



Strengthening The Sikh Panth: Guru Hargobind Sahib's Countrywide Tours and Legacy

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Abstract:

Guru Hargobind SAHIB'S travels in Malwa and beyond were far more than physical journeys; they were milestones in the evolution of Sikh history. By visiting villages, addressing Sangats, blessing devotees, and engaging in both spiritual and martial duties, the Sixth Guru laid a strong foundation for the expansion of Sikhism outside Majha and Doaba. His presence sanctified countless places that later grew into vibrant centres of Sikh devotion, many of which still preserve wells, platforms, and historic Gurudwaras associated with his stay. Through his movements, Guru Hargobind not only consolidated the Sikh Panth spiritually but also prepared it militarily against oppression. His vision created a balance of miri-piri—temporal authority with spiritual sovereignty—ensuring that the Sikh community could thrive with dignity and self-reliance. The seeds he sowed in Malwa blossomed into a larger Sikh identity, knitting together scattered Sangats into a united and resilient nation.

Methodology : Proposed study is based on the primary and secondary sources, those I collected all sources from many libraries of different Universities like as Bhai Kahan Singh Nabha Library of Punjabi University, Patiala, Bhai Gurdas Library of Guru Nanak University, Amritsar, Joshi Library of Punjab University, Chandigarh, Punjab State Archives of Patiala. I also visited these historical places. I collected the relevant data from different sources analysing this fact to complete my research paper

Conclusion: Thus, Guru Hargobind Ji's travels were not simply about physical movement; they represented the extension of Sikh community life beyond Majha and Doaba into Malwa. His journeys carried dual significance — spiritual consolidation of Sangat and military preparedness. These tours sowed the seeds of a broader Sikh identity, transforming scattered communities into an organized spiritual nation.

Keywords: Gurudwaras, miri-piri, Majha, Malwa, Sikhism, sovereignty, Sikh

Introduction

After Guru Nanak Dev, it was Guru Hargobind who made countrywide tours, and made direct connection with the Sikh community living outside Punjab state. Though we do not place all of his residence for the purpose of travelling.

Neither we do consider his travels solely for the purpose to publicise religion. Since there are some places where he went for the reason of war, protection or under royal decree, where he stayed in prison. Like he was kept in Gwalior Fort, Lehra Mohabbat or Nathana Sahib in Bathinda, *Maharaj*, Jhabal, Kartarpur. Hargobindpur, etc, were the places. We can indeed call those places where he visited but not the places where he travelled. Travelling demotes where Guru went to preach moved from one village to another meeting with the Sikh community.¹

The actual reason of Guru Hargobind's visit to Malwa was on the request of Sai Das. He invited Guru to Daroli on the occasion of Vaisakhi. Village Daroli was at the distance of 10 km from Moga, Firozpur road in district Moga. Guru's brother in-law Sai Das lived there. The very first reference of Guru's visit to that place comes in *Bhatt Vahiyan*. Immediately after having apostleship in 1606, he went there.²

Since it was a critical time in Amritsar, Guru resolved to come there (Daroli Bhai) to spend some peaceful hours. He spent a long span of life i.e. 6 months at that place.³ Guru got panted a deep well at *Daroli Bhai Ke* for the facility of Sikh community and residents of village because Guru and his people stayed there for a pretty long time. For a year and a holy place remained a center for Sikhs. Therefore, there was a need for providing an ease of water. This well still exists there. A beautiful *Gurudwara* is made at the place where Guru used to establish a hall of *Sangat*. It is was stated building a platform by a trader. Later on Maharaja Karom Singh Patiala constructed the whole building.⁴

Village Modoke in district Firozpur tehsil Moga, which is 4 miles south to Ajitwal Railway station, Bhai Maddo, Guru's preacher lived there. Guru reached to the place during his religious travelling from Daroli Bhai Guru sermoned corrupt people to follow Sikhism and path of morality.⁵

Village Rodde is situated in district Moga and Bagha Purana or Kotkapura road. As per the local people, Guru came there from Daroli Bhai and left for village Lande.⁶

