

FREE ENTRY

 **SIKHLens**
SIKH ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL
★ INDIA CHAPTER ★ 

CELEBRATING **25 YEARS** OF SIKHLENS

★ FILM SCREENINGS ★ WORLD PREMIERS ★ CULTURAL PERFORMANCES ★
★ EXHIBITION OF RARE HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS, ANTIQUES, HERITAGE, PHILATELY AND PHOTOGRAPHS ★

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD SCHEDULE



SATURDAY FULL DAY
11AM - 9PM
22ND FEBRUARY
TAGORE THEATRE
CHANDIGARH

OFFICIAL INDIA PRESENTERS

pinaka
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RFE
RARE FILM FESTIVAL

SUPPORTED BY



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MISSION

SikhLens: Sikh Arts & Film Festival 2025 [Chandigarh, India]

Date: February 22, 2025 | Saturday | Timings: 11 am to 9 pm | Screening Venue : Tagore Theatre, Chandigarh

Full Day Program Flow

Timing	Film Session	Film/Program Title	Run Time	Country of Production	Name of Director (s)
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Introduction	Introduction to SikhLens	5	Giving a background of the festival and the development	
	Lamp lighting	Initiating the program	10	Lamp Lighting with dignitaries and supporters	
	Opening Keynote	Introduction Keynote by SikhLens Founders	5	Bicky Singh and Gurpreet K Singh	
	Opening Keynote	Overview by Festival Director	5	Ojaswwee Sharma	
	National Anthem	National Anthem	2	Playback of National Anthem	
	SikhLens Program	The Journey of SikhLens in India	5	India	Ojaswwee Sharma
	Inaugural Performance	The Spring Symphony - Shaan presented in Basant Raag	10	Sri Guru Granth Sahib Vidya Kendra, Chattarpur, New Delhi	
Gidha - traditional folk dance form from the Punjab region, performed by women		10	Mata Sahib Kaur Public School, Swara, SAS Nagar		
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM	Opening Film	SikhLens Community Voices Film	3	India	Ojaswwee Sharma
		Precursor to Saka Sirhind	10	Maninder Singh Bhatti	
		Saka Sirhind - Martyrdom of Younger Sahibzadey [Animation]	38	India	Late Prof. Narindra Singh Commodore (Retd.)
		Felicitation and address on SikhLens Animation Program	10	Bicky Singh, Gurpreet K Singh, Pardeep Singh	
01:00 PM to 2:20 PM	Film Session - I	Guru Nanak Matth	6	Nepal	Samantha Andre, Michael Barth
		The Patka Box	12	Canada	Davinder Singh
		Reviving Roots	18	Pakistan	Nida Arif
		Guru Da Kender	13	India	Amolak Singh
		Rising Above: The Kamal Singh Story	28	United Kingdom	Amit Kaur
2:20 PM to 2:30 PM	Performance	The Splendour of the Turban Showcase : The Pride of Young Sikhs	10	Sri Guru Granth Sahib Vidya Kendra, Chattarpur, New Delhi	
	Film Showcase	The Beginning of Khalsa Health Center	2	SikhLens Community Voices	
2:30 PM to 3:00 PM	Calender Launch	SikhLens 2025 Calender Launch : Based on the Anglo Sikh Virtual Museum in Leicester	10	Caroline Rowett, British Deputy High Commissioner Chandigarh and SikhLens India Festival Directorate	
	India-UK Keynote	Shared Sikh Heritage : India and the United Kingdom	15	Caroline Rowett, British Deputy High Commissioner Chandigarh	
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Film Session - II	SikhLens Community Voices Film	3	India	Ojaswwee Sharma
		SikhLens Publications Trailer	3	SikhLens Publications	
		Raah-E-Nanak	103	India	Rose Gill
5 PM to 6 PM	Performances	Divine Orchestra - Bhopali Raag, Janjoti, Malhaar Instrumental	10	Akal College of Divine Music, Eternal University, Baru Sahib	

