

Ik Onkaar Satgur Parsaad.

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Nirmal Ashram

Rishikesh

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An Introduction

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Bhagwan Sri Ramchander

*Satjug tai maanio chhalio bal bawan bhaaeo.
Tretai tai maanio Ram Raghuwans kahaeeo.
Duapur Krisan Murar Kans kirtarth keeo.
Ugarsain kao raaj abhai bhagtaih jan deeo.
Kaljug parmaan Nanak Gur Angad Amar kahaeeo.
Sri guru raaj abchal atal aad purakh phurmaaeeo.*

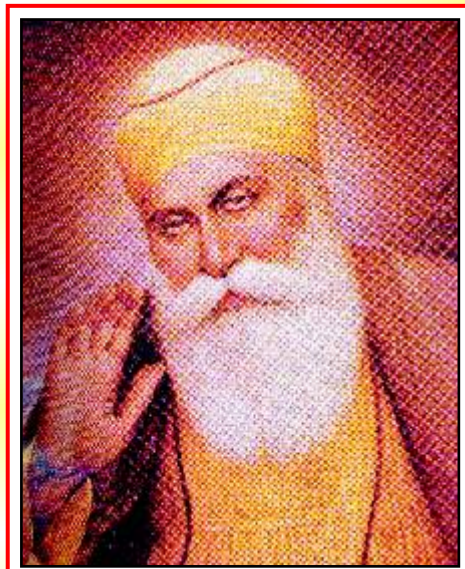
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Bhagwan Sri Krishan

*Jot roop Har aap Guru Nanak kahayo.
Ta te Angad bhyo tatt seo tatt milayo.
Angad kirpa dhaar Amar satgur thir keeao.
Amardas amrat chhatar gur Ramaih deeo.
Gur Ramdas darsan pars kaih Mathura amarit baiyn.
Moort panch parmaan purkh Gur Arjun pikhoh naiyn.*

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Sri Guru Nanak Dev

Nirmal Panth – An Introduction

Before introducing the readers to the Nirmal Ashram, Rishikesh, it has been considered necessary to acquaint them briefly with Guru Nanak's 'Nirmal Panth' or 'Nirmal Community' because it is always helpful to know the historical background before writing or reading or understanding it.

The primordial guru, *Jagat guru*, the incarnation of *Kalyug, Sahib Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Maharaj*, was born of father Mehta Kalu ji and mother Tripta, on Wednesday 15 November, 1469, the *Kartika Sudi 15 (Purnima) Vikrami* year 1526 at Rai Bho's Talwandi – Nankana Sahib, district Sheikhpura (now in Pakistan). He appeared in the world equipped with all the powers from God.

Pehila Baabe paaya bakhas dar pichhode phir ghaal kamaai.

(Bhai Gurdas)

With the emergence of Guru Nanak, the darkness of ignorance disappeared and the world was lit with divine knowledge. The famous scholar Bhai Gurdas has described it in his works as follows –

Satgur Nanak pargatia miti dhundh jag chanaan hoaa.

Guru Nanak guided mankind with such super-natural vision that the disciples could identify their souls in the form of *Brahm* and could feel the formless within



Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Maharaj

this form and the virtuous in the vicious so that man could emancipate himself. The ideal of the Guru's life was to deliver mankind from the bondage of life and death by bestowing upon him the highest spiritual state. From this

impassible experience of Guru Nanak emerged that unique, pure Nirmal Panth which has been described by Bhai Gurdas in the following verse :

*Maaria sikka jagat vich
Nanak Nirmal Panth chalaaya.*

According to the above statement Guru Nanak was the founder of *Nirmal Panth*. After a passage of time **Guru Gobind Singh ji** gave a new, organised and systematic shape to the *Panth* at the holy place of Paonta Sahib, District Sirmur (Himachal Pradesh) in 1686 when he showered blessings upon his five



Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji

promising Sikhs, investing them with saffron robes with his own lotus hands and declared, "From today, you are my *Sanyasi Nirmaley Sant* (saints). After acquiring divine knowledge you shall become great scholars to preach and spread the message of Guru (*Gurmat*) in the country and abroad." With such innumerable blessings, these saints were sent to Kashi (Benaras) to study the six philosophies through the medium of Sanskrit. In 1699, about 13 years after this super-natural event, Guru Gobind Singh ji Maharaj launched the *Khalsa Panth* bestowing '*Panj Piaras*' (five beloved ones) in Anandpur Sahib which is an excellent

example of sacrifice, surrender, renunciation and obedience, unparalleled in the history of the world. Meanwhile, the five saints also presented themselves at the feet of the Guru, after acquiring spiritual knowledge from Kashi. They offered obeisance at the holy feet, received innumerable blessings and prayed for *amrit-paan*. **Bhai Daya Singh ji (Piare)** and **Bhai Dharam Singh ji (Piare)** became the preachers of these five saints. In this way, the temporal lineage emerged from these two *Piaras* through the medium of the five saints culminated in the form of '*Nirmal Cult*'.

The word '*Nirmal*' means holy, pure, clean and unmixed. '*Nirmal*' or '*Khalis*' is the person whose mind is free from vice, desire, passion and hatred. The proofs of the maturity of this office '*Nirmal*' or '*Khalis*' are found in the *Gurbani* at innumerable places. During the difficult period of Sikh history the *Nirmaley Sant* (Saints), at times, offered many sacrifices in defence of religion.

Besides preaching and spreading the message of the Guru, kept the torch of the *Gurmat* alive through their pure and spotless conduct.

Once in Anandpur Sahib the tenth Guru, Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji Maharaj clad in saffron robes of detached *sadhus* came out of the fort at midnight to check the arrangements of community meals (*langars*) being conducted by various Sikhs at different places. Guruji found that no disciple except **Bhai Dharam Singh (Piare)** was performing his duties properly. Guru Maharaj was extremely pleased at this great and difficult service performed by Bhai Dharam Singh and blessed him by offering him his own saffron robes. The words that emanated from the Guru's heart were – "Bhai Dharam Singh ! You are great ! Your service is unique ! Your humility is unparallel ! You have come out successful in our second test too. You have found a place in the '*Nirmal*' rank free from the dirt of all vices.



'Nirmaley Sant' (Saints) being blessed by Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji before their departure for Kashi (Benaras) to attain *Braham Vidya*.

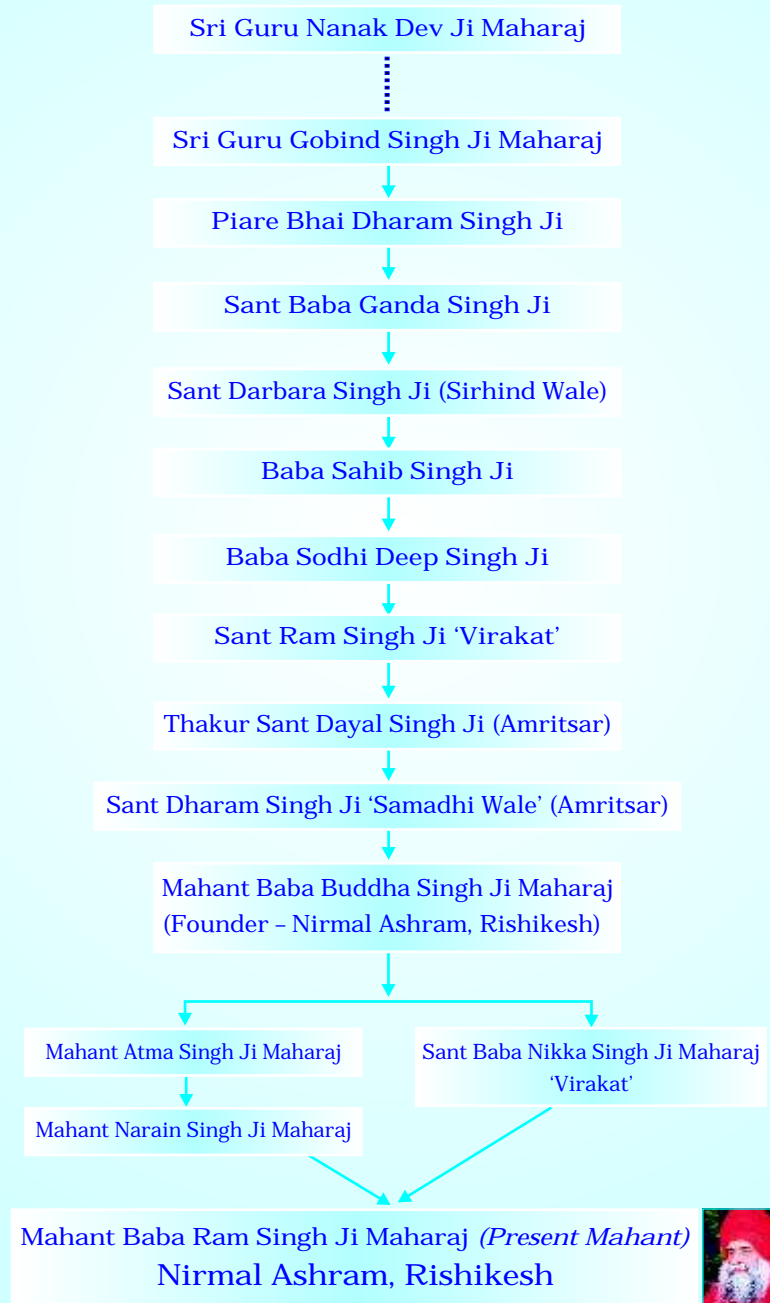


Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji Maharaj in saffron robes of Sadhus on way to examine the arrangements of community meals (Langars)

