



2020 Annual Report



SIKHRI

Sikh Research Institute

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The Sikh Research Institute's (SikhRI) mission is to provide educational resources to Sikhs to lead a Guru-inspired life. SikhRI exists to spread the fragrance of Sikhi through Gurbani-based education to anyone willing to learn.

*Getting to Know Series: Hari Singh Nalua, 2020. Educational Resource.
Cover photo: Jamrud Fort*



As a global nonprofit organization, SikhRI produces original online courses, research papers, videos, podcasts, events, and books to create the largest go-to source of Sikh knowledge online.

2020 has been a year like no other for the world and by default for SikhRI as well. However, among all the challenges, there have also been many things worth celebrating. The global pandemic spurred us to be more agile, more creative, and more inventive than before. It also presented us with the opportunity to get ourselves out of our comfort zones, try new ways of working and connecting with the community, and adopt new digital platforms.

As the pandemic confined us to our homes (and our screens), we met the moment by going all-in on our online programming. We connected with an unprecedented number of Sikh families worldwide through our webinars, videos, podcasts, children's educational resources, and articles.

We began the year by launching the "*Guru Nanak Sahib: 1-Ness to 1-Identity*" Exhibition at the National Museum, New Delhi, India. The exhibition was supported with daily curated talks and workshops. It was the only physical public engagement that our team was fortunate to do in 2020.

In March, the world went into lockdown.

In April, we launched *Countdown to Vaisakhi*, an e-Vaisakhi celebration. Thirteen days of half-hour live inspirational online sessions to reflect and connect with Sabad till Vaisakhi. We also added five new videos to our *Asa Ki Var* library. This awe-inspiring *bani* is the one that mentors an ordinary person to become Divine-like (an enlightened being full of Divine-virtues). We fully recognize that we as a community are connected with a genuine bond rooted in *Sabad* that social distancing or any calamity cannot break.

In April, we also launched *Viewpoint*, a bi-weekly roundtable virtual discussion in response to the community's yearning for diverse voices on pertinent themes. Virtual discussions were on current topics, historical celebrations, and challenges facing the global Sikh community.

In June, we produced five videos explaining some of the Persian words in the Guru Granth Sahib. These videos complement the *Persian Voice in the Guru Granth Sahib* articles and podcasts series. This series explores the Persian Sabads in the Guru Granth Sahib.

From June to August, we launched three instructor-led online live courses. *Love and Justice Through Guru Nanak Sahib*, a twelve-week introductory course covering the principles of the Sikh faith through primary and secondary historical texts; *Anand Sahib*, an eleven-week intermediate level course delving into the composition of Guru Amardas Sahib that details the human quest for bliss and lifestyle necessary for a blissful life;

VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

July 25 - 26
2020

A Sidak Event



Discovery, twelve introductory sessions were providing Sikh teens with a nonjudgement safe space to dialogue, explore spiritual awareness, personal and mutual understanding, moral character, and ethical awareness.

In July, we hosted Sidak, a two-day virtual leadership summit. Six sessions explored the many facets and principles of Sikhi to broaden understanding in the historical, political, and cultural context of the faith. There were twenty-three presenters, seventeen of whom were Sidak Alumni who engaged with over a hundred and fifty global participants.

In August, we produced five videos explaining the symbolism in the Guru Granth Sahib. These explanations brought alive the mystic and spiritual experiences that are otherwise inexpressible through language and make them more relatable for a commoner.

In September, we launched *The Guru Granth Sahib Project (TGGSP)* website GuruGranthSahib.io to coincide with the First *Prakash Purab* (Illumination Day) of then known Adi Granth in 1604. This is the first effort in history to include the female perspective in developing an understanding of the Sikh canonical text enthroned to the Wisdom-Guru. We are making this timeless treasure-house accessible for today's seekers, scholars, and techies to connect with Sabad. Annotations, translations, transcreations, and commentaries on *Asa ki Var*, *Arti*, *Kuchaji*, and *Suchaji* compositions were released. We also published our sixth State of the Panth Report, *Sikhi & Sexuality*. The report explores how Sikhi has influenced the collective behavior of the Sikhs when it comes to sex, pleasure, and procreation.

In October, we launched "Getting to Know Hari Singh Nalwa" (popularly Nalwa) education resource for high-schoolers. The resource includes lesson plans, a five-minute video, and a thirty-minute podcast introducing students to the life and legacy of "Honorable Commander-in-Chief" and helps them develop a knowledge and appreciation of Sikh history.

