



## in the net

an altruistic entrepreneur's website ensures that retired sikhs have job options even after 60

**H**undreds of elderly Sikhs sitting on a park bench reading the newspaper is a common sight. But it got 37-year-old Amrit Pal Singh thinking. Singh has an international trading company in Singapore and frequently travels back home to Mohali on business. On many of these trips, he would meet his father's retired friends. And he realised that they had everything going for them but for the retired tag. "A retired person still has around 20 years of active life ahead, so why

should one retire and rust?" Singh asks. "I decided to do something that would help these people spend their time in a productive way," he says. So this MBA from Patiala's Punjabi University set about his project.

Last August saw the launch of [www.retiredsikhs.com](http://www.retiredsikhs.com), a website that profiles retirees looking to work with people who appreciate and want their practical experience and capabilities. The website exhorts people not let their experience go waste. "Maybe some-

body is looking for your consultancy, advice or social work. Add your profile and increase your opportunity by being available to people all over the world," it says.

The site registers Sikh retirees from across the globe free of cost. "I always wanted to do something for my community," says Singh, whose site functions entirely on his personal funds. Besides jobs, the portal also serves as an online platform to discuss problems and seek advice on issues like provident fund, health and pension hiccups. In addition, the site allows retired people to place free advertisements for real estate, matrimonials, tuitions and sale of items.

The 850 profiles registered within eight months of the site's launch include listings by brigadiers, colonels, engineers, managers, former IAS and IPS officers, teachers and railways officials. While most are from regions like Chandigarh, Amritsar, Jalandhar and New Delhi, a handful belong to Secunderabad, Pune and Indore. The venture has also roped in the retired community abroad. "We have managed to link over 75 cities and 21 countries," says Singh. "While some candidates look for income-based jobs, a lot of people are ready to render free voluntary service." Most people on the site get jobs in insurance companies, banks, placement agencies and NGOs.

Singh says he has approached over 2,000 HR professionals, firms and NGOs across India, asking them to hire people from his website (free of cost) whenever they want experienced people. "I'm not a job placement agent and have merely initiated a platform to help my community," he says. To counter the seniors' unfamiliarity with computers, Singh hopes their friends and families will help load their profiles on the site. "The simplicity of the process of uploading profiles on the Internet is the reason why I chose this medium. Once uploaded, the profiles will be visible for life," he says. Contact: [retiredsikhs@amritpalsingh.com](mailto:retiredsikhs@amritpalsingh.com) or call 98766 25076. ■ by Purva Grover