The cult which will flow from you will continue to give birth to enlightened and imposing great-men from time to time. Kings and emperors will bow their heads at their feet. People considering themselves to be belonging to high families will come to them to learn. People seeking salvation will benefit from their holy sight alone. People having worldly desires will be blessed with wealth and sons, etc. These greatmen will be the generous givers of the four elements—religion, wealth, eroticism and salvation. They will run community meals (*Guru ka langar*) for the poor, the orphan and the needy. They will provide medicines and medical treatment for the sick. In this way these benevolent great-men will bless the world with physical and mental happiness.”

It is how Bhai Dharam Singh was enriched with a large number of blessings. Hence onwards this cult is moving from generation to generation. One of its temporal lineage is given here. □

Temporal Lineage



Beginning of Nirmal Ashram and Other Information

From amongst the *Panj Piaras* bestowed by Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji, the *Nirmal Sant* tradition that flowed from *Piare Bhai Dharam Singh ji* gave birth to one great ascetic and



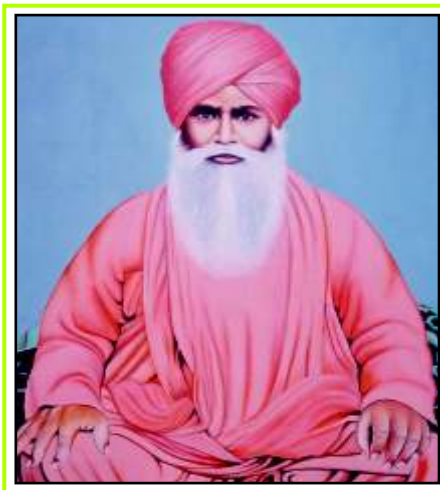
Thakur Sant Dayal Singh Ji accomplished personality, **Sriman Thakur Sant Dayal Singh ji**. It is because of his saintly excellence that Nirmal Sect acquired a subname *Sampardaye Thakuran*. His abode (*dera*) lies at Chowk Monni in Amritsar.

Among the Saint disciples of Sriman Thakur Sant Dayal Singh ji was a great holy soul known as **Sant Dharam Singh ji 'Samadhi Wale.'** Physical,



Sant Dharam Singh Ji 'Samadhi Wale'

spiritual and academic growth of child *Sant Buddha Singh ji* took place under his care. With his blessings *Sant Buddha Singh ji* got an opportunity to visit Kashi and interact there with Pandit Sant Udhav Singh ji who was a great intellectual of that time.



Mahant Baba Buddha Singh Ji Maharaj
Founder – Nirmal Ashram, Rishikesh

Mahant Buddha Singh ji – He was born at village Hallowal, district Gurdaspur (Punjab). His father, Sardar Partap Singh ji and mother Shrimati Shanti Devi were deeply religious minded persons. Mahant Buddha Singh ji was soft spoken, a great administrator, a scholar of *Shastras* and a great orator. Endowed with all the virtues, qualities and capabilities he was appointed Secretary of Nirmal Panchayti Akhara, Kankhal (Haridwar). He performed his job very efficiently and with full responsibility and hardwork. After sometime, he was made the head of the *Ramat-Prachar* group on behalf of Nirmal Panchayti Akhara, Kankhal.

During his pilgrimage to different holy places of the country, an idea struck him that there should be a house of the Guru (*Gurughar*) in Uttarakhand and arrangements for boarding and lodging should be made for saints meditating in *Jhaari* on the banks of the Ganges. To give a concrete shape to this idea he purchased a piece of land in Rishikesh near the Ganges around the year 1900 and laid the foundation of the Nirmal Ashram. To start with a room for Sri Guru Granth Sahib and two other rooms were built. Some huts (cottages) were also constructed for the stay of *sadhus* and arrangements for community meals (*Guru ka langar*) were made.

After some time the coming and going of devotees began. Sindhi devotees from Sindh Province (Pakistan) came in large numbers. Almost at that time, a piece of land was acquired at Kankhal (Haridwar) and construction of rooms began. This place is now known as **Nirmal Bagh**. All arrangements for stay and *Guru's langar* exist here. Recitation of Gurbani, singing of hymns (Kirtan) and the study of *Shastras* are daily activities. He also established a place known as **Sangat Gyan Gufa** in Kashi so that students coming to study from outside and *sadhus* might not feel any difficulty for stay.

The entire life of revered Mahant Baba Buddha Singh ji was dedicated to preaching and spreading the message of the Guru (*Gurmat*). According to the divine decree, he took abode in

heaven on 'Asu Vadi' 12, Vikrami year 1993, in 1937 A.D. at Nirmal Bagh, Kankhal. *Sant* Atma Singh Ji Maharaj was bestowed as the Mahant and took over the services of the Ashram.

There were a number of *Sant* disciples of *Param Sant* Sriman Mahant Buddha Singh Ji Maharaj. Amongst them the names of *Sant* Jaimal Singh Ji 'Avdhoot', *Sant* Giani Balwant Singh Ji and *Sant* Arjun Singh Ji 'Bhikshu' are worth mentioning. Besides, *Sant* Nihchal Singh Ji, *Sant* Ram Singh Ji 'Bhorewale' and *Sant* Madan Mohan Hari Ji 'Sindhi' were his prominent followers. But his most favoured ones were *Param Pujya Sant Atma Singh Ji Maharaj* and *Sant Baba Nikka Singh Ji Maharaj*.

Sriman Mahant Atma Singh Ji - He was born at village Patto-Hira Singh, District Ferozepur (Punjab). In 1908, when he was still young, took shelter of Pujya Mahant Baba Buddha Singh Ji. During his stay in the Ashram he received the blessings of *Gurudev* because of untiring services towards *sadhus*, construction work and highly commendable arrangement of

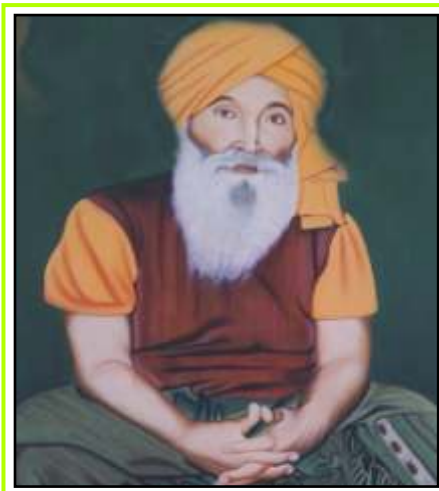


Mahant Atma Singh Ji Maharaj

community kitchen (*langar*) and cow shelter (*Gaushala*).

As *mahant* of the Ashram he performed his duties most efficiently till his end and during this period the Ashram achieved multilateral progress. He was known for his untiring services, learning, forbearance and love for the community. In the sacred memory of Mahant Baba Buddha Singh Ji Maharaj he presented with deep respect and devotion a beautiful palanquin made from the leaves of gold and silver to Sri *Nirmal Panchayati Akhara*, Kankhal. At the bidding of Pujya *Sant* Baba Nikka Singh Ji '*Virakat*', he appointed his most obedient disciple *Sant* Narain Singh Ji as his successor. After serving the Ashram selflessly for a long time (1937 to 1973) he breathed his last on Sawan Sudi 11, Vikrami year 2030, 9 August 1973.

