, Wada Saka, detailing the harrowing martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's youngest sons at the hands of the Mughal regime, has been translated into 11 major Indian languages.

- In a comprehensive academic setting in Punjab in April 2023, we recognized the contributions of 30 overlooked retired academicians and research scholars of Punjab. However, the loss of three post-recognition is deeply mourned.

On the horizon for GNI is an ambitious venture: digitizing ancient Sikh manuscripts and scriptures, a project the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee conferred upon us. Moreover, our Cyber Security diploma program, comprising 20 comprehensive courses, is pending PTIB approval and is anticipated to commence this upcoming January. Concurrently, our Data Science and Artificial Intelligence diploma programs are undergoing rigorous review. With our course catalogue nearing 60, we aim to seek accreditation for offering undergraduate degrees.

Although our educational model is primarily online, we are transitioning to a 'Combined Mode' – a fusion of in-person and remote learning – by January 2024. We envision establishing a campus, a tangible manifestation of our aspirations and a beacon of pride for our community.

I concluded my presentation by imploring everyone to set their sights high, to harbour grand dreams, and to trust in the vast potential that lies ahead. "Envision GNI evolving from a mere institution to a globally esteemed university, revered by both the Sikh diaspora and the broader academic fraternity." Yet, amidst such ambition, I emphasized the necessity of remaining anchored to our foundational principles, cherished values, and community that moulded us.

Dr. Amritpal Kaur, former Academic Dean of Punjabi University, possesses a unique talent for distilling complex discussions. She adeptly grasps the essence of intricate debates and presents them with exceptional clarity. Her skill is not just in understanding but in articulating ideas in a way that is accessible to all. At our 2023 Summit, her summation was a testament to her ability. She gave attendees a concise yet insightful overview, reflecting her profound understanding eloquently. Dr. Kaur emerges as a beacon of clarity and comprehension in academic settings, where discussions can be labyrinthine—and delivered the final summation eloquently.

Conclusion

The summit's conclusion saw all out-of-town scholars and guests gather for an intimate private dinner, marking a warm end to the event.

The general sentiment echoed through the halls was that this summit was unparalleled in its magnitude and impact. An elder attendee, a vibrant spirit in his seventies, encapsulated the feeling best when he expressed that this was "the largest and the best meeting of minds" he had witnessed among the Sikhs in his entire lifetime. His reflection alone, if that was the sole takeaway, made every ounce of effort and every penny spent worth it.

This 2023 Summit was designed not just as an event but as an experience. It was packed with information, a vision for the future, constructive dialogue, education, and, most importantly, inspiration. If you missed being a part of this groundbreaking event in person or virtually, the question that should linger in your mind is: why?

However, there's a silver lining. Another summit is on the horizon, merely a year away. Our meticulous planning team, equipped with detailed scrutiny tools, is already engrossed in orchestrating an even more impactful sequel. While we did face minor technical setbacks during the initial stages of the 2023 Summit, our technological mavens are already on task, promising to integrate advanced AI solutions to minimize such hiccups in the future.

Each of you is a crucial thread in the grand tapestry of history. Your unwavering support and commitment can shape the legacy of these summits. As we move forward, let's grow together and work collaboratively with GNI, seeing it through its vision and ensuring that we reach unparalleled heights of excellence.

In wrapping up this summary report on our incredible 2023 Summit, it is only fitting we take a moment to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our four remarkable Emcees: Gurjit Kaur Bains, Gurwinder Singh, Major Jasbeer Singh and Dr. Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra. Their professionalism, charisma and impeccable time management were the driving force behind the seamlessness of this event. Their ability to coordinate, engage, and keep everything on track has undoubtedly elevated the entire experience for all of us. Additionally, a special mention to the unsung heroes behind the scenes - our staff, volunteers and sponsors. Their tireless efforts, dedication, and passion often go unnoticed, but the summit would not have succeeded without them. Thank you for making this event memorable, and here is to many more successful conferences in the future!

I submit this comprehensive overview of our 2023 summit with pride and profound respect. Hopefully, this summary gives you a clearer insight into the meaningful discussions, innovative ideas, and collaborative efforts that transpired during this exceptional summit. Detailed presentations and videos will be available shortly on GNI website, with access to all in-person and virtually registered participants.

Warm regards,

Gian Singh

Gian Singh Sandhu