

# **NISHKAM TIMES**

Empowering Minds - Enabling Underprivileged - Elevating Futures NEWSLETTER February 2025



### Nishkam Career Builder Scholarship finalized for 60+ students

Nishkam Sikh Welfare Council (NSWC) is committed to its core mission of Empowering minds, Enabling underprivileged and Elevating futures of promising but needy students. Towards this end, the Nishkam team visited Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College in Ludhiana on Feb 9th and shortlisted 35 talented students for financial assistance of up to Rs 40,000 per year. These students qualified in the written exam and were subsequently vetted in personal interviews by the team members.

Separately, another interactive session was held in New Delhi on Feb 5th to finalize 25 more students pursuing professional courses in and around the Delhi and NCR region. A vast majority of these students hailing from underprivileged backgrounds are studying for professional courses such MBBS, Nursing, as Pharmaceutical. Chartered Accountant. Teaching, Advanced IT, etc.

Notwithstanding temporary financial challenges, the dedicated Team of Nishkam volunteers decided to continue with its annual scholarship program by extending its outreach to prospective donors to raise funds required for funding yearly scholarships of up to Rs 40k to 60 students who excelled in the written test and interactive sessions.



Students addressed by the Nishkam Sewadars at Delhi



Interview Team at Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College at Ludhiana





### Nishkam Computer Center facilitates future aspirations

SUCCESS SPEAKS

IMPAGT

Vocational Education Success Stories

Kritika was crestfallen and clueless about her future following the demise of her brother during Covid. Having lost her father at a young age, she was being nurtured humbly by her Grandfather, a worker in a private shop, but always conscious of the value of education as a key to success.

Driven by the desire to accomplish something on her own, she enrolled at Nishkam Computer Centre to enhance her IT skills while pursuing graduation, mindful of the fact that academic credentials alone are not sufficient in the competitive job market.

After attaining the basic level, she opted for graphic designing and devoted 18 months to learning advanced levels. Her perseverance was rewarded when she landed a good job in REQ Serve as an HR Assistant and Amazon catalogue associate in January 2025. Kritika expressed her gratitude to the Nishkam Computer Centre, which helped shape her bright career and committed to pay back to Nishkam to the best of her abilities.



Kritika Kaur Mehra

HR Assist./Amazon Catalogue Associate | REQ Serve - Delhi



Manjeet Kaur Ministry of Defence Sena Bhawan, Delhi

#### Nishkam elevates the life of Manjeet Kaur

Manjeet Kaur, a self-motivated young woman from an impoverished background, always dreamt of a government job and the safety and security that comes with it. Her father, with his meagre income as a traditional Charpai stringer, weaving chairs, selling Niwar (cotton tape) on his bicycle as a street hawker, was resolute in supporting the dreams of his daughter.

After completing her schooling, Manjeet enrolled in Stenography and typing classes at Nishkam and continued to master the skill set at Nishkam Centre from 2009-2012. Her patience and perseverance paid off when she successfully cracked the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) Exam in 2016 and was selected as a Stenographer in the Ministry of Agriculture. After working hard for 2 years, Majeet was elevated to a higher grade and posted to the Ministry of Defence, where she is currently working

Recently, Manjeet conveyed her gratitude and thanks to Nishkam for consistently supporting her initially in her primary and middle class studies at Tuition Centre and later assisting her in gaining professional stenography and typing skills. Today, she leads a life full of confidence, dignity and pride because of the support extended by Nisham for elevating her future.

#### Sikligar Education Project: Visit of team to Sonipat

Team Nishkam Sikligar visited Sonipat, Haryana, as a part of an outreach, review and assessment mission and interacted with Principals, Teachers, and 72 Sikligar students at Jakhauli, Aurangabad & Sevli, who have been supported by Nishkam for years.