The village Vaddo Ghar is in Moga which is situated on Kotkapura road. Guru visited the place while coming from Daroli according to local traditions. The residents of the place were disciples of *Sarvariye Peer* also called *Sultana peer*. But Guru converted them to Sikhism. It was said that Sikh religion was greater than *Sarvariye* faith. People converted to Sikhism began to provide the news that were associated with *Vadda Ghar*, therefore, their village came to be known as *Vadda Ghar*. Local residents got constructed a beautiful *Gurudwara*.⁷ Moga is a district of Punjab. Guru visited there and a *Gurudwara* is built in his remembrance. Village Bambiha Bhai is in district Moga and related to link road through Smalsar. Since Bhai Roop's descendant live in that village, it came to be known as 'Bhai Ka', Guru came in the village while living in Daroli Bhai Ki. The people in this area constructed a *Gurudwara* at the place he stayed.⁹ Village Saner is in Moga district at a distance of 5 k.m. from Jeera, and at 12 km from Talwandi railway station. Though when Hargobind visited there, it was not a proper village but a desolated place. There was dense arbour and Guru stayed under this. This area was later developed into a village by Sikh devotees.¹⁰ Village Madai Musta is also in Moga and located at Bahgapurana Bhagta Bhai Ka road. While staying in Daroli Bhai Ki Guru visited there. There is a Dhab also. It is also said the Dhab is built during Guru time. Earlier there was a small *Gurudwara* but now Sikh devotees have constructed a large building out of it.¹¹

The village of Ledhai Ke is in Moga district and situated on the passage of Bhaga purana Bhagta Bhai Ka . Guru Hargobind Ji came here while going back to Daroli after meeting Bhai Roop Chand *Gurudwara* Kalyan Sar is built in his remembrance here.¹²

Village Lopoke is in Moga, Guru visited there during his Malwa tour while coming from Madoke, and stayed with the Sikhs there for two days. The residents also built a *Gurdwara* which got named as *Gurusar*.¹³ Village Mehro Moga is situated on Kotakapura road at a distance of 8 km from Moga. Though this village was not populated during his travel but due to the fact that people of Mehrami tribe gave support in wars to Guru Hargobind, so Guru advised them to populate a village. Since the village was made with the blessings of Guru, the Mehrami people got constructed a *Gurudwara* in his remembrance. It was named as *Gurudwara Gurusar*.¹⁴ Village Daudhar is in district Moga which is at 6 km outer to Ajitwal. First Guru Nanak Dev came there, later Guru Hargobind visited, that place in remembrance of both the Gurus a *Gurdwara* is built.¹⁵

Village Gajjanwala that is situated on Kotkapura road, Singhavala Dagru village is located near to it. Guru came there while he was residing at Daroli. He went there to preach about Sikhism. After his arrival people constructed *Gurudwara* there.

Mullanpur is a village in district Ludhiana Raikot and situated on Ludhiana Raikot road. It is at a distance of 16 Km from Mullanpur. In 1689, after winning the war of Nathana Mehraj, he travelled across Dina Kaanjad, Takhtupura, Hothoor, Jatpura along with his 300 cavalry and stayed at village Kaile and Dhalian for 25 days.¹⁷

Village Sudhar is in district Ludhiana Tehsil Jagraon closer to Mullapur by 7km. Guru delivered the orders of divine knowledge considering the demotion of people.¹⁸ On the request of people, Guru gifted them his slippers. Village Rakka is located at the distance of 4Km from Mullanpur. It is connected via link road on Ludhiana Jagraon road. It is situated in district Ludhiana and Tehsil Jagraon. Guru stayed here for some time and served. People constructed a *Gurudwara* here in his remembrance and named it *Damdama Sahib*.¹⁹

Sidhvan Kalan is well-Known village in district Ludhiana and located at a distance of 7 Km from Jagraon on Ludhiana. Firozpur road. Guru Hargobind resided under a Pipal tree. Sidhvan is also known as Dhahke Sidhvan or Dhakke Vale Sidhwan. Guru protected this village from invaders and advised them to get united.²⁰

Village Virk is located on Ludhiana Firozpur road through link road. It is at a distance of 6 Km from railway station. Guru Hargobind came from Sidhvan. According to a popular tradition an old woman served Him with milk. Sikhs gave a new figure to *Gurudwara Sahib* in 1975-76.²¹ Village Gujjarawal is a famous village of Ludhiana. It is near to Narangwal and it is connected via link roads of Dehlo and Jodha Manscaran.

