

## US returned AI expert to empower students of rural Punjab

A chain of 130 schools of Akal Academies, collaborates with US-returned AI expert Dr Sandeep Singh Sandha to mentor and train Class 7th to 12th students in Artificial Intelligence



**Firozpur, Punjab Mar 31, 2025 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com))** - In a groundbreaking initiative, Akal Academy, a chain of 130 schools in rural Punjab delivering value-based education, has teamed up with renowned US-returned AI expert, Dr. Sandeep Singh Sandha, to impart Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills to its students. This new-age program was blessed by Dr. Davinder Singh, President of the Kalgidhar Trust, at village Jiwan Arian.

From the new academic year 2025-26, students of grades VII to XII across over 100 Akal Academies in Punjab will have the opportunity to learn from Dr. Sandha, an IIT Roorkee alumnus who did his doctorate in AI from the University of California, Los Angeles.

"We are grateful to Dr. Sandha for agreeing to mentor and skill our students in AI, ML, Robotics, Drones, and 3D Printing," said a spokesperson of Akal Academies, Dr. Neelam Kaur, Advisor Education and Health, Kalgidhar Trust, Baru Sahib. "This shall benefit over 15,000 students and aligns with our mission of providing value-based education," she said.

Having led AI research at Abacus.AI, Amazon, ARM, Teradata, IBM, and Oracle, Dr. Sandha's

expertise in AI has been recognized globally, with his research being implemented in production, ranging from controlling robots to designing precision agriculture strategies. It was at California that his research work on Artificial Intelligence (AI), specifically the Mango library, is used in designing commercial CPUs powering billions of devices, including Samsung and iPhone smartphones.

Dr. Sandha serves as a program committee member for top AI conferences and as a reviewer for leading journals in the field. He has over 50 research papers and articles in prestigious computer science journals. He has devoted himself to giving back to his motherland and has returned from the US in January this year to settle in his village home in Punjab. He has also initiated the Punjab AI-Excellence Programme and is not only mentoring school students but also guiding the IITs across the country on AI.

In his meeting with Dr. Davinder Singh, President of the Kalgidhar Trust, at his residence, Dr. Sandha shared that it's time to bring the advancements in AI to middle and senior school students, making them and the state of Punjab future-ready. "Worldwide, AI is now a routine in agriculture, healthcare, education, industry, and research. It is time that we gear up to reap its benefits," he emphasized.

Both Dr. Sandha and his life partner, Dr. Inderjot Kaur, who did her Masters from North Carolina State University and Ph.D. and post-doctoral work from Mississippi State University, have left their well-paying jobs in the USA to give back to their birthplace, Punjab, and the country. Dr. Inderjot Kaur also empowers students of Punjab to acquire higher education in universities abroad.

### **About Kalgidhar Trust**

Kalgidhar Trust is a registered non-government organization committed to empowering school children through value-based education. The Trust runs over 100 Akal Academies that impart world-class education up to Class XII, as well as the Eternal University at Baru Sahib and Akal University at Talwandi Sabo. The Trust is also engaged in humanitarian service activities.

<https://www.barusahib.org>

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Source : Kalgidhar Trust, Baru Sahib, Himachal Pradesh

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