



GURPREM

Pritam Spiritual Foundation (regd. Charitable Trust), Poonch, India Ph: 00-91-1965-221038 Aug 2007
<http://psf.faiithweb.com>

From the President's desk:

This is my pleasure to share a good news with all of you that the vision, which we collectively drafted 10 years back for a limbs repairing center in Poonch, has been implemented. Two physically challenged boys have been trained to repair damaged limbs. Limbs for 217 physically challenged have been repaired till date here. This has changed the life of these poor people substantially. Now they no longer have to wait for years to save few hundred rupees and go to Delhi even for minor repairs. Average working life of an artificial limb is hardly one year due to tough hilly terrain and long walks, which most of the physically challenged have to undertake to reach their remote villages in mountains.

The head quarters of Pritam Spiritual Foundation and this center for repairing artificial limbs are located at Mohalla Kamsar, Poonch. This occupies the space of 4 canals of land (i.e 2,418 sq. yds). This is situated at height and provides beautiful views of Poonch Valley. In phase 1 we have completed limbs repairing center and temporary shelter for 20 physically challenged.

We are looking forward to begin its second phase soon. Second phase needs permanent accommodation for fifty physically challenged and cataract-patients, a medical room for their treatment, a meditation room, a kitchen-cum-dining facility and a room for Satsang (i.e. spiritual discussions).

During last four months we also conducted an eye-camp, three major camps for providing artificial limbs to physically challenged in SriNagar Valley, Khupwara & Uri, Baramulla, organized functions to provide scholarships/school books to children and celebrated Urs for Sain Allahi Baksh Saheb at Battelkote, Loran.

Thank you

Prof. Jagbir Singh Sudan

Highlights of Limbs Repairing Center in Poonch



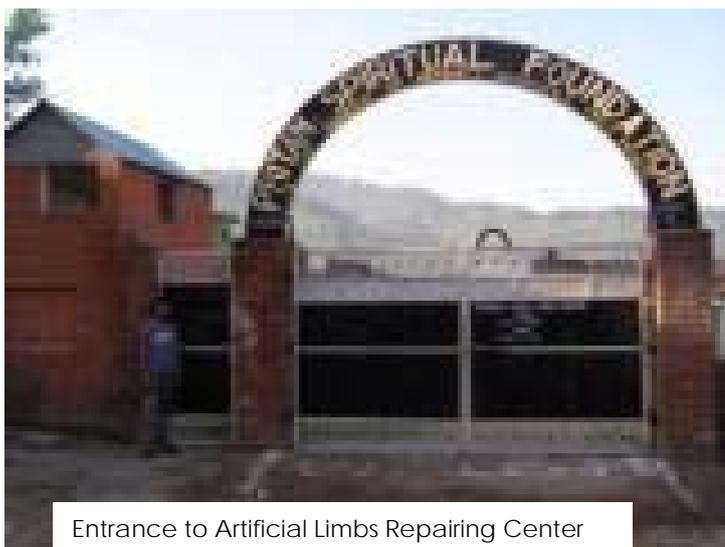
Sharang Rai, briefing local newspapers, with physically challenged children and ladies.

The site presents a great view of Poonch valley due to its wonderful location on height. From this site you can not only see the range of mountains on three sides which are surrounding Poonch city but also enjoy the beauty of river flowing through Poonch valley. The peaceful ambience of the site leads you to meditation automatically.

This land, which we purchased few years back was originally owned by Diwan Mulkh Raj who was an advisor to Maharajas (Dogra rulers) of Poonch and it consisted of ancient ruins. These ruins are in extremely bad shape and beyond repairs. Therefore the challenge we had includes demolition of these ruins, levelling of land and construction of appropriate facilities for the welfare of handicapped and eye-patients.



Old ruins (more than 100 years old)
at Trust site



Entrance to Artificial Limbs Repairing Center

These ruins still exist. Only a part of land has been developed for limbs repairing center.

We have covered site by a boundry wall in the front, left and back side. Right side of site is on a lower level from left side and both levels are meeting at centre line near tree in photograph below.

Boundry wall on right side is just a temporary one right now and will be strengthened in phase 2.

While the front side of site still has ruins near tree, the right side of front portion has been constructed to house this artificial limbs repairing center.

This facility includes a small workshop, small waiting room for physically challenged and store.

We were also using this facility initially for providing night stay to physically



Old ruins, trust vehicle and limbs repairing center

Challenged or cataract patients, who came here from villages near Pakistan border line.

This waiting room has become very useful shelter for physically challenged coming from remote villages in each season whether it is raining or snowfall, be the temperature be minus during winter or more than 40 degrees centigrade during summer.



Artificial limbs repairing center

Workshop contains some basic machinery required to repair an artificial limb.

