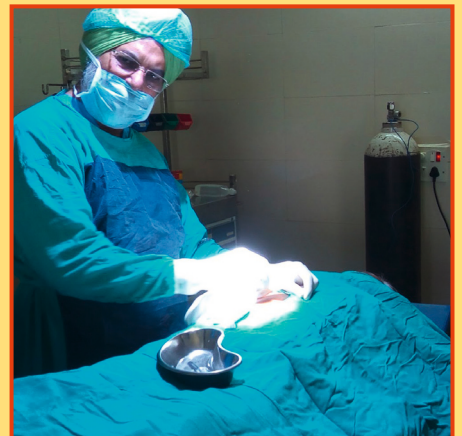


Kirpal Sagar

2017/2018



*Be good
Do good
Be one*



cultural, social, charitable and medical activities in Kirpal Sagar in India
from October 2017 till October 2018

Kirpal Sagar - a meeting point for different cultures and religions, a bridge connecting East and West, a place of peace and silence.

Kirpal Sagar stands for tolerance, culture, international communication and cooperation, agriculture in a sustainable way, social care and support for the needy, and people all over the world like it and are engaged, hand in hand.



About six hours after departure from Delhi Airport we reach Kirpal Sagar in northwestern India by car, situated in the state of Punjab. On the road lot of people are on their way and several things quite uncommon for foreign eyes can be seen like a family of five members together on a motobike or a dozen persons in a quite small car, looking out of the windows with a joyous glance in their eyes. We pass rural areas with lots of small houses and huts and see women dressed in bright and colourful saris and scarfs who seem to hover over the dusty path.

The roads get smaller, and suddenly there is a post: Kirpal Sagar. Quite from a distance, at the end of a sleepy little village, we see white turrets blister through trees and bushes. And then, we are at our destination and pass the main entrance gate, arrived at something like a town which unexpected suddenly grew up inmidst the fields.

We pass a bright building, which creates an impression of unbelievable beauty and fragility at the same time, on its roof the symbols of four world religions. It looks like a ship, which hardly touches the ocean under its keel. Our eyes are attracted by a mosaic, indicating „God is one“, nearby an inscription which gives the motto of Kirpal Sagar: „Be good, do good, be One“.

The last 35 years Kirpal Sagar transformed from an idealistic vision to a real, vital place in an exhilarant silent and unexited way. In the beginning there were lots of bushes and thorns, inmidst a small farm with a well and some scraggy fields.

Initiator, founder and pathfinder was Kirpal Singh, a highly respected personality, in India as well as abroad. Amongst others he was the president of World Fellowship of Religions for 14 years. He had the vision of a place which is open to all mankind, where we all can meet irrespective of outer signs and batches. To Dr. Harbhajan Singh and his wife Surinder Kaur he gave the challenging duty to put this vision into practice. Together with other volunteers they changed the land to fertile fields which are like a green belt embracing Kirpal Sagar, which nowadays consists of 80 hektars.



There live, work, teach and learn many people out of different runs of life. At the same time Kirpal Sagar is an open place for all visitors, the most of them stay there some days or like to give a helping hand. Kirpal Sagar nowadays consists of the hospital, schools, the library, a guest house, a fathers' home, agricultural and dairy facilities, just to name a few. The farm delivers wheat, rice, legumes, vegetables, sugar cane and vegetable oils. The dairy farm provides milk, butter, cheese and yoghurt. Kirpal Sagar gets enough edibles from the fields to be quite self-sustaining in staple foods. Also the students and the hostels are supplied by the farm.

In the surroundings of Amritsar Dr. Harbhajan Singh cared for patients as a medical doctor for long years, near to the border to Pakistan. Then in 1973 he opened a hospital there. It spread like a wild fire that the doctor has a wide heart for the poor at this place, and of them near to the border there are lots of. The hospital in Nag Kalan still works today.

Kirpal Sagar is supported in its charitable aspects by personal help of many hands and heads, by donations and knowledge transfer. Those who had the luck participating in its onset, report one astonishing thing: looking back they experienced Kirpal Sagar as a workshop of personal shaping and conditioning, like a washing machine, which was open for all mankind and will surely stay open in future.

Just join us exploring Kirpal Sagar's path of the last 12 months..



