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# NISHKAM TIMES

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**NEWSLETTER**  
February and  
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Transforming Lives: Happy students after receiving scholarships

## Scholarship Program concluded for needy and brilliant University Students for (2018-19)

Nishkam Sikh Welfare Council (Regd.) along with Sikh Human Development Foundation (SHDF) has paid scholarships worth Rs. 1, 81, 30,000 to 865 students across Punjab and Delhi region. These students are brilliant in academic performance but are from economically challenged families. The scholarships are given with the objective of reducing the economic hardships of such students who pursue professional courses in order to enable them to compete with other students for better professional opportunities after studies. This scholarship is provided up to Graduation/Post graduation level of the student who is pursuing professional Degree/Diploma courses. The events were concluded at Baba Farid Law College- Faridkot (combined venue of Faridkot, Moga and Bathinda centers, Dt- 16 Feb); Guru Nanak Dev University- Amritsar, Dt-17 Feb.; Nishkam Bhawan, New Delhi Dt: 17 Feb and at Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College, Ludhiana, Dt: 24 Feb (combined venue of Ludhiana and Chandigarh centers) Speeches from versatile and prominent dignitaries enthralled the audience and they praised the selfless mission for education.

Scholarships worth Rs. 1,81,30,000 has been awarded among 865 beneficiaries at Punjab and Delhi



Amritsar



Faridkot



Ludhiana



New Delhi



Glimpses of Events



S.GS Kohli-Nishkam Member, addressing the audience



Langar at Gurdwara Sahib

**SHDF Scholarships:** Sikh Human Development Foundation (SHDF) is an organization run by NRIs based in Washington- USA and they offer scholarships every year to marginalized but brilliant students. This year Scholarships worth Rs. 1,51,45,000 has been awarded to 676 students. Nishkam Sikh Welfare Council (Regd.), the associate partner of SHDF has been imparting, organizing and promoting the scholarships & workshops since 2000 in India. We have been following the tradition of "Sarbat da Bhala" (welfare of all) which is one of the core values of Sikhism, whilst serving the suffering humanity irrespective of Caste, Creed and Religion. We are nurturing the youth of such marginalized families to let them stand to get decent jobs or be gainfully self-employed.

**Merit-cum-Means Scholarship:** A total of Rs. 29.85 Lakhs in scholarships has been awarded to 189 students. The aim of the scholarship initiative is to provide financial support to bright but needy students who achieve academic distinctions in arts, commerce, science and professional courses.

## Workshop on Communication Skills and Interview Techniques



A one-day interactive workshop on Personality Development and Communication Skills Development was conducted at Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College (GNDEC), Ludhiana on 3rd February 2019 in the auditorium hall of consultancy cell. Dr. Sehijpal Singh, Principal of GNDEC college was the Chief Guest. The workshop was a perfect solution for those who could never break the ice in public, and felt shy because of stage fear, those who had exquisite knowledge but lacked the skills to express it and those who wished to face the interviews boldly. The speakers boosted the morale of participants with their caliber and session was enjoyed by all. They highlighted the importance of effective planning, time management, goal setting, self-evaluation and activity scheduling tips on how to stop procrastination and improving concentration were also shared with students. An impressive gathering of around 75 students of the Ludhiana region got the opportunity to attend the workshop. S. GS Kohli- Member of Nishkam represented the council and also informed the attendees about various welfare schemes run by Nishkam and SHDF's performance towards scholarships and changing lives.

## Visit of Dignitaries: S. Manpreet Singh, Secretary General- SHDF

On 8th of February 2019, S. Manpreet Singh, Secretary General of Sikh Human Development Foundation (SHDF), USA visited Nishkam Bhawan. He shared and suggested on imbuing creativity in scholarship activities and how certain modules can exhibit newness. He witnessed the scholarship award distribution ceremonies across Punjab and felt elated seeing the multidimensional progress at both ends. His visit was a compliment to each and everyone associated with the project.