Guru came there from Sudhar. He lived there for 6 months and 17 days and sermoned there about meditation, sharing one's wealth, perform hard labour, and help the needy and poor.²²

Village Rada is in Ludhiana and 16 Km. away from the bifurcated road. Guru came there from Gujjarwal and stayed for 3 days. That time, it was a complete wild area. After his visit, a platform was constructed there which was later developed into a *Gurudwara* by Queen of Patiala, Bibi Jaswant Kaur daughter of S. Ratan Singh.²³ Village Ghudani is at a distance of 3 Km from Rada Sahib and Guru came there from Rada, and stayed for 3 months. Two *Gurudwaras* were built there in his remembrance. One is *Nim Sahib* and another *Chola*

Sahib. Guru Hargobind came to meet his devotee. He stayed for 45 days to Bhai Surtiye and preached about *Nam Bani*. Glad by the service of Bhai Surtiye, Guru gifted him a *Chola* made of 52 *Kalian*.²⁴

The village Jandali is at a distance of 14 Km from Payee and 9 Km from Ghadani. Guru came here from Ghadani. He taught the people to make up early into morning for holy congregation.²⁵ Village Dhamot is a famous village of district Ludhiana and Thana Payal. It is at distance of 12 Km. from Payal. Guru Hargobind came there from Ghadani. As Per a popular tradition here, Guru planted a deep well for the facility of water for local people. A platform was built where he stayed.²⁶ Village Tihada in Ludhiana is 14 Km. from Jagraon and 6 Km from Sidhvan. Since the village shares its border with three meadows areas, it came to be known as Tihada. Guru came here while passing by Harike Pattan and harbour of Indgarh. After spending time at Tihada, he left for Daroli Bhai Ke.²⁷

Village Sadhinala is situated on the path of Jagraon to Sidhvan Bet. Earlier Guru Arjan Dev came here. Later Guru Hargobind came and stayed for a long time, A Gurudwara has been constructed in remembrances of Gurus. There is *Bauli Sahib* and beautiful garden in it.²⁸

Village Sihad is in Ludhiana and at a short distance from Dehlo. According to a local tradition, where Guru visited, the place one of his horse died. which was already not well.

Later on, the people built a *Gurudwara* at the place he stayed, in his remembrance. And also, a Tomb was constructed near the *Gurudwara* where his horse was buried.²⁹

Village Takhtupura is in Tehsil Singh district Moga. In 1634, Guru came here after the victory of war of Mehraj. *Gurudwara Patshahi Cheevi* was constructed in his remembrance.³⁰

Village Hathoor is a popular village in Ludhiana. The local people gave a warm welcome to Guru. Bahadur Singh among, Guru's devotee, served the village people. He also built a *Gurudwara* in his remembrance.³¹

Village Kaoke Kalan is in tehsil Jagraon district Jagraon. It is at a distance of 7 Km. from Jagraon and connected to link road from 3 Km Guru's relative and devotees Bhai Sai lived at Daroli Bhai. He had a new house built and wished that Guru Hargobind should come to his place. Therefore, during his Malwa tour while going to Daroli Bhai from Sidhvan in 1613, he stayed at Kaoke for some days.³²

Doraha city is situated on G.T. road of Khanna to Ludhiana road. A informs their Guru stayed at an inn. It exists today as well. Two *Gurudwaras* were constructed in his remembrance. One is *Ber Sahib*. It is named after the old tree of *Ber*.

Village Akoi is about 4 km away from Sangrur. Guru came here from Soti. He visited to meet his devotee Bhai Manak Chand on his invitation. There is an old Acacia tree in the *Gurudwara* which is said to be of Guru's time.³³

Village Khurana is connected by link road at Sangrur to Patiala road. It is at 7 Km distance from city. Guru came here from Akoi.

Village Ghanod Jattan is a popular village of district Sangrur Tehsil Bhwanigarh, Thana Dirvan. It is at 25Km. from Khrana Khrani. Guru came here from Khrana.³⁴

Village Kamalpura is in Sangrur tehsil Bhawanigarh Thana Dirvan. It is 16Km. ahead from Ghanod Jattan. Guru came here from Ghanod Jattan. Guru Nanak Dev also came here. Guru Hargobind built a platform there in his remembrance. Later *Gurudwara* got constructed by Maharaja Karam Singh Patiala.³⁵

Gurudwara Nankana Sahib is only a complex which is to north of Sangrur at 3Km. distance. This place is built originally in the remembrance of Guru Nanak. Guru Hargobind came here from Akoi. A platform was built in Guru Nanak's remembrance.

There is a tree of Capparis and it is said that it exists since Guru's time. Guru's horses were tied here. Therefore, it has been preserved in his remembrance.³⁶ Village Karhali is in district Patiala. It is 18Km from Samana. A patient named Sanmukh lived there. He was suffering from Leprosy. Pus used to fly from his body. On the request of leprous person Guru Hargobind provided him redemption. from his suffering.

