

PLANTATION UPDATE REPORT 2020

Sikhism: Leave it to Waheguru!



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INTRODUCTION

This report contains a detailed analysis of a total of 26 ber trees that were planted under Sikhism (Leave it to Waheguru!) . These 26 trees were planted in Uttar Pradesh under Rural Livelihood Support Program.



WHAT IS SIKHISM?

- ❖ Sikhism originated towards the end of 15th century in the Punjab region of the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ Although being one of the youngest of the major religions, it has gotten itself into the fifth-largest organized religions in the world, and ninth-largest overall religion. There are around 30 million Sikhs (followers of Sikhism) as of the early 21st century.
- ❖ Sikhism is based on the spiritual teachings of Guru Nanak Dev, the first Guru, and the nine other Gurus that succeeded him. Guru Granth Sahib is the holy book of Sikhs, named by the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh.
- ❖ The teachings of Guru Nanak Dev include living an “active, creative, and practical life of truthfulness, fidelity, self-control, and purity”. This is above the metaphysical truth, and that the ideal man is one who “establishes union with God, knows His Will, and carries out that Will.”



BER AND SIKHISM

- ❖ The Ber tree is located inside the Golden temple and is revered by the Sikh community. As the story goes, there was a man named Ber Baba Buddha Sahib who had camped under this tree and had started the service of digging the holy tank and construction of Harmandir Sahib.
- ❖ Devotees take bath in the holy water of the tank and seek blessings.
- ❖ Gurudwara Ber Sahib has a historic Ber tree where Guru Nanak used to meditate every day for 14 years and it was here that he attained a connection with the God. The gurdwara is named after that tree. While the gurudwara building stands alongside, the tree's branches have been covered with loosely-fitted metallic covers in order to prevent damage due to repeated touching by devotees. A Bhaura (underground closet) can also be seen.



BER AND SIKHISM

- ❖ Gurudwara Ber Sahib is in the city of Sultanpur Lodhi in Punjab. It was here that Guru Nanak Dev spent a good part of his life. According to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, one early morning when Guru Nanak Dev had gone for a bath in Bein rivulet before mediation, he had disappeared in the stream for three days. It is believed that he was in communion with God. Upon reappearing, he was enlightened and began his lifelong mission of preaching Sikhism. Guru Nanak Dev Ji had planted a Ber tree seedling on this spot which has grown into a large tree today.



FAITH AT SANKALPTARU

We, at SankalpTaru, believe that Faith is beyond praying and worshipping. It is an emotion that we can caress only when the world decides to co-exist. Without co-existence, everything will cease to exist, be it an emotion or a specie. Thus, an effort to serve the planet by planting trees is the need of the hour. Sikhism serves this purpose in the right way and urges us to plant ber trees that have significance in this religion.

WHY HAVE WE PLANTED BER TREES IN UTTAR PRADESH?



- ❖ Agriculture is the leading occupation in Uttar Pradesh. Mostly monocropping is being practiced by the farmers.
- ❖ The agricultural economy in Uttar Pradesh highly depends on monsoon. The erratic weather conditions lead to crop failures.
- ❖ Many farmers are indebted because of having no other source of income to pay off their increasing debt.
- ❖ To mitigate these risks, SankalpTaru Foundation initiated Rural Livelihood Support Program by planting 26 Ber trees in Uttar Pradesh and strengthening the livelihoods of rural farmers, promoting women empowerment, alleviating poverty and adding greenery to most arid and degraded lands.
- ❖ By growing trees alongside crops, Indian farmers are boosting incomes while saving the environment. Agroforestry has been hailed as one of the top solutions to climate change in Uttar Pradesh.

METRICS FOR PLANTATION OF BER TREES

A total of 26 ber trees were planted under Faith (Leave it to Waheguru!) contribute to:



* Oxygen produced
17,914.25 kgs



* Carbon-di-oxide sequester
9,346.56 kgs



* Water absorbed
2,10,100.8 litres



*Fruit Production
2,080 kg/ season



*Economic Value for Farmer
Rs. 62,400/- per season

* The above data has been given for 26 Ber trees planted under Rural Livelihood Support Program in Uttar Pradesh for 20 years.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BER

- ❖ Ber was used in India as a food as early as the 11th Century. In the early 1900s it was known as the “poor man’s apple”.
- ❖ A single Ber tree yields an average of 30,000 fruits per year, harvested primarily for consumption.
- ❖ Ber is also used in Ayurvedic medicine as a cooling agent. It is used to treat indigestion, burning sensations, fevers, and thirst. It is also a remedy for respiratory, circulatory, and digestive system issues.
- ❖ One of the extracted Ber fruit’s pigment is used as a natural dye for silk.
- ❖ In Asia, Ber are used to make pickles, chutneys and candies, or are crushed in water to make a cooling drink.
- ❖ Ber trees enjoy a warm, dry climate and full sun.



PHOTOS FROM THE GROUND: BER



PHOTOS FROM THE GROUND: BER



Thank You.



Plant now for Sikhism:

<https://sankalptaru.org/leave-it-to-waheguru/>

GET IN TOUCH:

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SankalpTaru.org™
We don't just plant!