		Zafarnama	5	Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Gatka Akhara
		Gatka Performance	30	Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Gatka Akhara
		Sikhlens Foundation Keynote	5	Bicky Singh and Gurpreet K Singh
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Film Session - III	Resilience of Faith	18	Pakistan Salman Alam Khan & Maria Patel
		Sparks of Change	23	Pakistan Shahbaz Khan
		Connecting the Dots	15	Pakistan Salman Alam Khan
		Hola Mohalla	25	India Parulpreet Singh
		Eternal Musicians (Akal ke Rababiye)	26	India Gurdeep Singh Dhaliwal
		The Journey of United Sikh Mission	11	India Ojaswwee Sharma
8 PM Onwards	Closing	Closing Ceremony		

Highlights of the Sikhlens: Sikh Arts & Film Festival 2025 (India Chapter) this year:

During the day, multiple films will be screened in the theatre, which will also host various performances. Simultaneously, exhibitions and the red carpet will continue without interruption throughout the day. It is a continuous program and will run without breaks and without intervals. The opening ceremony will commence at 11 AM.

Promoting Diversity and Oneness:

- The festival strongly promotes the message of oneness "Ik Onkar," and the diversity of culture, gender, religion, language, storytelling, and art, which is reflected in this year's participation.
 - Encourage everyone, including families, children, and students, to attend. This once-in-a-year extravagant festival held in India brings everyone together.
- It is a must-attend event for cinephiles, enthusiasts, families, children, and students.

Films showcasing various Sikhlens Programs:

- Full-day movie screenings: World premiere of the animation film "Saka Sirhind - The Martyrdom of Younger Sahibzadey," "Raah-E-Nanak," and "Resilience of Faith," with a total of 13 international short, animation, and documentary films on Sikh culture, heritage, and ethos produced in over six countries will be showcased in various sessions.
- The makers of the highlight films will be present at the festival venue.
- Films will be screened in Punjabi, English, Hindi, Urdu, and Nepali, based on the location of the country of filming. Films from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Canada, and the United Kingdom will be screened.

Exclusive Exhibitions:

- Rare Relics art, artifacts, antiques, heritage, philately, and photography exhibitions that have never been seen before will be on display in the glass house and the courtyard of the festival venue.

Everyone is welcome to come, experience the palette of Sikhlens.

Sikhlens 2025 Annual Art Calendar Launch:

- The Sikhlens 2025 Annual Art Calendar will be launched in India by the British Deputy High Commissioner Chandigarh and will be available at the venue.
- This year's calendar is based on Sikh relics from the Anglo Sikh Virtual Museum, which is the world's first 3D Sikh museum located at New Walk Museum in Leicester.

Multiple Performances:

- Divine Music, Gidha, Zafarnama, and Gatka performances throughout the day.

Encouraging Youth Participation:

- The participation this year is youth-centric and involves films created by young filmmakers and scholarship recipients, and performances that include participation of youth from the ages of 7 to 35.
- The aim is to increase dialogue, build more academic footprints, and create an interface encouraging youth to participate in producing such stories, creating art, and exploring career opportunities in films, broadcast journalism, traditional and emerging media, including artificial intelligence, augmented reality, virtual reality, and new forms. Not just limited to photography, but also building a love relationship with history, heritage, and applying Sikhi principles in daily lives.

Free Entry:

- **The entry to the festival is free and open to all.** Visitors are advised to go through the minute-to-minute program.
- No invitation card or invite of any sort is required to be carried or asked for at the venue or from the Sikhlens India Festival Directorate.

- Festival Director, Sikhlens India for Sikhlens Sikh Arts & Film Festival 2025 (India Chapter)

List of Films with description and details of the film that will be screening this year (In order of playback)

Opening Film (12:00 PM) - 1 FILM

Film/Program Title	Description	Run Time	Country of Production	Name of Director(s)
<p>Saka Sirhind - Martydom of Younger Sahibzadey (Animation) Language: English</p>	<p>This movie is the story of the unforgettable sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's younger Sahibzadey Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji, in which it is shown how Mughal emperor Wazir Khan tempted and threatened them to give up their religion, but those great and fearless Sahibzadey sacrificed their lives but did not abandon their faith and the path of religion.</p>	38	India	Late Prof. Narindra Singh Commodore (Retd.)