Sport connects

From 27th till 29th Oktober 2017 a U19-Volleyball competition of the schools of eastern Punjab took place. This year it was the term of the Kirpal Sagar Academy to organize and host this event .

The competition was opened by Ms Sonali Giri (IAS), Deputy Comissioner of the SBS Nagar district, who is responsible for 180 schools. At the gate she was welcomed by the horse squadron of the Academy. In his opening address Mr. Karamjit Singh Virk, chairman of Kirpal Sagar and the Academy, reported of the oncoming workshop in first aid for classes 10 to 12, which should start the next days. The first matches were also used for vivid exchange and Ms. Sonali Giri expressed her view to meet preparations to get such workshops for the other schools as well.



In her address she had warm words for the place and wished the students to participate in this competition in a mood of Fair-Play.



In the library there is an exhibition giving background information, history and meaning of Kirpal Sagar as well as many quotations backing the view that the kernel of all religions is one and the same.



Students save lives

From 30th Oct. till 02nd Nov.17 a **first aid training** took place at the Academy. Dr. Walter S., a medical doctor from Germany, had organized a team. His assistants, 14 and 16 years old, had holidays themselves in Germany this time, so they could participate and share their skills as members of a school medical squadron. They had lot of fun and joy interacting with their indian counterparts. The indian students soon lost their shy and were busy in training lifegiving methods.

Beforehand round about 25 students had been expected by the team. In the end more than 250 students took part in the training. Principal Ma'am, Mrs. Madhu Aeri, sent also two teachers, to get training as trainer.

The students could learn things they normally don't learn at school. They eagerly learned and exercised. They obviously liked the interaction with the foreign team, which also brought lot of nice experiences to Germany and planned to come back to Kirpal Sagar Academy as soon as possible.

November 2017

Kick off for sustainable energy supply

At the begin of November first mounting stands for solar panels were installed at a roof, a stepping stone for sustainable energy supply.

Checkup for buildings

High climate changes, heat and heavy rainfall are not only a challenge for people but also for buildings. Alex G., an architekt and engineer from Germany, und Niklas S. prooved the foundations, the walls and roofs of the hospital to look for a better shelter from meteorological wear and tear. A concept of strengthening the building's body was their aim. And they also could not refuse, when the music room of the Academy needed their help.



A ventilating training for nurses in the emergency room of the *KS Charitable Hospitals* on Nov. 02.nd.

Flower Mosaic

Above the entrance of the major hall since several days a man is standing on a ladder, working on a mosaic. Quickly he fixes a strip with further five stones till the sun sets and light gets too poor for further work. Then he tells that he comes to Kirpal Sagar every year since long time and that he cares for the mosaics. Today he worked on a floral motive the inspiration he got from a box from Agra, the town which is known world-wide due to the Taj Mahal.

From time to time someone stops to get a closer view. Obviously it's a heartfelt wish of the artist, that style and motives fit to Indian way. For some spectator it's hardly to believe to come to India to do some work here, but this man apparently gets from this work something, joy and inner peace.

Talking to him we discover that he met Sant Kirpal Singh in Europe and then visited him in Delhi. His concern was to bring understanding amongst human beings, to establish peace and unity, by and with the help of people, but also through places which are dedicated to the human inner and outer development.



Biological agriculture

Harry S., a trader and agronomist from Germany, is fond of sustainable ways of agriculture. He helps with words and deeds since long time.

For some years he works meticulously on the growing of moringa, using rented fields. In the long run a reliable additional source of income for Kirpal Sagar is the goal. A wide heart and a long breath are needed for this job.

In the same time it gets obvious how to do sustainable agriculture in practical life, how to prepare compost and improve the fertility of the fields. As side effects some jobs with fair conditions arose - to meet the needs of livelihood, to increase knowledge and experience and to pass this git to others. Just nice to see that such a plan can work in practical life, too.



As speaker at agricultural seminar, which took place in Kirpal Sagar in November 2017.

