

# Working on Gandhian principles

A GROUP OF MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN EAST DELHI ARE ENGAGED IN PROPAGATING GANDHIAN VALUES

A Correspondent

**M**any of the Delhiites, especially those residing in East Delhi, are perhaps not aware that there is a fairly big Delhi Gandhi Smarak Nidhi Complex comprising Babu Public School, Babu Nature Cure Hospital and Yogashram, ayurvedic and homeopathy dispensaries and Akhil Bhartiya Prakritik Chikitsa Parishad functioning on Gandhian principles. These institutions were created and guided by late C.A. Menon, a Gandhi-Vinoba follower who devoted his entire life for social service and emancipation of the poor people.

Babu Public School is catering to the poor students in and around Patparganj (previously Patparganj village). It collects a fee of Rs.200 to Rs.300 only from the students as compared to Rs.1000 or above in other schools in Delhi. Presently, Mangat Ram Singhal, minister of industry, govt. of Delhi, is the president of Delhi Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, who directly looks after the school with day-to-day affairs managed by the secretary, Gias Ram Pradhan. Efforts are being made to upgrade the school to the higher secondary level.

Babu Nature Cure Hospital and Yogashram started many years ago under the guidance of late C.A. Menon, has become a full-fledged naturopathy and yoga hospital under the leadership of its director, Dr. R.M. Nair who is assisted by the medical superintendent Dr. Rukhmani Nair. All kinds of naturopathy and yoga treatments are being done here with 80 beds accommodation and OPD. Charges are nominal and special discounts are extended to poor people. Besides, the hospital conducts short

term and long term courses in naturopathy and yoga, physiotherapy, acupressure, acupuncture, Reiki, etc. It is recognised by C.G.H.S, Delhi govt. and more than two dozen PSUS.

Akhil Bhartiya Prakritik Chikitsa Parishad functioned under the leadership late Menon at 15, Rajghat Colony, New Delhi. It was shifted during his tenure to Delhi Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Patparganj, towards the end of 2003. The present president is D.P. Ray, a former member of Parliament. The main function of the parishad has been propagation and teaching of naturopathy

and yoga throughout India by establishing affiliated study centres run by naturopaths in various states.

It institution celebrated C.A. Menon's birthday on January 22 at Delhi Gandhi Smarak Nidhi Complex. The function started with flag hoisting and national anthem with students performing drum bell drill. The chief guest was Mangat Ram Singhal. Others present included Gias Ram, secretary, Delhi Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Chhavi Nath, member of Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Madhurima Chail, principal, Babu Public School, Dr. R.M.Nair, director Dr. Mrs. Rukhmani Nair,

principal of Babu Nature Cure Hospital and Yogashram, Dr. G.C. Singh, secretary, T. Rajagopalan, manager, Narayan Dutt Acharya, zonal secretary and Dr. Sukhnandan Jain of Akhil Bhartiya Prakritik Chikitsa Parishad. Singhal presented the DNYS certificates to successful candidates and some prizes to students of Babu Public School.

The school children presented a cultural programme, while a photograph and painting exhibition depicting the national events and leaders was also held near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi.

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