Sriman 108 Sant Baba Nikka Singh Ji 'Virakat' - He was a great scholar and an ascetic who was deeply devoted to *Guru* service and love to mankind. He was a top ranking saint and believed in simple living. He emerged as a miraculous



Sant Baba Nikka Singh Ji Maharaj

personality in Nirmal Panth's sub-community, *Sampardaya Thakuran*.

The word '*Sant*' (saint) connotes a person who has realized absolute truth in life. *Sant* Baba Nikka Singh Ji Maharaj was such a holy soul who after realizing the highest in spiritual growth through meditation had merged completely with God. With recitation of God's name, service and worship, his heart and mind had become pure. He had reached the stage where everything is united with the innerself and the individual cannot make a distinction between oneself and others. This is the ultimate stage of the final merger and is known as *Nirvan Padd*, *Turi Avastha* or *Chautha Padd*. He rose above the physical existence and resided in the spiritual state.

He was born in village Sihan Daud district Ludhiana (Punjab) in a Jat Sikh family around the year 1894 A.D. He spent his childhood in this very village and received the initial teaching of *Gurbani* from the *Udasi* saints while living here. In his youth he took up farming and served in the army. He fought in the First World War of 1914 and when the war ended, he left the army.

For some time he lived in the village. He took up farming, served the elders and got his sisters married. After getting his younger brother, Sardar Lachhman Singh recruited in the army, he resolved to become an ascetic and reached Haridwar. Here he came into contact with *Sant* Baba Buddha Singh Ji Maharaj, *Mahant* of Nirmal Bagh

Kankhal (Haridwar) and dedicated his body and soul to him. After some time he went to Kashi to learn Sanskrit and Vedas at the instance of his *Guru*. While in Kashi, he gained spiritual knowledge and practised recitation of God's name and was able to attain the real motive of man's life – 'Param-Pad', the greatest height in spirituality. Side by side, he used to cross the Ganges to meditate and had his food by begging. It was not enough for him to have the knowledge of *Shastras*. Instead he practised their teachings in his life. The people of Kashi still sing the praises of his meditation. After some time, he came back to Haridwar at the feet of the *Gurudev*. Here he meditated deeply. Very few *sadhus* can do this. The aim of Sant Baba Nikka Singh's life was to guide the misguided people of the world on the right path. Inspired by his life full of divine virtues, innumerable people became enlightened. Darkness of ignorance was dispelled from their lives and they were able to experience everlasting happiness.

About such pure and pious, souls, *Gurbanisays*:

[Aisejan virle jag andar
parkh khajanai paaya.
Jaat varn te bhae ateeta
mamta lobh chukaaya.
Naam ratte teerath se nirmal
dukh haumai maill chukaya.
Nanak tin ke charan pakhalai
jina Gurmukh saacha bhaaya.](#)

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i.e. there are very few persons in this world whom God, after thorough investigation has given a place in His treasure. They have freed themselves from the bondage of caste, colour, creed, religion and the feeling of greed or attachment. Because of their

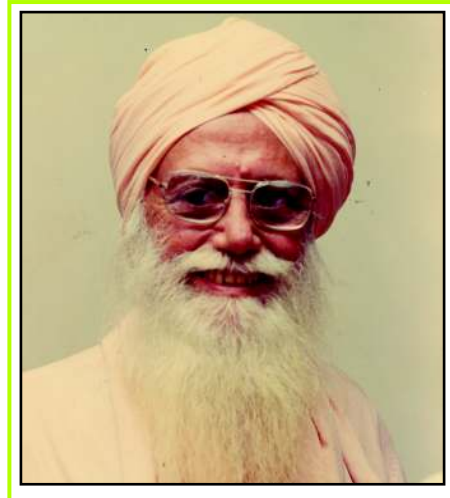
strong belief in God they have become a sacred place of pilgrimage. They have overcome their ego and have risen above the feelings of pain and pleasure. Absolute truth resides in their hearts. Nanak washes clean the feet of such *gurmukh* saints who are God's loved ones.

In the same way, a man who has had a meeting with the innermost soul, realizes the absolute truth. He becomes engrossed in the realization of that absolute power which is omnipresent and yet beyond every thing. His individual feelings disappear and personal desires are washed out. Such a person, through his spiritual deeds, merges his individual form into the universal. *Brahmgyani, tat-veta* Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji had a direct realization of *Brahm* (God).

Living in the will of God, he was a main source of inspiration and uplift for the mankind. During this period he travelled the major pilgrim places of India and all the persons who came in contact with, were blessed with godly knowledge. He travelled widely in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. He preached *Gurbani* and selfless service to humanity.

According to divine decree he left his mortal frame at Nirmal Kutia Goraya (Punjab) at about 7 p.m. on Friday, 22 July, 1983, *Ashvin Sudi* 13 Vikrami year 2040. The next day his holy body was consigned to flames at Nirmal Kutia, Karnal. On July 25, 1983, his ashes were taken from Karnal to Nirmal Bagh, Kankhal (Haridwar) and were immersed in the Ganges by the saints, *mahatmas* and a large number of devotees.

Mahant Narain Singh Ji – He took charge of the Ashram in the year 1974. He was born in



Mahant Narain Singh Ji Maharaj

Hoshiarpur district of Punjab and came to the Nirmal Ashram in 1922. He was educated here and kept himself busy in recitation of God's name and *guru-sewa*. He had deep regard for both Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji '*Virakat*' and his *Gurudev* Sriman Mahant Atma Singh ji and performed all the services in accordance with their wishes. He was very kind-hearted, sweet tongued, tolerant and temperamentally very calm and quiet. He had a great knowledge of *Gurbani* and other religious *Shastras*. Side by side he acquired Ayurvedic knowledge and became a good Ayurvedic physician (*Vaidya*). Sindhi people were very much impressed by his style of preaching and humble nature. During his *sewa* period (1974 to 1982) the Ashram had all round progress.

Once he requested Param Pujya Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji "My body does not cooperate with me now. Please handover the charge of conducting the affairs of the Ashram to some body else." After a passage of time, *Virakat* Maharaj ji asked Mahant Narain Singh ji to appoint his prime disciple, Bhai Ram Singh as successor to the seat of the Nirmal Ashram.

Accordingly, Mahant Narain Singh ji appointed Bhai Ram Singh ji as his successor and entrusted the whole responsibility of the Ashram to him.

As per divine decree, Mahant Narain Singh ji left his mortal frame on 25 October 1982. With the blessings of 'Virakat' ji Maharaj, on the seventeenth day according to the tradition of the Nirmal community, the whole Nirmal Sant community performed 'Pagri Tying Ceremony' and bestowed the honour of Mahant on Bhai Ram Singh ji.

Sriman Sant Dharam Singh Ji – Sant Dharam Singh ji was a

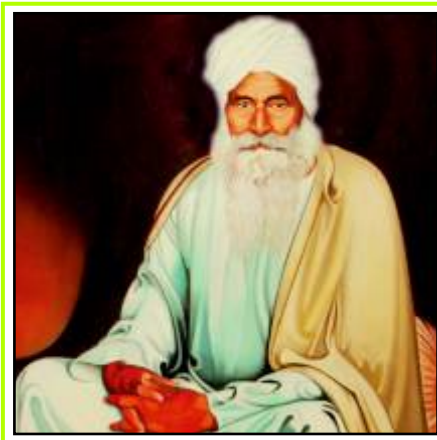


Sant Dharam Singh Ji Maharaj

unique personality in the history of Nirmal Ashram because of his selfless service towards humanity. He was born in 1902 at village Landran, district Ropar (Punjab). By coincidence he met Sriman Sant Basant Singh ji 'Virakat' and was in his holy company for sometime. Travelling along with him, he came to Nirmal Ashram, Rishikesh. He got education from Sant Nihchal Singh ji 'Sargodha Walé', who was a prominent devotee of Mahant Baba Buddha Singh ji. Sant Dharam Singh ji spent his whole life in selfless service looking after

the Nirmal Ashram. According to divine decree he breathed his last at Nirmal Kutia, village Khokh (near Nabha) on 30 May 1994.

