

Aum Sri Sairam

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation-India

SRI SATHYA SAI VEDA SHASTRA PATHASHALA, UTTARA PRASANTHI, RISHIKESH

October 12, 2019

With the Divine blessings of Bhagawan Baba, a new dimension was added to fostering Vedas and Vedic lore when the *Sri Sathya Sai Veda Shastra Pathashala* unfolded in the Divine mission at Rishikesh on Oct.12, 2019.

Karishye Vachanam Tava

The genesis of *Sri Sathya Sai Veda Shastra Pathashala* goes back to the Divine visit of Bhagavan to Rishikesh when He visited North Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi in the year 1982. He set His Divine foot on Rishikesh on Apr.09, 1982. During this Divine visit to *Sri Sathya Sai Centre* near *Lakshman Jhoola* at Rishikesh, He inaugurated the exquisite building, now called Uttar Prasanthi, on the banks of river Ganga. He blessed the *Bhoomi Pooja* performed with Vedic ceremonies for a *Vedapathashala* at Rishikesh. He later called a meeting of some dignitaries and trustees of the Sri Sathya Sai Trust and gave guidelines to them about the *Pathashala* and guided them to adopt the curricula of *Shukla Yajur Veda for the Pathashala* giving its name as ***Sri Sathya Sai Veda Shastra Pathashala***.

It is Bhagawan Baba's Divine will to establish the *Pathashala* that eventually paved the way as an offering of "*Karishye Vachanam Tava*" (Act according to the Thy Command) when the proposal to establish the *Pathashala* was revived by the senior office bearers of the Sai Organisation during the inauguration of *Sri Sathya Ghaat* on the banks of river Ganga in September 2016. By His Divine grace it is envisaged to promote this centre which would be scaled up to a Centre of Excellence in Vedic Education and Research at *Uttar Prasanthi* in Rishikesh over the years. The launch of *Veda Shastra Pathashala* is pioneering step toward this objective.

The inauguration of *Sri Sathya Sai Veda Shastra Pathashala* together with the commemoration of second anniversary of *Sri Sathya Ghaat* festivals took place at Uttara Prasanthi, Rishikesh in the lap of mother *Ganga*, the paradise on earth surrounded by the lush green scenic beauty and serenity of mountains. It was a unique two-day celebration, with the theme being "*Aapah*" (Water- being the lifeline of all the living beings) organised from the afternoon of Oct.11 to forenoon of Oct.13, 2019. The devotees were blessed with a unique opportunity to participate in a host of spiritual activities and basked in the Divine glory of Bhagawan on the banks of river Ganga.

In the forenoon of Oct.11,2019, the two-day Vedam retreat commenced with *Anujna* or seeking the Divine permission of *Bhagawan Baba* and His blessings to start the planned activities followed by



Maha Ganapathi Pooja invoking and worshipping of *Maha Ganapathi* seeking guidance and blessings for removal of all obstacles.

Punyahavachanam- Lord *Varuna* was invoked to cleanse the *Ritwiks* and the devotees, seeking the three things of *Riddhi* (Development), *Swasthi* (Welfare) and *Punyaham* (Inner Cleanliness or Purification) as blessings from him. The *Sankalpam* (resolve) was done by all the participants along with the primary couples (Senior Office bearers of the organisation), explaining the purpose of *yajna* is for *Loka kalyanam* (Welfare of the World) and to get rid of all sins which are the root cause of all the sufferings. The *Kalasha Sthapana* (Installation of *Kalasha*) was done with invocation of Lord *Varuna* in the 12 main *Kalasha* as per the methods by *Maharshi Bodhayana*.

Maharudram commenced with the recitation of *Mahanyasa* meaning *Maha* (great) *nyasa* (purification) is recited to purify the body, mind and soul of all the impurities. It invokes the deity of *Sri Rudra* in His many forms of *Indra*, *Agni*, *Yama*, *Varuna* etc. in the different organs of *Ritwik* (by touching the *angas* while chanting). Such an invoking is done to seek the blessings of the Lord, and at the same time giving one and all a feeling of immediate presence of the Lord in the vicinity of the chanting. By doing *Nyasa* the respective *Devathas* are invoked by preparing oneself to be eligible to do the Pooja. (*The Mahanyasam was codified by the great sage Bodhayana. Ravana performed great austerities and obtained mantra siddhi using this Nyasa before Bodhayana codified it. Pancha Bhootha Shuddhi is achieved by doing Nyasa. In Nyasa it is an attempt to control our Indriyas (senses) and surrender the same to the mind. Then we surrender the mind to the Aatma. Finally, we surrender our Aatma to the "Brahman"*).



