



Martyrs' Marvel

JUNE 2011

ADVANCE

Sardarni Surinder Kaur Badal
A void too large

RIGHT TO SERVICE ACT

Citizen
AS **King**

MISSION

- Cut Red Tape
- Empower Common Man
- Set Deadline for Official Work
- Restore Citizen's Dignity



ਜਪੁਓ ਜਿਨ੍ਹੇ ਅਰਜੁਨ ਦੇਵ ਗੁਰੂ ਫਿਰਿ ਸੰਕਟ ਜੋਨਿ ਗਰਭ ਨ ਆਯਉ ॥



On the Martyrdom Day of
5th Guru of Sikhs
Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji
Punjab Government
pays rich tributes.



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RIGHT TO SERVICE ACT

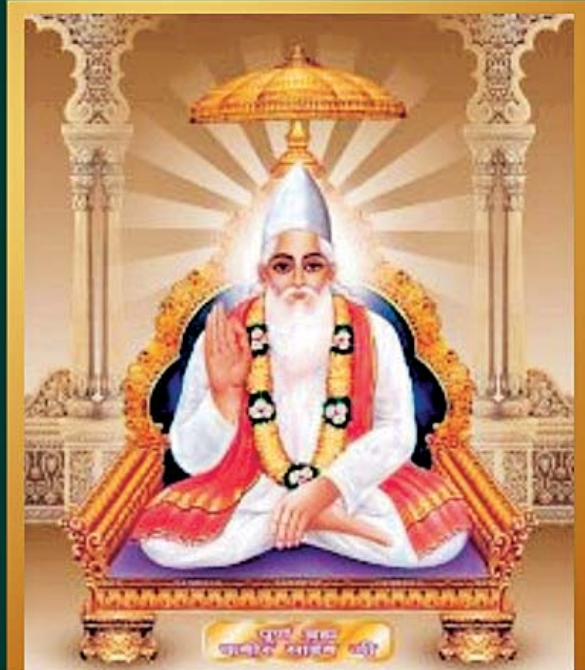
The move by the Punjab government to enact the Right to Service Act as a part of its drive to empower the common man and provide good governance to the state has created a stir. And for a good reason. Properly implemented, the Act has the potential to change every power equation in the state between the ruler and the ruled. For the first time since India became independent in 1947, the man in the street will have the right to demand service from those who have been appointed to do precisely that but have been found wanting in more ways than one.

Little wonder that there have been rumblings from certain sections of the bureaucracy. The Punjab IAS Officers Association has submitted a memorandum to the Chief Secretary objecting to certain portions of the Act while a former Chief Secretary has said that it is 'half-hearted and an exercise in tokenism'. He feels that such an Act without undertaking radical reforms will not achieve anything.

Even if for the sake of argument it is conceded that the initiative is half-baked, there is no doubting the good intentions of the government. Drawn up under the direct supervision of the Deputy Chief Minister S. Sukhbir Singh Badal who is also the Home Minister, the Act is designed to curb corrupt practices in government offices and provide quality service to the citizens by laying down a time frame for every routine activity. It is common knowledge that the common people are forced to grease the palms of babus to get their work done expeditiously. The Act ensures that they do not unnecessarily delay dealing with files. And if they do, there is a provision for punishing them through a lump sum penalty ranging between Rs 500 and Rs 5000.

The Act constitutes another step in providing good governance to the state. The first step was enactment of Right to Information Act which has brought transparency to the functioning of the government. The new Act will now give him the right to identify which official was responsible for not getting the sanctioned work executed in villages and towns within the stipulated period. The Act also envisages setting up of a three-member Punjab Right To Service Commission which would be headed by a Chief Commissioner and include two other commissioners whose appointment shall be made by the government in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition in the Vidhan Sabha.

ਅਵਲਿ ਅਲਹੁ ਨੂਰ ਉਪਾਇਆ ਕੁਦਰਤ ਕੇ ਸਭ ਬੰਦੇ ।
ਏਕ ਨੂਰ ਤੇ ਸਭੁ ਜਗੁ ਉਪਜਿਆ ਕਉਨ ਭਲੇ ਕੋ ਮੰਦੇ ॥



On the 613th Parkash Utsav of **BHAGAT KABIR JI**

A great social reformer of medieval times
Punjab Government pays rich tributes



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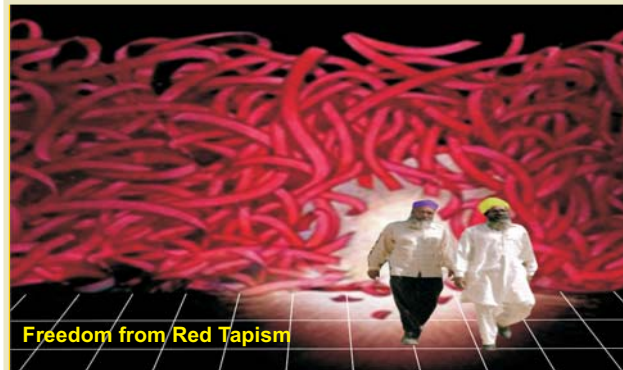
Calendar July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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This year, July has 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays. This happens once every 823 years.

This year we're going to experience four unusual dates: 1/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/1/11, 11/11/11 and that's not all...

Take the last two digits of the year in which you were born - now add the age you will be this year, the results will be 111 for everyone.



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RICKSHAW GOES GREEN

Ashok Malik

The modified cycle rickshaw – now popular as Ecocab – that apparently started as a flash in the pan in the campus of IIT Delhi during the first decade of the new millennium has caught the imagination of Punjab. The border town of Fazilka has taken to the new transport with infectious enthusiasm and the charm of the simple, environmental friendly ecocab has found many takers in the state and elsewhere. Ecocabs, the pollution free intra-city transport was introduced by the Graduate Welfare Association Fazilka (GWAF) early in 2009, are going to ply in almost all the cities of Punjab and Haryana within a few years. Punjab showcased Ecocab as a sustainable mode of transport in its pavilion during the International Trade Fair held at Delhi's Pragati Maidan in November 2010.

Patiala and the holy city of Amritsar have fondly adopted the modern version of the wood-and-steel

pedi-cab or Rickshaw in their own way and the state government has asked all districts to study the Fazilka model and see if it can be adopted in their cities and towns. "Ecocabs" is the low-cost solution to one of the key transport dilemmas in any urban area.

Buoyed by favourable response from Amritsar and Patiala, Punjab government has asked all Deputy Commissioners of the state to



consider introducing eco-cabs in their districts. Punjab government gave all the DCs of the state three months' time to consider this and submit their reports.

DC Amritsar and DC Patiala reported that the scheme (launch of eco cabs) can be covered under the differential rate of interest scheme of

RBI under which only four per cent interest is charged from beneficiaries. DC Amritsar intimated that each rickshaw cab costs around Rs 11,256, with beneficiary contributing only Rs 500. The government told all the DCs to get in touch with DC Amritsar for getting the requisite number of Eco rickshaw cabs being made available at this price. All the DCs have been told to complete this exercise within three months. Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board has been directed to extend monetary help to the DCs wherever it is needed for the smooth launch of this scheme.

The dial-a-rickshaw concept is now on the agenda of both the Punjab and Haryana. The small Fazilka initiative is likely to act as a catalyst leading to big results. The GWAF has made a website for the ecocabs, giving all technical information on them as well as instructions on how to start an Ecocab Dial-a-Rickshaw scheme in other towns and cities.

Fazilka Ecocabs

Fazilka's unusual story began with a festival in 2006. In the last week of March, the GWAF, a citizens' group organised the Fazilka Heritage Festival. A stretch of 300 metres on the Sadhu Ashram Road was converted into a pedestrian street. The study revealed that streets free of cars not just meant an improvement to the quality of social life but also in to law and order, lesser air pollution from car emissions, economy and road safety of the residents. Bhupender Singh, a retired professor of mechanical engineering and architect of this project, said: "Without cars, there was a lot of road space for everybody. There were stalls selling everything from food to handicrafts and people danced on the streets without the fear of being run over."

The GWAF did not stop here. Recognising people's need to get

A team of grassroots inventors led by Anil Rajvanshi fixed a battery and small motor to the humble cycle-rickshaw. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Resources is considering a proposal to send 50 of Rajvanshi's revolutionary rickshaws in locations all over India, including the sprawling campus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), tourist spots like Tajmahal that need non-polluting transport and the world heritage sites like Hampi, Karnataka.

Rajvanshi, an IIT graduate and PhD from the University of Florida, is a visiting professor at IIT Powai (Mumbai), compares the new electric rickshaw with its polluting petrol and diesel cousins whose noisy, inefficient engines have fouled the air nationwide. He says this rickshaw can increase a rickshaw-puller's present annual income of Rs 12,000 to Rs 18,000. Rajvanshi won the Jamnalal Bajaj award for application of technology for rural development. Four of the electric rickshaws have been on trial on the Pune University campus for several months. But they haven't convinced those who matter.

somewhere fast, the popular dial-a-rickshaw service was launched. Ecocabs were introduced as a new form of public transport using intelligent transport tools, just a phone call away. Fazilka has been divided into five zones and each zone has a different phone number. "We didn't want the rickshaws to be considered a poor man's transport, therefore the name Ecocabs," explains Navneet Asija, an IIT Delhi graduate. After a lukewarm response the scheme picked up when residents understood the utility. This border town, with a population of less than 1,00,000, is the first city in India and the world to have a dial-a-rickshaw facility.

Fazilka model allows people to phone rickshaw-pullers whenever and wherever needed. Rickshaws reach their doorstep in just 10 minutes.

According to Navdeep Asija, the brain behind the Fazilka dial-a-rickshaw scheme, a model to generate additional revenue for rickshaw-pullers has been worked out and will be implemented soon. Free cellphones are available to the world's first dial-a-rickshaw service.

Ecocab operations are supported by seven Ecocab call centres in Fazilka. Rickshaw-pullers are no longer the neglected people. They get free winter wear and woollens, all leading private hospitals and doctors give them free medical consultation with some free medicines and required laboratory tests; discounts on medicines at three authorised medical stores and diagnostic tests at one laboratory; free legal aid by four leading lawyers, permanent Ecocab stands by the Municipal Council of Fazilka in various zones of the town and computer education for a few educated rickshaw-pullers at two computer centres in Fazilka.

The innovative project seems destined to be a milestone in the civilisational journey towards low-cost



transportation and is likely to be replicated in Indian cities. "More than five lakh rickshaw-pullers will be benefitted by it," says Asija. He said the cities like Panipat, Samalkha and Gohana of Haryana are headed to wards introduction of Ecocabs in the initial stage.

Testimonials

"Traditional rickshaw has been an affordable means of transportation in India for over a century. The Department of Tourism, Punjab, has pioneered to introduce "Fazilka Ecocabs - a modified traditional rickshaw operations concept" in the holy city of Amritsar and also in the other parts of Punjab, said Geetika Kalha, Principal Secretary, Tourism.

The humble Fazilka shot into limelight as it was elected by Czech magazine "Carbuster" as the first Asian town for adopting energy saving practices to fight global warming. The town emerged on the world map, thanks to its dial-a-rickshaw system.

Buoyed by favourable response from Amritsar and Patiala, the state

government has asked all Deputy Commissioners to consider introducing ecocabs in their districts. In an affidavit submitted by Punjab Government law officer Sudeepti Sharma, the state said that all the DCs have been given three months' time to consider this and submit their reports. The affidavit was filed on behalf of Mr Husan Lal during the hearing of a public interest litigation (PIL). The affidavit goes on to say that the DCs of Amritsar and Patiala have intimated that the scheme (launch of ecocabs) can be covered under the differential rate of interest scheme of the RBI under which only four per cent interest is charged from beneficiaries. Each ecocab costs around Rs 11,256, with beneficiary contributing only Rs 500. The Punjab Tourism Department is planning to set up a museum to showcase the "evolution" of rickshaws during the past 130 years since they have been around in India. The department is scouting for land to set up the museum. The museum will trace the evolution of rickshaws from hand-pulled models to the latest ecocabs. ■



Advance Bureau

Mrs Surinder Kaur Badal (72) was the pillar of strength behind the over 50-year-long political career of S. Parkash Singh Badal. The senior Badal patriarch of 90-year-old Shiromani Akali Dal, a party known for *morchas*, struggles and *jail bhara andolans* for protecting the territorial and water rights of Punjab, had left the responsibility of nurturing the family nest to Mrs Surinder Kaur Badal.

S Badal who spent 17 years of his 50-year-long political career in the jails, the longest stint spent by any political leader in India, was free from

True grit

A profile in courage

She was the direct descendant of legendary Sikh General Baba Fateh Singh who killed Wazid Khan, Governor of Sirhind, facilitating the recapture of Sirhind from Mughals.

worries on the family front because of stability offered by Mrs Surinder Kaur Badal. If S Parkash Singh Badal could touch the pinnacle of glory in his political career, it was mainly because he was free from any tension of family responsibility.

Mrs Badal was born in the family

of S Harjoginder Singh (Father) and Mrs Umrao Kaur (Mother) on June 26, 1938 in village Chak Fateh Singh Wala in District Bathinda. Mrs Surinder Kaur Badal was second of their four siblings. She had an elder sister Savinder Kaur and two younger brothers Inderjit Singh and Late

The last five years of Mrs Surinder Kaur Badal were the most satisfying as she embarked upon the campaign of involving lakhs of devotees in "langar sewa" of Sri Harimandir Sahib. She mobilized lakhs of devotees and collected their offerings from door to door in the villages for the langar of Golden Temple and organised the visit of thousands of poor persons to Darbar Sahib fulfilling their life-long desire.



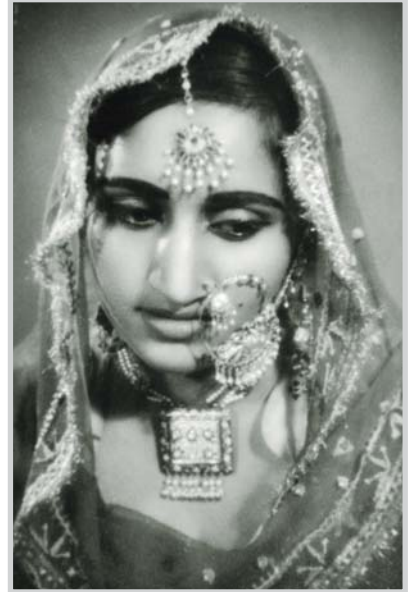
Gurpreet Singh. S Surinder Kaur Badal got her schooling in Victoria School, Patiala. She got her education from Pre-University to MA in Kanya Maha Vidyalaya, Jalandhar.

She was married to S Parkash Singh Badal in the year 1959 and she gave birth to Preneet Kaur in the year 1960. S Sukhbir Singh was born on July 9, 1962. She was the direct descendant of legendary Sikh General Baba Fateh Singh who killed Wazid Khan, Governor of Sirhind, facilitating the recapture of Sirhind from Mughals.

Mrs Surinder Kaur Badal spent initial years of marriage in looking after her kids and ensured that their education was not disturbed by the



Those were the days: S. Parkash Singh Badal sharing the joy of his first victory as Punjab Chief Minister with his wife S. Surinder Kaur Badal



Mrs Surinder Kaur Badal spent initial years of marriage looking after her kids and ensured that their education was not disturbed by the hectic political life of their father. She also ensured their proper upbringing and inculcated the values the Badal clan inherited since generations.

hectic political life of their father. She also ensured their proper upbringing and inculcated the values the Badal clan inherited since generations. She ensured to keep them away from hustle and bustle of politics till Sukhbir completed his management graduation from an American University. The last five years of Mrs Surinder Kaur Badal were the most satisfying as she embarked upon the

campaign of involving lakhs of devotees in "langar sewa" of Sri Harimandir Sahib. She mobilized lakhs of devotees and collected their offerings from door to door in the villages for the langar of Golden Temple and organised the visit of thousands of poor persons to Darbar Sahib fulfilling their life-long desire. She breathed her last in PGI on May 24, 2011 at 2 PM. ■

PUNJAB CABINET MOURNS

Punjab Cabinet Ministers have expressed deep sorrow at the untimely demise of Mrs Surinder Kaur Badal, wife of S Parkash Singh Badal, Chief Minister Punjab and mother of S Sukhbir Singh Badal, Deputy Chief Minister Punjab, who expired after battling with cancer.



Surinder Kaur Badal

A tearful adieu

Advance Bureau

Mrs Surinder Kaur Badal, the force behind the Chief Minister of Punjab, S Parkash Singh Badal, passed away at the PGI, Chandigarh, on May 24, 2011 after a prolonged illness. Mrs Badal, who was suffering from cancer, underwent treatment at a world famous hospital in the US but to no avail.

She was cremated at her native village where thousands of people from all walks of life bade her a tearful adieu. A sea of humanity looked on as her son S Sukhbir Singh Badal, Deputy Chief Minister lit the pyre amidst heart rendering scenes. The Chief Minister accompanied by his daughter Preet Kaur and daughter-in-law and Member Parliament Mrs. Harsimrat Kaur along with his grand children arrived at the cremation ground in the funeral van. S. Sukhbir Singh Badal, his brothers-

in-law Food and Supplies Minister Mr. Adesh Partap Singh Kairon and former Minister Mr. Bikramjit Singh Majithia along with his cousin former Finance Minister Mr. Manpreet Singh

Badal shouldered the bier to the cremation site.

