

Press Note

The International Sikh Confederation today organized a significant round-table discussion on the theme “Akāl Takht: Doctrine and Institution.” The event brought together eminent Sikh scholars, intellectuals, researchers, and Panthic representatives to engage in a thoughtful and constructive dialogue on the doctrinal foundations and institutional character of the Akāl Takht.

The participating scholars and members of the Sangat described the discussion as highly meaningful, timely, and of great significance for the Sikh Panth. They emphasized that serious academic engagement with the doctrinal and institutional dimensions of the Akāl Takht—the supreme temporal institution of the Sikhs—must continue on a sustained basis. It was further suggested that such deliberations should not remain confined to Punjab or India but should be organized regularly with the participation of Sikh scholars, researchers, and members of the global Sikh community, thereby strengthening Gurmat-based Panthic discourse and fostering a broader understanding of the doctrinal foundations of the Akāl Takht.

The session was chaired by Prof. Dr. Balkar Singh, while S. Amarjit Singh Grewal delivered the keynote address. Distinguished scholars including Dr. Kehar Singh, S. Jaswant Singh Zafar, S. Parmjit Singh Ghazi, S. Jaspal Singh, S. Karamjit Singh, S. Gurbir Singh, S. Gurpreet Singh, and several other eminent participants also shared their perspectives during the discussion.

The International Sikh Confederation clarified that this initiative was not centred on any individual, office, or institution. Rather, it marked the beginning of a broader dialogue on the original doctrinal foundations of the Akāl Takht as established during the Guru period and on its independent Panthic role. The objective is to encourage informed reflection on the Gurmat-based dignity, historical role, and contemporary relevance of the Akāl Takht.

In his keynote address, S. Amarjit Singh Grewal emphasized the importance of understanding the Akāl Takht through the framework of “Doctrine and Institution.” He observed that the legitimacy and effectiveness of any institution in providing Panthic leadership ultimately depend upon the clarity of its doctrinal foundations and their harmony with the principles of Gurmat.

During the deliberations, the participating scholars explored various dimensions of the Akāl Takht, including its historical evolution, doctrinal foundations, institutional structure, and its role in addressing the challenges of the contemporary world.

Concluding the programme, the International Sikh Confederation expressed its sincere gratitude to the Chair, the keynote speaker, all participating scholars, and the Sangat for their valuable contributions and presence. The Confederation expressed confidence that this dialogue would serve as an important first step towards advancing scholarly study of the Akāl Takht, strengthening Panthic discourse, and inspiring future academic deliberations on this vital institution.