Two physically challenged boys have been trained professionally for 6 weeks in Delhi by Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti. It is worth watching their dedication and commitment for serving other physically challenged people.



Repairing of limbs

They understand the real hardship of a physically challenged coming after 10 miles of walk with a broken limb in his / her hand in tough weather conditions. Accordingly they not only try to comfort them through basic meals but also engage them very effectively in repair process.

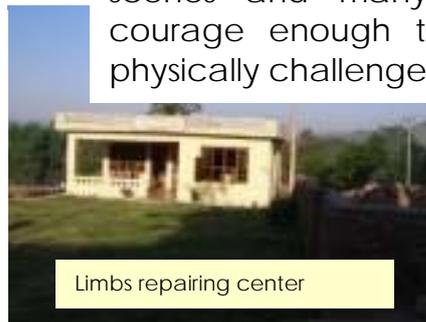
Some of these have been real heart breaking scenes and many people could not have courage enough to see the hardships these physically challenged are going through.



Satisfaction through renewed hope

According to the need of each individual, his/her old artificial leg is repaired and a new foot of appropriate dimensions is provided.

Trust has an old vehicle and where-so-ever we get to know the plight of some poor person in remote villages, trust also tries to organize his/her pick-up from the village as well as drop back to his house.



Limbs repairing center



temporary shelter for physically challenged people

As this center became very popular and poor people started coming in frequently with hopes, we erected a temporary night stay shelter in shape of a hanger.

This helped us substantially to protect people during nights from tough weather conditions.



temporary shelter for physically challenged people

This hanger provides absolutely bare minimum shelter requirement and hence is just better than having nothing.

We are sure that in phase 2, we should be able to provide some improved facilities to our poor handicapped brothers, sisters and children.



temporary shelter



Trust President, Jagbir Singh with Pankaj Rai from UK co-ordinating **welfare of these poor children** whose father was recently killed in militancy.

We organised an **eye screening camp** with the assistance of 20 infantry brigade on 30th of March, 2007 at village Jhalas in which 116 patients were examined by Doctor Anil Bhalla, the renowned eye surgeon of distt Poonch.

Out of 118 patients, 29 were selected for **cataract operation**. Trust conducted the survey, organized publicity of camp through posters, radio and local media / other agencies and co-ordinated cataract operations.

We also organized **marriages of two handicapped orphan girls** during April and July.

We shall share details of these activities in subsequent newsletters.

On 10th of April, 2007 Honourable Sardar Sucha Singh Langey, Cabinet Minister of Agriculture - Govt of Punjab, visited the limb repairing Center and distributed **text books and note books to the orphan poor children**. He also appreciated the tremendous work done by Pritam trust during last 18 years.

In July 2007 we have recently completed **three camps for physically challenged** in SriNagar valley areas to provide artificial limbs to total 752 physically disabled people:

1. SriNagar Valley areas – 175 people
2. Khupwara – 397 people
3. Uri / Baramulla – 190 people

These physically challenged, including Muslims, Hindus, and few Sikhs and Christians, were collected from different remote border villages.

This newsletter is a forum for all of us to come together and keep in touch. GURPREM will bring us closer. You can contact:

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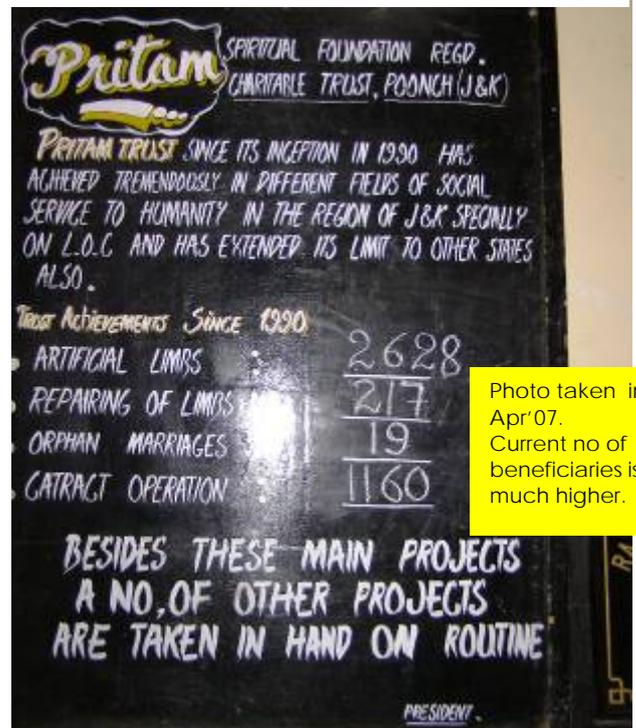


Photo taken in Apr'07. Current no of beneficiaries is much higher.