Cutting across party lines, several prominent leaders including Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Mr. Farooq Abdullah, Union State Minister for Communication Mr. Sachin Pilot, former Congress Ministers Mr. Tej Parkash Singh and



Cutting across party lines, national and regional leaders at bhog ceremony of the late Mrs Badal at Malout



A lifetime together captured in a moment of eternal separation

Mr. Sunil Jakhar, former MLA Mr. Arvind Khanna and Lok Bhalai Party Chief and former Union Minister Mr. Balwant Singh Ramoowalia offered their condolences and paid floral tributes to the deceased.

Other dignitaries who laid wreaths on the body of Mrs. Surinder Kaur Badal included Punjab Governor Mr. Shivraj V Patil, Haryana Governor Mr. Jagan Nath Paharia, Haryana Chief Minister Mr. Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal, former Haryana Chief Minister and President Indian National Lok Dal Mr. Om Parkash Chautala. ■

A blow too hard, but....

A personal close-up of a Chief Minister's pain and his final triumph

Harcharan Bains

No one has ever lived to tell what it feels like when lightning strikes, but most of us have lived to experience and describe a blow that comes the closest to it: the loss of a dearest one in our lives. But there are some amongst us who, even when pain tears them apart, stand taller than their grief-defying fate even while acknowledging it.

In many ways, the tragi-heroic figure of Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal today symbolizes that unique mix of destiny and defiance. I am not forgetting how this man came out with stoic smiles from long and painful years of incarceration in jail - to spin a tale of humility and defiance which is fit to go into folk legends. But even by his own tough standards, the events of the past one year seem one Cross too many to bear. For once, the seething turmoil raging beneath that calm ocean is writ large on a face which has become an inseparable part of the collective psyche of the people. Perhaps he draws on some secret reservoirs of spiritual energy because of his innate faith in religion. But there is something in this story which is not visible to me despite my close association with and unquestioning love for this man. That something is what makes him so different from everyone else in this generation.

On a sullen October afternoon last year, still recovering from the unlikely blow inflicted by an estranged relative, Mr. Badal looked too distraught for me to think of discussing anything with him then. I had seen him up close battling the most difficult moments of his life with a courage that was nearly tragic

in its grandeur. But I had never seen anything like this, with the exception of the Dass ji estrangement. Later that day, when I understood the gravity of illness of Sardarni Surinder Kaur Badal's (Beebiji to everyone who came across her) my thoughts went back to the time when Mr. Badal's own life hung in balance following the detection of a near fatal ailment during his last tenure as Chief Minister (1997-2002). But I could not recall seeing him even mildly ruffled in the face of what some people thought was



the end of him. But now, in the months which followed that afternoon, I saw Mrs. Badal's pain etched deep on Mr. Badal's face.

I know that at the end of the day, the event is personal - something which affects neither the destiny of the state nor even its immediate political fortunes. This is despite the fact that Sardarni Badal was more than a political alter-ego of her husband in the entire Malwa belt. With a self-effacement so rare in political families, she had worked tirelessly but quietly from behind the scenes to protect and promote the Badal and the SAD legacy. One has to be in Malwa - especially in the regions where she operated amidst the masses - to understand the depth of attachment that the commonest of the common Akali worker felt with her. To them, she had been a strong and emotional mother-figure. They could go across

to her, express their grievances loudly, ready to hear her motherly rebukes when they tried to overstate their case, but all the time feeling their interests strangely secure in her presence. The nurse who nearly broke down on the sad Tuesday, the cook who cried bitterly over his son's shoulder, the young Muslim boy who is the only one who can dictate the Chief Minister on when to go to sleep, the personal assistants who, despite their humility, command more authority in Badal house-hold than may be in their own, the driver who had the courage to tell her to "seek an appointment with him if she wanted to rebuke him" - all this tells a little known story of immense human interest and little political worth.

As one who has loved Badal over the years, as one whose million tantrums he has pately put up with, without so much as a complaint on his lips, as one who also knows that every gesture he makes does in some way leave an imprint on the minds of countless people, I feel - even in this hour of grief - a strange and secret pride in the heroic conduct of this man. He has looked destiny in the eye and, yet again, smiled back to say, "I am ready." Even in the painful days of Sardarni Badal's illness, he has created a new archetype of intense fidelity, love, commitment and a respect for old values. And the worst having happened, he has been quick to realize his responsibility to millions of his people, and has emerged as a symbol of heroic acceptance of the inevitable, to demonstrate that his duties to his state transcend his personal tragedy. Sukhbir reflecting the same sangfroid, the great poise and the ability to deal with personal pain as personal. Some part of Badal also died in Sardarni Badal's demise; but a new Badal has already arisen, one who yet again mocks pain and is ready to walk with his people. ■

142 persons exit Black List

Shruti Setia Chhabra

One of the major issues facing a country of such religious and cultural diversity such as ours is the emotional integration of its people. Much has been written about how the country needs to take care of the sense of alienation of the minorities. In the context of Punjab, it translates into what is generally known as the Sikh psyche.

And one of the major issues impacting that psyche concerns Sikhs who left the shores of the country to seek a new world in foreign lands for fear of prosecution back home. Chief Minister S Parkash Singh Badal and his deputy, Sukhbir Singh Badal have been constantly demanding that these lists be reviewed and a liberal and more humanitarian and compassionate view be taken of the people who feature on it, especially as decades have passé since unusual circumstances forced these young Sikhs into adopting some questionable means to express their anger against the injustice meted out to their state.

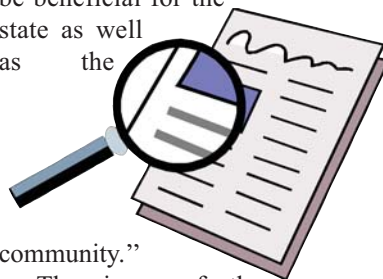
Finally, the Government of India has conceded S. Badal's demand and the Black List has not only been revised but is also up for open public scrutiny.

Recently names of 142 people have been deleted from the black list by Ministry of Home Affairs.

Reviewing and making 'black list' publicly available was a long pending demand of Sikh community. This was also one of the major political demands of the ruling Shiromani Akali Dal and formed a part of its poll promises in February 2007.

Many NRI Sikhs had to suffer at embassies and were refused visas as the community at large was seen as suspect. This move has not only cleared the way for some of them to come to India but also help in raising the profile of the Sikh Community internationally.

And for those who think deletion of certain names from black list can be a threat to internal security of the state, a senior police official says: "This is a well thought of, judicious move in public and national interest and would be beneficial for the state as well as the



community."

The issue of the revision of the blacklist was raised by Chief Minister S. Parkash Singh Badal at the 'All India Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security' in New Delhi on February 2010 last year. After this the state government had been continuously pursuing the issue with the Centre. Later Deputy Chief Minister S Sukhbir Singh Badal also raised a similar concern in February 2011, while representing the state in Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security. A number of requests from NRIs are being received by the state government to review the list and avoid undue harassment to them at the time of granting visa. A comprehensive review was conducted by Punjab in the year 2010 and recommendations were sent to

Government of India after examining material on record. However, the latest list received from MHA does not incorporate any of suggested changes. A relook on our recommendations is suggested."

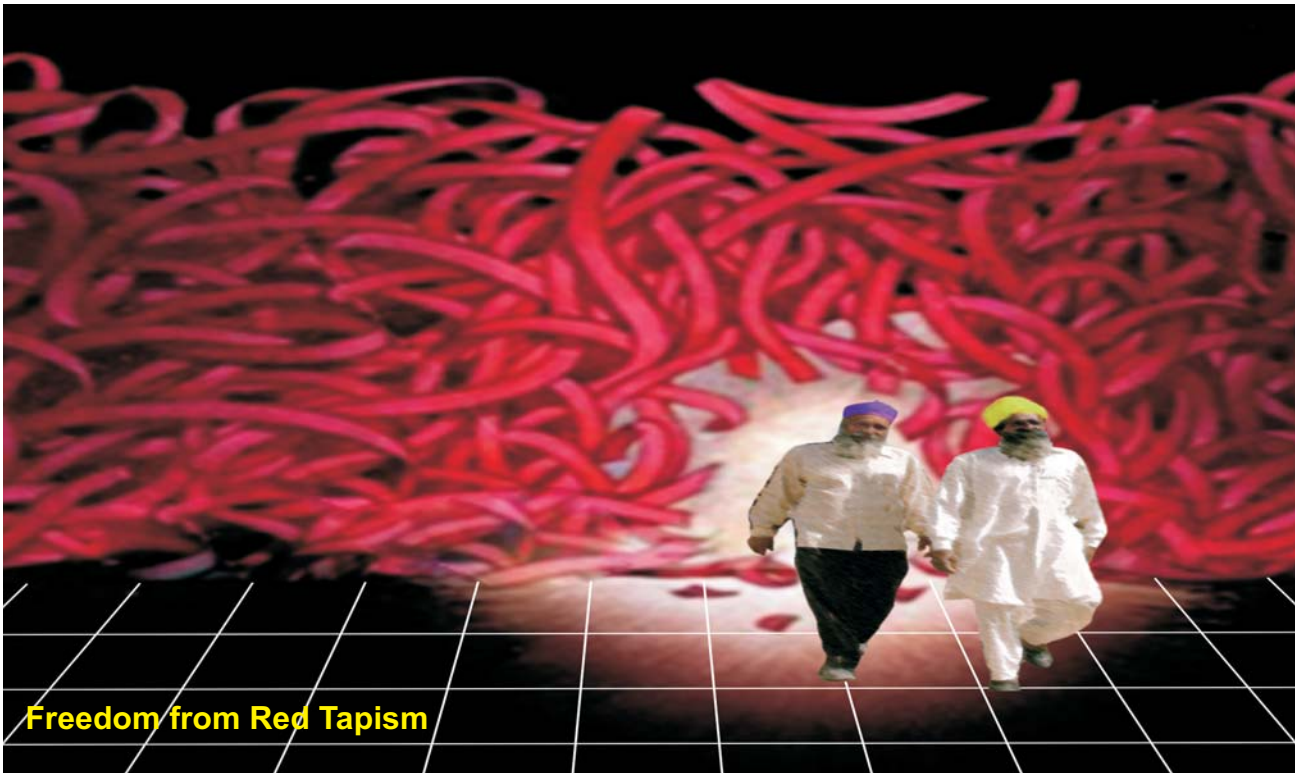
After pursuing the matter for long, Punjab government received names of 199 black listed people locked in a compact disk in 2010. While the state government was processing the data, a revised list of 185 people was received. But on closer examination it was found that there were only 169 names in the list as some names had been repeated. Out of the 169, 28 were found to be proclaimed offenders, no pending cases were found against 39, seven out the list were reported present in the state, identity and addresses of 84 were found to be incorrect, while 11 belonged to other states. The Punjab government was intimated in March this year about deletion of 25 names by Union Ministry for Home Affairs and then again in April intimation about deletion of 117 more names was sent.

The Punjab government has welcomed Centre's move to make changes in the black list. Deputy Chief Minister S Sukhbir Singh Badal, who also holds the state home portfolio, demanded that all the details, including the names of the remaining persons, should be put on the official website of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs "to eliminate any further exploitation of Sikhs in the matter."

"There should be an automatic mechanism for periodic review of these lists. While those facing criminal charges should be brought before the law, there should be no harassment of the innocents," said the Deputy Chief Minister.

In a statement, the Chief Minister thanked all persons and organisations who had helped his government in getting this demand accepted by the Centre. ■

CITIZEN AS KING



A S Prashar

In a major step towards empowerment of the common man in Punjab, the Badal government is all set to enact the Right to Service Act through an ordinance as part of its multi-faceted drive to provide good

“It is about time for the civil servants to face the music from their real masters, the people.”

—S Sukhbir Singh Badal

governance to the state.

For the first time since India gained independence over 60 years ago, the common man will get the right under the Act to point out which official was responsible for not getting

YOUR WORK AND THE MANDATORY DEADLINE

Name of the service	Stipulated Time* (working days)	Designated Officer
Revenue		
Certified Copies of all documents at Village level i.e Record of Rights (Jamabandi), Girdawri, mutation, etc	1 day	Patwari
Demarcation of Land	21 days	Kanungo
Registration of all kinds of documents e.g sale deed, lease deed, GPA, Partnership Deed etc	1 day	Sub - Registrar or Joint Sub Registrar
Attestation of uncontested mutations	15 days	Circle Revenue Officer
Private Partition of Land (mutual consent of landowners)	30 days	Circle Revenue Officer

the sanctioned work executed in villages and towns within the stipulated period. As Deputy Chief Minister S Sukhbir Singh Badal says, "It is about time for the civil servants

Cabinet approves ordinance

The Punjab Cabinet has approved the Right to Service Ordinance 2011 to ensure the delivery of citizen centric services like driving license, arms license, revenue record (fard) and copy of FIR etc. to the people within a stipulated time limit.

The approval to the ordinance was granted at a meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Punjab Chief Minister S.Parkash Singh Badal at Chandigarh on June 7, 2011.

This ordinance is aimed at empowering the citizens with the right to get the services from the government within a definite time frame on one hand and ensure 100% accountability of the officers of implementing agencies on the other.

Making an announcement to this effect, Deputy Chief Minister S Sukhbir Singh Badal said that the ordinance would be issued within 20 days.

to face the music from their real masters, the people."

Name of the service	Stipulated Time* (working days)	Designated Officer
Local Government		
Sanction of Water Supply / Sewerage Connection - Corporation Cities	7 days	Sub Divisional Engineer (Public Health)
Sanction of Water Supply / Sewerage Connection - MC Towns	7 days	Engineer In-charge (ME or SDE)
Sanction of Building Plans / Revised Building Plans (for plot size of 500 sq yds and below) (for plots size 500 sq yds and above)	30 days 60 days	Executive Officer of the concerned Improvement Trust
Issue of Completion Certificate for Buildings	15 days	Executive Officer of the concerned Improvement Trust
Issue of No Objection Certificate / Duplicate Allotment / Reallotment Letter	21 days	Executive Officer of the concerned Improvement Trust
Issue of Conveyance Deed	15 days	Executive Officer of the concerned Improvement Trust
Issue of No Due Certificate	7 days	Executive Officer of the concerned Improvement Trust
Re-transfer of property in case of sale	15 days	Executive Officer of the concerned Improvement Trust
Re-transfer of property in case of death (uncontested)	45 days	Executive Officer of the concerned Improvement Trust
Issue of permission for mortgage	7 days	Executive Officer of the concerned Improvement Trust
Sanction of Building Plans / Revised Building Plans (for plot size of 500 sq yds and below) (for plots size 500 sq yds and above)	30 days 60 days	MTP of the concerned Municipal Corporation or SDE/ME of the Municipal Council
Issue of Completion Certificate for Buildings	15 days	MTP of the concerned Municipal Corporation or SDE/ME of the Municipal Council

The Act, which is designed to curb corrupt practices in government

The Act, which is designed to curb corrupt practices in government offices and provide quality service to the citizens, stipulates a time frame for almost every routine activity. It is well known that most of the time, the common people are compelled to grease the palms of babus to get their work done quickly. The Act is designed to tame the wayward among the babus. The Act ensures that they do not unnecessarily delay dealing with files. And if they do, there is a provision for punishing them through a lump sum penalty of not less than Rs 500 and not more than Rs 5,000.

offices and provide quality service to the citizens, stipulates a time frame for almost every routine activity. It is well



Name of the service	Stipulated Time* (working days)	Designated Officer
Rural Water Supply & Sanitation		
Sanction of Water Supply Connection	7 days	Sub Divisional Engineer
Food & Civil Supplies		
Issue of Ration Card	7 days	AFSO
Health		
Certified Copies of Birth / Death Certificates - Corporation Cities	2 days for current year and 3 days for previous years	Birth & Death Local Registrar
Certified Copies of Birth / Death Certificates - MC Towns	2 days for current year and 3 days for previous years	Birth & Death Local Registrar
Certified Copies of Birth / Death Certificates - Rural Areas	2 days for current year and 3 days for previous years	Birth & Death Local Registrar
Copies of the post mortem report	3 days	Senior Medical Officer of the concerned Civil Hospital OR Medical Superintendent in case of Medical College
Transport		
Registration Certificate of vehicle	21 days	Registering Authority (ADTO/DTO or SDM)
Fitness Certificate	7 days	Motor Vehicle Inspector Commercial Vehicle
Issue of Driving Licence - Motor Car / Motor Cycle	21 days	Licensing Authority (ADTO/DTO or SDM)
Issue of Tax Clearance Certificate (for period upto 2 years from date of application)	7 days	Section Officer DTO Office
Issue of Tax Clearance Certificate (for period beyond 2 years)	21 days	Section Officer DTO Office

known that most of the time, the common people are compelled to grease the palms of babus to get their work done quickly. The Act is designed to tame the wayward among the babus. The Act ensures that they do not unnecessarily delay dealing with files. And if they do, there is a provision for punishing them through a lump sum penalty of not less than Rs 500 and not more than Rs 5,000.

