**REPORT ON THE 35th EYE CAMP FOR CATARACT BLINDNESS REMOVAL HELD ON 05th Oct, 2014 HELD IN PAONTA SAHIB**

With the noble objective of cataract blindness removal of extremely poor people from the villages and rural areas, not only from the plains around our SM ashram in Haridwar but also from the hilly regions around, the 35th eye camp was held on 5th October, 2014 in Paonta Sahib, situated on the banks of river Yamuna, about 100 KMs from Haridwar ashram. This camp was organized with the assistance of Nirmal Eye Hospital and Research Center, Rishikesh and the venue was the famous Gurudwara Paonta sahib ji.

Dedicated to Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth guru of the Sikhs, Paonta Sahib Gurudwara enjoys high religious importance among the followers of Sikhism. Located in Paonta Sahib City, this revered site draws devotees in huge flocks. The name 'Paonta' meaning 'feet' best justifies the importance of this place. It is believed that this was the site where Guru Gobind Singh Ji dismounted from his horse and placed his feet for the first time, thereby rendering this place as holy. The fort-like Gurudwara is situated on the bank of River Yamuna and is closely related to Guru Gobind Ji and his life. Being a place where Guru Gobind Singh Ji spent four years of his life and penned the 'Dasham Granth', the significance of this place is indeed enormous. Even today, one can find his personal belongings like pens and weapons upheld here with utmost care.

The team of 6 SM volunteers, lead by Swami Sundaranand ji left for the camp venue, early morning at 6.45 am and reached there at 9.45 am. Volunteers of the Nirmal eye hospital were already there and very neat seating arrangement were made in the huge basement below the shrine. Soon the team of doctors also arrived and the camp was formally inaugurated by Sw. Sundaranand ji .The camp started at about 10.00 a.m. and it was conducted in very orderly and quiet manner.

About 218 villagers visited the eye camp for a check up in the OPD out of which 75 were selected for IOL transplant surgery. All the 75 patients were shifted to the Nirmal Eye Hospital in Rishikesh for conducting surgery on 5th itself at about 1pm in the hospital bus, while the balance patients were distributed free medicines and prasad. All the volunteers of SM extended a helping hand to the Nirmal staff and also to the old and blind villagers. The camp got concluded at 1 pm and thereafter SM team was invited by the gurudwara incharge for bhandara/lunger after which the team returned back to Haridwar in the evening around 5 pm.

With the conclusion of this camp, so far 21643 patients have been examined in our eye camps while 4629 patients have been operated upon for Cataract blindness and their vision restored. Most of the villagers who visited the eye camp expressed their gratitude to Shri Gurudev for conducting this free eye camp and Dr Kar from Nirmal eye hospital also thanked Gurudev on behalf of his entire team.

***Sadguru nath maharaj ki jai***