

## **Virsa- The Punjabi Literary Society**

### **Society Orientation**

- **Venue:** SCR Lawns
- **Date:** 14 September 2023
- **No. of Participants:** 30

The society orientation was organized in SCR Lawns on 14th September, where the society council welcomed the first-year junior members. The president of the society shared details about the activities and events organized by the society to promote the rich heritage of Punjab.

Some of the second and third-year council members interacted with the first years and made them feel welcome while talking about how the society works and the scope for first years to contribute to the society's work. At the end of the orientation, lassi was distributed to all who joined.

### **Talk on “Identity and Economics”**

- **Resource Person:** Ashmeet Singh, MPA LSE, Ex-World Bank
- **Venue:** Opposite AV Room
- **Date:** 15 September 2023
- **No. of Participants:** 30

The speaker, who is a student of Masters in Public Administration at the London School of Economics, shared his experiences of being the only turbaned Sikh in his cohort at LSE. He also talked about his journey from being a CA student to working at KPMG and later at the World Bank. He discussed how Economics is intertwined with identity, and how his unique identity led him to his life choices.

### **Educational Trip to Partition Museum, Delhi**

- **In collaboration with:** Bengali Literary Society
- **Date:** 26 September 2023
- **Accompanying Senior Member:** Mr. Sudipto
- **No. of Participants:** 15 (from Virsa)

The trip, organized in collaboration with the Bengali Literary Society, was an attempt to familiarize junior members with the horrors, realities, and the history and politics that unfolded during partition. Since Punjab and Bengal were the only two states that were partitioned during 1947 and saw horrific bloodshed and wide-scale migration, this trip was an illuminating journey that was both educational and emotional.

### **Talk on “How can Youth Contribute to Society: Experiences from a Punjab Social Enterprise”**

- **Resource Person:** Mr. Gauravdeep Singh, Chairman, Initiators of Change, National Youth Awardee

- **Venue:** OPLT

- **Date:** 6 November 2023

- **No. of Participants:** 30

The speaker, Gauravdeep Singh, runs a successful Social Enterprise based in Punjab, where he has worked with the Punjab government and independently in adopting and renovating government schools in rural areas. His organization also volunteered to rescue people and provide food supplies during recent floods in Punjab. During the talk, Gauravdeep Singh shared his journey of founding his NGO, and how his life experiences shaped his work.

### **Lohri Celebration**

- **Venue:** Allnutt Gate Parking

- **Date:** 17 January 2024

- **No. of Participants:** 200

The new year began with the Lohri celebration, the traditional festival of Punjab marking the end of winter and welcoming the longer days. The event started with a speech by the President about the significance of Lohri. A bonfire was lit, where students and teachers offered prayers.

### **Talk on Tawaifs and Kothas**

- **Resource Person:** Ms. Anoushka Jain, Founder of Enroute Indian History
- **Venue:** Seminar Room

- **Date:** 12 March 2024

- **No. of Participants:** 30

Anoushka Jain, the founder of the Heritage & Research organization Enroute Indian History, started the company in 2019. Despite being born amidst the pandemic, the organization has managed to create a niche following for its curated research on art, history, and heritage. The women-led organization works tirelessly with educational institutions and museums to bridge the gap between heritage and popular understanding by the masses.

### **Launch of Virasat, the Annual Journal**

- **Venue:** Cafe Tree

- **Date:** 2 May 2024

- **No. of Participants:** 200

The last event of the society was the launch of the annual journal - *Virasat*. The word “Virasat” captures a lot of meaning and emotion. It represents a culture that has always been accommodative, progressive, and guiding as a light. Young poets and writers have brought together an anthology of writings dedicated to what Punjab means and stands for. The event

ended with the serving of *Chabeel*, the practice of distributing free sweet drinks to refresh anyone in the heat.

**To Conclude:**

The society hopes that continuous support from the college in the future will help it to scale greater heights, so that we can uphold the ideas upon which it was founded. We can leverage academic resources, engage a broader audience, and inspire students to embrace and contribute to our rich literary heritage. Together, we can create a vibrant, inclusive environment that not only uplifts our society but also fosters a deeper appreciation of our cultural roots. We look forward to the college's support in making our shared vision a reality.