



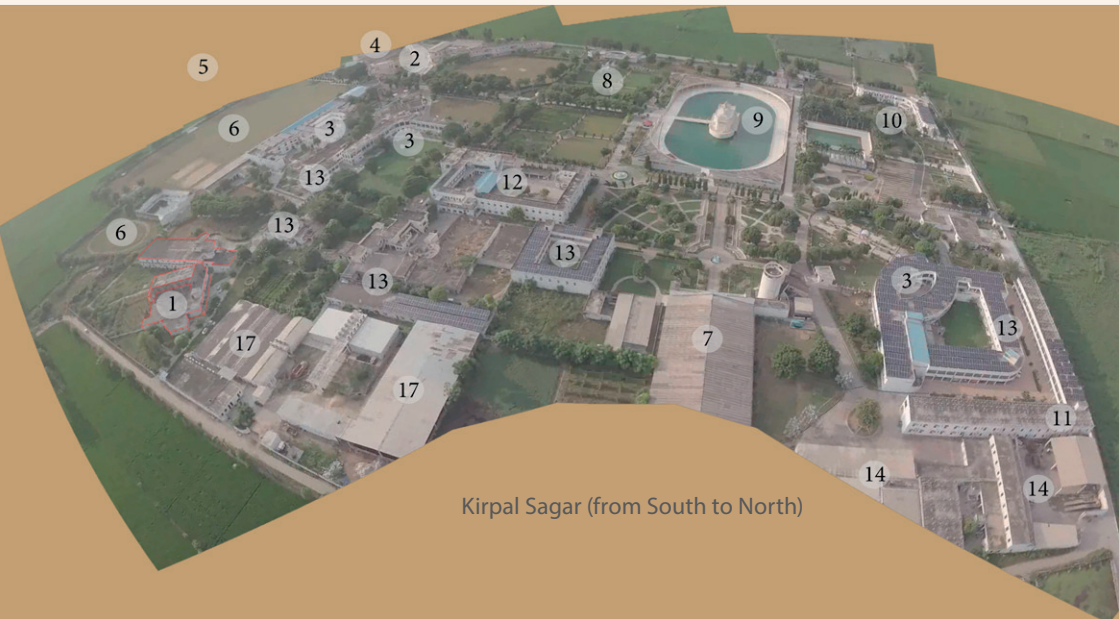
KIRPAL SAGAR



EN-2020

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KIRPAL SAGAR



Kirpal Sagar is situated in the north of India in the state of Punjab, near the town Rahon in the district S.B.S. Nagar. It is embedded in an agricultural area, surrounded by smaller villages, near the river Sutlej. The foothills of the Himalayas are about 50 kilometres away.

It is a place open to all people, irrespective of nationality, colour, caste, social background, religion or other external characteristics. With its diverse facilities, it is meant to offer comprehensive stimulation, including physical, social, ethical and spiritual.



Religious aspects are integrated into daily life in India in many ways and it is impossible to imagine life without them. In Kirpal Sagar, rooms are made available for meetings and prayers, and all religions have their place. Visible signs of this are, among others, the symbols of unity.

Kirpal Singh summarised the basic principles of this place in 1974: Be good - do good - be one. „Be one“ does not only mean that people should have common goals, it stands for the unity of all life. The fundamental ethical values are based on it, it is a common sustainable basis.

HOSPITAL

THE KIRPAL SAGAR CHARITABLE HOSPITAL





In 1982, care for the sick was started in one room. It was Kirpal Sagar's first institution to start work. Since then, those in need receive free medical treatment and medicines. Conventional medicine is supplemented by homeopathy, naturopathy and Ayurveda. Every year, about 20,000 patients are treated, most of them on an outpatient basis. The ambulance bus travels to remote places to take care of patients who would otherwise be cut off from medical help. Specialists now perform operations on a weekly basis. First aid is given in the emergency room. ECG, laboratory and X-ray are available, kidney patients can be dialysed since 2012. The hospital pharmacy also offers medicines for outpatients. Since ancient times, helping sick people has been considered a high ethical duty. At the time of Hippo-

crates, training included far more than just knowledge of technical physical aspects, which is so highly valued in today's world. In those days, a doctor had to get to know life with its ups and downs, but above all his own limitations. Only then was a holistic, empathic view possible. This is where the Kirpal Sagar Charitable Hospital wants to make its contribution. Doctors, among others from Europe, have been gathering valuable experience for many years. A closer exchange with doctors, nurses and students from the West is planned for the future.

