

SRI SATHYA SAI VEDA SASTRA PATHASHALA, RISHIKESH

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A NEW DIMENSION WAS ADDED to fostering of the Vedas and the Vedic lore when Sri Sathya Sai Veda Sastra Pathashala was inaugurated at Rishikesh on 12th October 2019.

The genesis of Sri Sathya Sai Veda Sastra Pathashala goes back to the Divine visit of Bhagavan to Rishikesh when He blessed the Bhumi Puja of the Veda Pathashala on 9th April 1982. He later called a meeting of some dignitaries and trustees of Sri Sathya Sai Trust and gave guidelines to them about the Pathashala. 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 Rishikesh over the years. The launch of Veda Sastra Pathashala is a pioneering step towards this objective.

The inauguration of Sri Sathya Sai Veda Sastra Pathashala took place at Uttar Prasanthi, Rishikesh, a place surrounded by the lush green natural beauty and serenity of mountains. It was a unique two-day celebration, with the theme "Aapah" (water – being the lifeline of all the living beings). The devotees were blessed with a rare opportunity to participate in a host of spiritual activities and basked in the Divine glory of Bhagavan on the bank of the river Ganga.

Day 1: 12th October 2019

The morning session on 12th October 2019 commenced with invocation of Lord

Varuna and Chandika Parameshwari Mata the combined form of goddesses Kali, Lakshmi and Saraswati. This form of Devi worship is explained in Markandeya Purana and prevalently called as Chandi Paath, Devi Mahatmyam and Durga Saptashati. It comprises 700 Slokas segregated into three sections., viz., – Prathama Charitram, Madhyama Charitram and Uthama Charitram. The Durga Saptashati or Devi Mahatmyam or Chandi Paath describe the supernatural powers of the Holy Mother of the universe, singing her glory and valour



Chandi Paath: Worship of the Divine Mother.

in her victory over all evil powers, which in turn is considered as the victory of Sathya and Dharma over all bad qualities induced by Shadripus (Kama, Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Mada and Matsarya.) present in all in this universe. Goddess Chandika Parameshwari was invoked in the main Kalasha and 16 forms of Upachara were performed to the goddess. The Mahila chanters recited the Lalitha Sahasranama



in perfect pronunciation and unison while doing the Archana using Kumkum.

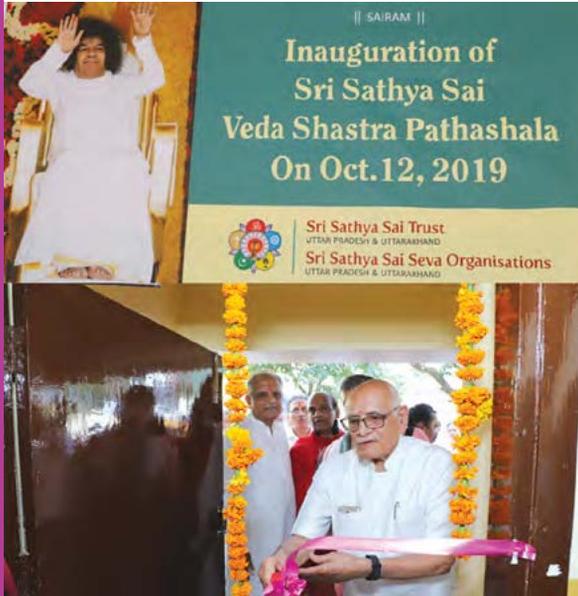
A Homa was performed with love and devotion reciting Mantras in praise of the goddess. When such a Homa is performed reciting Durga Saptashati to please the Holy Mother, it is called Chandi Homa. Poornahuti symbolising total surrender to Bhagavan Baba was then performed followed by Bhajans and Arati to Bhagavan.

Subsequently, amidst the recitation of Vedic hymns, Sri Sathya Sai Veda Sastra Pathashala was officially inaugurated by the Chief Guest (one

the Prayogashala (Computer Lab) of Sri Sathya Sai Veda Sastra Pathashala by Sri Sundar Swaminathan, Director of Radio Sai.



Proceedings of the symposium in the auditorium.



Inauguration of Sri Sathya Sai Veda Sastra Pathashala.

of the officials of the accreditation body for Veda Pathashalas 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

In the afternoon, Auditorium of Sri Sathya Sai Veda Sastra Pathashala was inaugurated by the All India President, Sri Nimish Pandya amidst Vedic chants. A symposium was organised at the auditorium which was preceded by a beautiful theme song on Mother Ganga in the form of an audiovisual (produced by Radiosai in association with SSSSO, Maharashtra).

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.

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 and Agriculture – Vedic Ways to Address these Challenges”. Each guest scholar delivered a talk on the topic. The guest scholars who delivered talks on the above topic included the Chief Guest (former professor of Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupathi), Prof. Chandrashekhar Mattur (former professor of Sri Sathya Sai College, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru) and Dr. Anuradha Choudry (Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur). Subsequently, a documentary film produced by Radiosai on Bhagavan Baba’s Divine visit to Rishikesh was played. The symposium concluded with Arati to Bhagavan.

The evening session commenced with Vedic recitation followed by a scintillating music programme 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 of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations from various States of the country. The programme concluded with Ganga Arati followed by Arati to Bhagavan Baba.

Day 2: 13th October 2019

The morning session of 13th October 2019 witnessed planting of Vata Vriksha

(banyan tree) titled Tapo Vriksha (tree of spiritual austerities) at Uttar Prasanthi which is verily the inspiration received from Bhagavan Baba. Sixty years ago, on 29 June 1959 and that too on Purnima day, (full moon day of the month) Bhagavan had blessed a similar Tapo Vriksha at Prasanthi Nilayam. Before the plantation of Vata Vriksha, Dakshinamurthy Homa was performed to please Lord Dakshinamurthy. It is none other than our loving Lord Bhagavan Baba Himself. The installation of Dakshinamurthy Yantra as well as planting of Vata Vriksha sapling was done by Smt. and Sri Nimish Pandya, All India President as well as Smt. and Sri Ravish Khanna, Convener of Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand along with the office bearers of SSSSO, India.

After the banyan tree was planted over spiritually charged Dakshinamurthy Yantra, Samuhika Ahuti was performed for Sri Sathya Sai Gayatri Homa. It was followed by mass recitation of Gayatri (as demonstrated by Bhagavan) and Sri Sathya Sai Ashtottarashata Namavali. Over the years, this tree will grow into a mighty Dhyana Vriksha, the Tree of Meditation at Uttar Prasanthi and emerge as a great spiritual centre.

The two-day Veda retreat eventually came to an end after Bhajans and Arati. The devotees had the bond of love with Bhagavan Baba and their parched souls experienced torrential downpour of Ananda in the profusion of His glory on this historic occasion.

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