Film Session - I (1:00 PM to 2:20 PM) - 5 FILMS

Film/Program Title	Description	Run Time	Country of Production	Name of Director(s)
<p>Guru Nanak Matth (Short Documentary) Language: Nepali, English</p>	<p>Amongst the city bustle of Kathmandu there is a small sign on the side of the road that reads Guru Nanak Matth. It's an easy to miss sign leading up to a flight of steps to the mystical shrine. The shrine is sacred to Hindus and Sikhs alike, though it's exact history is debated. A Hindu priest looks after the temple that displays both Sikh and Hindu iconography.</p>	6	Nepal	Samantha Andre, Michael Barth
<p>The Patka Box (Short Documentary) Language: English</p>	<p>The Patka Box is a short documentary that delves into how an educational tool promoting the cultural significance of the Sikh Patka can cultivate understanding and inclusivity in schools.</p>	12	Canada	Davinder Singh
<p>Reviving Roots (Short Documentary) Language: Punjabi</p>	<p>Reviving Roots follows Kalyan Singh, Pakistan's first Sikh professor, as he works to revive Gurmukhi, the sacred script of Sikhs, within Pakistan's educational system. It explores his family's decision to remain in Pakistan after Partition and how this legacy shaped Kalyan's mission to preserve Sikh culture and language in his homeland.</p>	18	Pakistan	Nida Arif
<p>Guru Da Kender (Short Documentary) Language: Punjabi</p>	<p>The film showcases the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Vidya Kendra, an educational institute dedicated to rehabilitating Sikh students across India. It highlights the institute's approach of combining formal education from 10th grade onwards with vocational training, while maintaining a strong focus on Gurmat Studies, emphasizing holistic development and cultural preservation.</p>	13	India	Amolak Singh

<p>Rising Above: The Kamal Singh Story (Short Documentary) Language: English, Punjabi</p>	<p>This film chronicles the inspiring journey of international ballet star Kamal Singh, from his humble beginnings in India to taking the world stage. Rising Above: The Kamal Singh Story: It is an intimate documentary chronicling Sikh ballet star Kamal Singh's inspiring journey from humble beginnings in India to the world stage, achieving the unimaginable through unwavering passion, dedication, and perseverance in the face of adversity</p>	28	United Kingdom	Amit Kaur
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Film Session - II (3:00 PM to 5:00 PM) - 1 FILM

Film/Program Title	Description	Run Time	Country of Production	Name of Director(s)
<p>Raah-E-Nanak (Feature Documentary) Language: English, Hindi</p>	<p>"Raah-e-Nanak: A Journey Through Everyday Sufiyat" explores the timeless teachings of Guru Nanak through ordinary lives, highlighting compassion, selflessness, and humanity. It shows how we can follow Nanak's path every day, not through grand gestures, but through small acts of kindness that embody his message.</p>	103	India	Rose Gill

Film Session - III (6:00 PM to 8:00 PM) - 6 FILMS

Film/Program Title	Description	Run Time	Country of Production	Name of Director(s)
<p>Resilience of Faith (Ramesh Singh Story) (Short Documentary) Language: Urdu, English, Punjabi</p>	<p>The documentary Resilience of Faith celebrates Ramesh Singh Arora's profound impact on the Sikh diaspora and devotion to preserving Sikh culture. Tracing his family's ancestral roots in Pakistan and their steadfast faith back to his grandfather's fateful decision to remain guided by the Guru's teachings, the film explores this heritage. It culminates with Arora's landmark accomplishments of establishing the Kartarpur Peace Corridor and passing the pioneering Sikh Marriage Act. Through honoring one family's sacrifices and service, the film illuminates the resilience and spirit of the global Sikh community.</p>	18	Pakistan	Salman Alam & Maria Patel
<p>Sparks of Change (Short Documentary) Language: Punjabi, English</p>	<p>Sparks of Change follows Prakash Singh, a Pakistani activist who nurtures young Sikh minds through education and cultural advocacy. The film showcases how his efforts are reviving Khalsa traditions and empowering Pakistan's Sikh youth to make their mark on the world.</p>	23	Pakistan	Shahbaz Khan

