

50 Punjab docs and paramedics ready for Nanded

PATIALA: Responding to the call of Jathedar Kulwant Singh of Takht Hazur Sahib, a team of 50 doctors and paramedical staff and volunteers of the Nishkam Medical Care Society is ready to leave for Nanded to provide medical facilities to the thousands of pilgrims and local Nanded residents for ten days beginning 27th October.

The Nishkam society has four years experience in this field and has been active in organizing medical campst at village Cheema, near Sunam, with active cooperation of the Baru Sahib Academy. They have held 6 medical camps and conducted around 300 operations.

According to information released by Dr. Gurdeep Singh from Patiala, the camp site will be the Dashmesh Hospital at Nanded and the team will provide round the clock medical support and free medicines to the pilgrims and local residents. The team will leave on 25 October by Sachkhand Express and will camp there till 6th November.

The doctors who will participate in this noble mission include Dr Gurdeep Singh, M.S (Orthopedics), Dr H S Sandhu, M.S (Orthopedics), Dr Gurmeet Singh, M.S (General Surgery), Dr Harjinder Kaur, M.S (Gynae), Dr Gurpreet Kaur, M.S (Gynae), Dr Gurinder Kaur, M.S (Gynae), Dr mandeep Kaur, M.S (Gynae), Dr Harpreet Kaur, M.S (Gynae), Dr Mrs Kuljit Kaur, M.S (Gynae), Dr K. S Walia, M.D Medicine, Dr J. S Hans, M.S (Eye), Dr G. P Singh, M.S (Plastic surgery), Dr Jasbir Singh, M.D Pathology, Dr Inderpreet Singh, M.D Chest, Dr Mrs Kushal Hans, M.D (E .N .T), Dr Upinder Singh, M.B.B.S (General), Dr Gurinder Singh, M.B.B.S (General), Dr Karminder Singh, M.B.B.S (General), Dr Taranjit Kaur, M.B.B.S (Medical), Dr Harpreet Singh, M.B.B.S (General), Dr J.S. Pannu, M.B.B.S (General), Dr Surinder Singh, M.B.B.S (General), Dr Ranjit Singh Raipuria, M.B.B.S (Medical)

The paramedical staff include Ved Prakash Mangla, Ram Murthy Sharma, Nirmal Kumar, Vivek Sharma, Sawaranjit Singh, Jagmohan Kaur, Sudesh Sharma, Jasbir Kaur, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Anil Kumar, Sarbeshwar Bansal, Jasbir Singh, Satpal Singh, Parminder Singh, Mahesh, Gurpreet Singh, Baljinderjit Singh, Balwinder Singh, Surinder Kaur, Amarinder Singh, Rajbir Kaur, Darshan Singh, Jarnail Singh, Salig Ram Verma, Ajay Kumar, Sukhminder Kaur

The camp organizing committee includes Col B. S. Arora Organising Secretary, M. R. Singh Mehta Joint Organising Secretary (Finance) and Gurbax Singh Dhingra Joint Organising Secretary.

Local Sikhs bring donation for school in India

Two Sikh Association representatives from Brantford leave next week for India bearing a \$3,500 gift to be used for a school kitchen in the city of Hazoor Sahib.

Gurdav Singh Lall, the president of the Sikh Association, and Daljit Singh Kahlon, a clergyman since 1980, are making the presentation to Nanaksar Dasmesh Public School shortly after they arrive in India on Saturday. They leave Canada on Thursday.

The gift is just one small part of a longer trip. In a news conference Sunday at the Sikh temple on Park Road North, Kahlon said they will be in India for 47 days as part of a worldwide prayer conference that also takes them into Pakistan.

"This is an annual tradition, going to Pakistan to celebrate the Sikh first master (Guru Nanak)," added Sikh Association member Minder Singh Thangki.

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"This year has become a special event because it is 300 years of the Sikh holy book (Guru Granth Sahib). It is to the Sikh like the Bible is to the Christian, or the Gita to the Hindu or the Koran to the Muslim."

Bringing religion of love

Her forefathers had lived in Sindh from the days of the Harappan trade with Mesopotamia. After Partition her family moved to India for keeps. "All we had were the clothes on our backs," the matriarch reminisces, "not to forget the Granth Sahib snatched from our abandoned ancestral home."

In course of time, the family regained its former splendour, and managed to install the Holy Book in a puja room of a posh seaside flat in Mumbai. To the great contentment of the matriarch, several uninterrupted recitals (akhand path) of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib had been organised.

"Over those two days and nights, when the sacred bani is recited without pause, the atmosphere at home is surcharged with reverence just like it used to be in the balmy days at Sukkur and Shikarpur," she reminisces.

Such stories of return and rejuvenation have been repeated many times over, across many cultures and communities around the globe. Consider the example of the early travails and persecution suffered by the Sikhs. Today, millions of them around the world were happily celebrating the 300th anniversary of the consecration of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth and the last Guru of the Sikhs, proclaimed the Holy Scripture to be the eleventh, and eternal guru, of the Sikhs on October 20, 1708 at Nanded in Maharashtra. The day was now listed as 'Siri Guru Granth Sahib Day' by Illinois state governor Rod Blagojevich, Chicago mayor Richard Daley and Palatine mayor Rita Mullin!

"Nearer home, one shouldn't forget the contribution to the bani from the saintly tradition of Maharashtra," the matriarch continues. "The pioneer of Bhakti movement Sri Namdeo was born here. Joining the renowned sage Sri Jnandeo, he travelled across India, singing his wonderful poems, or abhangas, and bringing the Religion of Love to all the land. But it wasn't until he met his Guru, Vishoba Khechar, that Sri Namdeo was able to see God everywhere and truly rejoice in God's infinite presence."

Yet so saddened was Namdeo by his friend's samadhi that he left the state to travel up north, and eventually spent 20 years in the Ghuman village in Punjab. Namdeo supposedly returned to home state at the end to experience the bliss of sanjivan-samadhi (living interment). He lives on through his kirtans: such has been the saint's charisma that 61 of his Hindi poems have been canonised in the Adi Granth. Read that Raj Thackeray?

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