During the daybreak an exhibition on the Divine visit of *Bhagavan Baba* in April 1982 to Rishikesh titled ***Bhagavatah Divya Aagamanam Pradarshani*** was inaugurated by the All India President *Sri Nimish Pandya*. The exhibition also depicted the theme *Aapah* (Water) is source of life quoting *Bhagawan Baba's* message on water and river *Ganga*.

The afternoon session began with *Rudra Vidhana Pooja* or invocation of Lord *Rudra* in the main 12 *Kalasha* using *Rudra Vidhana* and *Trishati Archana* (300 names) - offering of flowers as *Archana* to our most loving lord *Sai Rudra* with *Pradakshina* and *Namaskara*.

Maharudra Yajnam is a very important form of worship of Lord *Shiva*, the very Source of Cosmic Energy for the entire creation. His Divine form encompasses and extends far beyond all known and unknown galaxies and universes. Lord *Shiva* Is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent and Is the conqueror of death and an embodiment of infinite mercy, compassion and love. Lord *Shiva* Is worshipped traditionally in the form of *Lingam* – resembling the replica of *Brahmandam* or the entire universe is personified. If this *Lingam* is cooled (pleased by devotion), the universe is cooled (filled with peace and love). *Abhishekam* is the ritual that cools the *Shiva Lingam* and is dearest to His heart.

Rudrabhishekam was performed by chanting eleven avarthana (rounds) of *Rudram* and *Abhishekam* simultaneously with water and different *dravays* (materials). There were about 600 select *Veda*

Chanters both ladies and gents representing all the states of India participated in the Mass recitation of *Rudram* on Friday the Oct.11, 2019. It was indeed a blessing that the *Rudrabhishekam* coincided with the *Pradosham* on Friday (*Bhrgu Vaara Pradosham*) [*Pradosham* literally means the removal of sins (*Pra* - Remover, *Dosham* – bad Karma/sin) and very auspicious as praying during the *Pradosha kalam* is believed to free us from bad *Karma* and gives *Moksha* (liberation) hence the name *Pradosham* for Realisation of Self)]. This *Yajna* was performed for *Loka Kalyanam* and good of all mankind as well as to ensure Universal Peace and prosperity. It is, indeed, the good fortune of all the devotees that such a grand Vedic ritual was performed in a selfless manner in the Divine Presence of *Bhagawan Baba*, the very embodiment of *Shiva-Shakti* form of Absolute Cosmic Energy in its entirety.

The *Sri Sathya Sai Ghaat* was reverberating with the mass recitation of *Rudram* and the evening session culminated with soul enthralling bhajans titled '*Bhakthi Sudha*' rendered by lead singers from various states of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of the country. This uninterrupted sadhana of day one concluded with Ganga Aarathi followed by Mangalaarathi to Bhagawan Baba. The morning session on Oct.12,2019 commenced with Invocation of lord *Varuna* and *Chandika Parameshwari Maatha* in all the *Kalashas* the Combined form of Goddesses *Maha Kali*, *Mahalakshmi* and *Maha Saraswathi*.



This form of *Devi* worship is explained in *Markandeya purana* and prevalently called as *Chandi Paath*, *Devi Mahathmyam* and *Durga Sapthashathi*. It comprises of 700 slokas segregated into 3 sections., viz – *Prathama charithram*, *Madhyama charithram* and *Uthama charithram*. It is one of the famous *Puranoktha* (mantras from puranas) homas performed from Kashmir to Kanyakumari seeking divine blessings for victory in all phases of life.

