

On the road to becoming the Bestseller: A would-be CA's passion got published and glorified us

It is a source of pride for all of us that our Sikligar beneficiary, Ms. Sanjana Kaur, has written and published a book, which is now available on Amazon. The Sikligar community—long afflicted by severe poverty and illiteracy—has found a shining example in Sanjana's success. **The initiative Nishkam launched two decades ago continues to produce positive outcomes by providing education to deserving individuals across six states in India. Today, their children are setting inspiring examples.**

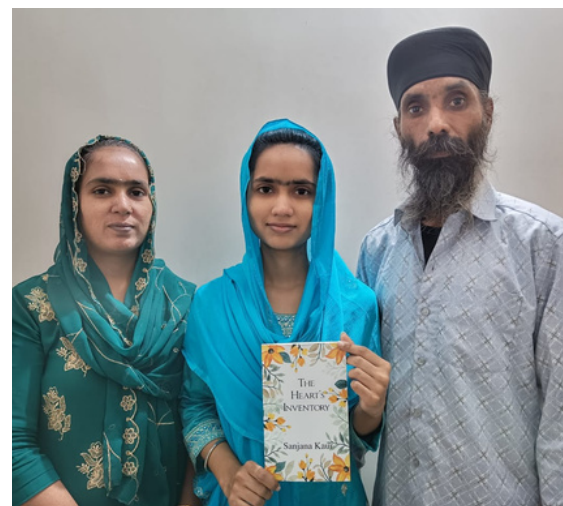
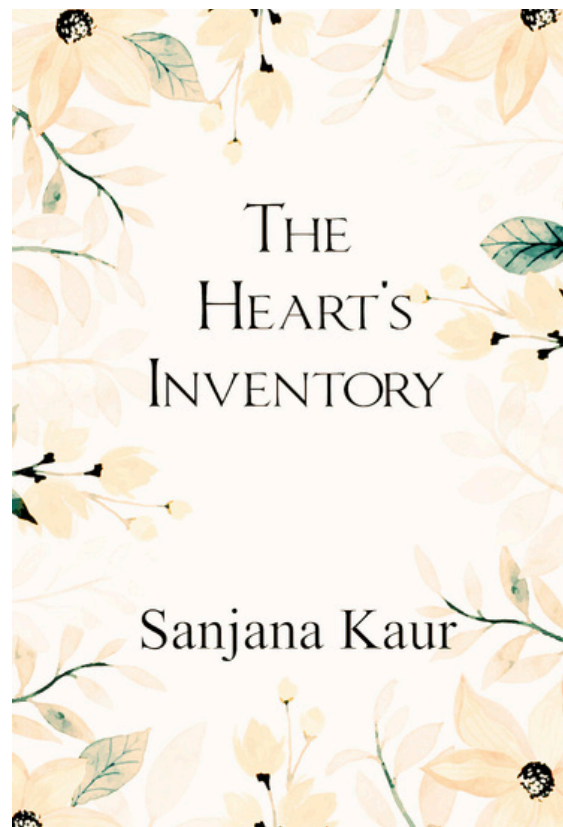
"The Heart's Inventory" is her first published book. She is passionate about writing and has participated in various contests, as well as contributed to school and college editorial boards. Like an avid artist, she simply needed a platform to showcase her talent; her confidence soared when she discovered Bookleaf Publishing—India's most trusted self-publishing platform.

The power of words can make a two-line poem memorable for a lifetime. When it comes to poetry, its impact is irreplaceable. Sanjana's recent book is a collection of short poems written with elegance and purity.

The author expresses her love for Mother Nature through words that touch every heart. Although a brief read, the book is a pleasure to enjoy, covering various aspects of nature and human emotions. Beautiful language and poetry make the book a splendid experience.

Sanjana, born into a Sikligar family in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, overcame financial hardships through academic excellence and determination. She aspired to become a Chartered Accountant (CA), achieving 96% in her board exams.

Despite challenges such as course fees and study materials, she received support from Nishkam, which funded her CA Foundation course and provided her with a laptop. Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com) alongside her CA studies, Sanjana exemplifies how perseverance and opportunity can transform lives, demonstrating that talent can overcome barriers with the right guidance.



Sanjana (Middle) along with Parents

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"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest celebration."

From farmer's son to leading software developer at Samsung India

Pirtpal's upbringing was deeply connected to his small village life, where he was born to farmer parents who worked tirelessly on a modest piece of land. Though they had little material wealth, they were rich in love and hope. Pirtpal cherished the simplicity of village life, often assisting his family with cooking and farming, but he harbored aspirations that extended beyond the confines of seasonal cycles.

He completed his basic education at a local school and excelled academically, particularly in the non-medical stream. With dreams of enrolling at the prestigious NIT Rourkela for his engineering degree, he faced setbacks when he could not secure admission due to his JEE performance and financial constraints. Nevertheless, he gained access to education through support from the Bhai Jaitajee Foundation (BJF), which helped alleviate his financial burdens and guided him in applying for scholarships from Nishkam. Initially reliant on a loan from family friends, Pirtpal took control of his educational journey by successfully obtaining multiple scholarships.

His dedication was evident during his time at Punjab Engineering College in Chandigarh, where he committed numerous late nights to studying. He focused on enhancing his coding skills in areas such as algorithms, data structures, and software design. Pirtpal's hard work paid off when he secured a position at the Samsung Research Centre in Noida, where he thrived in an environment filled with intelligent peers and innovative technologies. This role not only provided him with exposure to real-world applications but also earned him recognition for his problem-solving aptitude and contributions.

