

# CAUSE THAT CLICKS

THE GURU'S WISH—  
REVEALED TO HIM IN A  
DREAM—BECAME AMRITPAL  
SINGH'S COMMAND, PAVING  
WAY FOR A UNIQUE MODE OF  
COMMUNITY SERVICE.

**SWATI KUNDAN** MEETS  
THE DOT-COM  
PHILANTHROPIST



**H**e believes that he's the 'chosen' one to fulfill a task that has been entrusted to him by the almighty. Amritpal Singh had a dream wherein, according to him, Guru Gobind Singh expressed his wish that Nirmohgarh Sahib—where the Guru made many sacrifices—is restored to glory, and as per the Sikh maryada.

This dream has become Singh's driving force, giving him untiring strength to work for the cause of the Sikh community.

The Mohali-based philanthropist, since 2004, has been dedicated to the cause, and in an ultra-modern way!

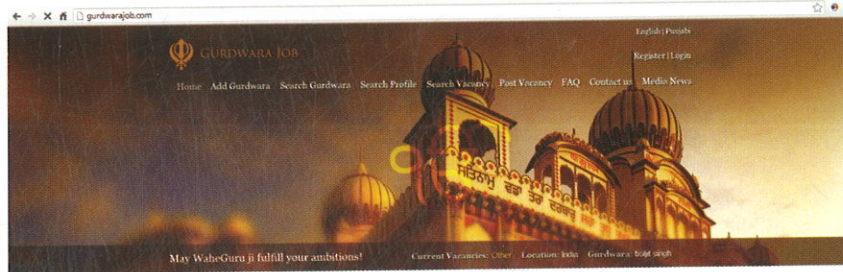
Choosing the virtual world as his platform to serve the people of his community, Singh, through his three websites, is serving a novel social cause.

The first website ([www.retiredsikhs.com](http://www.retiredsikhs.com)) that he developed is for retired Sikhs whose experience and expertise can be used in suitable jobs. Currently there are Sikhs from 25 countries and 150 cities of India registered on this website. Hundreds of testimonials on the website speak volumes about its utility. "There is very limited scope for them (retired people) to utilise the practical and valuable experience which they earn in their lifetime. It is simply wasted because they are limited by the retirement age even if they are fit and willing to work," shares Singh.

The second website is [saraibooking.com](http://saraibooking.com), with more than 300 listed gurdwaras. Through this website, the pilgrims can directly locate and book rooms in the sarai at any listed gurdwara and also get in touch with the manager of the sarai.

Singh's latest project, and perhaps the most ambitious one, is [gurdwarajobs.com](http://gurdwarajobs.com). "Sikhs are spread all over the world and so are the gurdwaras which require efficient staff. While gurdwaras have requirement of ragi, pathi, granthi, langri, sewadar, katha vachak, computer operator, librarian, cashier, supervisor, manager, management committee members etc., there is a large number of talented people who want to serve at these gurdwaras, but are unable to connect with them directly.

"Anyone can apply for a job at any gurdwara worldwide by posting his/her bio-data, which can be accessed by the management of any gurdwara. People can



#### SOCIAL CONNECT

■ [www.retiredsikhs.com](http://www.retiredsikhs.com): This website tries to link the retired sikhs on the global platform of internet as there will be someone in the world who will appreciate the practical experience and capabilities which retired people have and will reach them directly if services are required.

■ [www.saraibooking.com](http://www.saraibooking.com): This site is an attempt at consolidating all the information about all Sikh Gurdwaras across the world in a single, dedicated source. This site has been set up so that users can add Gurdwara listings, information about sarais, facilities at the sarais in order to facilitate the pilgrims by providing them first hand,

relevant information and experience of staying at Gurdwaras/sarais of any chosen Gurdwara.

■ [www.gurdwarajobs.com](http://www.gurdwarajobs.com): It is a platform for Gurdwara job providers and job seekers. Gurdwaras around the world are united on a common platform where they can post vacancies, search profiles by country, profession, and contact the registered users of the website directly by eliminating the middlemen, give genuine appointment letters, visa, air ticket, work permit, salaries and hire the best of talent worldwide for performing various services.

also post their bio-data to a gurdwara by sending a letter after taking out details of the gurdwara from this website," he says.

The idea struck Amritpal in 2004 when he was working in Singapore. He met many ragis, pathis who were driving taxi or doing odd jobs, staying illegally, working to move to Malaysia. "They used to share their hardships and told how they were duped of money by agents back home to migrate to these countries for jobs in gurdwaras to earn a better life for themselves and their families. They narrated how they arranged loans, took the risk of coming overseas and ended up doing odd jobs to survive in a foreign land. That stirred me to create a platform where people with requisite knowledge could be contacted by any gurdwara worldwide for gurdwara jobs and at the same time create a database for the gurdwaras to seek the right kind of people for the jobs. The website, which is just about a month old, already has over 200 registered job seekers and there is real time update of vacancies around the world," he says.

What makes Singh's effort commendable is that he plans to keep

### THE WEBSITE, WHICH IS A MONTH OLD, HAS OVER 200 JOB SEEKERS

these websites free for life and open to all!

It took him nine years to put it all together the way he wanted to. From designing to the content to the background music of the website—he has done it all tastefully and without any compromise. "I specially contacted Sanatan Kaur to seek her permission to use her spiritual music in the background for my website. It syncs with the whole idea of my website," mentions Singh.

On being asked if he has made any provisions to protect the database (according to him there are many websites that have come up on the lines of [gurdwarajobs.com](http://gurdwarajobs.com)), Singh says since his is an unconditional act of service, his website will always remain a genuine platform for job seekers.

"I am planning to add more features to the website like an SMS alert for members as and when a vacancy is posted. Also, I am working on the Punjabi version of the website which will be up soon," he shares.

"My ultimate dream is to connect likeminded people across the world who can contribute in realising the command that I received from the almighty construction of gurdwara sahib at Nirmohgarh. I am not working for a living; what I am doing is food for my soul. I shall keep pursuing it till the end of my life." ■