With a view of preparing and nurturing the Sikligar children from young age, this dedicated educational program of Nishkam is dedicated toproviding primary and middle education to all while fully supporting the studies at advanced level through mentorship and full scholarship so as to empower them to become proud members of our community The Team also identified talented and meritorious students and decided to offer them special focus, guided mentorship and holistic support, including funding to further their academic careers.

The project committee is committed to further expansion of the Sikligar program and has plans to visit other states in the coming months for assessment missions and talent hunt missions. For the benefit of readers, Sikligar Sikhs are a section of the community that has traditionally worked in Lock Smiths and Iron Smiths and are in dire need of support for their upliftment.

Nishkam follows Sikligar Project with determined pursuit and focussed attention for their upliftment be it the project of imparting primary education to children, building of houses for the needy and providing financial support to Sikligar community members in need, Currently, Nishkam is covering school/transport fees of 1500 Sikligar students across UP, Rajasthan and Karnataka and has cumulatively spent over Rs 13 crores over 20 years on education only.





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#### Punjabi Language Day celebrated by Nishkam

A solemn yet impressive event was organized at Nishkam Bhawan on the 21st of February to propagate and popularize the Punjabi language to mark the 'International Mother Language Day'. Enthusiastic participants included Punjabi language students, teaching faculty and staff. The program featured poetry recitations, impressive presentations, and a Punjabi language quiz. A highlight of the event was Jasleen Kaur, a 4th-grade student who beautifully recited Bhai Veer Singh's poem "Gulab da Phul." Harnam Singh, a 5th Grader, highlighted the life and achievements of eminent hockey player Major Dhyan Chand and impressed the audience with his demeanour and confidence.

Manmeet Singh, a Master's student, shared his insights on innovative ways and means for further promotion of the Punjabi language. Special felicitation was extended to Teachers Gurmeet Singh and Balwinder Singh for their valuable contribution and remarkable spirit to propagate the Punjabi language. In his remarks, Balwinder Singh expressed concern over the growing but misplaced perception of an inferiority complex associated with speaking Punjabi and emphasized the need to take pride in one's mother tongue. The event concluded with an interactive quiz on International Mother Language Day, engaging the audience educationally and enjoyably. All participants were honored with gifts as an appreciation. The Nishkam Sikh Welfare Council takes this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to promoting, preserving and expanding the outreach of the Punjabi language and fostering linguistic and cultural pride in the Punjabi-speaking community.

#### Success Story- Empowering Rishabh's Life



Rishabh Jindal, hailing from a lower-middle-class family, lost his father in 2016, as well as a meagre source of income which his father earned from a small factory in Ludhiana. His family, having exhausted their entire life savings for the prolonged treatment of his ailing father for over a decade, found itself at a crossroads yet another time when Rishab's elder brother, who stopped his studies and started working as a petty worker, suddenly fell ill and died 2 years later in 2018.

Rishab's family fell on bad times, having completely drained all financial resources and were not able to fund studies of Rishab, who was on the verge of completion of his engineering course in 2017.

After being informed by a well-wisher about the Nishkam educational scholarship, Rishabh researched and applied for the SHDF Scholarship given through Nishkam. His dedication and perseverance paid off after he successfully qualified in the selection process in 2013 and was awarded a full scholarship that helped him complete his engineering studies with excellent grades. During a campus placement drive, Rishab was shortlisted as a Graduate Apprentice Trainee in Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (Swaraj Division), Mohali.

Following the successful completion of his internship, he was employed as an Engineer in Sonalika Tractors in Hoshiarpur. After serving in Sonalika, Rishab moved on to Kangaro Industries (Ludhiana) - an iconic stationery brand in India – where he is currently engaged as a Process Engineer.

Rishab recently reached out to the Nishkam and extended his heartfelt gratitude for the timely financial support and mentorship at the critical juncture of his academic career.

Nishkam wishes him a bright career ahead and hopes that he will continue the chain process of helping out other needy students in the same way he was assisted by Nishkam. The Journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

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-Lao Tzu

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