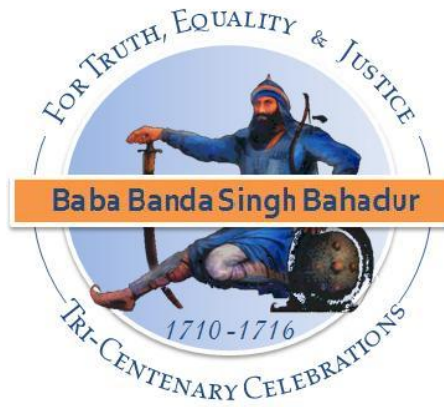


ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ
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Sikh Education Council, UK

27 Old Gloucester Street,
London,
WC1N 3XX

☎ 07990-797-936

✉ banda@thesikhway.com

www.thesikhway.com

****PRESS RELEASE****

London's Cabinet War Rooms echo the sounds of victory over tyranny

On Saturday 28th November, the Harmsworth Room, part of the historic Cabinet War Rooms in central London, was the venue for the second in a series of seminars hosted by the Sikh Education Council as part of the 'Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Project'. A full-capacity audience of fifty people stepped back in time and into the remarkable venue to hear speakers Manjit Singh Gill QC, Palbinder Singh and Arminster Singh consider the Sikh concepts of Truth, Equality & Justice in the socio-political and legal Khalsa Republic of the early 18th century. The seminars are just one part of the Sikh Education Council project which is celebrating the tri-centenary of the establishment of the Khalsa Republic by Baba Banda Singh Bahadur in The Punjab.

Each learned speaker reflected on a significant perspective of the Khalsa Republic that was established in 1710. Manjit Singh Gill QC eloquently expounded the concept of sourcing legal principles from Sikh scripture (Gurbani) and spoke further about the institutional lack that hindered the stability of the Khalsa Republic in the early 18th century. Palbinder Singh focused on the Battle for Sirhind which is considered to be the key strategic victory that first gave rise to Khalsa rule, whilst also giving an impressive overview of the Khalsa Republic's achievements. Arminster Singh depicted the rule of law that was imposed by the Mughal Empire, borrowing inspiration from the writing of the eminent Kapur Singh. Dr Pargat Singh, Chairman of the Sikh Education Council, commented that, "*There is a full audience who have paid considerably to attend. It is wonderful to know that so many people are interested.*"

The 'Banda Singh Bahadur Project' continues until 2016 and details of upcoming events can be found at www.TheSikhWay.com. The project aims to enhance understanding in both educational circles and among the general population of the events that took place from 1710 to 1716 in The Punjab. The Sikh Education Council is looking to re-visit studies and academic work of both Banda Singh and the socio-economic policies that were put into place in the Punjab during that time. To this end, appropriate scholars and researchers have been supported to produce work that will bring the story of the 1st Khalsa Republic into the 21st century. Several books and related work are planned for publishing, where the Punjab of Banda Singh and the Khalsa is examined in the context of other nations in the World.

Date: 30.11.09

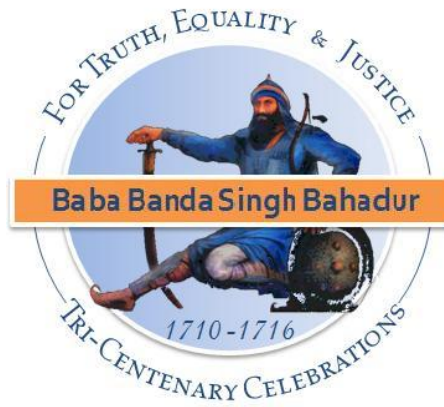
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For more information contact:

Harwinder Singh
Press Officer – Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Project
Sikh Education Council
Tel: 07870 138616
Email: banda@thesikhway.com

About the Sikh Education Council:

Established since the early 1980's, the Sikh Education Council UK (SEC) is devoted to enhancing the human spirit for the benefit of mankind through education of The Sikh Way.

The 'Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Project' is co-ordinated by a team of Sikh volunteers from a range of professional working backgrounds who are concentrating on esoteric Sikh teachings from the Guru Granth Sahib and Sikh history working for the betterment of humankind. The team aim to commemorate key milestones in Sikh history by organising high-profile events to educate and empower people through The Sikh Way.

Throughout the current seven year project, the Sikh Education Council will be analysing various aspects of the 1st Khalsa Republic in relation to similar episodes across the Globe from recent history. The previous Bristol Slavery Seminar and this London seminar have been the first such events in what promise to be a fascinating series amongst other aspects of this project.

About the Speakers:

Manjit Singh Gill QC, a leading human rights and immigration lawyer at 6 King's Bench Walk chambers, is both widely respected and prominent in legal circles. He has fought numerous test cases pertaining to immigration and human rights and is the editor of 'Immigration and Nationality Law Reports'. He is one of the most widely recognised practising Sikhs in the UK.

Palbinder Singh of the Sikh Education Council, is a researcher on the Khalsa Republics and author of 'Nankonianism.' He has written about Sikh politics and issues pertaining to Sikhs residing in the UK.

Arminster Singh of the Sikh Education Council, is a researcher focusing on Sikh literature and associated South-Asian texts. He has written about selected hymns from Guru Granth Sahib and commented on the works of Kapur Singh.

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