

# Online help for retired Sikhs

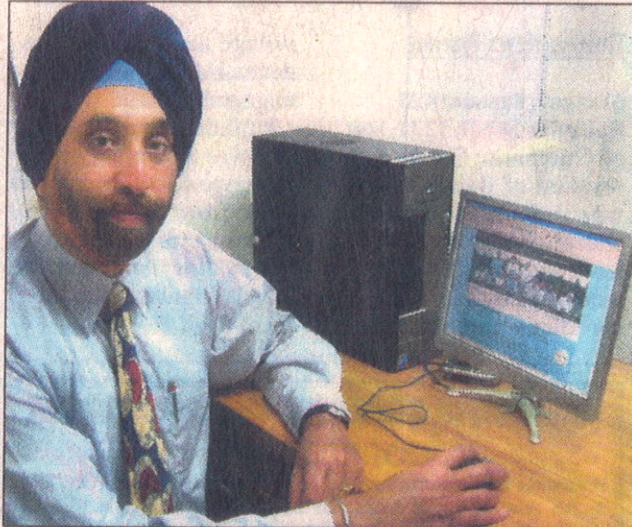
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CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 23  
Retired Sikhs across the world are doing things they had never imagined they would. They are overcoming depression, sharing ideas and retracing lives. This change has come about fast, thanks to Chandigarh-based Amritpal Singh's "online" intervention, which assures the elderly a life beyond sunset years.

The effort is ingenious as it promises retired Sikhs all and any assistance they require. Whether it is about opening a bank account, getting a new passport, hiring a maid or seeking productive engagement, Amritpal Singh's portal [www.retiredsikhs.com](http://www.retiredsikhs.com) offers every solution. All it requires is registration, following which a person's profile becomes available on a global database which is accessed every minute by a range of service providers, globally.

The website services are free of cost, its viability well-researched. The idea is to link retired Sikhs on this global platform. This year there will be 42 million internet users in India. The number will increase to 52 million by 2008 and to 100 million by 2010.

"I must admit I made the



Amritpal Singh from Mohali who has created a website for retired Sikhs.

website only for my community because I feel it still lacks unity," says Amritpal, who runs an international trading firm from Singapore.

Simply put, his website works to prevent retired individuals from wasting talents and plunging into depression. Amritpal says: "I have contacted 2000 job placement companies all over the world and convinced them to hire people from my website which is free of cost. There is no commission, no profit. The effort is solely driven by the motive of helping the old engage constructively and go about their lives independently. My parents are my por-

tal's first beneficiaries. It feels good to help them and others like them."

Right now, the website is seen in 49 countries and has profiles of retired Sikhs from 21 countries and 75 cities. The site works simply and at many levels. To begin with, it gives the elderly a standing by listing their achievements. Next, it brings the community together on the discussion corner. Last, it addresses basic problems faced by the elderly - from lack of medical aid or household help to problems pertaining to vehicle registration, ticketing and marriage of wards.