The hospital will also be involved in the practical training sections of a Medical College (medical doctors) and a College of Nursing Sciences (nursing).

KIRPAL SAGAR ACADEMY

WITH HUMAITY TO UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE QUALIFIKATION



The Kirpal Sagar Academy is a state-recognised public school. After kindergarten, it offers 12 classes leading to university entrance qualification. The academy has been run as a boarding school since 1992, but also accepts day students. In 2020, 500 children between the ages of 5 and 19 were enrolled. Lessons are taught in English and meet international standards (CBSE curriculum). Science labs are available as well as art and music rooms.

Applied Computer Science is taught as a subject, and external experts also teach and regularly review via a distance learning system. In Grade 11 and 12, students choose a specialisation such as languages and arts, economics or natural sciences. The nationally standardised final examinations are taken by both internal and external teachers. Conversely, teachers from the Academy also examine at other schools.



Many students go on to study, some of them abroad at recognised universities, mainly in Great Britain or the USA. The Academy campus is made up of several individual buildings where boarders live during school hours. After school, various sports activities, homework supervision, music, dance and theatre groups are offered. Pupils from needy families receive a scholarship from the sponsor after an aptitude test.

In a comprehensive education, humanity may be missing, even if it can hardly be taught in a classical frontal way. To this end, it is best to exemplify a broad-minded attitude that focuses on respect for the human being, irrespective of all external differences such as skin colour, religious affiliation, caste thinking, poor or rich.

KIRPAL SAGAR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

LEARN TO TEACH HOLISTICALLY



Since 2007, teachers for grades 6 to 10 have been trained at the college. Located within the Academy, up to 100 students receive the necessary skills for their future profession. Both the college and the academy benefit from a variety of close contacts. A student dormitory offers space for 40 students. In addition to the lecture hall, several seminar rooms are available.

Several weeks of work experience in neighbouring schools are built into the course of study. The college participates in competitions for the design of teaching aids. In these competitions, students learn how to create models for the classroom from simple materials. The spectrum ranges from the illustrated water cycle to the nuclear reactor to models dealing with language phenomena.



The two-year programme ends with the Bachelor of Education examination. Further expansion is in preparation for the future. Then, after the Bachelor's degree, the Master of Education can also be obtained. Work is also underway to expand the range of subjects. A connection to the Academy's distance learning system is also in preparation.

The college is part of a network of the University of Amritsar, which both selects and examines the students. Most of the students come from the region and later strengthen the surrounding schools.

K.H. PUBLIC SCHOOL

PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR EDUCATION CLOSE TO HOME



The K.H. Public School is located west of the campus, in the neighbouring village of Daryapur. It is attended by many students from the surrounding area whose parents would otherwise not be able to afford a good education. In 2020, it had a good 400 pupils.

The language of instruction at the Public School is Punjabi, a regional language widely spoken in northern India. Hindi and English are taught as foreign languages.

After completing the tenth grade, gifted students can transfer to the Kirpal Sagar Academy and obtain university entrance qualifications. Scholarships are available for the needy. The Dr. Harbhajan Singh Sports Complex is used by both the Public School and the Academy.



Among other events, a volleyball tournament has been held every year in December since 1995, in which teams from all over North India participate. There are also school teams in basketball, football, cricket, baseball, horse riding, taek-won-do and many other sports. In the arts, both schools have theatre groups, traditional and modern singing and music, traditional dance. The two schools are close-

ly intertwined in this area as well. Workshops in rhetoric and presentation techniques to train expressive skills at the Academy round off the programme.

The Indian curriculum covers the basics of the religious and philosophical schools of thought found in India. Both schools encourage students to think outside the box.

KIRPAL BHAWAN

ASSEMBLY AND EVENT HALL



The Kirpal Bhawan is an event hall that can accommodate several thousand people, who can regularly attend lectures, celebrations and conferences here several times a year.

In 1994 and 2007, two major international conferences on human unity were held. Thousands of people from different countries and walks of life took part.

On such days, many opportunities arose to exchange ideas and to speak heart to heart with each other.

Often people reported afterwards that apart from the speeches, the atmosphere in Kirpal Sagar gave them a deep feeling of togetherness, connectedness and inner peace.

These were impressions that filled the heart with joy, confidence and enthusiasm, impressions that one wants to share with others from the heart.



