



Shri Onkar Singh Memorial Trust®

(Public Charitable Trust)

B-12 NBT Apartments, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110 091 (India) Tel.: 91-11-22752678

Free Surgical cum Medical Camp – A Report

(March 2, 2025 to March 8, 2025)

The *Shri Onkar Singh Memorial Trust (SOSMT)* conducted a free surgical cum medical camp in the sacred ashram of Devaraha Hans Baba in Bhagdevar village, Vindhyachal, District Mirzapur (UP) between March 2, 2025 and March 8, 2025, both days inclusive. This was the sixty-eighth camp by the Trust and our tenth such in these hallowed environs in Vindhyachal. We held our last camp here in November-December 2023. With our present camp, the Trust has entered its twenty-sixth year of continuous selfless service to the poor and the needy.

The Background

We could not hold a surgical camp in Vindhyachal last year (2024) because of our concentration in the Uttarakhand and Jammu regions. However, we did appreciate the need for a surgical camp in this region which abounds in economically poor and physically needy people. Hence we decided to hold our first camp of the year here only. Lately, Vindhyachal came into prominence because of the Kumbha Mela at Prayagraj which is only about a hundred kilometres away from here.

The Spadework

It was during the Kumbha Mela that Dr Charak twice visited the ashram of the Hans Baba in Bhagdevar village in Vindhyachal. The Baba was keen that a surgical cum medical camp be held there soon, as we had not done so the previous year. Dr Charak, during his visit to the ashram found large crowds of people in Vindhyachal causing massive traffic jams. It was difficult to enter and exit Vindhyachal right until the middle of the month of February. The reason was the Kumbha Mela at Prayagraj which was to continue till the twenty-sixth of February. Prayagraj during the Kumbha was visited by some six hundred and fifty million people (nearly half the population of India). Several of them also visited the Vindhyavasini temple at Vindhyachal after the Kumbha. The trains on the route were overcrowded. We were apprehensive about whether we would be able to make it to the venue of the camp on time even though our camp was to start after the conclusion of the Kumbha. We actually did face some problems but luckily they got managed.

We had conducted nine surgical camps at Vindhyachal in the past. So there was not much problem about the organisation of the camp. Only some old contacts had to be refreshed, approval had to be sought for the conduct of the camp from the CMO of the Mirzapur district, availability of some operation theatre equipment (operation table, instrument trolleys, etc.) had to be ensured, and the material from the tent house (curtains, chairs, tables, cots, etc.) had to be ordered. All this was done and ensured during the two visits to Vindhyachal by Dr Charak.

The Finances

Several friends and well-wishers contributed to the success of the camp through financial help. We remain beholden to them. Some of them include:

- Susan Pfau from USA;
- Dr Y P Kapur from UK;
- R K Kaul, Vinay Aditya, Archana Aditya, Dr Sreela Baruah, S K Mehta, and Rashpal Dasgotra from India.

Arrival at Vindhyachal: Setting up the Camp

Our team started from the New Delhi station on the evening of March 1, 2025, by Magadh Express and reached Vindhyachal the next morning. From there they took local transport to the ashram of the Hans Baba and reached there by around 7:30 AM. However, things did not go as smoothly as they have done on earlier occasions. Because of the unprecedented rush in the trains, it so happened this time that five of our team members who were on the waiting list could not get confirmation of their seats in the Magadh Express train by which most of our team members were to travel from Delhi to Vindhyachal on the evening of March 1, 2025. Normally the information about such confirmation or otherwise is made available some three or four hours before the departure of the train. So we came to know by around five o'clock in the evening on March 1 that five of our members would not be able to join the team. This would be a disaster as the camp would not be possible without them. Dr Charak made a quick decision. He called four of them to his residence, took out his car and drove them all to Vindhyachal during the night, a distance of over 760 kilometres from Delhi. They reached the venue of the camp ahead of the rest of the team. The fifth member managed to travel against the seat reserved for Dr Charak. Dr Vivek, from Jabalpur, joined the team on his own at Vindhyachal.

The team settled in the residential area of the ashram. The ambulance from Nouguran had already reached there the previous day. The team members soon started their work. The operation theatre was made ready and the linen and instruments autoclaved. The generator was put in order as it would be required in the event of power failure which is not unusual here. Some operation room equipment had to be procured from the hospital of Dr Guru Prasad. Over the past years we have been using one operation table and some instrument trolleys from the hospital of Dr Prasad. The OPD work was started on the morning of March 2, 2025. The operative work was to be started on Monday, March 3. The kitchen team this time was exclusively from Jammu, and they arrived at Vindhyachal by our ambulance.

Camp Activities

A total of 636 patients attended our OPD. Operative work had to be started from Monday onwards. Dr Dutta, the physician, and Dr Sarkar, the surgeon, were to be with us only till Wednesday, i.e., March 5. Dr Vivek who joined us on his own at Vindhyachal was to remain with us till Thursday, March 6. So we decided that we would try to finish maximum work till the morning of Thursday as there would be a shortage of manpower after that. Because of this constraint, we had to continue our operative work for long hours. On Tuesday, March 4, our operations continued till well past midnight, almost till 2:30 AM on Wednesday, March 5. We are grateful to our team members who tirelessly worked for long hours and made the camp a success. The one member who deserves special praise for her work is sister Veena, the OR nurse, who single-handedly managed the operation theatre and assisted almost each surgery without the slightest indication of being tired or annoyed, starting well before 9 o'clock on Tuesday and ending around 2:30 AM on Wednesday, only to restart her work from Wednesday morning 9 o'clock onwards!