**Video Conferencing with S. Manpreet Singh:** Later on, a video conference-meeting was held with members of Nishkam Scholarship project committee with S. Manpreet Singh on 24-March wherein the matter regarding formation of SHDF Scholars Forum and proposal of SHDF Canada with Nishkam on the pattern of SHDF USA were also discussed with him. Nishkam was represented by Dr. JS Nanra- President of Nishkam; Dr. RS Gulati- Vice President; S. Harbhjan Singh (General Secretary); S. Amrik S. Walia- Treasurer; S. GS Bindra- Convener of Scholarship Project Committee; S. Ashok Singh; S. Salwinder Singh and S. KS Talwar



S. Manpreet Singh



## Certificate Distribution Ceremony for Bhai Kanhaiya Nishkam Computer Center, Fardikot



Nishkam is proud to announce that 48 students have successfully completed their 6 months computer training at Nishkam Computer Center, Fardikot, Punjab. A certificate distribution ceremony was held on 6-Feb, 2019 where the successful students of Bhai Kanhaiya Nishkam Computer Center, Fardikot (a unit of Nishkam) were awarded the certificates. Bhai Kanhaiya Nishkam Computer Center has been offering the computer training courses in association with Bhai Ghanaiya Cancer Roko Sewa Society (Regd.) Faridkot since 2016 and has been offering the professional training courses at their local unit in various fields such as Web Development, Graphic Designing etc. These students belong to underprivileged families and couldn't afford high fees to attain such training. A large number of students along with faculty members attended the ceremony.

# Activities at Mata Gujri Sukh Niwas- Kharar, Punjab

## Trip to Gurdwaras, some holy lessons

Children and few senior citizens of Mata Gujri Sukh Niwas (MGSN), Kharar visited Takht Sri Damdama Sahib, situated in the Talwandi Sabo in Bathinda and Gurdwara Sri Muksar Sahib on a two day visit viz. 9th and 10th- Feb. Children started with paying obeisance to the holy book, 'SRI GURUGRANTH SAHIB JI'. Children were gathered in a small prayer in which all of them dedicatedly participated and delighted to receive the *Karah Parshad*. This trip also helped some students to visit the Historical Gurudwaras and to cover the ongoing topics of their syllabus 'Places for Worship' and Sikh History in their curriculum. It was a pleasant and an enriching experience for the children as they were enlightened by knowledge and came to know about their heritage (*Virsa*)



## Back to School: CU's ISR visit delighted the beneficiaries

As an active agent of social change, few enthusiasts of Chandigarh University (CU) took on voluntary action under university's Institutional Social Responsibility (ISR) initiative and visited MGSN. They donated books, stationery and uniforms to children and blankets to senior citizens. They are running numerous welfare initiatives of social change and believe that there is something more than simply imparting knowledge and skills to the students. They also spent time with senior citizens so that they feel good and establish an understanding of joy in spending time with senior citizens. However these senior citizens have pains as they are abandoned by their children. They had no option but to take refuge in old-age homes. These people then had good times, but have pain and sadness in their hearts now. Such initiatives not only uplift their morale but also bring a spark in their lives.



## Certificate Distribution at Nishkam Bhawan



*Elated students after receiving certificates with Dr. Nanra and S. HS Khera*

As part of our strategy to train and empower the underprivileged with permanent skills and enabling them to earn their livelihood, we have set up Computer training centers in Delhi as well as in Punjab. The courses are for three months each, starting with the basics and progresses ahead with detailed knowledge in the usage of computers. 16 students were given certificates.



S. Udeshpal Singh- Faculty Member at Nishkam Computer Center said, "Secondary education is insufficient to earn a dependable livelihood. Students from destitute areas are easily pushed towards drugs addiction or crime. Nishkam provides vocational training to low-literate youth in computer education so they can earn a dependable livelihood and finally break the cycle of poverty."

**S. Udeshpal Singh**

**Computer training centers running at Nishkam Bhawan- Delhi, Guru Nanak Dev University- Amritsar, Bhai Kanhaiya Nishkam Computer Center- Fardikot and Nishkam Computer Center at Yamuna Nagar serve more than 550 students. Upon completion of the computer course students are awarded with certificates.**

**IMPACT:** *Varsha's father is a Driver and earning less to provide quality education to her. She has joined the course last year and feeling confident for her job prospects as she's passionate about designing. She was not familiar with computers but now gained confidence with practice. She said, "In a couple of months, I will be able to seek good career for me. Wherever I am in life, I will remember the education I have obtained from Nishkam"*  
---Varsha, Student



## Educational Support to needy girls at Ghaziabad



156 shortlisted girl students of Guru Nanak Girls Inter College, Lohia Nagar Ghaziabad received education assistance worth Rs. 13,17,000. The event was held at school premises where beneficiaries' along with their parents and school staff were present on Women's Day (8 March) On behalf of Nishkam, S. Harbhajan Singh (General Secretary); S. Daljit Singh, S. Harvinderjit Singh and S. Parvinder Singh attended the event. S. Gurjit Singh Hanspal- Manager and S. Manjit Singh- President of College management also graced this function.