This collection of 700 verses of *Durga Sapthashathi* or *Devi Mahathmya* or *Chandi Path* describes the supernatural elemental powers of the Holy Mother of the Universe singing her glory and valour in her victory against all the evil powers, which is in turn considered as the victory of Good, Truth and Dharma over all bad qualities induced by *Shatripus* (*Kaama*, *Krodha*, *Lobha*, *Moha*, *Mada* and *Mathsarya*.) present in all in this universe. Goddess *Chandika Parameshwari* was invoked in the main *Kalasha* and 16 forms of *Upachara* was performed to the Goddess. The *Mahila* chanters recited the *Lalitha Sahasranama Sthothram* in perfect pronunciation and unison while doing the *Lalitha Sahasranama Archana* using *Kumkum*.

The *Havan* or *Homam* or *Yajna* are synonymous to represent the karma, offerings/sacrifice done with pure love and devotion in the Holy fire (Agni), reciting mantra/shloka of the God/Goddess to whom the offering/sacrifice is offered to. When such a *Homam* is performed reciting *Sri Durga Sapthashathi* to please Holy Mother of the Universe, it is called *Chandi Homam*. It was followed by various *Homams* that were performed in the following sequence. Offerings made to the holy fire to please Lord *Ganapathi*, *Navagraha Devathas* was performed. Following that *Chandi Paath Parayana* and *Homam* was performed simultaneously to





please Goddess *Chandika Parameshwari*. *Maha Rudra Homam* was performed following *Chandi Paath* to please Lord Rudra.

Maha Poornahuthi symbolizing total surrender to *Bhagawan Baba* was performed along with *Vasordhara* (*Vasordhara* is a form of prayer offered to Lord Rudra and Goddess *Chandika Parameshwari*, in which the recitation of mantra with the offering of Ghee (Aajyam) happens in the holy fire continuously). This was followed by *Bhajans*



and *Manglaarathi* to *Bhagawan*.

Subsequently with the recitation of Vedic hymns, *Sri Sathya Sai Veda Shastra Pathashala* was officially inaugurated by the Chief Guest (one of the officials of the accreditation body for *VedaPathashalas* under the HRD Ministry, Government of India) ,Dr. B.G.Pitre, former Director of EHV and Subramanyam Gorti, National Veda Coordinator, SSSSO, India. It was immediately followed by the inauguration of



Digital Library as well as the *Prayogashala* (Computer Lab) of *Sri Sathya Sai Veda Shastra Pathashala* by Sri Sundar Swaminathan, Director of Radio Sai.

In the afternoon at 3:00 PM, the *Sabhagruha* (Auditorium) of *Sri Sathya Sai Veda Shastra Pathashala* was inaugurated by the All India President Sri Nimish Pandya amid Vedic chants. A symposium was organized at the auditorium which

was precluded by a beautiful theme song on mother Ganga in the form of an audio visual (produced by Radiosai in association with SSSSO, Maharashtra).

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=16-qNF8FWw1-7nl9yPhvQoGOXoJM3fXxv>

The theme for the symposium was *Aapah* (Water) because water is at the core of the sustainable development, and critical for socio-economic development, food production and survival of human beings. Water is also at the heart of adaptation to climate change, serving as the crucial link between the society and the environment. The mankind today faces calamity after calamity. The cause is indiscriminate exploitation of mother earth and that is affecting the environment and ecological balance. It shows that greed of man overriding the need.

Bhagawan Baba always exhorted 'Ceiling on Desire' – In this context it is ceiling on consumption of resources is necessary in order to save the planet from the consumption disaster ".

To this effect, a brochure titled "*Aapah*" was also released by the All India President, Sri Nimish Pandya.



It is the urgent need of the hour to address this global crisis caused by either insufficient water or excess of flooding water. The planet earth has finite resources and the planet needs to be managed properly to pass on the legacy to the future generations. Ancient India had used the Vedic prescriptions that date thousands of years back, for sustainable planet and

balanced ecology. Reference to taking a leaf out of Vedic insight panel discussion was on ways to meet the needs of the modern society.

The topic of the symposium was "**Contemporary Challenges of Environment, Ecology & Agriculture - Vedic ways to address these challenges for the sustainable planet as Vedas being source of knowledge**" and each guest scholar delivered a talk about the topic.