LIBRARY

READ AND DISCOVER



India has a rich and diverse religious tradition. Interest and getting to know each other is the first step towards tolerance and mutual appreciation. In the library, holy scriptures of different religions are available for this purpose, as well as biographies of great personalities and philosophical texts. They were written at different times and in different languages.

A more than 4,000-year-old Upanishad text aptly summarises: actually, there is only one truth, which is described by the sages in different ways. „Seeing is above all“ says an ancient Indian wisdom.

Until then, the scriptures give valuable clues, also to the original, inner core that is common to all religions. The library is intended to promote an open, unbiased view and to encourage comparison and study of the religions. The libraries of the Academy and the College also serve the acquisition of knowledge. In addition to specialist books and international literature, content is increasingly available via the internet.

SAROVAR

COMMON HOUSE IN KIRPAL SAGAR'S HEART



Indians live religion very intensively in everyday life. In addition, they love easily understandable, pictorial language and symbols. The water in the sarovar stands for the sea of life that man must cross to reach his eternal home. The basin is surrounded by four corner buildings. The Guru Granth Sahib of the Sikhs, the Ramayana of the Hindus, the Bible and the Koran have their place here. Services are also held there and readings are given from the respective scriptures.

If you come to Kirpal Sagar, you can see the symbols of unity on the roof of the central building from far away.

They are models of places of worship: Gurdawara, temple, mosque and church. Such forms are found in all religious traditions, whose mystics tell us that we should seek the highest power within ourselves and experience it there.

SYMBOLS OF UNITY

WE ARE ALL ONE



Seen in this way, human beings are all brothers and sisters in God, whatever their confession or religion may be, whatever terms or names they may give to the supreme power - an underlying unity in the diversity of external manifestations. This family community includes all people, whether they may call themselves religious or not.

*If the ideal of unity is our sincere desire,
it will spread like wildfire, burning away
division and hatred, hostility and selfishness.*

What remains is unity.

Dr. Harbhajan Singh

GUESTHOUSE

FOR VISITORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD





In preparation for the World Conference in 1994, a guest house was built, which is also popular with western visitors.

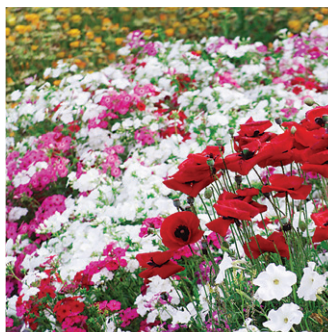
16 flats with two to three beds and private bathrooms with showers are available for accommodation. In the dining room, vegetarian dishes are served, which are also digestible for people less accustomed to Indian spiciness.

The vegetables for the kitchen are grown in the garden right next door. Nestled in the greenery, the guest-house is located in a traffic-calmed area, close to Sarovar and the library.

OLD PEOPLE'S HOME

A HOME FOR LIFE'S EVE





India is changing - also in terms of family structures. The large family with many members, in which the grandparents look after the children and the young take care of the elderly, is increasingly on the retreat. Due to poverty, many old people had a difficult life in the past, when their families were not able to take care of the children and the older generation at the same time. Kirpal Singh wanted to offer support in difficult situations with a home for the elderly. Here people can find a new home in their old age.

For most elderly people it is important to maintain their independence. To still be needed and to find meaningful employment means a lot to them. That is why the residents of the old people's home are supported to the best of their ability to lead an independent life as far as possible.

Help in the household, care for their health and nursing care are provided when needed.

Close to the old people's home, the young generation is accommodated. Those who want to share their life experience, contribute skills such as languages or technical knowledge, can guide others or simply want to help out a little and participate in the community have the opportunity to do so.

At the moment, there are 30 people for whom the old people's home offers a new home.

LANGAR

SUPPLY UNIT AND CENTRAL KITCHEN



The Langar is home to the common kitchen, which provides vegetarian food for more than 300 people every day. On big occasions, thousands of people take part in the meals.

One part of the two-storey building serves as accommodation. It also houses offices, the telephone exchange, a small print shop and a computer room with public internet access.



WORKSHOPS

TRAINING AND JOBS



In Kirpal Sagar there are many workshops, among others for metal, wood and stone working, for the maintenance of vehicles and agricultural machinery, for electrical and sanitary installations. Over the years, many people have been trained and skilled workers got their final touch. And this is not only done for Kirpal Sagar's own needs.

In addition to the workshops, there is also a canteen kitchen for the boarding school, the mill, a bakery, warehouses and general shops. The project provides jobs in a structurally weak region. Among others, masons, tailors, gardeners, electricians, administrative staff, security personnel, farm workers, kitchen staff and many more are employed.