Village Gill Kalan is situated on Rampura Jaito road and 12Km from Mehraj. After victory he came there. Bhai Duna, Guru's devotee, resided there. Earlier this village was in Nabha and Maharaja Tara Singh constructed a *Gurudwara* also. He left for Kotda and Maji Rind from there.³⁷

Village Bhai Rupa is in Bathinda and at 17 Km from Rampura railway station road. In 1631, Guru met his *Gursikh* Bhai Sadhu and his son Roop Chand near a tree. Considering the devotion of that *Gursikh* family, Roop Chand was given the title of Bhai and he ordered the establishment of a village on his name. There Bhai Roop Chand's house was estassisend as a *Gurudwara*.³⁸ Village Gurusar Mehraj is on Bathinda Barnala road. It is at 8Km from Bhuchio Mandi. Guru fought a war there. Due to the fact that Guru won that war, it got name as Gurusar.³⁹

Jandsar Deyalpura (Nabha) is at a distance of 4Km from Bhai Roopa. Here Bhai Roop Chand and his father served sound water to Hargobind.⁴⁰

Bhagta Bhai Ka is in tehsil Phul, district Bathinda . During Malwa tour (1631-1634) Guru came to Bhagta Bhai from Deyalpura. Bhai Behl's grandson Bhayta populated the town of Bhagta Bhai. Bhai Behlo conferred huge respect to Guru Hargobind. Sikh devotees coustructed a *Gurudwara* at the place he visited.⁴¹

Village Lawbhwali is in Kotakpura as area of Faridkot, which is 6 miles from Railway station. Guru Hargobind came here during Malwa tour. People constructed Gurudwara in his remembrance.⁴² Village Gurusar Jodhan is west from Malout, Guru Hargobind came here during his Malwa tour.

A Muslim named Mohammad Shamir was a Sikh devotee. He sent his son Jodhan in Guru's force. He took part in Guru Hargobinds battles and displayed great bravery. Therefore, village Musal Dera got its name as Gurusar Jodhan.⁴³

Gurudwara Sahib, Village Machike is at 2Km from Faridkot. Guru came there wandering. A muslim Hermit Aadu lived there. He informed Guru about the problem of water there. Guru got built a deep well in the area. That Muslim began to preach Sikhism after meeting Guru .

Therefore, while building a *Gurudwara* in his remembrance, they named it after that

Muslim hermit.⁴⁴

Gurudwara Payal Sahib is at 5Km distance while going from Anandpur Sahib to *Guru Ke Lahore*. *Guru Hargobind* stayed there while going to *Kiratpur Sahib*. *Hargobind's* horse that was already injured during a war and physically weak, died here. *Suhela Ghora* is the *Gurudwara* here. The horse was buried here. Later *Guru* got buried a well here.⁴⁵

Gurudwara Kuya Sahib is situated between Anandpur Sahib and *Kiratpur Sahib*. *Guru* got constructed a garden there. It is also known as *Guru Ka Bagh*. For the facility of water a well was also planted and it still exists.⁴⁶

Gurudwara Jhidha Sahib is in Ropar. It is 6Km south east from Anandpur. *Guru* used to come there for hunting from *Kiratpur Sahib*. *Guru* planted a well there also, which exists at present. *Gurudwara Jhidha Sahib* is built in his remembrance.⁴⁷

Village Charwali is in Ropar district, which is 4Km south from Anandpur. *Guru* came here from *Kiratpur*. A *Gurudwara* is built in his remembrance named *Manji Sahib*.⁴⁸

Gurudwara Patalpuri (*Kiratpur Sahib*) is only 5 Km from Chandigarh Ropar Nangal Road and *Takht Shri Kesgarh Sahib* (Anandpur Sahib), after the war of Kartarpur, *Guru Hargobind* didn't there for long stay. He wanted to reach *Kiratpur Sahib* soon, that was far away from any official interference and inhabited inside a hilly state (Kehnoor)

After *Guru Nanak Dev*, it was only *Guru Hargobind* who undertook country-wide travels and made a direct contact with the Sikh followers settled in other states. Although we do not categorize the places visited by *Guru* entirely with his travels, nor those travels can be termed as for promotion of religion, as there are some places which *Guru* visited for the sake of battle or came there for his safety or were imprisoned there as per Government orders; such as the Fort of Gwalior, Lehra Mohabbat in district Bathinda or Nathana Sahib place of Mehraj, Chabaa, Kartarpur, *Hargobind*, Phagwara, etc. We can call such places as having the touch of *Guru's* feet but cannot include these in his travels. The essence of travels means where *Guru* had gone from one village to other. with the purpose of proliferation of religion or meeting Sikh congregation under a specific mission.

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