The first step towards

The first step towards empowerment of the common man was taken through the Right to Information Act. The objective was to give meaning to the word “civil servant”. For, the babus have been groomed by the system to hide almost everything from those for whose service they are employed. Attitude is an important aspect of service which has been sorely lacking in a majority of civil servants. Those who cleared tough competitive examinations to become civil servants start behaving like masters. Most of them feel that whatever they do, be it at the block, district or state level, people should stay obliged even though much more is expected of them.

empowerment of the common man was taken through the Right to Information Act. The objective was to give meaning to the word “civil

Name of the service	Stipulated Time* (working days)	Designated Officer
Issue of Route Permit or National Permit	7 days	Assistant Secretary or Secretary, RTA
Addition / Deletion of Hire Purchase entry	3 days	Registering Authority (ADTO/ DTO or SDM)
Transfer of Vehicle (if the place of registration is the same place)	7 days	Registering Authority (ADTO/ DTO or SDM)
Home		
Renewal of Arms Licence (if the licence is presented before the expiry date)	15 days	Licensing Authority Addl DM /DCP
Addition / Deletion of weapon	7 days	Licensing Authority Addl DM /DCP
Misc Applications under Arms Act e.g purchase period etc	7 days	Licensing Authority Addl DM /DCP
All kinds of Police Verifications including Passport Verifications	21 days	Incharge of CPRC / Saanjh Centres
Registration of Marriage under Hindu Marriage Act	2 days	Tehsildar
Personnel		
Issue of various Certificates like Caste, OBC, Income, Residence etc	15 days	Tehsildar



servant". For, the babus have been groomed by the system to hide almost everything from those for whose service they are employed. Attitude is an important aspect of service which has been sorely lacking in a majority of civil servants. Those who cleared tough competitive examinations to become civil servants start behaving



like masters. Most of them feel that whatever they do, be it at the block, district or state level, people should stay obliged even though much more is expected of them.

With the RTI Act, citizens were empowered to find out where their files were struck. The law made it mandatory for the civil servants and public authorities to give information promptly on the common man's query. But this knowledge did not help much because the aggrieved person could only either write to higher authorities or move court seeking redress of his grievance.

Since the courts are already deluged with cases, there is little chance of him getting early relief in matters pertaining to digging a tube well in a village or constructing a school. The Right to Service Act is designed to fill this important gap and make life easier for the common man.

Name of the service	Stipulated Time* (working days)	Designated Officer
Urban Development		
Sanction of Building Plans (for plot size of 500 sq yds and below) (for plot size of 500 sq yds and above)	30 days 60 days	SDO Buildings of the concerned Authority
Issue of Completion Certificate for Buildings	15 days	SDO Buildings of the concerned Authority
Issue of No Objection Certificate / Duplicate Allotment / Reallotment Letter	21 days	Estate Officer / Assistant Estate Officer of the concerned Authority
Issue of Conveyance Deed	15 days	Estate Officer / Assistant Estate Officer of the concerned Authority
Issue of No Due Certificate	7 days	Estate Officer / Assistant Estate Officer of the concerned Authority
Re-transfer of property in case of sale	15 days	Estate Officer / Assistant Estate Officer of the concerned Authority
Re-transfer of property in case of death	45 days	Estate Officer / Assistant Estate Officer of the concerned Authority
Issue of permission for mortgage	7 days	Estate Officer / Assistant Estate Officer of the concerned Authority
Social Security		
Sanction of all social security benefitsold age/ handicapped / widow	30 days for the first time	District Social Security Officer
Issue of Identity Cards to all categories of Handicapped persons	7 days	District Social Security Officer

* The stipulated time period would be in number of working days and not calendar days.

3-man commission to be set up to cut red tape

The path-breaking Punjab Right to Service Act being piloted by the Badal government under the direct supervision of the Deputy Chief Minister, S Sukhbir Singh Badal, who is also the Home Minister, envisages establishment of a three-member commission to provide for the delivery of services to the people of the State within stipulated time limits.

Christened the Punjab Right to Service Commission, it would be headed by a Chief Commissioner and include two other commissioners whose appointment shall be made by the state government in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha. The Chief Commissioner shall be a retired officer in the rank and status of the Chief Secretary of the State of Punjab or Secretary to the Government of India.

The Commissioners shall be serving or retired officers of the Government of Punjab in the rank and status of Principal Secretary or equivalent rank and status in any of the services of the State, including officers of All India Services from the Punjab cadre and/or expert in the field of Public Administration having a Doctorate in Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Public Administration who has an experience of teaching in a University for a period of at least 20 years.

The act provides for the imposition of fines ranging between Rs 500 and Rs 5000 any official for failing to

A DEADLINE FOR POLICE TOO

Nature of Services	Time line
Copy of FIR / DDR	Immediate/On line
Registration of Foreigners (Arrival and Departure)	Immediate
Extension of residential permit of foreigners	5 days
NOC for vehicles	5 days
NOC for Fairs/Melas, Exhibitions/sponsored events, etc.	5 days
NOC for use of loudspeakers	5 days
Stranger verification (After receiving the verification from other Distt/State of which the person is resident)	5 Days
Emergent passport verification	5 days
Service verification	10 days
Character verification	10 days
Arms license verification for renewal	15 days
NOC for Issuance/ Renewal of License of Arm Dealers etc.	15 days
Issuance of NOC for setting up of Petrol Pump, Cinema hall etc.	15 days
Passport verification	21 days
Verification for new Arm license	30 days
Tenant and servant verification a) If Resident of local area b) If Resident of other Distt/State then after receiving verification report from that Distt/State	30 days 5 Days
Other verification related services	30 days
Copy of untraced report in road accident cases.	45 days
Copy of untraced report in stolen vehicles cases.	45 days
Copy of untraced report in theft cases	60 days

Note: For road accident cases, stolen vehicle cases, theft cases reports shall be given as “Yet Untraced”.

Designated Officer: Station House Officer of the concerned Police Station
First appellate Authority: DSP or Incharge of Community Policing Suwidha Centre at the concerned police sub division

Second Appellate Authority: SSP or Officer Incharge of Community Policing Resource Centre of the concerned police district



The Chief Minister S. Parkash Singh Badal presides over a meeting of the Cabinet for approving the ordinance to give effect to the Punjab Right to Service Act, 2011.

provide service within the stipulated period. There is also provision for imposing a penalty at the rate of Rs 250 per day for causing undue delay in providing the service.

According to the act first Appellate Authority, for the applicants shall be District Head of the concerned Department or SDM of the concerned sub-division where service is to be provided and the second Appellate Authority would be Deputy Commissioner.

Establishment of the commission: Punjab government will establish the commission under a new Act. Commission's office can be set up either in Chandigarh or any other place notified by State government from time to time.

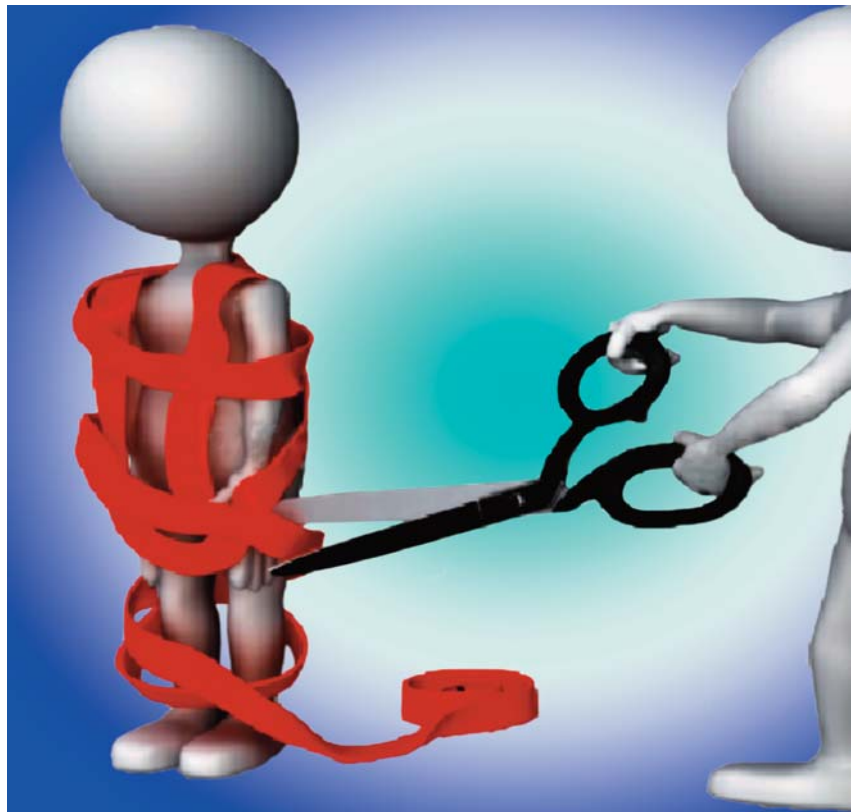
Composition of the Commission: Punjab Right to Service Commission will consist of of Chief Commissioner and not more than two other commissioners. Their appointments would be made by State Government in consultation with leader of opposition.

Powers of the Chief Commissioner: The chief commissioner shall have powers general superintendence and direction in the conduct of affairs of the commission. Commissioner would be able to exercise his powers under the clause 15(4) of the Act.

Term of office and conditions of service of chief commissioner and commissioners: These officers shall hold office for term of five years from the date of which they enter upon the respective offices, or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier and they will not be entitled for reappointment.

Action by Government on

recommendations of the commission: The State Government shall consider the recommendations made by the commission under clauses (d), (e), (f) of the section 15 (1) and send information to the commission of action taken within thirty days or longer time as may be decided in consultation with the commission. ■



Reforms baby and sulking midwives

A new initiative by the Punjab government to ensure quality service to the common man by setting a time frame for almost every routine activity has predictably set off an uproar among sections of bureaucracy. The Punjab IAS officers Association has submitted a memorandum to the Chief Secretary pointing out lacunae in the legislation while a former Chief Secretary has questioned the very basis of the move. Mr Harcharan Bains, Media Advisor to the Chief Minister, answers the criticism and tries put things in proper perspective.

Harcharan Bains

I recall reading in my college days about ‘influential men heading known or obscure institutions who cannot afford to be found wrong, who find change inconvenient, and any reform intractable.’ This is largely because they have identified themselves with certain ideas or institutions which they wish to keep immune from criticism, change or even reform. And the most successful of these men function under a wrap of anonymity about their true loyalties.

These words rang in from a far-off, forgotten past during an informal discussion on Governance Reforms in Punjab, specifically the Right to Service to Act. I was have been told that the leading actors in this discussion were retired Civil Servants, which makes it a serious matter; bureaucracy after all is something that is inflicted on all of us, without even a right to vote it out.

To set the context, the Punjab government proposes to enact a law to make delivery of government services subject to mandatory and prescribed dead-lines. The law would also eliminate or at least drastically reduce the long legalistic agonies involved in seeking redress against justice delayed or services denied.

Why should a common man have to wait endlessly for decisions on public applications or complaints on

routine matters like issuance of no-objections certificates, or documentation of birth, death, marriage, medical, driving, property etc, as well as on registration of complaints, or FIRs by the police? Everyone wants an end to the exploitation, harassment and humiliation of the common man in government offices.

The Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal pulled no punches when he told a meeting of high ranking officials the other day that even a delay in the implementation of these reforms would amount to “negligence of duty”.

This would need creation of an in-built automatic response mechanism for redressing grievances and, more importantly, for pre-empting a grievance to arise in the first place. This would in turn mean more work for the government official and as a result require adequate manpower to handle work within prescribed dead-lines. In short, more recruitment. There is no reason to believe that those behind the idea of reforms are not aware of the problems, pitfalls and pre-requisites for the successful implementation of this vision, as nearly 100,000 fresh recruitments, setting up of a grievance redress authority and a provision for this authority to function as Lok Pal for officials clearly show.

But even before the baby is born, the mid-wives have developed labour pangs. A former Chief Secretary of Punjab is often found expatiating with aplomb on innovative economic administrative, economic and even political ideas, one of which is how democracy stifles executive efficiency by allowing the legislature to erode the “checks” provided by the civil service. He is not alone in believing that the administrative pyramid is turned on its head by the politician who leaves the executive heads with no powers on his juniors. I tried hard to think of how often during his long and illustrious career in civil service, this “in-house rebel” had ever shown the professional self-respect and dignity to protest against this erosion of civic values by his political bosses. “With thousands and thousands of posts lying vacant, how can the government expect the available staff to handle the work to meet dead-lines.” Strange. This man headed the civil service when his government slapped a ban on recruitments “to save money.” As if that was not enough, he led the drive for an across-the-board retrenchment of employees. The fiscal fix struck out governance as a priority.

The argument against governance reforms runs something like this: “You cannot solve a problem created by cumbersome laws by enacting new laws; you cannot ensure Right to Service without first ensuring adequate staffing through timely recruitment; you cannot undertake recruitment without first ensuring the fiscal health of the government; you cannot ensure fiscal health without efficient governance; you cannot have efficient governance without reforms; you cannot have reforms if you do not have enough men in government offices. You cannot have enough men there without first ensuring the

government's fiscal health. But not having reforms blocks transparency, encourages discretion and exploitation through cumbersome laws; you cannot fight these cumbersome laws by enacting new laws." From nowhere back to nowhere via nowhere.

And now about political interference. (Discretion?) What a "oh so convincing" counterblast to that delicious "free-hand" which the Punjab bureaucrat got so used to, thanks to those long periods of governor's rule. The hang-over from the golf-course afternoons still persists. And the bitter truth also is

that for long periods even after that, the Punjab bureaucrat has had the Punjab politician literally 'drinking' out of his hand. But cometh the first threat to that equation, and we have this "political interference" tsunami of protests – luckily confined to the Golf Club brigade.

But even conceding that disturbing time-honoured administrative norms plays havoc with governance, what about a Chief Secretary in the year 2000 not getting even a cabinet decision on out-sourcing of registration of vehicles implemented, and ridiculing the successive

government for not doing what he should have done a decade ago?

The eleventh Bureaucratic Commandment is: Thou shalt not talk of balance without checks. When a man needs atta and daal to escape starvation in the next hour, tell him death in dignity is better than a government 'dole' and enlighten him with long-term plans on sustainable development for poverty alleviation. Laws shall take precedence over life. In between, call your home to find out if your son has taken the morning flight from New York to Honolulu. ■

Getting work done from a government office is much more difficult than handling home. If Right to Service Act can bring efficiency in the government offices it would be a blessing. I remember how I had to pay several visits to the Licensing and Registering Authority for getting my driving license issued. I hope with such an Act being implemented present and coming generations would get better governance which they long for.

Sandeep Kaur,
House Wife



Such an Act would certainly help in industrial growth of the state. From what ever little knowledge I have gathered about the Act, this would certainly help the businessmen as many a times our projects get delayed for want of clearance of files which causes loss in lakhs of rupees.

Implementation of Right to Service Act will force the government machinery to work in time bound manner.

Pankaj Prabhakar,
Businessman



Governments make many new Acts but when it comes to implementation there is hardly any progress. This would be a test for the present government if it is able to implement Right to Service Act because this Act will make all the civil servants accountable for their work in time bound manner. I feel that each and every individual in the state should support the government in this move and make it a reality to make our state number one in the country.

Raju, Shopkeeper



Implementation of Right to Service Act would help in improving the functioning of the government. Efficient functioning of the government offices and the officials would also build up confidence among the general public. Many youngsters who are getting attracted to foreign countries because of transparent and good governance will also stay

back in India.

Prof Gian Singh, Educationist from Punjabi University, Patiala



VOX POPULI
FOUR INDIVIDUALS FROM DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE GIVE THEIR OPINION ON RIGHT TO SERVICE ACT

SGPC Poll

Centre's delay worrying

Gurdarshan Bahia

General elections to the supreme Gpanthic elected body, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), which were due to be held in 2009, are not likely to take place any time soon. Also known as the mini-parliament of the Sikhs, the SGPC was formed in 1925 under Punjab Gurdwara Act which lays down that the elections to this body should be held every five years. These elections are conducted by the centre



Late S. Gurcharan Singh Tohra



S. Avtar Singh Makkar

voters' lists and enrolling new voters and sent the final schedule of elections in the month of May, 2011. But the Centre is yet to respond to this

process was completed in 2004.

The elections in 1996 were held after a gap of 17 long years only when the then president of SGPC, Gurcharan Singh Tohra went to court on this issue. The delay in the conduct of the SGPC elections not upsets its functioning but also creates confusion in the Sikh Community. Many among the Sikhs begin to speculate that certain sitting members could well be a party to the delay in elections because they want to stick on to their present offices. But not many know that the SGPC itself has no role to play in the conduct of elections. The limited role which the Punjab government has to play in the whole process is to provide office and staff to Gurdwara Election Commission and publication of voter lists, which is sincerely carried out by the state.

The pertinent question here is that why the election of the SGPC are not conducted in time. Instead of faithfully following provisions of the Punjab Gurdwara Act relating to the conduct of regular and timely elections, the Centre decides the timing for the elections on the basis of political equations.

By delaying the process of election which were to be held in 2009, the Central government lead by the Congress is playing the same 'dirty' game. Encouraging various Sikh organisations and a separate Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee for Haryana are part of the same game plan.

It seems that the Congress bigwigs in Delhi do not intend to conduct elections of SGPC before February, 2012 i.e. before the next assembly elections in Punjab. The Congress bosses could well be calculating that the Congress will form the next government in the state and if the SGPC elections are conducted under their rule they might be able to create favorable conditions for their own men to win the SGPC polls. ■



SGPC's Head Office Teja Singh Samundri Hall at Amritsar

through Gurdwara Election Commission.

But this stipulated period of five years to conduct the elections has never been met. The last general elections to the SGPC were held in 2004 and they became due in 2009. The Gurdwara Election Commission completed the task of revising the

communication.

By not getting these elections conducted even now, the Central government is once again repeating its history. Earlier too, the elections which took place in 2004 were held after a gap of eight years because the Centre did not finalize the election schedule in time. Finally, the election

Wheat procurement A NEW HIGH

Shruti Setia Chhabra

Despite all odds wheat procurement in Punjab has crossed 110 lakh tonnes and broken the previous decade's record. The procurement agencies had bought 110.40 lakh metric tonnes of wheat by May 31, 2011.