<p>Connecting the Dots (Short Documentary) Language: English, Urdu</p>	<p>In the heart of Jhelum, Punjab, Pakistan, Gurdwara Chowa Sahib stands as a profound testament to the historical significance of Guru Nanak and Bhai Mardana's fourth journey. It was constructed in 1834, during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. This 190 year old Gurdwara remained abandoned from time of Sikh migration to India during the partition, until its revival in 2022.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Pakistan</p>	<p>Salman Alam Khan</p>
<p>Hola Mohalla (Short Documentary) Language: Punjabi</p>	<p>Hola Mohalla is a compelling documentary about the annual Hola Mohalla event in Punjab. This Documentary takes viewers on a visual journey to Anandpur Sahib, where Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh Guru, founded the festival over 300 years ago. The film captures the explosive atmosphere of this Sikh festival.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>India</p>	<p>Parulpreet Singh</p>
<p>Eternal Musicians (Akal ke Rababiye) (Short Documentary) Language: Punjabi</p>	<p>Akal ke Rababiye (Musicians of the eternal), features Ranjodh Singh and Lovejot Singh. They make string instruments Rabab, Saranda and Taus. They play and teach Gurbani recital on these instruments as well. This film documents their work.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>India</p>	<p>Gurdeep Singh Dhaliwal</p>
<p>The Journey of United Sikh Mission (Short Documentary) Language: Punjabi, English</p>	<p>From working round the clock to providing free healthcare in rural Punjab, achieving environmental sustainability, and fostering international peace, the efforts of the United Sikh Mission have touched countless lives. Witness the story of hope and dedication through our free eye care camps, pandemic relief efforts, educational scholarships, groundbreaking solar power program, and international peace corridor.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>India</p>	<p>Ojaswwee Sharma</p>

Full Day Exhibition at SikhLens India 2025

All exhibitors will be available at the venue for photographs and interviews from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Exhibitions will be larger and more diverse this year, including:

A. National Integration and Heritage Relics Exhibition by Narinder Pal Singh

- One of the largest exhibitions on national integration and heritage through relics, displayed by Narinderpal Singh Ji, General Secretary of the National Numismatic Society (Numismatic: the study or collection of coins and medals).
- "Connecting the Past to the Future" will depict interfaith artifacts, including coins, multiple paintings on Sikhism, stamps and covers, and rare religious musical instruments such as Tanti Saaz.
- Display of coins from Maharaja Ranjit Singh's period and philately on Sikhism.
- Display of religious relics, such as the Ramcharitmanas, Bhagavad-Gita in Gurmukhi script, Bhagat Bani, and Waaran Bhai Gurdas Ji in Gurmukhi script.

B. Kangra Style Sikh Miniature Paintings by Manjeet Kaur

- Manjeet Kaur, who is reviving the Kangra style of Sikh miniature paintings, will showcase her work. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Sikh Miniature Work on Fresco and is the first woman to specialize in miniature paintings (Laghu Chitrkari). The exhibition will also feature contemporary portraits done in oil and acrylic.

C. Photography Exhibition by Bhupinder Singh

- Award-winning photographer Bhupinder Singh will showcase exclusive images from Holla Mohalla at Shri Anandpur Sahib. Witness the raw energy of Nihang Singh warriors in striking portraits and breathtaking horse panning shots, all captured directly from the camera without any editing. Explore the interplay of light and shadow in compelling low-key and high-key portraits, offering a creative and immersive visual journey into Sikh traditions and aesthetics.

D. Miniature and Social Kite Exhibition by Dr. Devinderpal Singh Sehgal

- Limca World Record holder Dr. Devinderpal Singh Sehgal will display and showcase his work, including the world's smallest kite that can pass through a needle. SikhLens is proud to support his journey and has produced a film, "Kites Beyond Boundaries," available on the SikhLens YouTube Channel, which had its world premiere in 2021 in Chandigarh.

E. Currency Note Collection by Shiv Chander Sablok

- Limca Book of Records holder Shiv Chander Sablok will showcase the largest collection of currency notes of Queen Elizabeth II from 24 Commonwealth countries, featuring 67 currency notes collected since 1998. This collection has taken 27 years of work.

F. Sikh Philately Display

- Sikh Philately contributions by various philately collectors of North India will be on display.

G. Participation of Accomplished and Young Artists

- More accomplished and young artists are confirming their presence and participation at the festival.

H. Book Display by SikhLens Publications

- Books by SikhLens Publications and curated books by patrons and supporters of SikhLens will be on display. This will include rare and exclusive coffee table books, books on the Sikh diaspora, biographies, and artistic books.