Sriman Sant Kartar Singh Ji – He was born at Daangarh village, district Sangrur in a *Gursikh* Jat family in the beginning of the 20th century. Since childhood he was religious minded and temperamentally inclined towards *satsang* and service to the *sadhus*. He received *Gurmat* education from Sant Giani Chanda Singh ji *Kattoowale*. About the year 1960, he got attached to the services of the



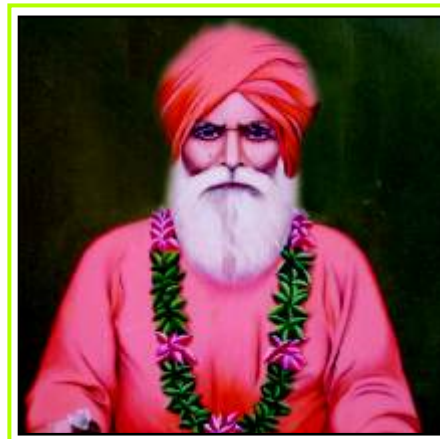
Sant Baba Kartar Singh Ji

Nirmal Ashram, Rishikesh and dedicated the rest of his life to this place. He was lucky enough to remain in the services of Mahant Atma Singh ji, Mahant Narain Singh ji, Pujya Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji 'Virakat' and Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji Maharaj. He was a perfect saint. He was such a great well-wisher of the Ashram that Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji used to call him 'the Lock of the Ashram'. While performing the selfless service of the Ashram, he left his mortal frame in the Nirmal Ashram itself on 16 August, 1988, the *Sankranti of Bhadon*.

Sriman Sant Bhagat Singh Ji Maharaj – According to Sri Guru Arjun Dev ji Maharaj –

Teen biyapaih jagat kao turiya pavai koey.
Nanak sant nirmal bhaye jin mann vasia soey.

Revered Sant Bhagat Singh ji comes equal to the touch stone of this intent of *Gurbani*.



Sant Bhagat Singh Ji Maharaj

Holy personalities like him appear once in a while after centuries. Embodiment of devotion, love and *vedant*-philosophy, he was blessed with accomplishment of mind, word and work. The melodious tune of 'Ram' *Mantra* present in each breath ever flowed from his tongue. People sitting around listening to that tune would find themselves elevated to the state of bliss. The holy company of Sant Nikka Singh ji Maharaj was instrumental in acquiring self-knowledge. Once Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the then prime-minister of India went to Haridwar on the occasion of the Kumbh festival (1950) and showed his inclination to meet saints like ancient ascetics and *rishis*. On his request, Swami Ganesh Dutt ji who was very close to him took him to Sant Bhagat Singh ji Maharaj for spiritual talk and seek his blessings. Such was the excellence of this saint.

He was born in about 1880 at village Takhat-Hazara district Sargodha (Pakistan) and happened to meet Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji *Virakat* on the occasion of 'Ardha Kumbh' (1944) Haridwar. The chance meeting of two great souls turned into a permanent relationship. Sant Bhagat Singh requested *Virakat* Maharaj ji to come to Sheikhpura Kutia and was able to get a promise from him, too. According to his word *Virakat* ji went there once. After the partition of the country Sant Bhagat Singh ji Maharaj settled in Karnal. His seat of meditation and worship was *Chhoti Kutia*. Both the great saints continued meeting here in holy atmosphere.

At the age of 82 he left his mortal frame on the *Kartika (Poornima)* Sudi 15 (1962) in Kutia (*Chhoti*) Wazir Chand Colony, Karnal.

Sriman Sant Gopal Singh Ji Maharaj – Sant Gopal Singh ji was born at Takhat-Hazara, district Sargodha in about 1908. His mother Smt. Lakshmi Devi



Sant Gopal Singh Ji Maharaj

was a pious lady. He inherited his religious bent of mind from his father Sant Bhagat Singh ji, but the spark of love for *Gurbani* was ignited by Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji Maharaj. Because of Name recitation (*Naam Simran*), Guru devotion, worship and meditation, he was able to reach the pinnacle of spiritual realization. The flame of self knowledge got enlightened in his heart. This fire has been called as destroyer of wicked deeds by Lord Krishna in the Gita. This knowledge liberates man from his vices and doubts, and enables him to realize absolute peace. Embodiment of renunciation and benevolence, Sant Gopal Singh ji went to a number of villages and preached *Gurbani* to those who came in his contact. He inspired them for selfless service and noble deeds. His scholarship and accomplished life had a deep effect on them. He brought the people in contact with his *Gurudev* Sriman Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji Virakat:

Gur pamesar eko jaan.

Jo tiss bhavai so parvaan.

According to this statement, he used to call his *Gurudev* the direct visible image of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji. Once when he fell ill and was lying in a semi-conscious state in the Government hospital, Karnal, he kept uttering '*Gurudev, Gurudev*'. '*Virakat*' ji Maharaj heard the call of his loved one and graced him with a visit at Karnal. He put his kind hand over the head of his great disciple. Moments after, his body became calm and still.

Sriman Sant Darshan Singh Ji – Sant Darshan Singh ji was

born at village Chakk Mallan, district Hoshiarpur. He was a scholar of *Gurmat* philosophy and master of authentic pronunciation of *Gurbani*. He was never tired of teaching the meanings of *Gurbani*



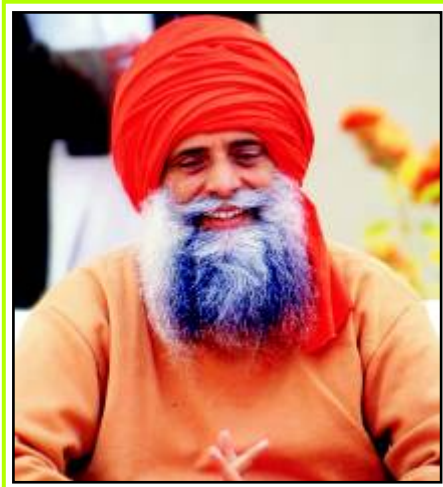
Sant Darshan Singh Ji

to his inquisitive disciples. He was blessed by *Nature* with good qualities like tolerance, simplicity, humility and self restraint.

He would easily explain in a few words the thoughts of *Gurbani* in relation to spirituality by quoting other similar versus of *Gurbani* to clarify the meanings. According to divine decree this benevolent soul left this world for his heavenly abode on December 25, 1978 in Nirmal Kutia, Karnal. *Gurmukh janam swaar dargeh chaliya. Sachi dargeh jaye sacha pid maliya.*

Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji Maharaj – Worthy of the grace of most respected Brahmgyani Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji Maharaj and temporal successor of Mahant Narain Singh ji, the present Mahant of Nirmal Ashram, Sriman Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji Maharaj was born in Delhi on October 17, 1950. His father Shri Aroor Chand Uppal and mother Smt. Vimla Devi were

religious minded. Because of good deeds and meditation of previous



H.H. Mahant Ram Singh Ji Maharaj

birth, he was interested in *Sant sewa* from the very childhood. After sometime his parents settled in Karnal and had his schooling here. Just after coming back from school, he would go to Nirmal Kutia, Karnal to bow his head at the feet of the great saints and would busy himself in community meal service (*langar sewa*). While serving the saints he completed his worldly education, too. But he was becoming disinterested in wordly education. Once in a while, he would go to his house, but spent most of his time at the feet of the great saints. After serving the community meal and washing clothes, he would seat himself at the feet of Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji *Virakat*. In accordance with the *Guru's* order, he served in the Barnala (Punjab) branch of the Punjab and Sind Bank, but his mind was ever engrossed in his desire to be before the *Guru*. One day of May 1981 he took leave from the Bank and came to see his *Gurudev* at Nirmal Bagh, Kankhal (Haridwar). Pleased with his humility and continuous

sincere services towards saints, *Virakat* Maharaj ji bestowed upon him the title of '*Sant*' and asked him to be in the service of the Ashram under the guidance of Mahant Narain Singh ji.

After a couple of months because of ill health, Mahant Narain Singh ji left for his heavenly abode on 25 October, 1982. Seeking blessings of Sri Guru Granth Sahib and Pujya Virakat Maharaj ji on 10 November, 1982 – the 17th day of prayers, the traditional ceremony of tying the turban was performed at the Nirmal Ashram in the presence of saints, *sadhus* and devotees and Bhai Ram Singh ji was graced as the new *Mahant* of the Nirmal Ashram, Rishikesh.

H.H. Mahant Ram Singh ji is a man of clean and pure conscience. The radiance on his face and the glitter in his soft kind eyes are a clear and visible testimony of his spiritual powers. He is always lost in the bliss of the soul, obedience to the *Guru* and the glory of God. Light and knowledge of absolute truth always burn in his pure heart and he is determined to permeate the whole world with it.

