

Tribune Saturday, June 7, 2008, Chandigarh, India

New Sikh chair introduced in California varsity

Chandigarh, June 6

A new chair in Sikh and Punjabi (Language) Studies has been introduced at the University of California, Riverside(UCR), USA, and Dr Pashaura Singh, a professor of religious studies at UCR, has been appointed to the position, which is intended to further the study on Sikhism and Sikh culture, according to a statement issued by the university.

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The chair has been endowed with contributions from the Saini Foundation, a number of individuals and the Sikh Foundation. It is the second chair that the Sikh Foundation has funded in California, said Narinder Kapany, founding chairperson of the Palo Alto-based organisation.

The first was at University of California, Santa Barbara. The UCR chair honours late Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini, who was known for his expertise in treating heart-rhythm problems and served as the chief of the Cardiology Department at Thunderbird Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. Pashaura Singh taught at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, for 13 years and joined the UCR faculty in religious studies in 2005.

He has written and edited several books, including his most recent "Life and Work of Guru Arjan: History, Memory and Biography in the Sikh Tradition". His current project focuses on the music of the Sikh tradition.