The dignitaries congratulated the students and motivated them to maintain higher percentage of performance to get this assistance on regular basis in future as well. This financial assistance was introduced with a strong belief that educating a girl child will not only improve the status of the family but it will contribute a lot for eliminating the social evils.

## Adversity causes some men to break, others to break records

Success Story of Gurminder Singh



**Gurminder Singh**  
 Roll No: 13058  
 Work: Chief Engineer  
 at Samsung Research-  
 Noida, India  
 Course: B.Tech in  
 Computer Science and  
 Engineering  
 GNDE College-Ludhiana

**SAMSUNG**

Gurminder Singh grew up in a business class family in Ambala-Haryana having limited income resources. His father was running a small confectionery store. Everything was running smoothly till his school days but all days are not equal. They were not earning well through that small candy shop. With high hopes and relying on relatives, they left Ambala and sold their ancestors property. His father started a spare part business at Yamuna Nagar and took a loan to build the home. He also got admission in Engineering course at Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College- Ludhiana. All these events happened in quick succession and they were suddenly in debt. His mother also started stitching clothes at home but his high fee was getting heavy on the financial resources. They felt that they got themselves chained in bank loans and poverty crept in. "I told my father it is not worth pursuing my education, in such critical conditions. I should take up a job and earn for the family. My father said – "Gurminder, you can make money whenever you want but you won't be able to learn later. This is a difficult time, don't worry. Look at me, I could not study further and had to compromise for that petty shop, so I know the value of time and education. We will somehow manage it, just do not leave your studies. This assurance was worth for me but from inside I was shallow, life is practical and I know I need financial support. I discussed my problem with my Professors and friends and they have shown me the way for SHDF Scholarships." That was the first step for success in Gurminder's life. He appeared for scholarship exam and interviews and cleared the path after achieving it. He earned scholarships for two consecutive times. He was good in programming and voluntarily approached the computer department at college for Punjabi Font's programming and selflessly worked as per their needs. He further moved his potential towards Karnataka with building network and relations and become Research Scholar at Indian Institute of Sciences (IIS- Bangalore) After that, he never looked back and kept moving forward. After 14 years journey, he is now working successfully as a Chief Engineer in Samsung Research Institute- Noida.



## Testimonials

I congratulate the management of Nishkam for their selfless service to the society and wish them success in their endeavor.  
 Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao. Director, IIT Delhi

SIKLIGAR EDUCATION PROJECT  
 TYPING & SHORTHAND EDU  
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 MUSIC EDUCATION  
 TUITION CENTER  
 DENTAL CARE  
 MEDICAL CARE  
 SCHOLARSHIPS  
 LIBRARY



ACTIVITIES AT  
 NISHKAM BHAWAN  
 PROJECT OFFICE



NISHKAM BHAWAN  
 B-BLOCK, TILAK VIHAR, TILAK  
 NAGAR, NEW DELHI-18

## "So Kyun Manda Aakhiye, Jit Jameh Raajan"

"Why to call 'her' inferior?  
 From her, the Kings are born"

---Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji on Female Gender and Equality---

It has been incredible to see how against all odds, our daughters are climbing the heights in life leaving behind males. They have zeal, passion, and responsibility to stand on their own and exhibit equality on all fronts. Jasleen Kaur is one among millions. Her father is an Auto Rickshaw Driver. She become a Doctor now and yes with the help of your generous support in her pursuit for MBBS studies through Nishkam's scholarships. We believe that every child is extraordinary in his own way and can reach to greater heights if given the right opportunities and support at the right time.



S. Harbhajan Singh- Founder Member of Nishkam while interacting with Jasleen Kaur at Ludhiana

Nishkam has been running various welfare projects where majority of beneficiaries are women. In our education schemes, more than 70 % beneficiaries are girls. Educating the girl child has been shown to transform the country and today they are leading everywhere. Without your support, it was not possible, Please strengthen more hopes like Jasleen

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