November 2017

Agricultural seminar

Niki R., organic farmer and dairy specialist from the Austrian mountains, likes to share experience with others, theoretical knowledge as well as practical solutions. Processing of milk and its change in longerlasting products like cheese are his favorite themes. Cooling of fresh milk requires lot of energy and isn't so easily done in times of frequent black-outs, especially for small farmers with one to four buffaloes. Therefore he again showed in a workshop how to prepare cheese, like the years before. Many came and wanted to improve their knowledge and skills. Ina K., who was at Niki's mountain pasture for longer time, could prolong her stay and support the dairy farm at Kirpal Sagar.

The agricultural seminar „practise of sustainable agriculture“ on Nov. 14th saw Niki on the stage and at the information booth, speaking to others from farmer to farmer. Kirpal Sagar provides hotspots of exchange, knowledge and experience, to develop the surrounding as well. Healthy food for the animals and their health are important for Niki to get healthy food, the visitors could see with own eyes.





Founder's Day of Kirpal Sagar Academy

Nov. 15th is founder's day of Kirpal Sagar Academy. Guests from far and wide as well as from abroad came to be part of the festivity. This time Josef B. from Germany was the chief guest.

The Academy is a private school with KG and classes 1 to 12. Students get there their exam. It is an English-medium school, a fact that diminishes obstacles in international cooperation and exchange. Teaching is according to CBSE-standard. The Academy is a boarding school and also accepts day scholars.

Studentships are provided to poor students.



What has happened inbetween

A group on a walk through the fields, to the foil houses and the mushroom farm. The gains meet the need of the project, the surplus adds to cover the costs. Parminder und Karamjit Singh accompany the group. They are the children of the „parents“ of Kirpal Sagar, of Dr. Harbhajan Singh und Surinder Kaur.

After the fields they went upstairs on the roof to see the first solar panels.



To meet the needs of World Conference in 1994 a guest house was built. There the western visitors live during their stay.

Langar hall

The next stop was at the future langar hall (common kitchen). There pillars for the roof are already standing.

The soil was prepared by volunteers from Kirpal Sagar as well as from abroad. (digging the earth, filling with briquets, compacting and finally cementing the floor).



Chapatis in the oven, traditional flat bread made of wheat.



Medical camp

Sebastian A. opens the free medical camp for poor and needy persons from the surroundings, performed by the staff of Charitable Hospital.

Patients were checked (blood pressure, blood sugar, thyroid hormones) where necessary also by X-Ray.

Information of patients and relatives was done, several booklets and pamphlets waited for the readers. In the 5 day camp approximately 500 patients got free medicine. Some were brought to hospital to undergo surgery.



Medical support in Kirpal Sagar started in 1982, just after leveling the scene and laying the bricks for the first multi-purpose building.

Dr. Harbhajan Singh's hospital in Nagkalan and the Kirpal Sagar Charitable Hospital became the base of medical camps within short time. To bring medical investigation and help directly in the villages especially for the poorest of the inhabitants often is the only way to get access to medical supply.

The hospital is a charitable non-profit institution. The focus lays on help for poor persons, mainly in out-patient sector. Day and night seven days per week it is open for its patients, open for emergency cases. Till the year of 2014 the numbers of operations in the field of general surgery rise, especially operations of hernia and gallbladder.



Mr. Agarwal, hospital administrator and orthoptist, checks the eye-sight with the help of a slit lamp, which was bought with donations short time ago. Since the camp in March more than 40 operations were done without fee. The Mobile medical unit was also in charge.



> scan QR-Code, view video-clip !



An Award for the Academy

Out of 500 schools in India the Kirpal Sagar Academy gets the Brainfeed School Excellence Award in the category „Best Day cum boarding and innovation practices school.“ The award is provided each year in 20 different categories by the Brainfeed magazine. May be one reason was the new multimedia room where a video-conferencing system is installed which allows to connect to a teacher or specialist far away. The focus lies on preparing for the final exams as well as exploring the own skills and get an idea what to do after school. The natural sciences are predestined for such an additional feature.

New music instrument

A music teacher from Austria brought a vibraphone with him, an instrument which is quite ideal for India and its rain seasons. It consists of aluminium and is resistant to rust or detuning. The gift was introduced with a nice concert where the teacher showed the scope of expression and virtuosity. Like the years before he gave lessons in drums set.

In several workshops young persons can get vocational skills in handcraft fields. A special kind of „vocational training“ is just coming out, where school and job are combined.

