

On a working charter flight to Kelantan, the *Baaj of Humanity* pays homage to the Kuala Krai Gurdawara Sahib on its flight path home

By: Captain Bagawan Singh

The *Baaj of Humanity* was on a recent working charter flight in Kelantan for one of our clients and on our return flight path we flew over some of the towns and areas we had airlifted relief supplies during the December 2014 floods.



As the *Baaj of Humanity* gently descended 5000 feet through the dense layers of haze, the town of Manik Urai, Kelantan loomed ahead. The town's iconic railway bridge spanning over the river, which was almost totally drowned by last year's massive flood waters, stood majestically, unscathed. A testimony of its sheer determination to withstand the turbulent forces of nature.

As we hovered over the river, with its clear waters harmlessly swirling

along, in contrast to the might it displayed a mere three months ago when it devoured and devastated anything that stood in its path, a bright yellow building stood out against the scores of damaged homes and buildings.

Yes, it was the Gurdawara Sahib of Kuala Krai. One of the three Gurdawara's in Kelantan, one being in Tumpat and the other in Kota Bharu.



The rest of the town seemed to be moving along with the dust swirling off the roads, rubble piled skywards where development once stood, children playing in fields and open areas as if nothing catastrophic had occurred. The locals were seen constantly cleaning and reminded me of scenes from Wild Western Movies.

I spoke with several of the residents who confirmed that about 60% of the town was back to normalcy. What was evidently lacking was water, especially the supply of continuous clean water. The railway service wasn't operating yet so most of the transportation was via

road and river. Telecommunications were functioning smoothly. The villagers had taken the devastating floods in their stride and were now in harmony with Mother Nature.

The local authorities had responded swiftly and efficiently in the rehabilitation process whereby Manik Urai was almost 'repaired' and the authorities were preparing to do likewise with Kuala Krai.

There was no shortage of food and supplies. Health and hygiene were back to normal by Kuala Krai standards.



A brief interlude with the President of Gurdawara Sahib Kuala Krai, Sardar Gormukh Singh Ji, revealed a steadfast man who had persevered with the cleaning and restoration works at the Gurdawara through the generous support provided by various Sikh organisations and individuals.

He also said that the Gurdawara Committee were awaiting to see the type, and extent of assistance and funds that the government would

provide before deciding on the next course of action in rebuilding the Gurdawara Sahib Kuala Krai.

Sardar Gormukh Singh was also grateful for all the support the Sikh Community throughout the country had provided to them and the people of Kuala Krai during the floods.



As the *Baaj of Humanity* lifted off for its journey to home base after completing a charter flight for one of our client's, it made a final swoop to pay obeisance and *dandauth* to the Gurdawara Sahib Kuala Krai and momentarily hovered over the very spot it had landed several months ago to help retrieve the *Saroor of Dhan Dhan Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji*.

In the blistering heat, a chill was felt running down the spine. The *Baaj of Humanity* fluttered its blades, spun around and headed skywards, gearing for its next humanitarian mission, the *Good Will Walk 2015* - a 750km walkathon starting on April 19, 2015 from Kampung Wang Kelian, Perlis and ending on May 23, 2015 in Malacca to also

commemorate the annual *barsi* of one greatest humanitarians of our time, Sant Baba Sohan Singh, who always preached to recognise the human race as one.



The *Good Will Walk 2015, Walk To Feed*, an initiative spearheaded by UNITED SIKHS Malaysia, will see the participation of thousands of Malaysians of various races and faiths who will join the walk to help raise 200 tonnes of non-perishable food and RM3.6million in funds to set up the *Malaysia Foodbank*, feed the abject poor and homeless, the Orang Asli, minority communities and any others in need of help.