Occasionally devotees come to him for the redressal of their worldly and religious doubts. Benevolent Maharaj ji enlightens their mind through *Gurbani* and blesses them with God's Name (*Naam daan*) and offers *parsad* to them.

Satgur Sikh kao naam dhan dey Gurka Sikh vadbhagi hey.

Because of the love and affection of the devotees Maharaj ji visits their homes and work places on fixed dates. Recitation

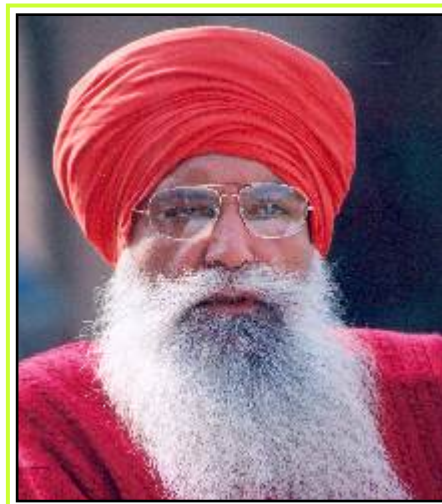


On their visit to Canada, Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji Maharaj & Sant Baba Jodh Singh ji Maharaj

of *Gurbani* is followed by *Guru ka langar*. Similarly he visits foreign lands, too, and blesses the devotees there.

In a passage of time '*Virakat*' Maharaj ji graced two other loving disciples, Bhai Jodh Singh ji and Bhai Gurinder Singh ji (Chhotu) as saints.

Sant Baba Jodh Singh ji Maharaj – Sant Jodh Singh ji was born on Saturday, August 14, 1948 in village Sihan Daud (Distt. Ludhiana). He is a man of imposing personality and is the nephew of Sant Baba Nikka Singh



Sriman Sant Jodh Singh Ji Maharaj

ji Maharaj. No doubt, devotion to selfless service is mostly the result of the deeds of the previous birth, but he inherited this devotion from birth in the holy family of *Virakat* ji Maharaj. His

father S. Lachhman Singh ji was an agriculturist. His mother being a lady of religious disposition was devoted to serving the saints and this devotion began to flourish in him, too, from his very childhood. He studied *Gurbani* deeply along with wordly education. For sometime he served in the Gujranwala Town branch (Delhi) of the Punjab & Sind Bank, but it was not the aim of his life. Seeing his inclination towards serving the saints, his unparalleled devotion to Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji and his interest in selfless activities, Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji Maharaj bestowed him as *Sant* on 3 April 1983 and thus, freed him from the worldly bonds. He showered his blessings and asked him to move to Nirmal Ashram, Rishikesh to serve the Ashram along with Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji.

H.H. Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji Maharaj often moves about among the people in the country and abroad to enlighten them and spread the message of the Guru (*Gurmat*) for the benefit of mankind. With the passage of time, the activities of the Ashram are multiplying and by the grace of the *Guru*, Sant Baba Jodh Singh ji fulfills them all with great wisdom and far-sightedness. He manages, guides and takes care of all the benevolent institutions of the Ashram – Nirmal Ashram Hospital, NDS (CBSE affiliated Sr. Sec. School), NGA (Free school), Eye Hospital, Mobile Hospital, Silai Kendar (HSK) etc. Thus every activity of the Ashram is moving around him. Because of his devotion and skill he is able to manage very efficiently the construction of new



Sant Baba Jodh Singh Ji Maharaj having a valuable discussion with the Trustees of Eye Institute.

and renovation of old buildings, celebration of annual and other functions of the Ashram. Gathering knowledge of the history of the Nirmal community in his passion. That is why today Nirmal Ashram has become not only a religious place, but a benevolent, vast, social, educational and medical care centre of Uttarakhand.

Sant Gurinder Singh ji (Chhotu Baba ji) – He hails from the town of Goraya in Punjab. His parents made him understand the importance of religion and *sadhu sewa*. He was fortunate to have a company of *sadhus* & saints and served them even in his early life. Most of his time he was in the service of Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji Maharaj and received his blessings. At the *Guru's* bidding



Sant Gurinder Singh Ji (Chhotu Baba)

he performed *sewa* at the Nirmal Ashram even before becoming a *sadhu*. After the passing away of Pujya *Virakat* Maharaj ji he whole-heartedly and increasingly devoted himself in all types of services for the progress of the Ashram and its allied branches. Services rendered by him occupy a special and prominent place in the history of Nirmal Ashram.

Sant Chaman Lal ji – Sant Chaman Lal ji was born in 1919. Leading his worldly life quite efficiently, he came into contact



Sant Chaman Lal Ji

with Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji *Virakat*. After retiring as Deputy Chief Officer from the Central Bank of India in 1979, he served *Virakat* Maharaj ji. Later on he was given the responsibility of managing the affairs of Nirmal Bagh Kankhal which he performed very efficiently and with great devotion. Extremely friendly, soft spoken, sweet tongued and a lover of *satsang* he was very fond of reciting God's name and the study of *Shastras*. He secretly kept himself at the service of *sadhus* and helping the needy. According to divine decree he left his mortal frame on 20 April, 1990. Thus making his mortal life a complete success.

Nirmal Ashram - Activities

Recitation of God's name (*Naam*) and a life of noble and pious deeds can take man to the feet of God. Our mind is like an ocean where waves of thoughts rise and fall. These waves are impediments in our attempt to see ourselves. Only when these waves stop, we can very well see our own reflection. In the same manner when our mind becomes pure and stable, we will be able to realize God. As per *Guru vaak*—

Such hovai ta sach paaeyai.

When your conscience becomes clear, you can know the reality. Determinations and resolutions of an impure intellect and mind are illusory. Devotion to love and selfless service make your conscience clear. Similarly, we can see our own reflection and our soul from within ourselves—

Kaie kot prabh kau khojante.

Aatm maih paarbrahm lahante.

It is necessary to control our thoughts and deeds to enjoy everlasting happiness. This control should be such as should not let us deviate from our path even in times of difficulty. Nirmal Ashram, Rishikesh is undoubtedly an holy place which is instrumental in finding the clean and pure path and absolute peace.

Daily Routine – Serve all, love all is the watch word which prevails here. All the activities of the Ashram proceed with a view to achieve this high aim and ideal. Message of *Gurbani* and spiritual thoughts continue in one form or another from early in the morning till late at night. In the morning recitation of *Gurbani*, singing of hymns (*Kirtan*) and the daily *satsang* in lieu of *Darbar sahib*

take place. After the *aarti*, saintly and under-privileged persons who come to receive *bhiksha* (alms) are welcomed with showering of flowers and offered food as well as tea (*Guru ka Langar*). During recitation of *bhajans* about 700 persons are served daily. Simultaneously, devotees who are staying in the Ashram also take their breakfast. After the community lunch (*langar*) and the evening tea, recitation of *Gurbani* and other *Shastras* (Holy Scriptures) take place. The presence of Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji lends it additional charm and interest. The current which flows from the miraculous voice of Maharaj ji rains sweet like cold showers of a spring in a desert. After dinner a congregation is again held in which only *Gurbani*



Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji reading his Gurudev's Parvachan from 'Sahaj Katha'

shabads are recited. *Gurbani*-charged-environment takes us to the realm of ecstasy. Children receiving training for *Shabad Kirtan* also get a chance to participate.

Devotees keep coming to the Ashram to seek the blessings of

H.H. Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji Maharaj and to participate in the selfless services of the Ashram. This flow of devotees increases especially in the months of May and June. About this time Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji Maharaj generally stays at Rishikesh. During the pilgrimage to Gurdwara Sri Hemkunt Sahib and the *Chaar Dhaam*, the Ashram is full to the capacity due to the coming and going of devotees. Devotees coming to this spiritual city not only receive the blessings and love of Satguru Maharaj but also enjoy the natural and spiritual atmosphere of the place. In this way by remaining busy in selfless service and recitation of God's name they enrich their lives. Undoubtedly *Sewa* and *Simran* are the pillars of strength.