Women like the courses in sewing and other fancywork, an easy way to increase family income.



In march news from the „National Institute of Open Schooling“ came that Kirpal Sagar got the accreditation for some courses:
plumber/welding, electrician, cosmetician/hairdresser, tailor, computing/programming.



Day of the mother

12th May, mother's day in Kirpal Sagar.

The supreme judge of SBS Nagar district visited the fathers' home and had some surprises for the ladies in his bag.

Beforehand the Academy had an art competition. The best pictures and paintings got prizes and were compiled to an exhibition in the fathers' home. It was an honour for the chief guests to inaugurate the exhibition.

In the Fathers' Home there are elder people, whose families cannot care for them sufficiently. Here they feel safe and accommodated and can further take part in social life. It is a nice tradition in Kirpal Sagar, that the students of the Academy visit the people living in fathers' home from time to time. There they do sewa (kind of selfless help). They clean, talk to and exchange views with the elder generation. These like to share their experiences with the younger ones..

Work at Langar Hall continued

In May work at the langar hall continued. Since years meals were taken, sitting on the floor under the open sky, in traditional long rows side by side. In rain season a nearby shelter was used. The new hall in future provides enough dry space for all.

The earth is levelled and strengthened, many hands put additional earth out. Some of the pillars which stand there for more than ten years will require replacement. Winds and the weather had not been too polite to them. The pillars will carry the roof construction.

Langar - a common kitchen which supplies more than 300 persons per day with traditional vegetarian food.

In major events thousands take part in having meal.



Many inhabitants of Kirpal Sagar and grown ups like to help in the parks. Doing something together connects people, and as side effect money can be spared and used for other urgent needs.



Interreligious conference

In Amritsar a major interreligious conference took place. Unity of Man, the responsible body behind Kirpal Sagar, was also invited to send speakers.

Representatives of different religions and communities of faith like yogis and swamis met there. Some of them had also been in Kirpal Sagar before, contributing to conferences there. The conference was broadcasted in Punjab. The invitation was spread to come to Kirpal Sagar on the occasion of the 125th birthday of Kirpal Singh in February 2019, the founder of Kirpal Sagar.



Kirpal Singh, World Conference on Unity of Man 1974

Some times a year the doors of the major assembly hall (bhawan) open for conference. Representatives of several religions and religious groups sit on the platform and speak about the interconnecting link of all living beings. Idea and initiative as well as the first piece of land in Kirpal Sagar came from Kirpal Singh – the initiator of the first world conference on Unity of Man in 1974 in Delhi.

Tenthousands from near and far took part in that conference. Kirpal Singh summarized that the key to every person and to our dividing problems lies on the base of man (= human being), less in speaking but much more in practical deed and action, in sewa to man, land and the whole planet, according to the motto: one ounce of practical life is more worth than tons of theories.