In November, we launched seven videos showcasing the galleries from the *Guru Nanak Sahib: 1-Ness to 1-Identity* exhibition held earlier to commemorate Nanakshahi550. These videos enabled the global population to enjoy the richness of the exhibition.

Despite the pandemic, we connected with the global Sikh community via online presentations in partnership with twenty-four organizations in Australia, Canada, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

— THE —
Guru Granth Sahib
PROJECT



From the Chair

Vahiguru ji ka Khalsa, Vahiguru ji ki Fatih!

2020 was an extraordinary year by any measure. It was a year of a global pandemic, a global recession, unprecedented government actions, turbulent U.S. elections, and deeply felt social and racial injustice. It was a year in which each of us faced complex personal challenges, and a staggering number of us lost loved ones. The challenges were enormous.

Despite these challenges, the global SikhRI team never wavered from its mission, vision, and values. A deeply committed and talented group of professionals has done an excellent job of growing the organization by serving the community in its time of need and establishing an admired and unique culture. The Board of Directors congratulates the leadership team and everyone involved for creating new modes of engaging with the wisdom and light of Sikhi.

SikhRI's launch of The Guru Granth Sahib Project is a Panthic celebration. Although there are translations available, the need for a fresh perspective was sorely lacking. Identifying this gap, the team is producing a comprehensive interpretation and commentary of the Guru Granth Sahib in both Panjabi and English. Panjabi is for today's 80% Sikh population, and English is for the 7.5 billion people awaiting the Guru's Wisdom.

Our investment in four new digital communication platforms (Webflow, BigMaker, Funraise, TikTok) broadened our reach, bringing more than 80,000+ new seekers to our website. This is one of the best indicators of the progress of community engagement.

As the team prepares for what comes next, we can assure you that we are committed to the Sikh paradigm based on IkOankar and Nam. We use our voice, influence, programs, and initiatives to share these Sikhi principles and values. Further, we remain steadfast in our commitment to preparing future leaders immersed in Sikh thought and feeling.

We would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation for your continuing engagement and generosity. It continues to inspire hope for what we can build together for the global Sikh community.

Guru Rakha!

Jaswinder Singh Chadha
Chair, Board of Directors

Milestones in 2020

- Launched GuruGranthSahib.io project website
- Curated "Guru Nanak Sahib: 1-Ness to 1-Identity" exhibition, National Museum, New Delhi, India
- Delivered 3 Online Instructor-led Courses: Anand Sahib; Love and Justice through Guru Nanak Sahib; Discovery
- Produced "A Brave Life of the Exemplary Sikh Warrior (Hari Singh Nalua)" education resource for Grades 9-12. Video, lesson plan, and podcast.
- Released a State of the Panth Report: Sikhi & Sexuality
- 59 Events Worldwide
- Over 750,000 people reached since foundation

SikhRI Worldwide



In 2020

59

Events Worldwide

Over

750,000

People reached since foundation

Revenue

Contributions	\$1,122,110
Government Contributions	\$45,920
Program Receipts	\$19,074
Product Receipts	\$3,689
Interests & Investments	<u>\$71,016</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,261,809

Program Expenses

Innovation	\$263,066
Community	\$120,265
Content	\$182,073
Publications	<u>\$5,542</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$570,946

Overhead

Fundraising	\$45,936
Administration	<u>\$194,387</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$240,323

Total Expenses \$811,269

Net Assets, Begin 2020	\$1,390,211
2020 Change in Net Assets	\$450,540
2019 Foreign Currency Translation	\$1,079
NET ASSETS, END 2020	\$1,841,830

Board of Directors

Bhavraj Singh Ghatu
 Inderpreet Singh
 Jaswinder (Jassi) Singh Chadha
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Staff

Amanda Heck	Jaspal Singh
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Avneep Singh	Kulvir Singh
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Harinder Singh	Nirvair Singh Arshi
Harjinder Singh	Rajinder Singh
Harsharan Kaur	Ramandip Kaur
Imroze Singh	Ravinder Singh
Inni Kaur	Sean Holden
Ishmeet Kaur	Sham Singh
Jagtej Singh	Simarjit Kaur
Jasleen Kaur	Sohan Singh
Jasleen Kaur Rishi	Sunder Pal Singh



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