The highest procurement so far was recorded in the year 2008-09 at 110.09 MTs.

The state also achieved the highest-ever productivity figure of 163.34 lakh MTs and equalled the highest-ever average production of 46.51 quintals per hectare.

The credit of this record production and its safe and timely procurement is equally shared by Department of Agriculture and Department of Food and Civil Supplies. While the prolonged winter facilitated ideal maturity of the crop, provision of quality seed and timely supply of DAP by the State Agriculture Department helped the farmers in getting such high yield followed by foolproof arrangements of procurement by Department of Food and Civil Supplies.

Wheat production in Punjab has exceeded the figure of 160 lakh MTs for the first time ever. It is estimated

to be 163.34 lakh MTs this season. The previous high was 159 lakh MTs in 1999-2000.

The production could have been higher by few more lakhs if crop did not get affected due to rains and hail storm in April in few parts of the state.

The area under wheat cultivation has also gone up to 35.22 lakh hectares this season. It was 34 lakh hectares in 1999-2000 when Punjab had its last bumper crop.

In view of continuous heavy arrivals, the procurement also got stretched to May 31 which usually gets over by May 20 every year. Punjab would also end up giving the highest-ever share in the Central pool owing to this record production. Contribution in the Central pool was recorded at 107.55 lakh MTs in the year 2009-10. This figure was achieved on May 18 this year. ■

Highest productivity: Sangrur district records the highest wheat productivity of 51.25 quintals per hectare followed by 50 quintals per hectare in Moga district

WHEAT PROCUREMENT IN PUNJAB

Year	Area under cultivation*	Approx. Yield*	Production*	Total Procurement*	Purchase Centres	M.S.P. (Rs/Qtl.)
2000-2001	34.08	4.563	155.51	96.98	1589	580
2001-2002	34.20	4.532	154.99	105.79	1616	610
2002-2003	33.75	4.200	154.99	99.03	1659	620
2003-2004	34.44	4.207	144.89	90.63	1531	620 (+DR-Rs. 10/-)
2004-2005	34.82	4.221	146.98	95.00	1549	630
2005-2006	34.69	4.179	144.97	92.56	1579	640
2006-2007	34.67	4.210	145.96	81.19	1604	650 (Bonus 50/-)
2007-2008	34.88	4.507	157.20	79.11	1602	750 (Bonus 100/-)
2008-2009	35.26	4.462	157.33	106.04	1624	1000
2009-2010	35.00	4.350	152.25	110.09	1646	1080
2009-2010	35.21	4.410	154.92	102.78	1700	1100

*Area under cultivation in lakh hectares *Approximate yield in MT per hectare *Production and procurement in lakh MTs

SHER-E-PUNJAB

MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH

Anjana Datta

In the annals of the Sikh history of India, very few rulers have been as charismatic and remarkable as Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab. Popularly known as Sher-e-Punjab, he truly ruled over Punjab with an iron hand albeit generously. And, he made it one of the most prosperous and powerful states of India.

Born on November 13, 1780 in Gujranwala, now in Pakistan, into a Jatt Sikh family, his father Mahan Singh was the commander of the Sukerchakia faction that controlled a territory in West Punjab with its headquarters at Gujranwala. Punjab was, at that time, governed by the Sikhs based on different factions. Ranjit Singh was just 12 when he lost his father. He was crowned on 12 April, 1801 (to coincide with Baisakhi) by none other than Sahib Singh Bedi, a descendant of Guru Nanak Dev. Gujranwala was the capital of his Sarkar Khalsa, his regime was popularly known as such. In 1799, he captured Lahore and made it his capital.

He was afflicted with small-pox during his childhood and he lost his one eye. A man of a small and insignificant stature, one could easily pass him off as an ordinary man. But beneath that ordinary veneer lay a truly generous and golden heart full of love for his people. He was born to rule. His whole life was a saga of relentless battles against the enemy to protect his mighty State of Punjab to safeguard the interests of India.

A great warrior, fearless soldier, able administrator and liberator of Punjab, he is primarily remembered for his contribution in uniting Punjab to make it one which was, at that time,



Maharaja Ranjit Singh's throne was made by the goldsmith Hafez Muhammad Multani about 1820 to 1830. Made of Wood and resin core, covered with sheets of repoussé, chased and engraved gold.

It shows the splendour of Ranjit Singh's court and is decorated with richly worked sheets of gold. The distinctive cusped base of this throne is composed of two tiers of lotus petals. The lotus is a symbol of purity and creation and has traditionally been used as a seat or throne for Hindu gods. However, the octagonal (eight-sided) shape of the throne is based on courtly furniture of the Mughals. Their many-sided furniture provided models for thrones, footstools and tables throughout northern India. It is thought that as the Maharaja was renowned for the simplicity of his appearance and dislike of ceremony he rarely sat on this throne, preferring to sit cross-legged on carpets.

The throne was part of the State Property taken by the British in 1849 on the annexation of Punjab, after the Second Anglo-Sikh War, and was displayed with other treasures of the Indian Empire at the Great Exhibition in 1851.

divided into different factions. After succeeding his father, his first task was to unite the various factions of the Sikhs into one State of Punjab. For this, he led several successful campaigns and achieved his mission. His next job was to consolidate his position as a ruler.

The following years, he was engaged in a series of conflicts involving the Afghans and the Muslims. He was finally successful in driving them out of the Western Punjab. He captured the Pashun territory including Peshawar. Thus, he became the first non-Muslim ruler of the Pashuns. That marked a turning point in Maharaja Ranjit Singh's fortunes as it blocked the Khyber Pass which was usually used by the invaders to enter India. Next, he captured the province of Multan which encompassed the Southern parts of Punjab, Peshawar, Jammu and Kashmir and the hill States of Anandpur including Kangra. After a streak of victories, he secured a dominant position and maintained Sikh sphere of influence through the formation of extensive alliances with other States of India. In this way, he rose to power in a very short period, from a humble leader of a single Sikh misl (a faction) to finally becoming the first Maharaja of Punjab, a title conferred on him by the Sikh Chieftains of Punjab, on April 12, 1801.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh was a benevolent and secular king. He ruled in a democratic manner and never isolated himself from the masses. A devout Sikh, he deeply loved and admired the teachings of the Tenth Guru of Sikhism Guru Gobind Singh. He rarely forgot to take bath at the Golden Temple at Amritsar every month, yet he showed respect towards all the other religions. He would fast with the Muslims during Ramadan and play Holi and celebrate other

Hindu festivals with the Hindus with equal gusto. He imposed no laws on any of the minority or the majority community. He banned the 'jizya' tax on the Hindus and the Sikhs. The Hindu saints, Muslim faqirs as well as the Christian priests were all recipients of his largess. To respect the sentiments of the Hindus, he imposed a ban on cow slaughter.

He never distinguished between anyone on the basis of caste and creed or religion. He allowed men from religious other than his own to rise to the commanding positions of authority in his regime. There were the

the famous Koh-i-Noor diamond that he possessed to Jagan Nath Temple in Puri, Orissa.

Although he had little or no formal education, yet he possessed an insatiable curiosity for the learning. He was a patron of art and contributed largely for the promotion of Sikhism. He was the generous patron of the shrine and much of the present decorative gliding and marble work were conducted under his patronage. He built two of the most sacred gurdwaras – Takhat Sri Patna Sahib, the birth place of Guru Gobind Singh and Takhat Sri Hazur Sahib, the place



father. His other sons died in various plots and assassinations while the nobility struggled to maintain their power. After a series of events, the throne was finally annexed by the British Empire from his youngest son Duleep Singh.

The grateful people of Punjab pay their homage to their great son of the soil Maharaja Ranjit Singh whose 172th death anniversary falls on 27 June, 2011. ■



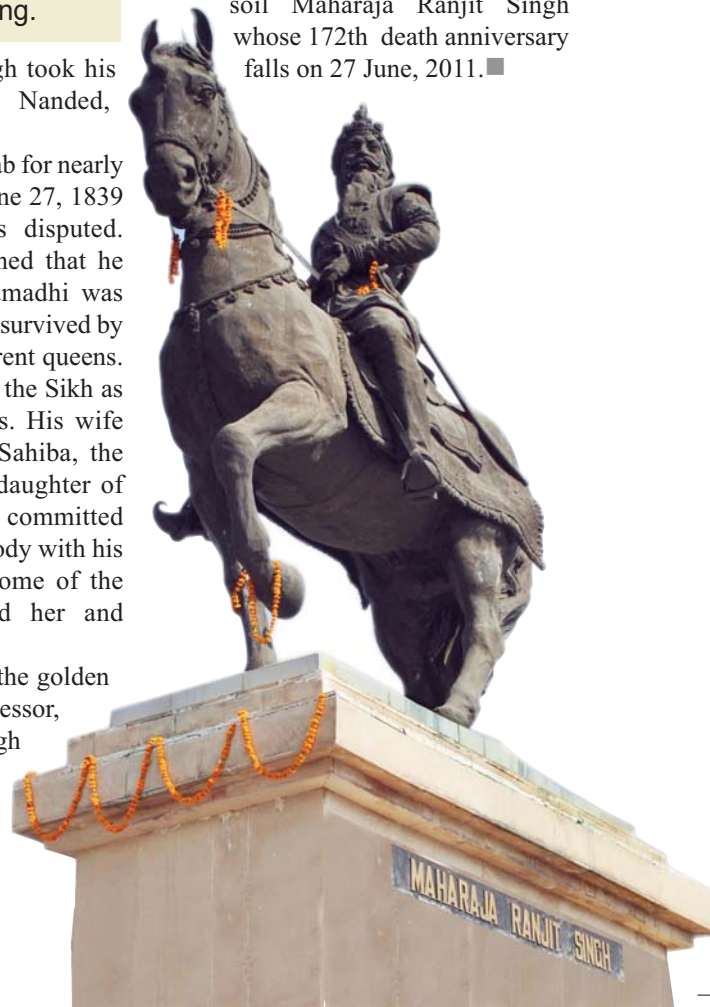
This is a full length oil portrait of the Maharaja Ranjit Singh, 80" x 52" oil on canvas. Completed in 2009 by the artist Manu Kaur Saluja, the portrait has a museum exhibition credit at the Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto), from Nov 28, 2009 through March 28, 2010. The painting depicts Ranjit Singh sitting on his golden throne within the walls of the Lahore Fort. He is in full dress armour, with the Koh-i-Noor diamond on his right arm in it's original setting.

Muslims, Hindus and Christians enjoying prominent positions in his administration along with the Sikhs. They all formed a part of the militia of the Sikhs. A disciplined and humane warrior, he saw to it that no Sikh ever perpetrated any kind of atrocity on anyone during his campaigns as the invaders often did at that time. History records no instance of his Sikh army having wantonly infused his hand in blood. The credit for this entirely goes to him. No place of worship was ever razed to the ground belonging to any minority community. On the other hand, he donated generously for the restoration of various Hindu temples. If he had donated gold and marble for the beautification of the Harmandir Sahib, he also gifted 820 kilograms of gold for the gold plating of the spire and ceilings of Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi in 1839. When he was on his deathbed in 1839, he willed

where Guru Gobind Singh took his mahasamadhi in Nanded, Maharashtra in 1708.

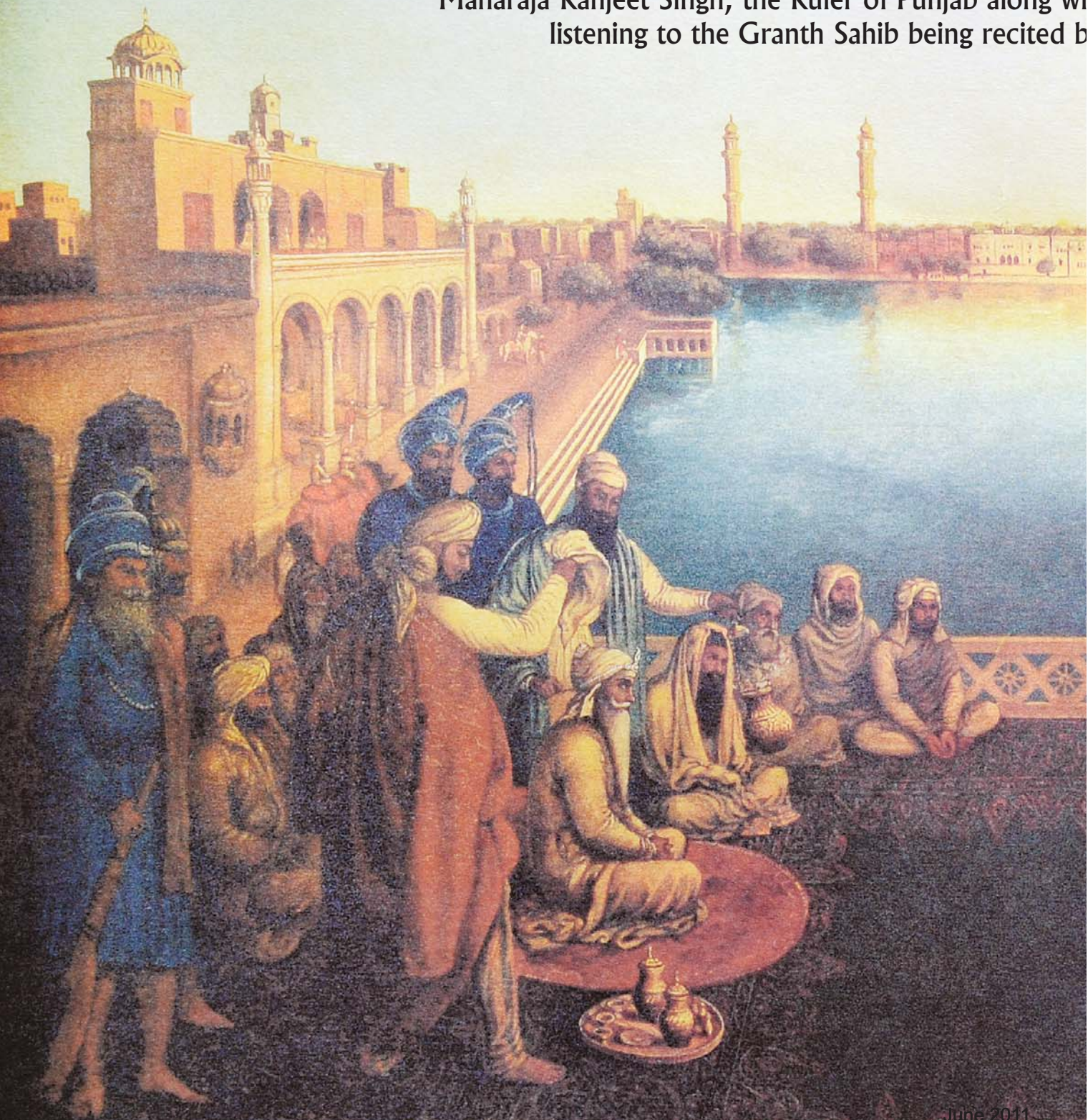
After ruling over Punjab for nearly forty years, he died on June 27, 1839 at Lahore. This date is disputed. Somewhere it is mentioned that he died on June 20. His samadhi was located at Lahore. He was survived by seven sons from his different queens. He was cremated by both the Sikh as well as the Hindu priests. His wife Maharani Mahtab Devi Sahiba, the Princess of Kangra and daughter of Maharaja Sansar Chand, committed sati with Ranjit Singh's body with his head lying in her lap. Some of the other wives also joined her and committed sati.