Organisation of Functions –

Religious functions are organised from time to time in a grand manner by Nirmal Ashram Rishikesh. During the months of September / October, anniversary functions are held in the sacred memory of late great souls mainly in Nirmal Bagh, Kankhal and Nirmal Ashram, Rishikesh. Thousands of devotees from all over the world take part in these functions with great devotion and love and receive the blessings of great souls. At the beginning of the new year day (English calendar), a grand function is organised in the Ashram to celebrate the foundation day of the Hospital and the School. In the function on the eve of each departing year after Bhog of 31 Sri Akhand Path Sahib of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, singing of *shabads* and *satsang* go on uptill

midnight in full religious atmosphere. After the *Aarti*, prayers are offered at the feet of the guru for a happy and prosperous new year. After this, H.H. Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji



Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji Maharaj offering pears to devotees. Sant Baba Jodh Singh ji is sitting by his side.

Maharaj offers *parsad* to devotees with his own hands and blesses them to remain attached in future also with service, prayer, *satsang* and noble deeds. The same type of functions are also organised in various branches of the Ashram according to the prescribed dates. Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji pleases the congregation with his presence at all places.

Centenary Function – The Centenary Function of the Nirmal Ashram, Rishikesh was celebrated with great selfless service and devotion from 21st September to 23rd September on the occasion of the Barsi Samagam of Pujya Mahant Baba Buddha Singh ji Maharaj and Brahm Gyani Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji Maharaj. On the occasion, the new building of Sri Darbar Sahib was inaugurated with the *Parkash* of 31 Sri Guru Granth Sahib. The highlights of the function were the *Kirtan darbar*, *Holy procession (Nagar Kirtan)* food for the great souls (*Bhandara*), *Guru ka langar*, the release of *Sahaj Katha* (Vol. III) – a collection of spiritual speeches by Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji and laying the foundation stone of the building of the new free school – Nirmal Ashram Gyan Daan Academy (NGA) Khairi Kalan (Rishikesh). On the occasion of this historical day a very beautiful Centenary Memorial Gate was built on the way leading towards the Ashram from the Haridwar-Lakshman Jhula road.

Glimpses of the Procession of the Centenary Function



Atthsath teerath jaih saadh pag dhrai. Taih baikunth jaih naam uchraih.



Inside view of newly constructed Bhawan of Sri Darbar Sahib



During Sant Samagam, Pujya Sri Mahant Gian Dev Singh ji Vedantacharya delivering his spiritual speech.



During centenary celebrations, sadhus being served with *Guru ka Langar*



Blessed ones, Bibi Jasjit Kaur 'Ruby' and her associates reciting Gurbani Shabad Kirtan



Foundation stone laying ceremony of NGA, Khairi Kalan, Rishikesh in the presence of pious souls

Publication of Literature – Efforts for the collection and publication of the preachings of great spiritual souls are made by the Ashram. Some of the preachings of *Pujya Brahmleen Mahant Baba Buddha Singh ji Maharaj* were published by Sindhi devotees at first in Sindhi language under the title '*Gurmukh Manmukh ke Lakshan tatha Nirmal Updesh*'. Now this book is available by the name *Nirmal Updesh* in Punjabi, Hindi and English language. Some of the spiritual preachings of *Sriman Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji Maharaj* were recorded by his devotees. The collection of these invaluable preachings in the form of books '*Sahaj Katha*' (Vol. I, II, III) are now available in Punjabi and Hindi. This followed the publication of '*Ascharaj Vastu*'. It contains in details the selfless and benevolent lives of all the great souls connected with the Ashram and the brief histories of the *Nirmal cult* and *Sampardaya Thakuran*. This book is the precious treasure of the Ashram, as well as the whole *Nirmal Panth*. Some of the precious pearls out of the preachings of *Pujya Virakat Maharaj ji*, a book has been published under the title *Pearls of Truth*.

Expression of deep philosophical ideas in simple language and style is a speciality of these books. On the request these invaluable books are given to the devotees free of cost. Besides, cassettes and Cd's of spiritual speeches by *Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji* read by *Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji* and *Shabad Kirtan*

by *Bibi Jasjit Kaur 'Ruby'* and *Bibi Harminder Kaur 'Babby'* are also readily available.

Humanitarian Activities & *Nirmal Ashram* has been rendering great services in the Medical, Spiritual, Social and Religious fields. The Ashram always takes part in selfless humanitarian projects such as – *Nirmal Ashram Hospital*, *Nirmal Ashram Deepmala Pagarani Public School (NDS)*, *Nirmal Ashram Gyan Daan Academy (NGA)* and a separate department for treatment of eye diseases, etc. Hospital for *Nirmal Ashram Eye Institute* is also nearing completion. Besides there are many more services which are being rendered at many other places in Punjab and Haryana.

Ever since 1990 *Nirmal Ashram Hospital* has been providing all types of medical facilities to society with a sense of dedication and service. In accordance with the objective of '*Nirmal Mission for Vision*', checking up and treatment of every type of eye diseases, and inserting of lenses

by operation are undertaken free of cost in order to restore vision to the sightless. Free Medical and Eye camps are organised at different places in far off rural and hilly areas.

Hospital van/bus is provided free of cost to patients to be operated for eyes to bring them from their homes and to take them back. To keep pace with the modern technique, a building for this hospital is under preparation near the free school (NGA) at *Khairi Kalan village*. With the inauguration of this Hospital the great task of providing sight to the sightless will start at a higher level.



H.H. Maharaj ji inaugurating the New Accounts office



Staff at work in Accounts Office

Nirmal Ashram Hospital, Rishikesh

The holy and tender heart of H.H. Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji has been the source of many plans for the help of the needy and the welfare of humanity. To see a smile on the sad and sick faces, the foundation stone of Nirmal Ashram Hospital was laid on 16 April 1986 in Rishikesh. The health services by the hospital began in 1990. People from far and near are benefitting from this service. Equipped with latest modern amenities, this hospital has proved a boon for all classes and sections of society. This 125 bedded hospital having experienced, qualified and able doctors in every field (Gynaecology, Orthopaedic, Dental, Paediatrics, Leprosy, Cardiology, ENT, General Surgery, Pathology, Radiology, ICU, Medical Store, Physiotherapy, Nirmal Health Care Centres) and equipped with latest modern instruments and equipments is trying to build a healthy society. Presently about 150 staff members are rendering their services to the patients with love and devotion. For the convenience of the patients, Ambulance service is also available. Free camps are organised in rural areas on every Sunday. Specialists in their own fields from different states of the country also visit the hospital from time to time and give their expertise advise. The poor, the disabled, *sadhus* and saints are provided free treatment. This hospital is situated in Mayakund at a short distance from the Ashram.



The Main Building of the Hospital



H.H. Maharaj ji offering *parsad* to *sadhus*, saints, patients and blessing them to get well soon.



New block of the Hospital under construction

Educational Centres of the Nirmal Ashram

Nirmal Ashram Deepmala Public School (N.D.S.) Shyampur, Rishikesh –

The whole system of education in India is either too traditional or too modern. But in fact, modernism is incomplete without tradition. So, tradition and modernism, or religion and science, both should be accepted together. Both should co-exist. Existence of science is not possible without religion.

Situated on the Rishikesh-Haridwar road, Nirmal Ashram Deepmala Pagarani Public School (N.D.S) is making such an effort. The foundation stone of this institution was laid by Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji on the sacred day of Baisakhi in 1994. The vast building of the school was inaugurated on the first day of 1997 after the recitation of 31 Akhand Paths of Sri Guru Granth Sahib and in accordance with the *Keeta lodiai kamm su harr paih aakhiai.*

Kaaraj dei swaar satgur sach saakhiai. *Guru Vaak* and the blessings of saints. This school has been attracting the attention of the people of the area and of far off places from the very beginning.

Affiliated to C.B.S.E, this Senior Secondary School is trying hard to impart modern education through the medium of English. Side by side full attention is given to yoga, cultural activities, sports and games, moral education and character building. At present, the school staff consists of 150 members and about 1300 students from India and abroad are studying in the school. Facilities exist for teaching the subjects of



Nirmal Ashram Deepmala Pagarani Public School, Shyampur, Rishikesh

the three faculties – Arts, Science and Commerce. The board results of the school are 100% and meritorious. In the coming years this centre of education, with the traditional system of education of the ancient saints and

the modern system of education will not only impart the best of education in the field of science but also become the supreme medium for taking the students to the top of devotion, concentration, yoga and meditation.