Pirtpal's journey from a humble farming background to becoming a software engineer exemplifies the idea that no dream is unattainable with determination and perseverance. For him, the ultimate reward went beyond employment and financial compensation; it was the ability to uplift others. **He expressed his gratitude for the scholarships that were instrumental in his career by giving back to his community through Nishkam, actively supporting the growth and opportunities for others, just as he had experienced.**



Name: Pirtpal Singh

Roll No: 19200221

Work: Software Engineer
at Samsung R&D Institute
India-Noida

Hometown: Village
Maidewas in Sangrur



Empowering families through good parenting- a Workshop



Prof. Gurcharan Singh (USA) while imparting his experience.

A workshop on Good Parenting was held at Nishkam Bhawan, led by Prof. Gurcharan Singh (USA). He emphasized the significance of Sikh teachings, which guide good parenting by example and prioritize actions. These teachings instill values such as honesty, kindness, and spiritual resilience (Chardi Kala) to nurture compassionate individuals. Key principles include fostering universal love and pluralism, promoting selfless service (Seva), and grounding children in Sikh teachings such as Gurbani and meditation. Parents are encouraged to embody these values daily, involve their children in community service, and teach them about interconnectedness. The goal is to raise children who are both successful and compassionate agents of positive change, as supported by Sikh educators and leaders.

A soulful beginning to a meaningful spiritual journey

Sant Hari Dass High School, Jatheri, Sonipat, Haryana, organized a three-day spiritual trip to Amritsar Sahib, with over 120 participants, including Sikligar community children. Led by local coordinator S. Tarsem Singh, the tour aimed to educate students about the site's historical and cultural significance. The visit to Sri Harmandir Sahib revitalized the students and fostered values of humility and devotion, while also preparing them for upcoming board exams. Students explored nearby historical sites, enriching their cultural knowledge. The experience was memorable, nurturing both wisdom and faith, and gratitude was expressed to the school and S. Tarsem Singh for their efforts.



L to R- Sakshi Kaur, Gunjan Kaur & Gurnam Kaur

Champions with strides

Our Sikligar beneficiary students outshone many of their fellow athletes at the Government School in Village Meetli, Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh. The school playground was brimming with their fire, passion, and excitement during the annual athletic meet. Sakshi Kaur (7th grade) secured 2nd place, while Gunjan Kaur (6th grade) and Gurnam Kaur (6th grade) both achieved 3rd place in different race categories. Their outstanding performances captivated the audience. It is a source of pride that **Nishkam's educational initiatives are enhancing the Sikligar community's morale and sense of dignity.**

Sikligar students pay tribute to Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji through Shabads

On the sacred occasion of the 350th anniversary of the supreme sacrifice of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, our Sikligar student beneficiaries recited pious shabads and hymns. The events were organized as part of various Shabad Kirtan programs across Haryana and Karnataka. They participated with great devotion, paying heartfelt tribute to Guru Sahib. **It has been inspiring to see Sikligar students leading on various stages, with success flourishing through your support and our collective efforts to promote equality and cooperation within the community.**



Live Show - Pooja Kaur, Sikligar beneficiary at Sonipat

Special Assembly Celebrates Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday at Aligarh



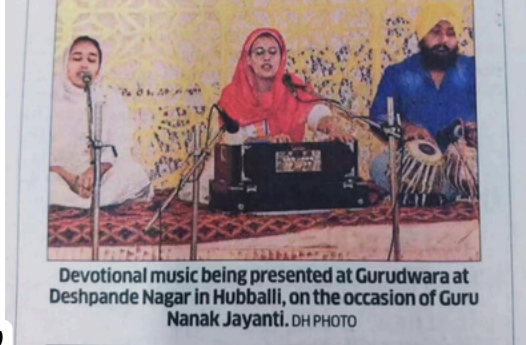
SSD School in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, conducted a special assembly to commemorate the auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birthday. The school management, including the principal and distinguished guests, highlighted the life and teachings of Guru Sahib, emphasizing the values of love, compassion, and kindness, which made the occasion truly memorable. To enhance the festive spirit, students were rewarded with small tokens of gratitude and appreciation, making the celebration even more joyful and unforgettable. Approximately 63 Sikligar students are currently studying at the school with Nishkam's support.

"It takes each of us to make a difference for all of us."

A MOMENT HIGHLIGHTED FOR LIFETIME IN NEWSPAPER



Ms. Ranjit Kaur Chaddha (R)



Around ten school-level students from the Sikligar community in Hubli, Karnataka, sang soulful Shabads, filling the atmosphere with peace, positivity, and divine energy. The event was held on Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Parkash Parb at the local Gurdwara Sahib in Deshpande Nagar, Hubli. Ms. Ranjit Kaur Chaddha Ji, Nishkam's long-term coordinator and sewadar, presented prizes to boost the participants' morale. **This was a moment of great pride for all of us when the event was featured in the local newspaper. The news created a lasting memory not only for the beneficiaries but also for each of us, as our students were recognised and the efforts to educate and teach Gurmat Sangeet and musical instruments were brought to the forefront.**

Your deeds are making headlines

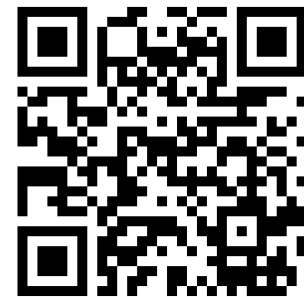
“ONE WHO WORKS FOR WHAT HE EATS, AND GIVES SOME OF WHAT HE HAS IN CHARITY, O NANAK, HE KNOWS THE PATH TO FULFILMENT.”

-GURU GRANTH SAHIB JI, PAGE 1225

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