With his death ended the golden rule of Punjab as his successor, his elder son Kharak Singh didn't prove as worthy and able as his illustrious



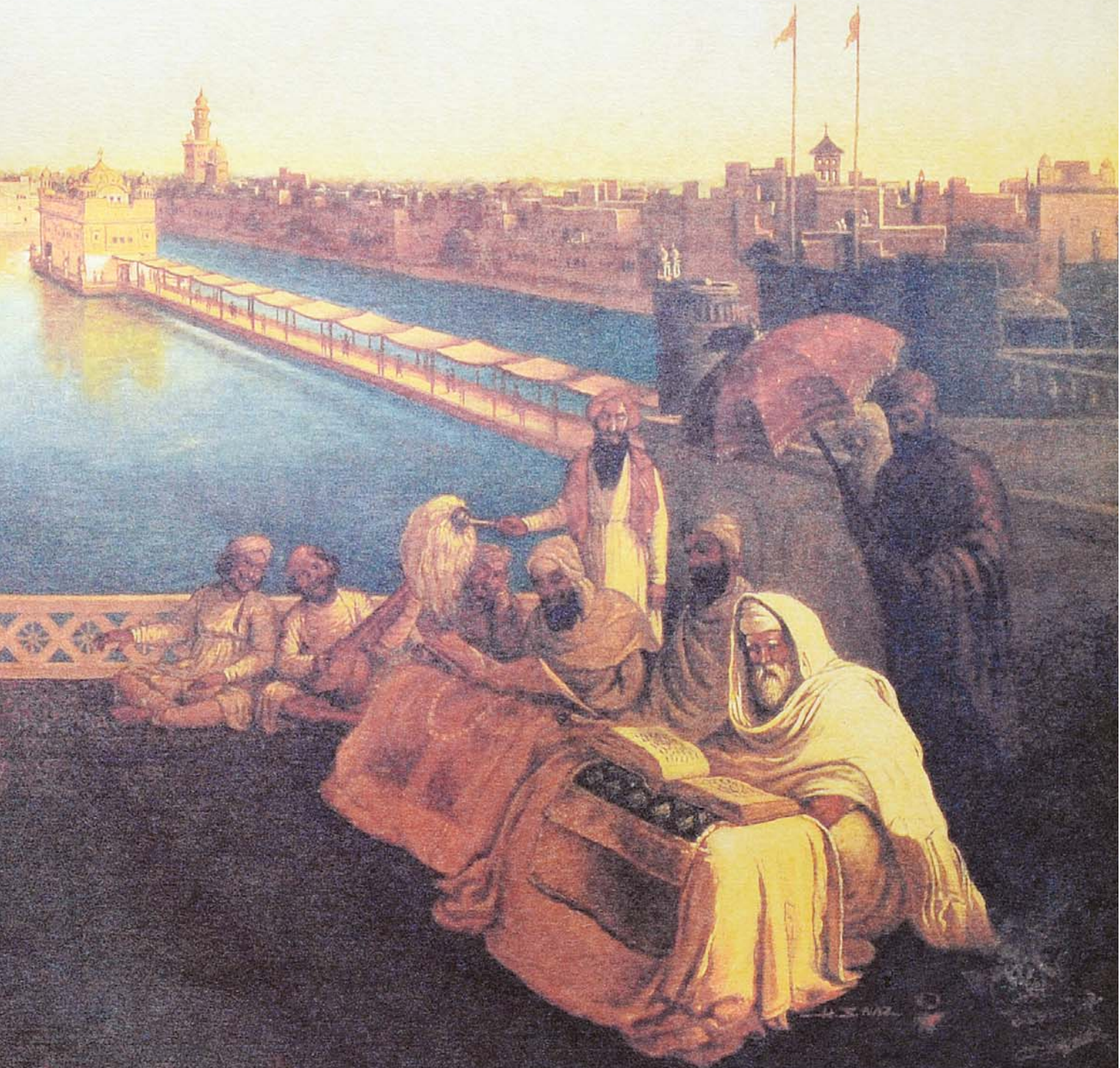
THE GOLDEN TEM

Maharaja Ranjeet Singh, the Ruler of Punjab along with
listening to the Granth Sahib being recited by



MPLE, UMRITSAR

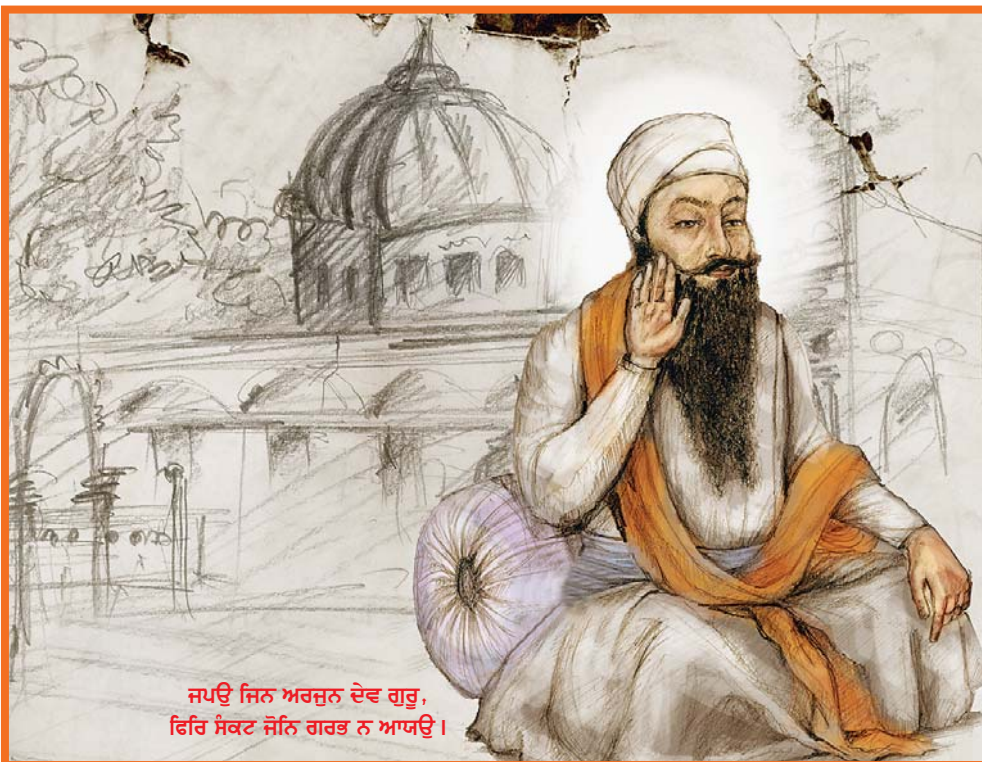
th Bhai Ram Singh, his most trusted spiritual advisor,
y Bhai Gurmukh Singh at the Bunga Sarkar.



(From a rare painting in the collection of Punjab Virasat Charitable Trust (Regd.)

Martyrs' Marvel

Guru Arjan Dev ji



ਜਪਉ ਜਿਨ ਅਰਜੁਨ ਦੇਵ ਗੁਰੂ,
ਫਿਰਿ ਸੰਕਟ ਜੋਨਿ ਗਰਭ ਨ ਆਯਉ।

His special initiative to take care of lepers

In the house of the Guru, protection is given to the sick, poor, needy and helpless. Guru Arjan Dev knew the plight of the lepers. Even their close relatives would not touch them. Guru Arjan Dev took special care of the lepers and created a home for them near the sacred Sarovar of Gurudwara Tarn Taran Sahib. Guru Sahib personally looked after the lepers by providing them with medicines, dresses and even showering his blessings on them. All the Sikhs followed the example of the Guru.

Advance Bureau

Guru Arjan Dev, a saint and scholar of rare piety and literary

attainments, fourth in succession to Guru Nanak - the founder of Sikh religion, was the first martyr of the Sikhism. The sect which had been

founded to transcend the division between Hindus and Muslims by preaching the gospel of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man, was exceedingly galling to the bigoted mind of the Mughal Emperor Jahangir who had firmly reasserted and declared the 'Islamic Shariyat' as the foundation of his Government when he ascended the throne. The heroic martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev demonstrated once again the stark fact that religious persecution is sinful, because no one has the right to stand between human soul and God.

He laid down his life for a principle and his example generated a new impulse for calm suffering and sacrifice.

Guru Arjan Dev (1563-1606) was in his teens when he was installed as Guru. He developed Amritsar as a centre of industry and culture for the Sikhs.

Guru Arjan Dev felt the need for the revelations of the Guru to be recorded in Word for the Sikhs. He collected sacred hymns of the first four Gurus and of the Bhagats and Bhattas. He dictated the sacred hymns including his own to Bhai Gurdaas and completed the compilation of the "Aad Granth" the first Scripture in 1604.

Guru Arjan Dev was a man of people and wielded great influence. His growing power and prestige aroused the jealousy of Emperor Jahangir. "He asked Guru Arjan Dev to change the text part of his granth to include the praises of prophet Mohammed. The Guru refused to do so. In the meantime, Chandu - a Diwan - who bore a grudge against the Guru - poisoned the mind of Jahangir with all sorts of false stories. Jahangir placed Guru Arjan Dev in the charge of Chandu. The latter perpetrated tortures for five days during the extremely hot month of June. The tortures included no food or water,

pouring boiling water on the Guru and throwing burning sand on him.

After nominating his son Guru Hargobind as his successor, the Guru was taken to the river bank. His body was then thrown into the river as a final torture. He is the first Guru martyr in Sikh history.

Famous story

It was during the time of Guru Arjan Dev sangat was coming from Kabul (Afghanistan) to Amritsar for his darshan. They met a Sikh and his wife on their way. This Sikh did a lot of sewa of the sangat. He massaged their legs, waved fan over them as they rested, brought water for them, everything. The next day they proceeded with this Sikh to Amritsar. As they reached Darbar Sahib, the head of the group asked a few boys to take care of the shoes of everyone. None of the boys was ready to do it, as they all were very eager to be the first ones to have darshan of Gurujee. At last this Sikh came forward and said I shall do it.

The sangat went inside and waited for 30-45 minutes, but Gurujee didn't show up. Then the head went ahead and asked Baba Buddha Jee where Gurujee was.



Babajee : Gurujee has gone to see the sangat coming from Kabul.

Head of group : But we are the sangat from Kabul!

Babajee : Didn't you meet Gurujee?

Head of group : No Babajee, we didn't. But we met a Sikh and his wife and they did a lot of sewa.

Babajee : Where is that Sikh now?

Head of group : We left him to look after the shoes of the sangat.

Babajee, followed by entire sangat

went outside to look for that Sikh. They saw him cleaning all the shoes with his own chola. It was none other than Guru Arjan Dev Jee Himself. Baba Buddha Jee went forward and took away the pair of shoes Gurujee was cleaning.

Babajee said "Why are you doing this?". The entire sangat was now in tears. Gurujee smiled and said "Babajee, I haven't seen Guru Nanak Dev Jee, but you have. Take a look again at this pair of shoes". Babajee took a good look at the pair of shoes, and since he had been with Guru Nanak Dev Jee, he immediately recognized that it was Guru Nanak Dev Jee's pair of shoes.

Moral : When doing sewa at the Gurdwara, do it with this thought in mind that who knows who is visiting the Gurdwara today! If you are cleaning a small kid's shoes, have in mind that it could belong to one of the Sahibzaade. If you are cleaning a bibi's shoes, have in mind that it could belong to Bibi Bhani. If you are cleaning a bhai ji's shoes, have in mind that it could belong to Bhai Bailo. ■

ਗੁਰੂ ਬਿਨੁ ਘੋਰੁ ਅੰਧਾਰੁ ਗੁਰੂ ਬਿਨੁ ਸਮਾਝ ਨ ਆਵੈ
ਗੁਰੂ ਬਿਨੁ ਸੁਰਤਿ ਨ ਸਿਧਿ ਗੁਰੂ ਬਿਨੁ ਮੁਕਤਿ ਨ ਪਾਵੈ

ਗੁਰੂ ਕਰੁ ਸਚੁ ਬੀਚਾਰੁ ਗੁਰੂ ਕਰੁ ਰੇ ਮਨ ਮੇਰੇ ॥

ਗੁਰੂ

ਗੁਰੂ ਕਰੁ ਸਬਦ ਸਪੁੰਨ ਅਖਨ ਕਟਹਿ ਸਭ ਤੇਰੇ ॥

ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਮਣਿ ਬਯਾਣਿ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੁਰੂ ਕਰਹੁ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਤਿ ਕਵਿ ਨਲੁ ਕਹਿ ॥

ਜਿਨਿ ਗੁਰੂ ਨ ਦੇਖਿਅਉ ਨਹੁ ਕੀਅਉ ਤੇ ਅਕਯਥ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਮਹਿ ॥4॥8॥

Shruti Setia Chhabra

Sixteen-year-old Jasjeet Kaur secured admission into class X in the current academic session, but she is not happy because she feels its her last year of schooling as there is no government senior secondary school in her village Jastarwal, Amritsar. The boys of this village go to Bhindi Saidan for classes XI and XII but most girls do not study beyond matriculation as they have no means to reach the senior secondary schools out of their village.

But now the Punjab Government has decided to change the fate of Jasjeet and all girl students in the state by giving them an option to cycle their way to nearby senior secondary schools. The government would provide cycles to all girls studying in classes XI and XII in government schools as part of a Mai Bhago Vidya Scheme, which was proposed in the annual Budget 2011-12 by the Finance Minister Dr Upinderjit Kaur.

The implementation of the scheme is being considered to be the top priority of the state government right now. The plans to implement this scheme by August 15 this year. These cycles will not only give wheels to these young upcoming girls in the state but also change the fate of many, especially those from the remote areas of the border belt.

Mr Tara Chand Sharma, retired principal of Government Senior Secondary School, Kot Baba Deep Singh, Amritsar who taught in the border villages for many years, told Advance, "There are many middle and high schools in villages like Noorawal, Chhan, Kotli Dasundhi, Toor, Khussupura, Talle which are acting as feeder schools but there are a very few senior secondary schools in these areas. Therefore, very few girls study beyond matriculation as it is not possible for them to reach far-off

Cycling to School



OVER 1,50,000 GIRLS TO GET WHEELS

Mai Bhago Vidya Scheme will change the fate of over 1,50,000 girls in the state by giving them wheels. According to data compiled by Education department, there are 73,728 girls studying in class 11 in various government schools and 81,213 girls studying in class 12. The number of students in class 11 is likely to increase after declaration of matriculation results.



senior secondary schools. Providing cycles to these girls would certainly change their fate and who knows some of them might become future Kiran Bedi, Amrita Pritam, Saroj Vahsishth, Kanta Talwar, Sheila Bhatia and Shanno Khurana.”

The Punjab government has earmarked Rs 75 crore to implement this scheme, of which Rs 30 crore has already been released by the Planning Department. Government machinery has also started looking for an appropriate model, colour and size of the cycle to be distributed among the girls. The Finance Minister mentioned in her Budget speech: “Under this free bicycles would be provided to all girl students of classes XI and XII in all government schools. The government also intends to implement this scheme

on a continued basis so that the long distances from home to high and senior secondary schools in villages should not affect education of girls.”

The announcement of this scheme has not only brought a ray of hope for the girl students in the state but has also spread excitement in the cycle industry of the state which is looking forward to huge orders by the government and are competing with each other to offer the best available with them. Welcoming the scheme a group of small submitted a representation to the government, emphasising that Ludhiana is the hub of cycle industry and many small-scale manufacturers have been providing bicycles to other states. Even in our state small producers should be given the chance. ■

Sr. No.	District Name	Class XI th	Class XII th
1.	Amritsar	1858	4510
2.	Barnala	1333	6916
3.	Bathinda	828	2549
4.	Faridkot	2494	1431
5.	Fatehgarh Sahib	1443	1750
6.	Ferozepur	3709	3428
7.	Gurdaspur	8632	7456
8.	Hoshiarpur	5828	7928
9.	Jalandhar	2439	4693
10.	Kapurthala	1773	1971

Sr. No.	District Name	Class XI th	Class XII th
11.	Ludhiana	19426	18553
12.	Mansa	2574	2115
13.	Moga	4194	257
14.	SAS Nagar	1819	1306
15.	Sri Muktsar Sahib	3528	1975
16.	SBS Nagar	3355	4026
17.	Patiala	1947	3719
18.	Rupnagar	2167	1655
19.	Sangrur	1438	2382
20.	Tarn Taran	2943	2593

Total XIth-73728 and XIIth-81213

EVERYTHING IS IN A ‘NAME’

The name of the scheme has been well thought about as girl students can take inspiration from the history of Mai Bhago and be the leaders. Mai Bhago led Sikh soldiers against the Mughals in 1704. She killed several enemy soldiers on the battlefield, and is considered to be a saint by Sikhs.

Mughals and hilly chiefs had surrounded Anandpur and were demanding its evacuation. They announced that any Sikh who would say that "he is not anymore a Sikh of Guru Gobind" will be left untouched while others will be done to death. A group of 40 Sikhs told Guru Gobind Singh that they were not his Sikhs anymore. Mai Bhago was distressed to hear that some of the Sikhs of her neighbourhood who had gone to Anandpur to fight for Guru Gobind Singh had deserted him under adverse conditions. Hearing her taunts, these Sikhs were ashamed of their deed. She rallied the deserters persuading them to meet the Guru and apologise to him.

After the Chamkaur Sahib battle, Mai Bhago stayed on with Guru Gobind Singh as one of his bodyguards in male attire. After the death of Guru Gobind Singh at Nanded in 1708, she retired further south. She settled down at Jinvara, 11 km from Bidar in Karnataka. Her hut in Jinvara has now been converted into Gurdwara Tap-Asthan Mai Bhago.

ਮਹਾਂਬਲੀ ਰਣਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਹੋਇਆ ਪੈਦਾ, ਨਾਲ ਜ਼ੋਰ ਦੇ ਮੁਲਕ ਹਿਲਾਇ ਗਿਆ।
ਸ਼ਾਹ ਮੁਹੰਮਦਾ ਜਾਣ ਪਚਾਸ ਬਰਸਾਂ, ਅੱਛਾ ਰੱਜ ਕੇ ਰਾਜ ਕਮਾਇ ਗਿਆ।

Protagonist of Punjab and Punjabiati



Punjab Government pays rich tributes to

Sher-e-Punjab
MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH JI

On his 172nd Death Anniversary



S. SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL
Deputy Chief Minister, Punjab



S. PARKASH SINGH BADAL
Chief Minister, Punjab



SH. TIKSHAN SOOD
Cabinet Minister, Punjab

along with other Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, MLAs and other dignitaries
will pay their homage to the great martyr

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

Social Reformer Par Excellence

Advance Bureau

Amongst the several saints that have blessed our country, Kabir Das, the well known mystic poet, deserves a major credit for bringing about a revolution. He was a man of principles and practiced what he preached. People called him by different names like Das, Sant, Bhakta etc. As Das, he was referred to as the servant of humanity and thus a servant of divinity.

Kabir played the role of a teacher and social reformer by the medium of his writings, which mainly consisted of the two line verses called Dohas. He had a strong belief in Vedanta, Sufism, Vaishnavism and Nath sampradaya. He applied the knowledge that he gained through the various experiences of his life.

There are plenty of legends associated with the birth and death of Kabir (1440 -1518).