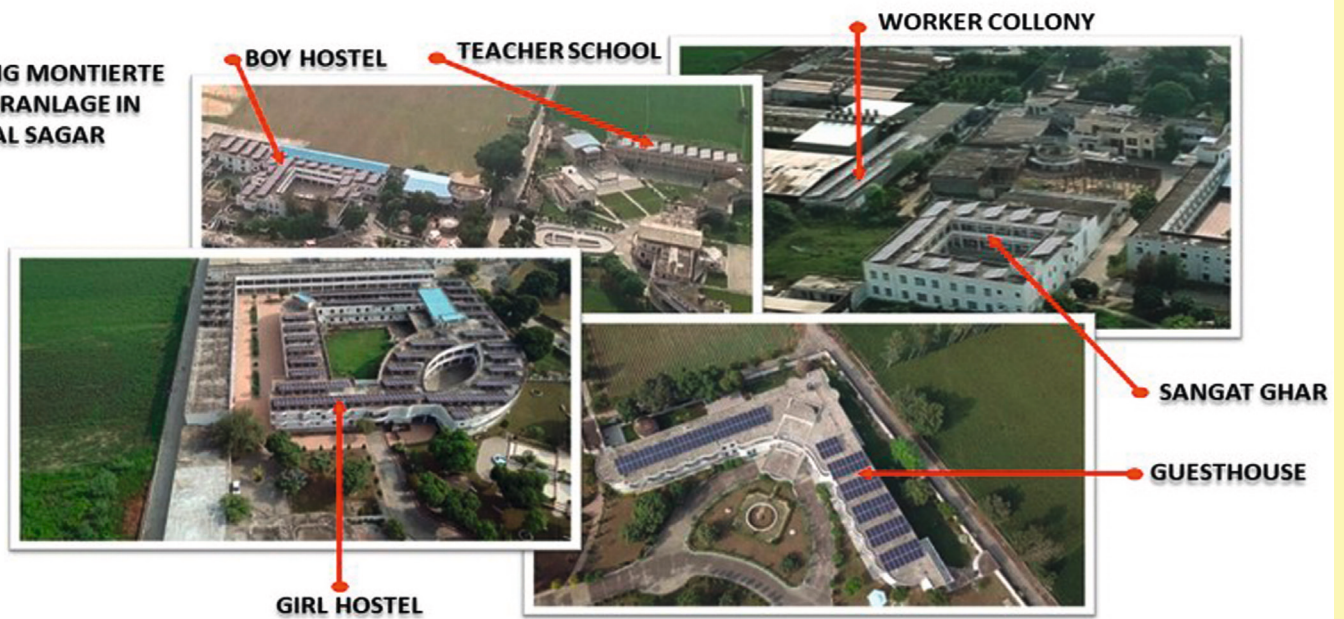


Not only the Solar plant grows

The solar panels cover now more and more roofs in Kirpal Sagar, inspite of the heat. At daytime it's more than 40 degree celsius and at nighttime temperature gets not less than 25 degree.

In Kirpal Sagar there are a lot of fruitbearing plants like oranges, papaya, pomelos, which grow up to the skies after the rain season.

**FERTIG MONTIERTE
SOLARANLAGE IN
KIRPAL SAGAR**



Inauguration

August 31st a first part of 250 kW_{peak} of the solar plant was connected to the cables.

At 10:00 a.m. program started with the opening ceremony. Then the panels were connected with the electric supply network. Since then it produces electricity. An electric meter shows the amount of produced electric current. Next week the second part with 250 kW_{peak} shall be connected to the grid.



Further award

The Academy got the award in nationwide school ranking test „national school award“ as best residential boarding school of the year 2018 in Punjab. Congratulations !



August 2018



Renovation

Work behind the langar continues, also renovation work in sangat ghat, the lodging of the volunteers.

September 2018



Photovoltaik, 3rd step

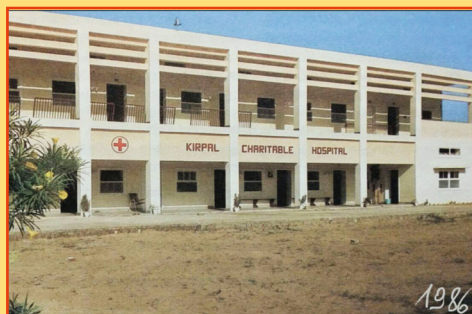
on October 09th work on the roof of fathers' home was taken up again. There further 200 kW_{peak} solar panels shall be installed. Till November the connection to the grid is expected. Together with the already installed 500 kW_p Kirpal Sagar will have more than 700 kW_p at the end of the year, covering some 65% of power requirements.

Climate change is evident. Temperature in summer season gets up. In night time temperature falls hardly, which means more power to climate machines and more rooms that need cooling.



more than 30 years ago ...





*Each of us is unique in his or her own way.
Behind the life of each individual,
who comes into the world,
is a divine intention.*

*No one was created without meaning
and we should learn something from everyone.
That is the secret of humility.*

Kirpal Singh

*Give a child a palace and all the amenities,
and it becomes a useless person in this world.*

*Give him right understanding instead - love,
free from own interest and attachment.
If such a child finds itself in the wilderness,
it will be able to build a palace there.*

Harbhajan Singh

*I believe, that there is something in everybody,
That enlightens, when we see others
and come to know them,
And that we all are a light for other people.*

*In my life I experienced,
That through a little, little thing,
Which is done by somebody,
Other persons are backed and led further on.*

Albert Schweitzer

*Many common people in various common places,
Who do a lot of little, little things,
Are indeed able to change
The world's face*

from Afrika



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