

## **Akal Academy, Baru Sahib Annual Report**

His Holiness Baba Ji, revered guests, dignitaries, parents, visitors, staff members and my dear children. On behalf of The Kalgidhar Trust I accord you all a very warm welcome to the valley of Divine peace.

We dedicate and consecrate this founder's day to Revered Saint Iqbal Singh Ji. But, in a larger sense, it is beyond our measure – to dedicate – to consecrate or to hallow the divine saint who during his life time gave directions to all men and women of faith to lead a spiritual life and help establish peace in the world. He passionately implemented the concept of education which Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji had enunciated 573 years ago and was spread in Northern India by Sant Attar Singh Ji Maharaj and Sant Teja Singh Ji Maharaj. Under His divine guidance, The Kalgidhar Trust has established 129 schools and 2 universities, all providing true education in which the foundation of education is spirituality on which the edifice of modern scientific education is erected. Revered Saint Iqbal Singh Ji would often say, “Akali Academies are not schools, these are Gurukuls or Taksals ਘੜੀਐ ਸਬਦੁ ਸਚੀ ਟਕਸਾਲ॥ where outstanding human beings are carved, having sterling values of honesty, integrity, love and compassion”.

Although, Revered Saint Iqbal Singh Ji left his *Chola* on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022 but for all of us at Baru Sahib, his spirit is embedded in every speck of this Divine land and continues to give us directions and guidance in our humble endeavours. One of the projects which was most dear to him is the Akal Institute of Rural Women Empowerment, wherein rural girls – he would fondly address them as ‘Devis’ or “angels of peace”, are being empowered and given quality higher education at the Eternal University. They are all then employed as teachers in the 129 Akal Academies in Northern India. About 500 girls from rural parts of India, study here in this unique programme and their expenses are met entirely by The Kalgidhar Trust.

The COVID pandemic forced closure of all educational institutions worldwide, but as providence had ordained, Akal Academy, Baru Sahib miraculously continued to function normally throughout the pandemic. We were the first chain of schools in the world to commence online education to rural students.

The first lockdown was clamped on 24<sup>th</sup> March and our online classes in remote rural areas had commenced by the first week of April. By 31<sup>st</sup> May we had conducted online multiple choice tests of almost 50000 rural students. This has not been emulated in any school system around the world.

As usual, with a 100% overall outcome, 25% of our board students achieved 90% & above marks in grades 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> examinations. Banmeet Kaur was the state topper of Himachal Pradesh in grade XII, and Dilpreet Kaur of grade X was the district topper in Himachal Pradesh.

On 25<sup>th</sup> September of this year, a catastrophe struck this divine campus following cloud burst 10 km upstream. Campus life came to a complete halt. Uncontrolled water rushed through the main artery of the campus and swamped low lying areas. Essential facilities, including electricity and water, were completely disrupted for a day. Divine hand and His grace miraculously worked. All human lives in the campus remained safe. All sewadars of the Trust rushed to Baru Sahib and as a testimony to the dedication & the work culture ingrained by Revered Saint Iqbal Singh Ji, the work for restoring the campus commenced in the right earnest. Electricity was restored in the entire campus within 24 hours. Restoring water supply was a herculean task. Almost 2 km of pipes fetching water to the campus were completely washed away. Thanks to the untiring efforts of our sewadars and engineers, the entire campus was cleared up and functional within 4 days and teaching learning resumed. I will fail in my duty if I do not mention our three most dedicated teams who have been working endlessly and relentlessly over the years and during this catastrophe specifically for the welfare of students i.e. House Keeping, Mess and Laundry services. Not to miss the students of Eternal University, Akal College of Nursing, staff and even high school students of Akal Academy, Baru Sahib and all workers be it Akal Academy, Ashram, AIRWE, Gurmat Vidyalaya for boys. Everyone lent their hands to embrace humanity. It was picture of divine grace and devotion.

Baba ji always reminded each one of us to be ever in gratitude.

ਕਬੀਰ ਨਾ ਹਮ ਕੀਆ ਨਾ ਕਰਹਿਗੇ ਨਾ ਕਰਿ ਸਕੈ ਸਰੀਰ ॥  
ਕਿਆ ਜਾਨਉ ਕਿਛੁ ਹਰਿ ਕੀਆ ਭਇਓ ਕਬੀਰ ਕਬੀਰ ॥੬੨॥

As Sant Attar Singh Ji Maharaj always said if each *gursikh* contribute his *daswand*, all projects of the *panth* in service of humanity could easily be accomplished. The dream and vision to multiply this model of 129 Akal Academies to 500 Akal Academies has to be realised through each one of you who is Akal Academian. You have to come forward to support or sponsor at least one school in your vicinity to create the next generation of better humanity and eventually for better humanity and of better humanity. That is the tribute to the saint who spent 75 years of his life for creating what you see, feel and admire today at Baru Sahib.

As one devotee from USA wrote:

**“Revered Saint Iqbal Singh Ji has been the heartbeat of Baru Sahib”.**

**I have consoled myself today, that now.**

**“BARU SAHIB IS BABA JI’S HEARTBEAT”.**

For this dream to be realized we need love and support of the revered Sadh Sangat and all of you. With folded hands and deep humility, we seek your blessings to carry on this pious work of founding saints.

**ਦੇਹੁ ਸਜਣ ਅਸੀਸੜੀਆ ਜਿਉ ਹੋਵੈ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸਿਉ ਮੇਲੁ ॥**

**ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕਾ ਖਾਲਸਾ ॥**

**ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕੀ ਫਤਿਹ ॥**

Dr. Neelam Kaur