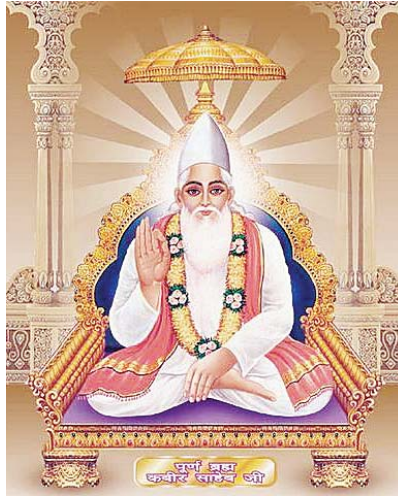
There is common belief that a Brahmin widow had thrown him and a Muslim weaver, Neeru, brought him up. A school of thought also believes that he married a girl called 'Loi' and fathered two children.

Kabir's poetry is a reflection of his philosophy about life. His writings were mainly based on the concept of reincarnation and karma. Kabir believed in living life in a very simple manner. He had a strong faith in the concept of oneness of God.

He supported the idea of minimalist living that was advocated by the Sufis. Kabir was strictly against the practice of hypocrisy and didn't like people maintaining double standards. He always preached people to be compassionate towards other living beings and practice true love. He urged the need to have company of

Kabir

Das, Sant, Bhakta



*Kabir Man Nirmal Bhaya,
Jaise Ganga Neer
Pache Pache Har Phire,
Kahat Kabir Kabir*

Kabir Dohas

Kabir is famous for his two line verses that are more popularly known as 'Kabir ke dohe.' Dohas of Kabir expressed love, mysticism and philosophy in the most beautiful manner. His dohas are not just popular amongst the Indians, but are also liked by the people staying abroad. Read further and check out a few dohas that are chosen from his vast collection.

good people that adhere to values and principles. Well, Kabir has very beautifully expressed his values and beliefs in his writings that include dohas, poems, Ramainis, Kaharvaas and Shabads.

When Saint Kabir breathed his last, the Hindus and Muslims had a difference of opinion about his last rites. But when a group of people removed the sheet from his body, they found flowers instead of the dead body. The followers divided these flowers equally between Hindus and Muslims. The Hindus cremated the flowers while the Muslims buried those.

The place where Kabir's family used to stay in Varanasi is now popularly known as 'Kabir Chaura'. Kabir Math and Neeru Teela are also situated here. Stay arrangements for students and researchers working on Kabir are also made here. ■

- Maya Mari Na Man Mara, Mar Mar Gaye Shareer, Asha Trishna Na Mari, Keh Gaye Das Kabir
- Aasa Jive Jag Marey, Log Marey Mar Jayee, Soyee Sube Dhan Sanchate, So Ubrey Jo Khayee
- Chalti Chakki Dekh Kar, Dekh Kabira Roye, Dui Paatan Ke Beech Mein, Sabit Bacha Na Koye
- Kaal Kare So Aaj Kar, Aaj Kare So Ub, Pal Mein Pralaya Hoyegi, Bahuri Karoge Kub
- Moond Munddavat Din Gaye, Ajhun Na Miliya Raam
- Bada Hua To Kya Hua, Jaise Ped Khajoor, Panthi Ko Chhaya Nahin, Phal Laage Atidoor
- Pothi Padh Padh Jag Mua, Pandit Bhayo Na Koye, Dhai Aakhar Prem Ke, Padhe So Pandit Hoye

Youngest Sikh Mayor in UK

Advance Bureau

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, 32, has become the youngest Sikh mayor in UK after he got unanimously elected by majority Labour councilors in Gravesham council in the south-east county of Kent.

The election to the 44 seats of the council being governed by Conservatives, was held in May. Labour got 25 seats while Conservatives trailed with 19. The Labour party councilors unanimously elected Dhesi as mayor. .

Tanmanjeet was born on August 17, 1978 in Ascot, Berkshire; when his parents lived in the nearby town of Slough. His father, Jaspal Singh Dhesi, worked in the construction industry and eventually went on to set up his own company with his wife, Dalwinder Kaur Dhesi.

Tanmanjeet received most of his primary education in a boarding school in the Punjab, India. He is thankful to his parents for sending him for studies to Punjab, India as it helped him inculcate discipline, character and some of the values he stands for today. It also influenced his linguistic capabilities and cultural understanding allowing him to easily communicate and associate with South Asians all over the world. He returned to the UK to finish his rest of education.

Tanmanjeet had the privilege of having studied in three of the most prestigious universities in the country. He studied at University College London and, Keble College, Oxford University. Then he went on to explore the history and politics of South Asia while studying for his MPhil at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University.

Upon completing his studies, he joined the family business with a vision to take it to another level as



well as to shoulder the burden of his family. To get a complete understanding of the business, Tanmanjeet worked at every level within the organisation. He had also gained experience earlier during vacations from school/university when he used to work on the construction site as a handyman, scabber, core driller and even a general labourer. He then worked his way up from site foreman to site manager, then project manager and eventually project director on site. Given Tanmanjeet's vision and deep family roots in politics and social work, with both his parents actively volunteering for charitable initiatives and both his father-in-law and uncle contesting for the Legislative Assembly of Punjab on numerous occasions, it was inevitable that he

would be inspired to choose a similar path and enter the political arena with the intentions of making a difference for the betterment of society.

After he returned from Scotland, he was encouraged to contest the local council elections, at the age of 29. He was elected as a councillor from Northfleet North Ward in 2007. . The rigorous doorstep micro-campaigning by a large number of family and friends played a crucial role in ensuring that this outstanding result transpired.

Tanmanjeet's passion for studying languages, cultures and the desire to be able to communicate with others has led him to be a well versed polyglot being fluent in Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu and French as well as having a working knowledge of German, Italian and Latin.

Currently, Tanmanjeet is a School Governor in two local schools - one is a nursery school, while the other is a secondary school. He is also the Chairman of the Gravesham Constituency Labour Party - a post to which he has been elected unanimously by his fellow party members in both 2009 and 2010. Within Gravesham council, Tanmanjeet is the Shadow Cabinet Member (responsible for the Communities Portfolio). He is up for re-election from his Northfleet North ward in May 2011.

Tanmanjeet will continue to work hard for all the residents of Northfleet North, and indeed the entire Gravesham Borough, regardless of their background. As he says, "Everyone can work/live for themselves, but it is the potential to help others (especially those who are vulnerable/less able than yourself) that stands you apart from the crowd. Each person can spend time helping him/herself, but to take the time out to help others is a much more valuable asset to have in one's personality." ■

Punjabian di balle, balle in Canadian politics

Eight win parliamantary elections

Advance Bureau

It was a magnificent achievement of the Punjabis abroad as eight members of the community were elected as Members of Canadian Parliament in the recently held elections. The country, which has a sizeable section of the community, saw new as well as old faces registering spectacular wins in the elections. The victory of these eight MPs once again proved the popularity, reputation and the clout which the Punjabi community has come to command in the country, miles away from their homeland.

In a congratulatory message, Punjab Chief Minister S Parkash Singh Badal said the victory of these MPs in Canada had once again proved that the Punjabis could achieve success in any field due to their hard work and honesty. He asserted that the Punjabi MPs would play a significant role in the overall development of their native state along with that of Canada. Badal also hoped that the newly elected MPs would efficiently raise the issues concerning the people of Punjab at an appropriate forum to attract global attention, if needed. Meanwhile, he congratulated the Punjabis settled in Canada for the overwhelming response in the democratic process by taking part in the recently concluded federal elections.



PARM GILL

Born in Purnewal village in Moga district, Parm Gill was raised and educated in Toronto from the age of 14 when he migrated with his family to

Canada. Parm currently works as a senior vice-president of Paramount Manufacturing. Involved in several prominent community organizations, including Canadian Eyesight International and membership of the

Malaysian Singapore Cultural Association, Parm has also been an active volunteer of Peel Regional Police.



BALJIT GOSAL

Bal and his family have lived in Brampton for over 22 years. Born at Ratainda village in Nawanshahr district, now Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Bal

moved to Canada in 1981. Originally residing in British Columbia, he settled in Brampton in 1983. Bal has been an active member of Brampton as a high-profile contributor to many local community agencies and services, including the Peel Region Police Services Board and the Ontario Film Review Board.



NARINDER (NINA) GREWAL

Nina Grewal rode the wave to a Tory majority victory winning her fourth straight term. Grewal lived in Japan, India and

Liberia before migrating to Canada with her family. From the day Grewal arrived in Canada, she contributed to improving Canadian society through community service, volunteer work and hard work.



DEEPAK OBHRAI

He was first elected in 1997 for the Reform Party of Canada, and was re-elected when the Reform Party became the Canadian Alliance in 2000. He was

also one of four Alliance MPs who agreed to sit with the Progressive Conservative caucus after the December 9, 2003 creation of the merged Conservative Party, as the Progressive Conservative and Canadian Alliance parliamentary caucuses were not officially merged

until a few weeks later.

DAVINDER SHORY



Hailing from Barnala district of Punjab, Davinder Shory had earned a huge respect for him in Canada. He represents the electoral district of

Calgary Northeast as a federal Member of Parliament and was first elected in the 2008 Canadian federal election. He is a member of the Conservative Party

JASBIR SANDHU



He was elected to the Canadian House of Commons in the 2011 elections. He represents the electoral district of Surrey North as a member of the New Democratic Party.

TIM UPPAL



He represents the Conservative Party of Canada. From 1992 to 1997, He is the founder and president of the South Edmonton Youth Group and has been a member

of the Capital Health Community Health Council since 2001. For several years Uppal was an active member of the Sherwood Park Chamber of Commerce and the Sherwood Park Rotary Club. He was also a founding member of the Edmonton Police Community Advisory Council

JINNY SIMS



Jinny Sima was elected to the Canadian House of Commons in the 2011 elections. She represents the electoral district of Newton—North Delta as a member

of the New Democratic Party. ■

Cheer leaders fur on the Cricket Field

Abhijit Chatterjee

Many eyebrows, especially among the purists, were raised when they were introduced to the world of international cricket five years ago. They brought in an element of glamour in a game which had very little to offer off the field. They were the cheerleaders, young girls in scanty dresses brought in to bring in some colour as well as viewerships, both on television as well as on the ground in a game tailor-made for the generation in a hurry.

Cheerleaders were brought in to the Twenty20 game of cricket in an effort to draw people who might otherwise have very little interest in the game. And when the shortest form of cricket travelled to India, first through the now-defunct ICL and then the Lalit Modi powered IPL, the cheerleaders made their entrance on to Indian cricketing venues. Young beautiful girls, coming from different countries of the world, ranging from Uzbekistan to the United States, these cheerleaders added the oomph factor to the game. Together with the cheerleaders and the loud music the game of cricket (specially the shortest version) has undergone a total transformation. However, the reactions to the presence of cheerleaders are quite diverse.

On one hand, we have people who feel that the scantily-clad cheerleaders, cheering whenever their team players hit a boundary or a sixer or get a wicket, make the game more entertaining. On the other, a section of society feels that these women, dressed to the bare minimum, degrade the spirit of the game and can also make the players lose their concentration. Whatever be the reaction the IPL cheerleaders are here



Cheerleaders do their routine at an IPL match

to stay!

But what has brought the whole issue of having cheerleaders to the fore in recent days is what has happened off the ground. South African cheerleader Gabriella Pasqualotto has become a sensation and a celebrity after being thrown out of the IPL for secretly blogging on player behaviour in post-match parties. In her blog Gabriella said she believed many cheerleaders had intimate relations with cricketers, especially those from abroad. (In her blog the South African was quick to point out that the Indian cricketers, including Dhoni and Rohit Sharma, were well behaved and kept to themselves) and accused her employers of being "hypocritical".

Reports suggest she was sacked

after a cricketer and another cheerleader complained to the IPL chairperson." I was sent home as if I was a criminal. I was treated as if I had taken drugs or done something awful and I was never offered an opportunity to give my side of the story," Gabriella told the media in South Africa once she returned home. "It's a joke. There are cameras everywhere at these after-parties watching what they (the players) are up to. The guys treated us like pieces of meat. We couldn't go anywhere without the crowds mobbing us and many of the girls did not behave. But nothing I wrote was directed at any one person. I think the cricketers who complained had a guilty conscience," she was quoted as saying. The 22-year-old Gabriella, from Pietermaritzburg, was one of the

40 South African cheerleaders in the IPL and was employed by Mumbai Indians. She reportedly wrote about "flirtatious" and "inappropriate" behavior by the cricketers and even mentioned some of them. South African media reported that her blogs created "privacy concerns" for the players.

Cheerleaders have often been part of discussion, They are very much synonym to the IPL. In fact, the height was reached when a channel started hosting a show for competition (to choose cheergirls for Kolkata Knight Riders) for IPL 3 and although they are referred to as "cheerleaders", it is very hard to understand who are they cheering up? Because people started discussing about cheerleaders more than the match they are watching.

Cheerleading, it is said, is to celebrate the performance of the playing teams and to create excitement in the game. With every boundary stroke sculpted bodied girls sway the spectators with their one to three minutes dance. Cheerleading abroad, like other sports, has become a full-fledged profession. The girl aspiring to be a cheerleader has to sweat for hours in the sports field like other sportsmen to keep their body fit and maintain their hourglass figure for visual appeal. Like other sportsmen, the cheerleader girls also suffer injuries during practice.

Cheerleaders have, however, evoked a lot of controversy in the past. Those who come to enjoy the game with their families find the vulgar movements of the cheerleaders quite embarrassing. Their semi-nude bodies and tantalizing body movements have offended the sensibilities of many. Whatever we say the young gorgeous imported cheerleaders gyrating their bodies to the peppy tunes do cast a magic spell on the young spectators.

Although there are some predictable criticisms from the usual



Desi cheergirl

suspects among the country's moral police, so far the extent of protest seems remarkably subdued in a tradition-bound nation. While one cannot guarantee that it would remain so, it is possible that the 'outrage' over the cheerleaders would not amount to anything much.

Cheerleading comes to India at a time when its movies have significantly demystified the female body with its many raunchy songs in which girls dress and dance far more provocatively than what was on display at the Indian Premier League games. In the past decade or so the "item numbers" in Hindi movies have immunized the young against any possible shock. The amount of crotch grinding and artless suggestiveness that Hindi movie starlets engage in some of the "item numbers" far surpasses anything that the cheerleaders might do.

This many would argue, is an attempt to mix cricket with the glamour world and also to entertain the audiences during the match on the field. Although cheerleading in India become simply beautiful girls dancing on the field with less and less clothes but the real cheerleading is far from the simple dancing. The cheer girls dressed in western outfits was the attraction of the Indian Premier League in the previous three editions.

But this time around, cricket fans were in for a pleasant surprise as cheer girls clad in Indian outfits were spotted at few venues teams like Pune Warriors and Kochin Tuskers have brought cheer queens dressed in saree for the tournament. For Pune Warriors, the cheer queens are dressed in seven different ethnic Indian outfits. They perform seven classical dance forms during the match. The costumes have been designed by Neeta Lulla and the choreography is by leading choreographers Tanusree Shankar and Ganesh Hegde. Subrato Roy, owner of the Pune Warriors, says, "With the cheer queens, we intend to showcase and bring recognition to the rich and diverse culture of India on an international platform." It is a first-of-its kind attempt and it has gone well with audience. Also it provides us an opportunity to showcase our Indian culture and tradition in the IPL, which is watched by millions of cricket lovers across the globe, says a cricket lover. On the other side of the spectrum, there are many spectators who throng the venues to only ogle at



Gabriella

the cheer girls. There were reports from certain venues to suggest that spectators were lining up only to see these girls in action. The effort of the players on the field meant very little to them, While there is no denying the fact that cheergirls are a part and parcel of games like the NBA in the USA they are not, thankfully, not a part of the English Premier League. Indian cricket needs to debate further and then decide whether we really need them! ■

Kabaddi is King

Balbir Singh

Mission Revival Kabaddi. With a view to accomplish this task, the Punjab Government has initiated concrete steps under the dynamic leadership of Punjab Sports Minister S Sukhbir Singh Badal, who is also

discipline kabaddi, known as "maakhed" (mother of all games), properly channelising the youth power in the right direction and keeping the youth away from drug menace and placing kabaddi on the world map in an organised manner. Punjabis are spreading this discipline world-over.

Punjab's mother sport finally takes the world stage

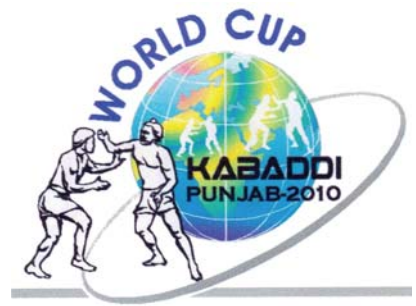
Deputy Chief Minister.

The movement is aimed at popularising the crowd-pulling sports

The astonishing success in the inaugural Rs 2.2 crore Prize Money Nine-Nation World Cup Kabaddi



"Hold on its my cup" Strength stamina and speed are the buzzword in the sports



2010 conducted by the Punjab Government under the visionary supervision of energetic S Sukhbir Badal has infused a new life into kabaddi. The matches were played at Patiala, Sangrur, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Bhatinda and Ludhiana from April 3 to 12, 2010. All venues were jam-packed and the need for more spacious stadia to accommodate players to watch the world class kabaddi players in action.

Traditional rivals India and Pakistan are formidable circle kabaddi players. They possess the qualities of a wrestler as well as rugby player. Now the foreigners have been fascinated with kabaddi.

The Deputy Chief Minister received numerous phone calls informing him that in Canada and other countries, the historical clash between circle kabaddi giants India and Pakistan was witnessed with great enthusiasm. Newspapers in Italy, USA, Australia, Pakistan and other countries highlighted the grand success of the World Cup Kabaddi Punjab-2010.