A total of fifty-seven surgical procedures, forty of them major, were performed during the five operative days (from Monday to Friday). As usual, there were several patients who reported late and could not be accommodated within our available time frame. They would be operated upon during our next camps.

The overall statistics of the camp are as follows:

1. Total outdoor attendance	636
2. Total indoor admissions	42
3. Total number of surgical procedures	57
o Major surgical procedures (necessitating general or spinal anaesthesia)	40
o Minor surgical procedures (requiring local/regional anaesthesia; including sebaceous cysts, lipomas, ingrowing toe nails, urethral dilatation, etc.)	17
4. Major surgical procedures: A breakup (40 cases)	
• Abdominal (Cholecystectomy 4)	4
• Breast lumps	2
• Gynaecological (Hysterectomy Vaginal 1)	1
• Urological (Pyelo/Nephrolithotomy 2, Vaginal Hydrocoele 11)	13
• Hernia	
o Inguinal (adult) (Recurrent 2, with vaginal hydrocele 2)	13
o Congenital (Female 1)	3
• Ano-rectal (Haemorrhoidectomy 2, Fistula-in-ano 1, Sigmoidoscopy 1)	4

Return to Delhi

Because of the general rush in the trains to Prayagraj due to the just concluding Kumbha Mela, we had problem getting train reservation from Vindhyachal. So we hired a minibus from Vindhyachal to Prayagraj on March 8, 2025 afternoon. Most of the team members thus reached Prayagraj from where we were able to get train reservation to Delhi. All the team members reached Delhi the next day. Because Dr Charak had travelled to Vindhyachal by car, he drove back to Delhi on the afternoon of March 8 and reached Delhi just after midnight on March 9. Dr Sawhney and Tara Singh accompanied him.

Future Plans

Our next surgical camp is already scheduled for March 23, 2025 to March 28, 2025. The venue will be Nougren, in Jammu district of the Jammu Province.



March 10, 2025

S K Mehta
Chairman, SOS Memorial Trust



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So far...

Here is a summary of the services rendered by the *Shri Onkar Singh Memorial Trust* through the holding of free surgical cum medical camps starting from the year 2000.

Venue-Duration	OPD Attendance	Indoor Admissions	Operations		
			Major	Minor	Total
First 60 camps between October 2000 and December 2022:	73,909	2,343	2,099	1,384	3,483
61. Government Medical College, Kathua, Jammu (J & K) <i>April 2, 2023 to April 8, 2023</i>	359	23	23	12	35
62. Nouggran (Distt. Jammu, J & K) <i>October 29, 2023 to November 4, 2023</i>	261	18	18	27	45
63. Vindhyachal (Distt. Mirzapur, UP) <i>November 26, 2023 to Decmber 2, 2023</i>	599	42	42	33	75
64. Tanakpur (Distt. Champawat, Uttarakhand) <i>February 25, 2024 to March 2, 2024</i>	563	20	20	37	57
65. Nouggran (Distt. Jammu, J & K) <i>March 31, 2024 to April 6, 2024</i>	605	28	28	40	68
66. Basohli (Distt. Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir) <i>August 4, 2024 to August 10, 2024</i>	922	16	15	13	28
67. Bani (Distt. Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir) <i>October 13, 2024 to October 19, 2024</i>	943	29	27	18	45
68. Vindhyachal (Distt. Mirzapur, UP) <i>March 2, 2025 to March 8, 2025</i>	636	42	40	17	57
Total	78,797	2,561	2,312	1,581	3,893



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Free Surgical cum Medical Camp at Vindhyachal (UP)

(March 2, 2025 to March 8, 2025)

Names of Participants

1. Dr K S Charak (MS, FRCS)	:	Surgeon
2. Dr R Sawhney (MD)	:	Anaesthesiologist
3. Dr Vijay Dutta (MD)	:	Physician
4. Dr Achala Batra (MD)	:	Gynaecologist
5. Dr A K De	:	Orthopaedic Surgeon
6. Dr Debojyoti Sarkar	:	Surgeon
7. Dr Vivek Chaudhary	:	Surgeon
8. Sister Kamla	:	OR Nurse
9. Sister Veena	:	OR Nurse
10. Sister Shakuntala	:	Nurse
11. R C Yadav	:	Male Nurse
12. Dan Singh	:	OR Technician
13. Dalbir	:	Nursing Orderly
14. Avdesh	:	Nursing Orderly
15. Jai Bhagwan	:	OR Assistant
16. N D Khanna	:	Volunteer
17. Mrs. Raj Khanna	:	Volunteer
18. Ravi Sharma	:	Volunteer
19. Tarun Gupta	:	Volunteer
20. Tara Singh	:	Volunteer
21. Jai Singh	:	Volunteer
22. Kulwant Singh (from Nouggran)	:	Ambulance Driver