At the Annual Function of School
H.H. Maharaj ji, Sant Jodh Singh ji Maharaj &
the Chief guest S. Surjit Singh Barnala
(the Governor Uttarakhand)



On the spot guidance by the Art teacher



Chief Guest, S. Tirlochan Singh, Chairman
Minority Commission giving away
the prizes to the students

Keeping alive the *Gurukul* system, boarding facilities are being provided to students in neat and clean, pollution free environment with pure vegetarian food. At present, 125 students are learning to lead a life of good conduct along with education in this hostel. There is no doubt that in the near future this school will be able to provide guidance to the growing public school system in India.

Nirmal Ashram Gyan Daan Academy (NGA) Khairi Kalan (Rishikesh) –

On 21 September, 2003 at the time of the centenary celebrations of the Nirmal Ashram, was laid the foundation stone of Nirmal Ashram Gyan Daan Academy (NGA) at village Khairi Kalan, Rishikesh in the presence of saints and *sadhus*. With a view to provide modern education through English medium along with other facilities to the children of the poor, the needy and the economically backward sections of society, a grand building was built and the first session began on 2 April 2004. In the First Session 178 children were selected for LKG, I and II class. H.H. Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji gave away books, stationery, school uniforms and bags to the students with his own hands. *Parsad* and fruits were also offered and the children were blessed for their bright future. Education through English medium, school uniforms, books and stationery, mid-day meal and buses for coming and going etc. are provided free. Medical check-up and treatment of the children is also made free. All the staff members of the school render the services with a sense of devotion. Computer & Music Education, training in *Kirtan*, *Gurbani* recitation, sports & games and above all creating interest in Art are some of the extra activities of this institution. This is the first school of its kind in Uttarakhand which is fulfilling the primary needs of the poor, the needy and the economically backward sections of



Nirmal Ashram Gyan Daan Academy (NGA), Rishikesh

society free of cost. Admission is provided to the children of economically backward sections of society without any prejudice of caste, colour, creed, region or religion.



Children reciting Gurbani Kirtan



Students participating in function

Hari Kirpa Silaie Kendar (Sewing Centre), Rishikesh –

Another humanitarian idea came to Mahant Ram Singh ji Maharaj for establishing a sewing centre to provide help to the women of the poor, the needy, the unemployed sections of society to enable them to become self

dependent. A prayer (*Ardas*) was made before Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji to seek permission to start this service on the *Barsi* celebrations of great souls (11 October, 2005). This free centre for training in sewing and embroidery is running in the premises of the Nirmal Ashram Rishikesh itself. At present 24 ladies are receiving training in this centre. At the end of the training period, a sewing machine is also given to each student as a help along with a certificate. Bibi Paramjit Kaur (of Karnal) is rendering selfless service for running this centre.



Hari Kirpa Silaie Kendar, Rishikesh

Nirmal Bagh Kankhal (Haridwar)

Haridwar is an ancient place of pilgrimage where people from every corner of all the states of India come. Innumerable pilgrims come to Haridwar on the occasion of *Baisakhi*, *Ganga Dussehra*, *Somwari Amavasya*, *Kartik Poornima*, *Sankranti*, *Maaghi* and *Kumbh fairs*. A thought came to the kind heart of Pujya Mahant Baba Buddha Singh ji Maharaj that an Ashram should be set up at Haridwar so that the devotees could have a comfortable stay there at the time of religious gatherings. With this view a piece of land was bought from Mahant Nihal Singh ji and some rooms were built in 1911. Saplings were planted on the remaining piece of land. This Ashram is situated on the Haridwar - Delhi Main Road near the Prem Nagar Ashram Chowk and is known as Nirmal Bagh.

Rich with natural beauty, Nirmal Bagh is a pleasant place to watch. In the Sri Darbar Sahib Bhawan, as per norms (*maryada*) *Aarti* and *Ardas* are offered in the morning and evening. Facilities for stay and food (*langar*) exist for the devotees and pilgrims. A big *satsang* hall was constructed in 1994 where *Barsi* functions of great souls are celebrated. *Akhand paths* of Sri Guru Granth Sahib and *Shabad Kirtan* are recited. A clean and modern cow shelter also exists where cows of foreign breed are reared and kept. Cows are milked with milking machines for convenience. Sant Mahesh Chander ji had been performing his untiring services for the care of the cow shelter, agriculture and the garden. He was extremely hardworking who



A view of Sri Darbar Sahib Bhawan, Satsang Hall and Ashram building.



Sant Mahesh Chander ji Maharaj

worked with his own hands and belonged to village Bhatti Kalan (Near Bhawanigarh) district Sangrur in Punjab. According to divine decree he left his mortal frame on 9 February 2006.

Besides, daily routine, Sant Bharat Singh ji *Vedantacharya* is managing community kitchen (*Guru ka Langar*) and taking care of Sri Darbar Sahib Bhawan most efficiently and with dedication. He is very soft spoken, humble



Sant Bharat Singh ji 'Vedantacharya'

and deeply religious. He hails from village Beebiyapur, district Gonda (U.P.) To assist him in the management of the Nirmal Bagh, Shri Harbans Lal Bawa is performing the services with his body, mind and material. He always takes care of every job of the Ashram with great interest and also takes care of the saints, devotees and the visitors. *Bhajan bandgi* and the study of *Shastras* is the food of his life.

Nirmal Sant Niwas, Mumbai

Long before the partition of India, Param Pujya Mahant Baba Buddha Singh ji preached *gurnat* in Sindh province through the recitation of *gurbani* and other *shastras*. He tried to bind every section of the Sindhi Samaj from the areas of Hyderabad, Karachi, Shikarpur and Sakkar with *Gurughar* and blessed them with *Naam daan*. Sindhi people of those days were very much impressed by the supernatural personality of Maharaj ji and became his disciples in large numbers. At the time of partition of the country in 1947, almost the whole society suffered greatly and settled in India. Because of devotion, faith, zeal and growing love of Sindhi devotees settled in Mumbai, H.H. Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji set up Nirmal Sant Niwas in Varsova (Mumbai) in the year 1994. Regular recitation of *gurbani* goes on here. Special programme of *Kirtan* is organised on each Sunday and *Guru ka Langar* is served. Every year Foundation Day of Nirmal Sant Niwas is celebrated in the month of February. Parkash Divas (Birth days) of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji and Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji are celebrated with great devotion on *Kartik Purnima* and in the months of December / January respectively. Recitation of *Akhand Paths* and *Sahaj Paaths* goes on uninterrupted. Untiring service and devotion of Sindhi and Punjabi communities have lent a unique grace and elegance to the place. Bhai Bhagwan Singh ji, a great disciple of Pujya Maharaj ji, a resident of village Bholey (near Nabha) has undertaken the *sewa* (service) of the Ashram with great devotion and love, and is performing it with full cooperation of *Saadh-Sangat*.



Inside view of Nirmal Sant Niwas, Mumbai



Daily routine of reciting Gurbani Shabad Kirtan by the devotees



Mukhya Sewadar, Bhai Bhagwan Singh ji offering prayer

Nirmal Kutia, Karnal (Haryana)

This sacred place is the place of meditation of *Brahm Gyani*, *Brahmleen*, *Sriman Sant Baba Nikka Singh 'Virakat'* ji. After the partition of the country, he showered his blessings to the people of this city. During his stay here he ran uninterrupted current of *satsang*. It is a place which really enriches a devotee with the spiritual bounties. The very sight of sectum is captivating and delightful which soothes the heart, freshes the mind and purifies the soul. This sacred place is the centre of meditation of devotees who flock to this place from very early morning till late at night. Inspired by H.H. Mahant Ram Singh ji, people belonging to different communities, especially the youth, continue reciting *Gurbani* here. A special *Gurbani Kirtan Darbar* is arranged in the evening on Sundays. *Guru ka langar* goes on 24 hrs. every day. People in large numbers, from India and abroad come here with great devotion and respect for the *Nanak Darbar* established by 'Virakat' Maharaj ji and pray for the fulfilment of their wishes. Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji visits this place from time to time, blesses and inspires devotees to tread the right path.

With the inspiration of Maharaj ji a *Mahaan Yagya* was performed at this holy place in 1993 on the auspicious occasion of Deepawali. The function began on 10 November, 1993 with a large holy procession (*Nagar Kirtan*). During this function, recitation of 251 Sri Akhand Path Sahib ji of Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji began together in one canopy (*pandaal*) on November 11 and were completed on November 13. *Gurbani Shabad Kirtan* continued throughout the Deepawali night followed by *Aasa di vaar and Ardas* (prayer). *Guru Ka Langar* went on uninterrupted during the day and night. *Shabad Kirtan*, lectures (*Parvachan*) and *Brahm Vichar* continued. Lakhs of

devotees got together in the form of congregation and enhanced the grandeur of this *yagya*. All the Akhandpath reciters (*Paathi*) and *sewadars* rendered selfless service in this unique function. This is the first example of its kind in the history of the world and is worthy of being written in letters of gold.