Sukhbir Badal's dream to get circle Kabaddi international recognition had been fulfilled with tremendous response the World Cup Kabaddi got. The first step he took after getting the Sports portfolio was the direction given to the Sports Department that kabaddi should come under the umbrella of sports gradation. This raised the hopes of the kabaddi players to adopt sports as a

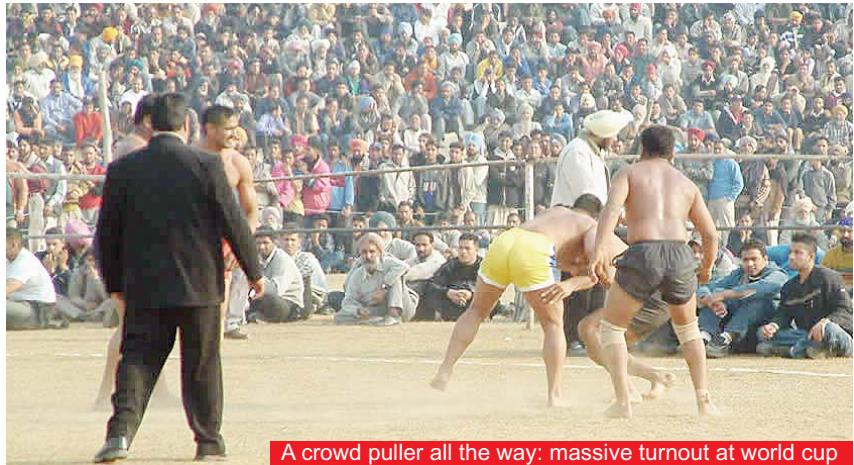
career.

Praising the laudable efforts of Sukhbir Badal, who was the chairman of the Pearls WCKP-2010, Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India president Janardhan Gehlot announced "2010 is the first "official World Cup Circle Kabaddi Tournament which is recognized by the International Kabaddi Federation and the Government of India. With recognition from the Government of India, the circle kabaddi players would be entitled to receive all benefits given to other sportspersons."

Various circle kabaddi tournaments are conducted throughout Punjab but these tournaments were lacking proper sanction. The WCKP-21 had also the sanction of the Punjab Kabaddi Association.

Having tasted success, Sukhbir Badal would also be making all out efforts to get circle kabaddi included in the Asian Games, the Commonwealth Games and the Olympic Games.

The players and officials accompanying the teams appreciated that the Punjab Government's move to provide top class facilities for their boarding and lodging and the fabulous cash prizes. The victorious Indian team received a purse of Rs one crore



A crowd puller all the way: massive turnout at world cup

and while runners-up Pakistan were presented a cheque of Rs 51 lakh by Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal.

Canada who beat Italy in a match to decide third and fourth positions got a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh. Italy received Rs 10 lakh. The winners and runners-up also received glittering running trophies. Each participating nation also got Rs 5 lakh appearance money. It was the highest ever prize money circle kabaddi tournament in India.

Indian captain Mangat Singh Mangi was adjudged the best stopper and Canadian Kuljit Singh Malsihan was adjudged the best raider. Maggi and Malsihan were awarded a

tractor each.

Kabaddi players are now turning professionals. Leading Indian players playing for different clubs in Canada, United Kingdom and other European countries are making good money. Top 40 kabaddi players of India earn 20 to 25 lakh in the four-month season in Canada, UK and other European countries. As many as 60 Indian players' annual earning while representing different clubs abroad is between 10 to 15 lakhs.

Encouraged with the tremendous success, S Sukhbir Badal, does not want to rest on the laurels earned during the WCKP-2010. The Punjab Government is planning to make it an annual affair and an Indian Premier Kabaddi League on the pater of Indian Premier Cricket League has also been mooted by the Punjab Government.

Besides these handsome cash incentives, the Punjab Government is also determined to provide jobs to outstanding Punjab sportspersons in Government departments, board and corporations. The Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal had recently directed the Punjab Sports Department to expedite the cases of eligible sportspersons for Government jobs. ■

Writer is former Deputy News Editor of The Indian Express



Going high tech: Sukhbir Singh Badal efforts to modernize the sport began with upgrading the facilities.

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT PAYS RICH TRIBUTES TO THE
FOUNDER OF GURUDWARA REFORMS MOVEMENT,
A FIRM BELIEVER OF SIKHISM AND A TRUE NATIONALIST

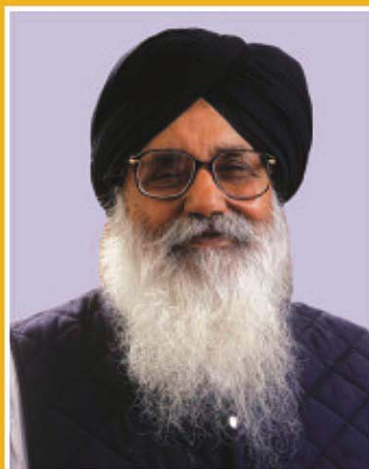


Panth Rattan
MASTER TARA SINGH JI

on the occasion of the 127th Birth Anniversary
of the Illustrious Son of India.



S. SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL
Deputy Chief Minister, Punjab



S. PARKASH SINGH BADAL
Chief Minister, Punjab



SH. TIKSHAN SOOD
Cabinet Minister, Punjab

The Real Heroes

This series is a part of our commitment to bring people's and government's focus on the country's most important and critical segment - the defence personnel.

Advance Bureau

Lance Naik Karam Singh was born on September 15, 1915, in Barnala, Punjab. He was enrolled in 1 Sikh on September 15, 1941. He had earned a Military Medal in World War II. During the Jammu & Kashmir operations in the summer of 1948 the Indian Army made substantial gains in the Tithwal sector. This led to the capture of Tithwal of May 23, 1948. The enemy fled in utter confusion across the Kishanganga after dumping their arms and equipment in the river. But the enemy quickly recovered from this shock. They re-organised their forces and mounted a strong counter-attack to recover the lost ground. As a result, the Indian Army could not withstand the enemy pressure and withdrew from their positions across the Kishanganga River. Finally, they settled on the Tithwal ridge to take on the enemy. The battle of Tithwal went on for months. On October 13, they launched a desperate attack in brigade strength to evict the Indian Army from their strongly held positions. The objective was to recapture Richmar Gali to the south of Tithwal and to outflank the Indian Army by marching on to Nastachur Pass to the east of Tithwal. Both attempts failed. During this attack, some bitter fighting took place in the Richmar Gali area on the night of October 13. In this action, the 1 Sikh played a very important role in beating back the enemy onslaught. Lance Naik Karam Singh was commanding a forward outpost when the enemy launched the attack. The enemy in vastly superior strength attacked his post. The outpost was attacked eight times and the Sikhs repulsed the enemy every time. When

ammunition ran short, Lance Naik Karam Singh joined the main company position, knowing fully well that due to the heavy enemy shelling no help would be forthcoming. Although wounded, he brought back two injured comrades with the help of a third mate. Ringed by enemy fire, it was almost impossible for them to break out. Twice wounded, he refused evacuation and continued to hold on to the first-line trenches. The fifth enemy attack was very intense. Two enemy soldiers came so close to his position that he could not engage them without hitting his men. Lance Naik Karam Singh, jumped out of his trench and bayoneted the two intruders to death. This bold action so demoralised the enemy that they



broke off the attack. Lance Naik Karam Singh and his men also repulsed three more enemy attacks, which followed. He was honoured with the highest wartime gallantry medal, Param Vir Chakra, for his outstanding role in the battle of Tithwal. ■

Citation for Param Vir Chakra

Tithwal in Jammu and Kashmir was captured on 23 May 1948. After that date, the enemy made numerous attempts to recapture Richmar Gali, and thence Tithwal. On 13 October 1948, coinciding with Id, the enemy decided to launch a brigade attack to retake Richmar Gali, and bypassing Tithwal, advance into the Srinagar Valley. Lance Naik Karam Singh was commanding a section at Richmar Gali. The enemy commenced its attack with heavy shelling of guns and mortars. The fire was so accurate that not a single bunker in the platoon locality was left unscathed.

Communication trenches caved in. Bravely, Lance Naik Karam Singh went from bunker to bunker, giving succor to the wounded and urging the men to fight. The enemy launched eight separate attacks that day. In one such attack, the enemy managed to obtain a foothold in the platoon locality. Immediately, Lance Naik Karam Singh, who was severely wounded by then, with a few men, hurled himself in a counter-attack and evicted the enemy after a close quarter encounter which accounted for many enemy dead, having been dispatched by the bayonet. Lance Naik Karam Singh proved himself to be a dauntless leader of men in crisis. Nothing could subdue him and no amount of fire or hardship could break his spirit.

Cabinet reshuffle

Fine tuning the pack

Three new faces in the Cabinet

Advance Bureau

The SAD-BJP government headed by the Chief Minister S Parkash Singh Badal underwent a ministerial reshuffle this month after the junior partner in the coalition government decided to replace some of its nominees in the Cabinet with new faces.

In the process, three ministers including Mr Manoranjan Kalia, Ch



Swarna Ram and Master Mohan Lal lost their ministerial births. In their place, senior BJP leaders, Mr Satpal Gosain, Mr Surjit Kumar Jayani and Mr Arunesh Shakir were inducted.

Two other senior BJP ministers, Mr Tikshan Sood and Mrs Luxmi Kanta Chawla were retained but their portfolios were changed. Mr Sood was also elected leader of the 19-member BJP group in the State assembly in place of Mr Kalia. The oath of office and secrecy was administered to the new entrants by the Governor, Mr S. K. Patil, at a simple ceremony held at Punjab Raj Bhawan. The simple but dignified ceremony was attended among others by the Chief Minister, many of his Cabinet colleagues, BJP leader, Mr Shanta Kumar who is also the in charge of party affairs in the State. One of the outgoing ministers, Mr Kalia was also among those present.

Earlier, a separate ceremony was held at Punjab Bhawan where the Chief Minister administered the oath of office and secretary to five BJP legislators as Chief Parliamentary Secretaries.

They are Mr Sukhpal Singh Nannu, who had resigned earlier as a part of the elaborate reshuffle exercise order by the BJP High Command, Mr K D Bhandari, Mr Amarjit Singh Sahi, Mr Bishamber Dass and Mr Dinesh Singh. Two of them were replacements for Mr Jagdish Sawney and Mr Raj Khurana who had quit earlier. The overall ministerial strength of the Badal government remains the same at 17, including the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief number of Chief Parliamentary Secretaries, who hold rank equivalent



to that of a minister of state, has gone up to 15.

The Cabinet Minister, Mr. Tikshan Sood will now look after the portfolio

of Local Government, Industries & Commerce & Parliamentary Affairs and Prof. (Ms) Laxmi Kanta Chawla will now hold the portfolio of Social Security and Women & Child Development. Similarly, the other newly sworn in Cabinet Minister Mr. Satpal Gosain has been given the charge of Health & Family Welfare Department, Mr. Surjit Kumar Jiyani has been allocated the portfolios of Transport, Technical Education & Industrial Training and Mr. Arunesh Shakir will look after Forest & Wild Life Preservation, Labour and Medical Education & Research Departments.

The newly appointed Chief Parliamentary Secretary Mr. K.D. Bhandari has been allotted Excise & Taxation Department and attached with the Chief Minister. Likewise Mr. Amarjit Singh Sahi, Finance Department and attached with Dr. Upinderjit Kaur, Mr. Dinesh Singh has been allotted Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs attached with Mr. Adesh Partap Singh Kairon, Mr.



Sukhpal Singh Nannu has been allotted Revenue, Rehabilitation & Disaster Management attached with Mr. Ajit Singh Kohar

and Mr. Bishambar Dass has been allotted Forest & Wild Life Preservation attached with Mr. Arunesh Shakir. ■



The Meek Inheritor

A newspaper agent's son bags 41st rank in IAS results

Seven more clear UPSC examination

Advance Bureau

He and his father had been distributing newspapers for years but May 11, 2011 was a different day. As soon as they finished their early morning chores they realized that



Lalit Jain

Lalit Jain son of Shashi Pal Jain was the biggest newsmaker in town.

Kharar resident Lalit cleared the civil services examination with flying colours by securing 41st rank. Lalit who would soon rub shoulders with senior officials in the state, started helping his father in newspaper distribution at the age of 13.

Jain did his schooling in St John's School, Chandigarh and then studied in DAV College, Government College for Boys and Panjab University at Chandigarh. Sharing his vision Jain said, "DC's office should function like a customer care office where public grievance are dealt on a single phone call." Lalit is the highest rank holder among seven others from Punjab who have cleared the civil services examination this year.

The other seven are:

Apneet Rayat: Matriculate from St. Joseph's School and M. Phil in Political Science from Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Apneet is first girl from Phagwara to clear civil services examination.

Kashish Mittal: Computer Science engineer from IIT, He secured 50th rank in UPSC in his first attempt. Mittal got inspired to join civil services from his father Jagdish Mittal, IPS and uncle C S Talwar, IAS. Resident of Mohali, Kashish aims to improve public service delivery system as he joins the league of officers.

Dr Nanak Singh: MBBS from Government Medical College, Amritsar. Dr Nanak Singh cleared the exam in his first attempt. He is currently working as a rural medical officer at subsidiary health centre, Sangatpura, since March 2011.

Daljit Kaur: She is a product of School of Social Sciences, under Guru Nanak Dev University. Kaur is also first time lucky in clearing the exams.

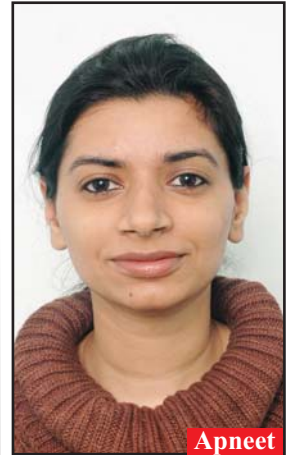
Swati Chopra: Also cracking the exam in the first attempt, she was working with an MNC in Gurgaon. Kathak dance and yoga are two things she is passionate about.

Jatin Chopra: Also a graduate of School of Social Sciences, Jatin wanted to be a helping hand for the rural folk of the border villages.

Barjinder Singh: He has completed his graduation from School of Social Sciences. Even though he belongs to a prosperous family, he believes in establishing his own identity. "This was my way of expressing my identity and I did it", said Barjinder. ■



Swati Chopra



Apneet



Jatin Chopra



Daljit Kaur



Kashish Mittal

All Punjab Police Personnel to get unique IDs

The Punjab Police has become the first force in the country to issue Unique Identification Number (UID) to all members of its force right from constable to DGP rank besides all ministerial staff working with the Punjab Police. Releasing the UID number Mr P.S.Gill, DGP, Punjab said that every member of the force would be given a permanent Unique ID Number which are being issued on the basis of his year of recruitment, unit, rank and belt number given at the time of recruitment. He said that UID would help in tracing the policemen and would also help in checking the fake ID cards.



MAHARAJA DALIP SINGH MEMORIAL AT LUDHIANA

The Punjab Government has decided to construct a memorial-cum-museum in memory of Maharaja Dalip Singh near Raikot. The memorial will be built by INTACH over five acres of land in village Bassian.

A decision to this effect was taken by Punjab Chief Minister S Parkash Singh Badal while presiding over a series of meetings to review on-going projects in Ludhiana. The Maharaja was kept in custody in a rest house at Bassian by the Britishers before taking him to London.

S Badal directed the administration to chalk out a plan to establish an engineering college in memory of the Maharaja at Bassian. He approved a sum of Rs one crore for setting up a library in memory of erstwhile Raikot Muslim ruler Rai Kalla.

SOLAR INSTALLATION AT PRESIDENT ESTATE BY PEDA

The Government of India, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has allocated the work of installation of renewable energy system at the most prestigious building in the country, the President Estate at New Delhi to PEDA after the successful commissioning of the 80KWP Solar Photovoltaic Rooftop Power Plant at Parliament House Annex in the Capital. The Ministry has lauded the efforts of PEDA in successful commissioning of the earlier allocated Solar Photovoltaic Grid Interactive Power Plant of 80KW capacity in the Parliament House Complex, which has been in operation from April 1, 2011. The Deputy Chief Minister congratulated PEDA team for this excellent work carried out at national level.

Bhai Harbans Singh Jagadhriwale passes away



One of the oldest *Kirtanyan* Bhai Harbans Singh Jagadhriwale died on May 13 after prolonged illness. Bhai Harbans Singh enjoyed special place in the hearts of Sikh Sangat for his melodious voice. *Swasan di mala nal simran main tera naamand Baba Bolte the khaan gaye* were the two most popular hymns by Bhai ji.

PUNJAB STARTS ON-LINE CREDIT OF SHAGUN IN BENEFICIARY'S ACCOUNT

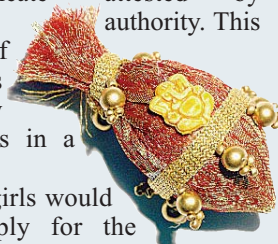
The Punjab Government has issued detailed instructions widening the scope of shagun scheme for 2011-12 including economically poor girls of backward class upper class, Christians community besides earlier notified schedule caste girls.

Gulzar Singh Ranike, Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes said that the shagun amount of Rs. 15000/- would be credited in the bank account of beneficiary through on-line process. It would be imperative that age of the beneficiary girl should be 18 years or more and the applicants family income should not exceed Rs. 30, 000 per year.