FARM

SUSTAINABILITY, HEALTHY FOOD AND RESPONSIBILITY



On 24 October 1973, Kirpal Singh visited the site where Kirpal Sagar is located today. He was accompanied by Dr. Harbhajan Singh, who was later to realise the project.

At that time, there were a few agricultural fields in this area amidst otherwise largely barren land, covered with thorny undergrowth that was often flooded by the nearby river Sutlej. Here Kirpal Singh had a small farm where rice was being harvested at that time.

Meanwhile, the efforts of many volunteers have also transformed the surrounding land into fertile fields, providing Kirpal Sagar with a green belt. Agriculture is now run according to modern guidelines and also provides jobs.

Many trees improve the microclimate, retain valuable soil and moisture. Organic farming methods are now firmly integrated into the farm, especially in vegetable cultivation.



This helps to conserve soil and groundwater, an issue that is becoming increasingly important locally.

The farm mainly supplies wheat, rice, maize, potatoes, vegetables, pulses, sugar cane and vegetable oils. The cultivation of mushrooms, spice and medicinal plants helps to cover costs. Organic waste is composted, and a biogas plant reduces fuel requirements.

Dairy farming makes it possible to produce butter, yoghurt and other dairy products in sufficient quantities.

Kirpal Sagar, along with its schools, college and hospital, is independent in the supply of basic foodstuffs. Surpluses are sold at the local markets.

OUTLOOK

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



Kirpal Sagar has been established in over 35 years by a smaller number of people under the leadership of two strong personalities. Dr. Harbhajan Singh and his wife Surinder Kaur have devoted most of their lives to Kirpal Sagar.

Those who were present during the construction have experienced Kirpal Sagar as a great workshop of becoming a true human being in a holistic point of view, which was and will continue to be open to all people; there are not many such places in this world.

Not to be thrown off course by all the turmoil of today is not easy indeed. But what's about those who have lost hope and doubt that this life could actually have a higher meaning? For them, Kirpal Sagar is a highly visible sign of what is possible. And also a sign of what we as humanity still have to do worldwide, for a new age of peace and humanity.

And this will now be the challenge.



Address:

Kirpal Sagar, near Rahon
District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar
144517 Punjab, India

OpenStreetMaps: <https://www.openstreetmap.org>; search term: Kirpal Sagar
Google-Maps: <https://www.google.co.in>; search term: Kirpal Sagar
(coordinates: 31.031498,76.1087888,14)

Photo credits:

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In the mirror of time



(from top left):

Row 1: Lecture at the Rovinj Centre; View of the Wolfgangsee from the balcony of the St. Gilgen/Austria Centre; Transport chain, Kirpal Sagar;

Row 2: Dr. Harbhajan Singh and Biji Surinder Kaur; page 3, newspaper „The Voice“, report on big meeting in Düsseldorf, 1963; Kirpal Singh with Pope Paul VI, Rome, 1963;

Row 3: Central Building Sarovar Kirpal Sagar, Building on the Symbols of Unity, Kirpal Sagar; joint building of a roof truss, Rovinj; bus for lecture tours, St. Gilgen, 1984.

Organisational matters:

KS-plus e.V. was founded in 2017 as an association of friends and supporters of the charitable institutions and activities of Kirpal Sagar. It is recognised as a non-profit organisation by the Passau tax office and provides, among other things, information material about Kirpal Sagar, its institutions and its supporters.

Unity of Man was founded in 1974 by Kirpal Singh as a movement. In order to organise events and to make facilities available to all people, legal structures are a necessary tool. Besides India, Unity of Man exists in the form of registered associations in Austria, Germany, France, Croatia, Romania, Italy and Canada.

The sponsor of Kirpal Sagar is Unity of Man (registered), India, a cultural, charitable and spiritual institution.

The Extended Governing Body and the Board of Directors of Kirpal Sagar are international.

Kirpal Sagar discloses the use of its funds. Its accounts are audited annually both externally and by the financial authorities themselves.

Great care is taken to ensure that the financial resources are used effectively. In some parts of Kirpal Sagar, income can be generated which flows back into the project.

Kirpal Sagar finances itself in the spiritual field exclusively from donations of the members and persons close to the idea of Unity of Man.

Kirpal Sagar also receives broad support in the charitable area through personal commitment, help, donations and knowledge transfer.



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KIRPAL SAGAR