ਜਗਤ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ
ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਟੇਟ ਓਪਨ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ
ਪਟਿਆਲਾ

Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala (Punjab)

Organizes
Two-Day
National Seminar
on

Revisiting the Socio-Philosophical Thought of Shri Guru Ravidas Ji

Dedicated to 650th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Ravidas Ji

organized by
Department of Sociology

in association with
Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA),
Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala (Punjab)

Sponsored by
Bhagat Ravidas Sikh Sangat, Deena Sahib (Moga, Punjab)

21-22 April, 2026
Mode of Seminar: Hybrid

Venue: Academic Block, JGND PSOU
(Govt. State College of Education, Patiala-147001, Punjab)

About the University

Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala has been established by the State Legislature Act No. 19 of 2019 as the first open university in the state of Punjab. The university endeavour to open new vistas for the education and employment seekers through its extensive network of Learner Support Centre. JGND PSOU believes in providing education for all and has been extending its outreach to learners in jail, rural/ remote areas, PwD, SC/ST Learners. JGND PSOU has implemented many recommendations of National Education Policy (NEP) of Government of India by focusing on learner-centred approach to teaching and learning and promoting online and digital mode of programme delivery. University is moving ahead in introducing various UG/PG and new skill based courses. The university is a multidisciplinary university with full-time faculty in its seven schools of learning. University aims to provide high quality, innovative, accessible and need-based programmes to all those who aspire to attain higher education.

About Department of Sociology:

The Department of Sociology at Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University (JGND PSOU) is committed to fostering critical inquiry, interdisciplinary research, and socially relevant knowledge production. The Department aims to encourage rigorous research that contributes meaningfully to public discourse and evidence-based policy making, while deepening the understanding of socio-cultural issues and contemporary challenges in Indian society, with particular emphasis on Punjab. It seeks to cultivate analytical perspectives on social structure, change, inequality, gender, development, rural transformation, and emerging social dynamics through both theoretical engagement and empirical investigation. The Department offers Undergraduate and Diploma programmes which are specifically designed to provide learners with a strong conceptual foundation in sociology alongside practical exposure to research methodologies and field-based understanding. With a curriculum that integrates classical and contemporary sociological thought, the programmes are structured to develop critical thinking, research aptitude, and socially responsible citizenship. In addition to academic programmes, the Department actively organizes seminars, workshops, and Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) to promote academic dialogue, research capacity building, and collaborative learning among scholars, practitioners, and students.

About the Theme

The 650th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Ravidas Ji offers a profound moment to revisit his egalitarian philosophy and its transformative relevance for contemporary Punjab. Rooted in the ideals of equality, dignity of labour, social justice, and spiritual humanism, his vision of Begampura imagined a casteless and oppression-free society. This national seminar seeks to critically engage with the philosophical foundations of Shri Guru Ravidas and examine how his teachings continue to reshape the social, cultural, and moral landscape of Punjab. By situating his thought within present socio-political realities, the seminar aims to explore pathways toward inclusivity, harmony, and social transformation inspired by his enduring legacy.

Sub Themes

1. Shri Guru Ravidas and sikh religious traditions.
2. Bhakti as counter-culture.
3. Devotion, dissent and popular religious praxis.
4. Ravidasian traditions and socio-political mobilization.
5. Deras as alternative sacred institutions and sites of social mobilization.
6. The counter-poetics of songs, narratives and visual culture in ravidasian traditions.
7. Dalit assertion, social emancipation and the intellectual–political legacy of Shri Guru Ravidas.
8. Subaltern spirituality, anti-caste ethics and the critique of brahmanical social order.
9. Historical formation and contemporary politics of ravidassia identity in punjab.
10. Re-reading Bhagat Ravidas through the subaltern studies and critical caste frameworks.
11. Begampura as a social imaginary of equality.
12. The future of ravidasian thought in contemporary anti-caste and social justice movements.

PATRONS

Chief Patron	**Dr. Rattan Singh, VC, JGND PSOU, Patiala**	
Patron (s)	Dr. Baljit Singh Khehra, Registrar, JGND PSOU, Patiala	Dr. Amitoj Singh, Associate Dean Academics Affairs, JGND PSOU, Patiala

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Convenor	**Dr. Shefali Bedi, Head of Department of Sociology, JGND PSOU**	
Co-Convenor (s)	Dr. Kavita Saharan, Assistant Professor of Sociology (Mob: 9815763727)	Dr. Prerna Singh, Assistant Professor of Sociology (Mob: 9646888151)

Call for Papers

Faculty, scholars, researchers, academicians and practitioners are invited to contribute original and unpublished papers for the National Seminar.

Submissions should align with the overarching theme and its identified sub-themes, and bilingual papers (including both English and Punjabi) are also accepted.

Selected papers, subject to peer-review process, will be published in an Edited Volume with an ISBN by University Publication Bureau.

Submission Guidelines:

1. Abstract should be 250-300, clearly indicating the relevance of the theme.
2. Full Paper should be 3000-5000 words, including references.
3. Abstracts and full-length papers should be sent in MS Word format (Times New Roman/Ravi, 12 font size, 1.5 line spacing), with standard citation practice.

Registration Fee

Research Scholar, Students	**300/- INR**
Faculty, Academicians	**500/- INR**

Link For Submission of Abstract:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4u8EYmPEHuu8rVL9S6_S9q6iMdjGVmkD-pL2mpdH84QO0gA/viewform?usp=header

Mail for final paper submission: psou.sociology2026@gmail.com

Account Details for Registration Fee:

A/c Name: Registrar JGND PB State Open Univ PTA
Bank Name: State Bank of India
IFSC Code: SBIN0050198
Account Number: 40807922737

Important Dates

Submission of Abstract	: 10-04-2026
Communication of Acceptance of Abstract	: 15-04-2026
Submission of Full-Length Paper	: 20-04-2026

Registration fee includes Tea & Lunch during Seminar

A Certificate of Participation shall be awarded to all participants who successfully attend the programme