In Nirmal Kutia recitation of Akhand Paths of Sri Guru Granth Sahib goes on throughout the year. Lodging facilities for devotees coming from other places are also there. At a distance of two kms. from this place, there is a cow shelter in Nirmal Bagh where cows of foreign breed are kept and looked after very well. Fodder for cows is also grown here. Besides, different types of fruit plants have been planted which add to the grandeur of this place.

Sriman Sant Nirbhinder Singh ji 'Sarpanch' has dedicated his life to the services of this holy place and is performing his services very efficiently. Before becoming a *Sadhu* he was an agriculturist and was also Sarpanch of two villages for ten years. During this period he had been seeking the blessings of Pujya Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji

Maharaj which left an indelible impression on his life. After sometime, he came to Rishikesh and started doing selfless service at the Ashram. Once at the bidding of Maharaj ji, he took over the *sewa* of managing Nirmal Sant Niwas Mumbai and reciting *Gurbani* to the devotees. Pleased with his services, Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji graced him as *Sant* and entrusted him the management of Nirmal Kutia, Karnal. The life of Sarpanch ji is extremely simple. From his very childhood, he has been very hardworking and enjoyed working with his own hands. In the morning, at noon and also at night, he distributes *Guru ka Langar* to the poor with his own hands along with his other fellows. At this holy place of meditation, almost 400 persons perform different services (*sewa*) daily with great devotion and humility after paying obeisance. Admiringly all services are running free at this vast place.

At this very place another obedient disciple of Pujya Maharaj ji Sant Baba Kanwal Inder Singh ji is assisting in every type of service. He has been leading the life of a saint since 1997 after freeing himself from the worldly bonds.



H.H. Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji Maharaj, Sriman Sant Nirbhinder Singh ji 'Sarpanch' and Sant Kanwal Inder Singh ji in Nirmal Kutia Karnal

Jithai Jaye bahai mera satguru so than suhawa ram raje.

Glimpses of Nirmal Kutia, Karnal



Main Entrance



Nanak Darbar



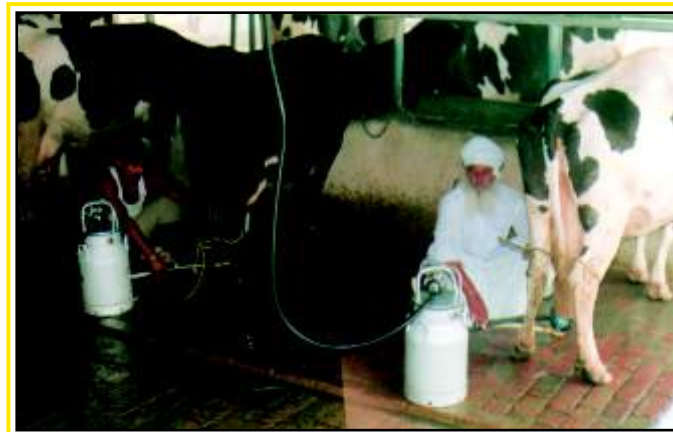
Paath Sthaan



Kirtan Hall & Rooms for the Pilgrims



Guru Ka Langar being served to the poor in the morning



Modern Cow Shelter at Nirmal Bagh, Karnal

Thaan suhawa pawit hai jithai sant sabha. Dhoi tis hi no milai jin poora guru labha.

Other Branches of Nirmal Ashram



**Birth Place – Sant Baba Nikka Singh Ji Maharaj 'Virakat'
Vill. Sihan Daud, District Ludhiana (Punjab)**



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Khokh-Kotli, Distt. Patiala (Punjab)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Thuha, Distt. Patiala (Punjab)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Kutbanpur, Distt. Patiala (Punjab)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Asarpur, Distt. Patiala (Punjab)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Loh-Simbli, Distt. Patiala (Punjab)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Bishanpura (Lopey), Distt. Patiala (Punjab)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Ghamrauda, Distt. Patiala (Punjab)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Bhorhe Distt. Patiala (Punjab)



Dhann so des jahaa tu vassya mere sajjan meet murare jyo.



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Nalvi, Distt. Ambala (Haryana)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Akhlaapur, Distt. Hoshiarpur (Punjab)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Bhotna, Distt. Sangrur (Punjab)



Sangat Gyan Gufa, Karan Ghanta, Nichi Bagh, Kashi (Varanasi)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Bhaddal-Thuha, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib (Punjab)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Goraya, Distt. Jalandhar (Punjab)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Dhanaula Distt. Sangrur (Punjab)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Khatkar-Khurd (Banga) Distt. Nawan Shahar



Nirmal Ashram Estate – Kulri, Mussoorie (Dehradun – Uttarakhand)



Nirmal Kutia – Vill. Bhattiwal-Kalan, Distt. Sangrur (Under construction)

Main Annual Functions of Nirmal Ashram & its Branches



In the Sant Samagam – H.H. Mahant Ram Singh ji, Sri Mahant Gyandev Singh ji, Srimaan Mahant Teja Singh ji, Mahant Raghuvir Singh ji Shastri, Mahant Gopal Singh Ji, Swami Ramdev ji 'Paathi' Rishikesh, Swami Vishveshwaranand ji – Omkaranand Ashram, Rishikesh

- ❑ The **Founder's Day** of Nirmal Ashram Hospital and Nirmal Ashram Deepmala Public School (NDS) Shyampur (Rishikesh) every year in Nirmal Ashram, Rishikesh from 29 December to 31 December night.
- ❑ **Foundation Day** of Nirmal Sant Niwas, Versova, Mumbai every year in February.
- ❑ **Foundation Day** of Nanak Darbar every year on Baisakhi day in Nirmal Kutia, Sector - 13, Urban Estate, Karnal.
- ❑ **Barsi Celebrations** of Sant Baba Nikka Singh *Virakat* ji in Nirmal Kutia Goraya, Distt. Jalandhar (Punjab) every year on Asaarh Sudi 13.
- ❑ **Barsi Celebrations** of Sant Baba Nikka Singh *Virakat* ji in Nirmal Kutia Sector 13 Urban Estate, Karnal every year on Asaarh Sudi 14.
- ❑ **Barsi Celebrations** of Mahant Baba Buddha Singh ji Maharaj and Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji *Virakat* in Nirmal Bagh Kankhal (Haridwar) every year on Ashvin Sudi 12.
- ❑ **Barsi Celebrations** of Mahant Atma Singh ji and Mahant Narain Singh ji in Nirmal Ashram, Rishikesh every year on Ashvin Sudi 8.
- ❑ **Barsi Celebrations** of Baba Beant Singh ji 'Avdhoot' and Sant Baba Nikka Singh ji *Virakat* at Nirmal Kutia, Vill. Khokh-Kotli (near Nabha), district Patiala (Punjab) every year on Ashvin Sudi 15 (Poornima).
- ❑ **Parkash Utsav** of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji Maharaj and **Barsi Celebration** of Sant Bhagat Singh ji Maharaj at Nirmal Kutia, Sector-13, Urban Estate, Karnal (Haryana) every year on Kartik Sudi 15 (Poornima).

Besides these, Barsi functions are celebrated in many other branches. Their dates are published in the spiritual tour programme of Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji, which is given to the devotees on the occasion of the Barsi celebration at Rishikesh. With the permission of Maharaj ji, dates of celebrations at the homes and business places are also given to devotees.



A supernatural view of 251 Sri Akhand Path Sahib at the time of Mahaan Yagya on Diwali 1993.



On the 3rd Centenary (10-4-1999) of Khalsa Panth H.H. Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji & Sant Baba Jodh Singh ji, accompanied by other Nirmaley Saints marching towards Sri Anandpur Sahib



Jagdaata Farm, Jamalpur Kalan (Haridwar)



Celebrating the 53rd Birthday of H.H. Mahant Baba Ram Singh ji Maharaj



From the Ganges Side, View of Nirmal Ashram Bhawan, Rishikesh



Nirmal Ashram Eye Institute (Hospital), Khairi Kalan (Rishikesh)