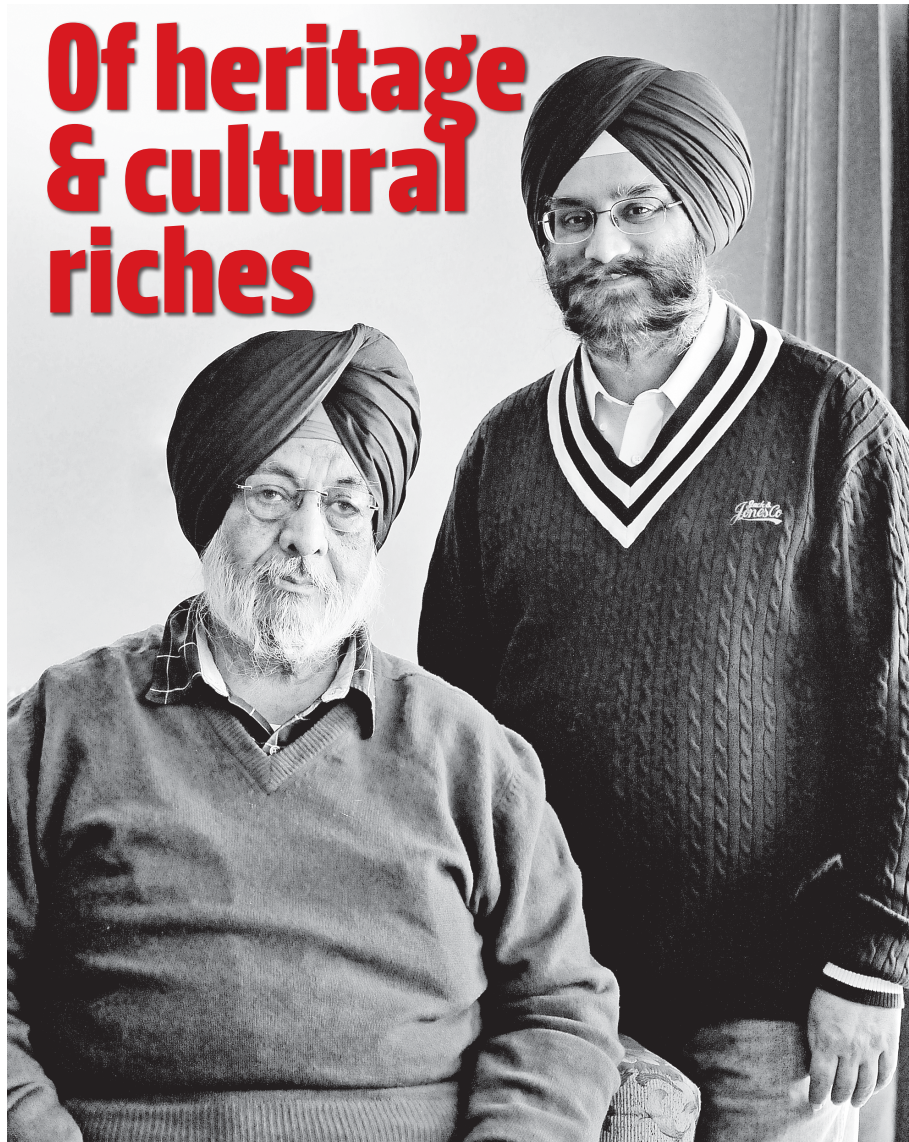


# cityScape

## Of heritage & cultural riches



PHOTOS: SANDEEP SAHDEV

ANNIE SINGH

**A** golden cage that was once home to the (unheard) *koels* of Guru Hargobind; a *rabab* that

played to the tunes of the otherwise accomplished musician Guru Arjan Dev; another flip, and a pair of his wooden *kharawans* (toe-knob sandals) and that of his wife Mata Ganga with ivory inlay work; and

### SIKH HERITAGE: ETHOS AND RELICS, BY BHAYEE SIKANDAR SINGH AND ROOPINDER SINGH WEAVES THE ESSENCE OF SIKHISM, INTERTWINED WITH CULTURAL HISTORY

nevertheless, a few more pages and you're awe-struck by the rare visual of Guru's hair and the now frayed turban, amongst many other significant relics of Sikh history. Every relic, every article, included here, symbolises the Sikh ethos...

Sikh Heritage: Ethos and Relics by Bhayee Sikandar Singh, a scion of the Bagrian family, whose ancestor Bhai Roop Chand was a close aid of the sixth Guru Hargobind and co-authored by Roopinder Singh, deputy editor, *The Tribune*, weaves together "the essence of Sikhism, intertwined with cultural history".

"In order to fully appreciate and comprehend what has been left behind by the Gurus, you need to have the grasp of the ethos too. And that's why the 100 pages of the book are only dedicated to explaining the ethos, profusely illustrated with detailed captions. Both in conception and its execution, this book elucidates the many unseen relics in a broader perspective of Sikh heritage," says Roopinder, who made

sure that every reader understands the fundamentals of it.

And being a curator himself, when Bhayee Sikandar was initially asked to write about the family history, he decided to paint a larger canvas. And, instead of just writing about his own family, he included the other "custodians" too, who possess the rare artifacts bestowed by Gurus upon them (disciples).

"We have also included significant collections of the Maharajas of Patiala and Nabha, which welcomes the reader with unsurpassed clarity and sensitivity to the world of Sikhism," says Bhayee Sikandar, as he stresses on the need to preserve our rich history today.

"There are many who are doing their bit, but a lot needs to be done to authenticate the genuine." But, ask him if these artifacts have been presented earlier as well, and he promises you that not the way it has been packaged in this book.

And not just artifacts, the book comprises of — "contemporary paintings



of Sikh Gurus, manuscripts, *hukamnamas* and paintings of the stories, which go behind the relics", insists Roopinder, as he shows the picture of a *karchcha* (ladle) given by Guru Hargobind to Bhai Roop Chand to establish the langar in 1631. "The descendents of whose family, till today continue to feed the needy," quips Bhayee Sikandar, who leaves you in awe with his engaging anecdotes.



### Manoj Bajpayee to turn producer soon

**A**fter wearing grease paint for almost two decades, National Award winning actor Manoj Bajpayee is keen to take a plunge into filmmaking business and turn producer. He feels producing movies "will give me a lot of power."

His career took off in a big way post the success of *Satya*, which not only won him commercial success, but the prestigious National Award too. Post the crime saga, he did commendable jobs in *Kaun?*, *Shool* and *Chandraprakash Dwivedi* directed period drama *Pinjar*.

"Tomorrow, if I have money, I will definitely turn producer. Production will definitely give me a lot of freedom to do what I want to do. Whether it's a mainstream or anything else..., production will give me a lot of power," Manoj told IANS.

"I will definitely get into production soon. Let's see when that happens," added the actor who enjoys a niche audience.

He is currently busy promoting *Special Chabbis*. Directed by Neeraj Pandey, the film features Anupam Kher and Akshay Kumar in prominent roles.