The guest scholars who delivered talks on the above topic include the Chief Guest (former professor of *Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupathi*), Prof. Chandrashekhar Mattur (former professor of *Sri Sathya Sai College, Seshadripuram, Bangalore*) & Dr. Anuradha Choudry (Asst. Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur). Subsequently a documentary film produced by Radiosai on Bhagawan Baba's Divine Visit to Rishikesh was played. The symposium concluded with Mangalaarathi to Bhagawan.



The evening session commenced with the Vedic recitation culminated with a scintillating music program titled '*Raaga Sudha*' rendered by the singers from SSSSO, West Bengal. After that a ballet on '*Dashaavatara*' was presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai School, Rishikesh followed by heart soothing songs titled '*Bhaava Sudha*' sung by a group of singers from various states of *Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations* of the country. The day two program concluded with *Ganga Aarathi* followed by *Mangalaarathi* to Bhagawan Baba.

The morning session of Oct. 13, 2019, witnessed plating of *Vata Vriksha* (Banyan Tree) titled *Thapo Vriksham* (Tree of Spiritual Austerities) at Uttar Prasanthi which is verily the inspiration received from Bhagawan Baba. Sixty years ago, on 29 June 1959 and that too, a *Poornima* day, (i.e., the full moon day of the month) Bhagawan had blessed a similar *Thapo Vriksham* at Prasanthi Nilayam. Before the plantation of *Vata Vriksha*, *Dakshināmoorthy Homam* was performed to please Lord *Dakshināmoorthy*, the *Guru* of the *Gurus* is manifestation of *Lord Shiva*. It is none other than our loving lord Bhagawan Baba Himself. The installation of *Dakshināmoorthy Yantra* as well as planting of *Vata Vriksha* sapling was done by Smt. & Sri Nimish Pandya, All India President as well as Smt. & Sri Ravish Khanna, Convener of Sri Sathya Sai Trust, UP & UK along with the office bearers of SSSSO, India



A thick copper plate (*Dakshiaāmoorthy Yantra*.) of 9" x 9" inscribed with letters in *Devanagari* of great spiritual potency (*Beeja Aksharas*) was deposited in the earth at a spot specially chosen in the North direction at Uttar Prasanthi. Previously, this Yantra was charged with *Laksha avarthana* (or One lakh or 100,000 times) of *Dakshināmoorthy moola mantra* in the immediate Divine presence of *Sai Sunderaswara at Sundaram (Bhagawan's abode)* in Chennai by a group of dedicated devotees for two months.

After the banyan tree was planted over this spiritually charged *Dakshināmoorthy Yantra* a *Samuhika aahuthi* was performed for *Sri Sathya Sai Gayatri Homam*.

It was followed by mass recitation of *Panchamukhi Gayatri* (as demonstrated by Bhagawan) and *Sri Sathya Sai Ashtottara Namavali*.

Rishikesh - "*Hrsīkeśa*" is a name of Lord Vishnu composed of *hrsīka* meaning 'senses' and *īśa* meaning 'lord', thus 'Lord of the Senses'. This tree is quite apt to the name of the place "Rishikesh". Over the years, this tree will grow into a mighty *Dhyana Vriksham*, the Tree of Meditation at Uttar Prasanthi and emerge as a spiritual centre a true replica of *Prasanthi Nilayam* in the north of India for the devotees which itself will become the identity to the outside world (tourists) to receive Bhagawan Baba's message of love and His blessings from Him for the success of spiritual pilgrimage.



It will be the *Thapo Vriksham*, the Tree of Spiritual Austerities in the years to come. Those who are in intense distress and are tired with the ups and downs of life, those who are on spiritual quest, those who ardently desire something pure, those who are progressing on the path of spiritual enlightenment - such people will gather at the feet of *Sri Sathya Sai Dakshiaāmoorthy* and attain tranquility, supreme peace and equanimity.

The two day Vedam retreat eventually came to an end after *Bhajan* and *Mangalaarathi*. The devotees had the bond of love with Bhagawan Baba and their parched souls experienced torrential downpour of *Ananda* in the profusion of His glory for two days of unabated *sadhana* on this historic occasion. They carried back home the blissful experience from Rishikesh.

Feedback and helpline: admin@ssssoindia.org

Rishikesh video: https://youtu.be/83vofb_Etfo