Below Poverty Line families and blue card holders would not have to submit income certificate and other candidates would have to attach income certificate attested by competent authority. This benefit of shagun was available only for two girls in a family.

Eligible girls would have to apply for the shagun before the marriage or on the date of marriage and no form would be accepted after the marriage. The form should give the bank account

number of the beneficiary so that shagun amount could be credited directly in their account. After the receipt of form, District Welfare Officer would check the eligibility of the applicant and send the form to the head quarter for release of shagun amount. The applicant parents / guardians should be the domicile resident of Punjab. Economically poor widows or divorcee girls would be also eligible for shagun at the time of re-marriage. The family would have to give a certificate to the District Welfare Officer that marriage has been solemnized after receiving the benefit of shagun.



D. Litt. for Khushwant Singh

Eminent journalist and writer Khushwant Singh was conferred the degree of 'Doctorate of Literature' from the Panjab University varsity at his home in Delhi. PU conferred the D. Litt. degree (honoris causa) on Khushwant Singh at a special convocation on May 6 at his Sujjan Singh Park residence in New Delhi. Members of the PU Senate and Syndicate, along with Prof RC Sobti, Vice Chancellor and Prof AK Bhandari, Registrar visited Delhi to conduct the ceremony.

Singh was to be honoured at the university convocation held recently but could not travel to Chandigarh on account of ill health. (HT)



CII TO HELP SC/ST CANDIDATES TO GET JOBS

As part from the state government, the youths belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can look forward to the Confederation of Indian Industry for patronage and



assistance. Emphasizing the importance of Inclusive Growth, Mr B Muthuraman, President, CII said Affirmative Action, Skill Development and Governance would be the key focus areas of CII's work in the year 2011-12. Setting the target for CII, Mr Muthuraman said: "Over 50,000 SC/ST youth would be trained and an equal number of jobs would be facilitated in the year 2011-12."

CII will work closely with the Dalit Chamber of India and one of CII's goals will also include increasing sourcing of goods and services from SC/ST entrepreneurs by 10-20%. The CII President also announced creation of four new Skill Development Hubs and setting up to 30 new district level skill Gurukuls that are Skills Development Centres of which five would be in Northern region.

He also outlined a five pronged strategy for 10% growth focused on fast track implementation of 100 Mega projects, Targeting Manufacturing Growth at 12% and its share in GDP at 25%, Creating a Common Market, Improving Investment Climate and better mechanism for allocation of natural resources. CII theme announced last year on Business for Livelihood would be continued with a five pronged strategy to aim at 10% GDP growth.

Max Healthcare to build hospitals in Bathinda and Mohali

Diversified business group Max India will invest up to Rs 600 crore to open four new hospitals by the end of this year, a move which will double its bed capacity in the country. "We will be opening four new hospitals by the end of December this year, thereby increasing our bed capacity by 1,000 beds," said, Mr Anjaljit Singh, Chairman and Managing Director. Max Healthcare currently has a capacity of nearly 1,000 beds. The new hospitals would be multi-speciality and would come up at Bathinda and Mohali in Punjab, Shalimar Bagh in Delhi and Dehradun. "The hospitals at Bathinda and Mohali would be under a public-private partnership mode with the Punjab government," Mr Singh added. He was speaking on the sidelines of an event organised by the associated chambers of commerce and industry (ASSOCHAM). Max India, which presently runs six hospitals and two centres under the aegis of its group firm Max Healthcare, is also planning to enter medical education in near future. (agencies)

iPhone4 in India

Eleven months after Apple's next-generation smartphone hit stores worldwide, the iPhone4 was launched in India. The latest iPhone has gone sleeker, more angular and razor thin compared to its predecessor. Apple's fourth-generation model comes with 3.5 inch display and 640x960 pixel resolution. It boasts a higher-quality screen and longer battery life, two cameras including one of 5-megapixel with built-in LED flash. The iPhone 4 is priced at Rs 34,500 with 16-GB capacity and Rs 40,900 with 32-GB capacity.



SUMMER TIPS

Besides drinking plenty of water, drink a lot of fluids to avoid dehydration. The ever-popular nimbu pani or lemonade is an excellent drink to feel refreshed. If you are cautious of drinking lemonade, then the natural thirst-quencher is tender coconut water. Tender coconut water contains sugar, fiber, proteins along with vitamins and minerals.

Eat a lot of salads and fresh fruits that naturally contain water, like water melon – in fact this fruit contains nearly 92% water and up to 14% of vitamin C. This will add to the moisture content that you will lose through sweating. Small amounts of vitamin B and potassium are also found in this fruit.

Avoid eating oily food and especially avoid eating cut fruit from vendors as it may have been exposed to flies and dust. Avoid eating oily food and especially avoid eating cut fruit from vendors as it may have been exposed to flies and dust.

Take a break and head to any of India's hill stations and refresh yourself with its breathtaking beauty?



BEAT

The

HEAT



Highlighting your eyes and applying a bit of gloss on the tips will work wonders for day-time and the evening look, and with the sweat it won't start melting like heavy make-up does.

Easy fit clothes that don't stick to the body, allow your skin to breathe in the hot summer. Teaming these summer dresses with high buns, pony-tails and open trendy foot-wears will make you look cool.

A dark-colored umbrella and wearing sunglasses can also efficiently protect you from the harmful UV rays.

Take more baths and showers. Water conducts the heat away from your body. So, make sure you stay fresh, healthy and happy with customary refreshing baths.



BADAM MILK

Cold Badam Milk is a great summer cooler but if you use warm milk to make it, it's a great winter drink too! This recipe makes roughly 4 glasses of Badam Milk.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup almonds
- 1 cup pistachios
- 3 cups chilled/ warm milk
- Sugar to taste
- 2/3 cup cardamom powder
- 2 tbsps kewra essence (available at Indian groceries) - optional
- 2 tsps rose water

PREPARATION:

- Grind the almonds and pistachios to a smooth paste in your food processor. Add a little milk to do this. A lot of people like to remove the skin from the almonds before grinding them. I don't do this as the skin contains many nutrients. You can do it if you wish, by soaking the almonds in hot water for 5 minutes. When soaked, press the almonds between your thumb and index finger. The skin will slip off quite easily.
- Add the milk, sugar, cardamom powder, kewra essence (if using) and rose water. Blend well.
- Serve chilled/ warm in a tall glass.

Made with fresh raw mangoes, abundant in the summer months, Kayree (raw mango) Panha is from the state of Maharashtra in Western India. It is a sweet-sour-spicy drink! This recipe makes 6 tall glasses.

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 medium-sized raw green mangoes
- 2 cups sugar &
- 1 cup water
- 1 tbsp coarsely ground black rock salt
- 1 tsp freshly ground pepper
- 2 tbsps Aniseed/fennel seeds ground coarsely
- 2 tbsps cumin seeds roasted and ground coarsely
- Chilled water
- Crushed ice
- Sprigs of mint to garnish

PANHA

PREPARATION:

- Wash, peel and grate the raw mangoes. Mix the mangoes, sugar and water in a deep saucepan and boil till the mangoes are soft.
- Put this mixture into a food processor and blend till smooth.
- Put the blended mix back into the saucepan and on a medium flame.
- Add the remaining ingredients and cook for another 20 minutes.
- Take off from the fire and allow to cool completely.
- Pour into glasses, dilute with a little chilled water if needed, mix well and add crushed ice, garnish and serve.



ROSE SHARBAT

On a hot summer's day, a tall, frosty glass of Rose Sharbat can really cool you off. Another nice way to have it is in a glass of cold milk. Yummy! This recipe will make approximately two glasses of Sharbat.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups rose petals
- 1 cup sugar &
- 1/2 tsp cardamom powder

- Juice of 2 lemons (strained)
- 1 cup pomegranate juice

PREPARATION:

- Coarsely crush the rose petals in a mortar and pestle and then put into a deep glass bowl. Pour 1 cup of

boiling water over the paste and add the cardamom powder. Mix well and allow to steep overnight.

- In the morning, strain through a very fine sieve.
- Add the sugar and stir till dissolved - do not heat.
- When the sugar is dissolved, add in the lemon and pomegranate juices and mix well. The syrup is ready now and can be stored in the fridge for 3-4 days.



Dreams: A guide to your destiny

Cat! Especially a black one is considered to be a symbol of witches in disguise. A most popular omen in America about cat is; if it sneezes a day prior to wedding is complicated as favorable sign for brides. Cats can also symbolize companionship without subservience. They're the masters of their own domain, and aren't about to fetch your newspaper and slippers for you. It has nine lives so cat is a symbol of re-invention.

IF YOU DREAM ABOUT CAT:

Which is white & clean; it signifies being ensnared in confusions which seem harmless, but which will cause great grief and ruining of riches. To dream of encountering a sickly, dirty cat is a portent of unfortunate's news from those who are away. It is an indication that an acquaintance is on his deathbed, but if you dream of chasing away the cat, then your

friends will recuperate after a lengthy illness.

and you are being scratched by it is an indication that one of your foes will snatch away from you the gains of a deal for which you toiled.

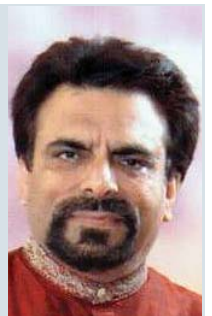
as friends, it is a sign that a furious dispute is about to begin. It indicates



that you are entertaining a foe in order to discover some secret about yourself, but being uncomfortable, you will disown all his activities fearing that your personal life may be revealed.

and he happens to be a trader or merchant; it is a sign that his rivals will succeed in ruining his dealings

P. Khurrana is author of 30 books on Astrology, Numerology, Vastu, Mantrism, Dreams & Moles. Log on to astroindia.com or email your queries at pkhurrana@astroindia.com.



and he will have to resort to other methods if he undersells and still prospers.

and it looks at you cunningly; it signifies, lack of trust and treachery. This urges the dreamer to examine his friends and confidants carefully.

if it cat attacks, the dreamer is in danger of enemies who will slander and ruin him. If he gets rid of the cat, he will overcome all obstacles and rise in fame and wealth. A thin, mean cat foretells bad news from far away. Hearing the mewing or howling of a cat means that the dreamer is being harmed by a false friend. ■

ARIES: Do not get tangled with an idle and superficially attractive person. Timely support from an Aquarian friend surprises you. Fitness routines and healthy diets are prescribed for your well being.

TAURUS: Domestic unrest can be avoided if you watch your step. Some career choices have to be made before an important opportunity passes you by. You could be in for a dose of your own medicine.

GEMINI: "The Temperance" inspires you to climb new heights and actualize creative ideas. A small sum spent now will allow you to make big profits later. Don't make financial decisions impulsively.

CANCER: "Five of Cups" takes you through difficult speculative situation. Emotional relationships are temporary as you come out of them. Be careful as you are prone to losing your temper with loved ones.

LEO: You will be in a cheerful and optimistic frame of mind and will want to spend time with family and close friends. Romantic relationships will bring moments of tenderness. Medical benefits are indicated.

VIRGO: Look! Not to do anything that might get you into trouble. Lady Luck walks with you, so make the most of her. A land deal may come your way. You gain from choices made on the spur of the moment.

LIBRA: Don't let anyone make you feel guilty. Do your thing with friends, even if someone wants to ruin your plans. Stay calm and refuse to let anyone get the better of you. Be true to yourself.

SCORPIO: "Ace of Pentacles" opens up horizons in business and personal attains. You may be concerned about your mate or beloved. Things have been all work and no play and you have let things get out of balance recently.

SAGITTARIUS: Your draw "The Moon" that magnifies love, romance and excitement. Do not get tied down by any promises, especially regarding money matters. Temptation to criticise a family member must be avoided.

CAPRICORN: Avoid mental stress to avert a health problem. A celebration or travel is just on the cards. Be careful, as you will be distracted and run into trouble if you don't pay attention to what you are doing.

AQUARIUS: Make sure that you are in the right place at the right time else a fleeting opportunity might pass by you. An Aries can offer you some sound advice. It is important to look after hair, nails, skin, etc.

PISCES: You may indulge in shopping for presents, elegant clothes and luxuries which dislodges your budget. Remain receptive and flexible. Do not let yourself be upset by bad tongue.



CROSS

- 1 Family men?
- 5 TV's Winfrey
- 10 Clerical clothing
- 14 First president of South Korea
- 15 Establish as fact
- 16 Denuded
- 17 Breaking with tradition
- 19 "___ See Clearly Now"
- 20 My friend in France
- 21 Rhett's love

- 23 Sassy
- 25 Arab rulers
- 26 Of yore
- 29 Aerial
- 31 Trials and tribulations
- 32 Stage signal
- 33 Wobble
- 36 Capital of Switzerland?
- 37 Show after lunch
- 39 Gershwin brother
- 40 Get involved
- 42 Roman household god
- 43 Coconut husk fiber
- 44 Gigantic statues
- 46 Numbskull
- 47 Align, in a way
- 48 Comely
- 50 More stylish
- 52 Author Greene
- 56 Saxophone type
- 57 Supernova remnants in Taurus
- 59 Claim on property
- 60 Musical based on a comic strip
- 61 Spinks of the ring
- 62 Digital displays

LEISURE TIME

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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56					57			58						
59					60						61			
62					63						64			

- 63 Former West African capital
- 64 Jittery

Down

- 1 Make a rhythmic sound
- 2 Cry of dismay
- 3 Light gas?
- 4 Bright wraps
- 5 Biblical land rich in gold
- 6 Career athlete
- 7 Fishing gear
- 8 Long-legged shorebird
- 9 Six-foot line
- 10 Chisholm Trail destination
- 11 Jagged tear
- 12 Tiny terrors
- 13 Shipped
- 18 Capone's adversaries
- 22 Actress Zellweger
- 24 Lacking slack
- 26 Has debts
- 27 At sea
- 28 Profaned
- 30 Sedaka and Simon
- 32 Authoritative
- 34 ___ the Red
- 35 Steak style

- 37 League divisions?
- 38 Artless
- 41 Toxicologist's concerns
- 43 Having a good prognosis
- 45 Breastbones
- 46 Dreadful
- 47 Stan's sidekick
- 49 Actress Moorehead
- 50 Pay a visit
- 51 Used a bell
- 53 Shaded
- 54 Sleep like ___
- 55 Umpteen
- 58 Brief life?

Y	O	D	E		S	G	A	L		S	D	E	L	56
N	O	E	L		E	I	N	N		N	E	N	L	57
A	L	U	L		N	A	C	R		A	T	O	L	58
M	H	A	M		52	R	A	H		E	S	I	E	59



On which date did you get the June-2011 issue of Advance?

Which articles did you like in this issue?

Which articles you did not like in this issue? Please also give reasons.

What kind of articles and write-ups would you like to read in Advance?

Your suggestions for the magazine.

Your Name

Address

Pin code..... Phone

Email

ADVANCE strives to showcase the development of Punjab and act as a link between the people and the Government. This vehicle of communication between the masses and the government elected by them can play its role in an effective manner only if it gets feedback from its readers. Please keep us informed as to how you feel about the contents of ADVANCE and how useful this magazine is to its readers. Please feel free to tell us what more topics should be included in your magazine. Please use the feedback form printed alongside to tell us how we can make your magazine more useful for you. We look forward to your response.

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Punjab Government has re-launched its monthly magazine ADVANCE with a new look in May 2011. Articles dealing with various aspects of Punjab Economy, Society, Culture, Religion, Education, Literature, Life-Style and Humour are invited for publication in the magazine. Please type or neatly write your contributions and mail these to Editor-in-Chief, ADVANCE, Room No. 7, Fifth Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh. The contributions can also be emailed to punmedia2011@gmail.com. Suitable remuneration will be paid for all published articles. ADVANCE will not use contributions on contentious subjects.

Festivals and important days of June

- 05 June Martyrdom Day Sri Guru Arjun Dev ji
- 05 June World Environment Day
- 10 June Internatioanl Eye Donation Day
- 15 June Lunar Eclipse
- 16 June Kabir Jayanti
- 19 June Father's Day
- 29 June Death Anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh ji

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MAHARANA PRATAP JI

Punjab Government pays rich tributes

on his

472nd Birth Anniversary



ਹਰ ਯੁਗ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਕਤੀ



ਸਵਰਾਜ ਦਾ ਤਾਂ ਮਤਲਬ ਹੀ ਹੈ ਆਜ਼ਾਦੀ, ਏਸੇ ਲਈ ਸਵਰਾਜ ਟ੍ਰੈਕਟਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੋਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਪੂਰੀ ਆਜ਼ਾਦੀ, ਖੁਬਹਾਲੀ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੇ ਵਿਚ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ। ਦੱਮਦਾਰ ਇੰਜਣ ਅਤੇ 2000 ਰੇਟੇਡ rpm ਹਰ ਕੰਮ ਨੂੰ ਖੇਡ ਬਣਾ ਦੇਵੇ। ਇਸਦੇ ਖੂਬਸੂਰਤ ਸਟਾਈਲ ਵਿਚ ਇਹੋ ਜਿਹਾ ਦੱਮ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਵੇਖਣ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੀਵਾਨਾ ਕਰ ਦੇਵੇ। ਇਸੀ ਲਈ ਸਵਰਾਜ ਚੱਲਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਧਰਤੀ ਸੋਨਾ ਉਗਲਦੀ ਹੈ, ਅਤੇ ਅਸਮਾਨ ਝੁਕ ਕੇ ਕਹਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ, ਇਹੋ ਹੈ ਹਰ ਯੁਗ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਕਤੀ।

ਸਵਰਾਜ

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