

Sanskrit Pathshala Inaugurated in Chennai

Posted by: "sri venkat"

ahvenkitesh@gmail.com viji123

Tue Mar 29, 2011 8:14 pm (PDT)

A different School

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-03-21/spiritual-destinations/29170812_1_pathshala-vedic-students

B Sivakumar, Mar 21, 2011

Kancheepuram's Shankara Math is setting up a pathshala on the outskirts of Chennai city, affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education.

Spread over five acres, the pathshala was inaugurated by Kanchi Shankaracharya Sri Jayendra Saraswathi on March 16 at Rajakilpakkam, 15 km from Chennai city. The admission process begins in April. Boys and girls of any faith are welcome to get enrolled here.

Visitors to the complex are first taken through a photo exhibition with two life-size statues of Paramacharya Sri Chandrasekarantra Saraswathi. The photos dating from 1894 to late 1980s trace the life of the Paramacharya from his school days, his journey to Kashi, meeting various leaders and his work.

V Shankar, a Mumbai-based businessman who initiated this project and made a generous grant, says, "Students will be taught Vedas and puranas from 5 am till around 7 am every morning. They will then attend school for academic studies. In the evening, they will once again attend pathshala classes, finishing their school work before going to bed."

The residential complex has rooms that can accommodate up to four students each. The

rooms have cupboards and provisions for laptops, but there are no beds. The students are expected to sleep on the floor as in any other pathshala. The pathshala classes are held free of charge. However, the school charges normal fees.

According to Sri Jayendra Saraswathi, "It is important to cultivate respect and veneration for gurus. It is good to learn both traditional and modern wisdom and for the school to be situated in the midst of several modern schools."

The students listen to Vedic chants in the audio-visual room and also refer to scriptures and religious texts on the Internet. A temple with a tank has also been constructed on the premises.

"It is an attempt to revive our tradition and culture. The pathshala students will be exposed to western education as well as receive instruction in Vedic literature and Vedanta," says Shankar.

A similar pathshala was started in Mumbai a decade ago, but it did not have a school. Pathshala students went to nearby schools. They have graduated in several fields including medicine and are well-versed in

Vedic traditions too.

D Bhaskar and wife, Manjula, both advocates, have admitted their son B Sankaranarayanan, to the pathshala. "We hope he will be proficient in the Vedas as well as in academics," said the couple. R Vishwanath, a businessman, has admitted his child, V Aravind Ram, in the 6th standard. "I am really fortunate to have admitted my son in a pathshala which also has a regular school. The fee for the school is also collected after ascertaining the affordability of the parent," said Vishwanath.

Depending upon the success of this institution, Shankar plans to open similar pathshalas all over the country. "My aim is to make people know

our culture and not belittle those who learn the Vedas. This school has been inspired by the Paramacharya,” says Shankar.

Government Removes Curbs on Women in Kolhapur Temple Source

INDIA, April 15, 2011: Kolhapur Collector Laxmikant Deshmukh and Maharashtra Minister of State for Home Satej Patil on Friday announced that women would henceforth be allowed to enter the sanctum sanctorum of the Sri Mahalakshmi temple here.

This decision was taken at a meeting attended by the priests, the Devstan Management Committee officials, and Superintendent of Police Yashashwi Yadav.

It was decided to allow special puja by women at a specified time. The meeting also decided to fix specific hours for women to enter the sanctum sanctorum.

The developments in the last two days had created a surcharged atmosphere in the temple town as the Opposition parties tried to get political mileage out of the situation. On Wednesday and Thursday, women activists forcibly entered the sanctum and sanctorum of the temple. Women royalty used to be allowed into the sanctum.

The government then asked the Collector to put an end to the controversy.

Goa Abolishing Colonial Era Tax On Temples

PANAJI, GOA, March 29 (iNews): A tax imposed by the colonial Portuguese regime on Goa’s Hindu temples and which continued to be exacted even 50 years after the state’s liberation, will soon be scrapped. Chief Minister Digambar Kamat Tuesday assured the state assembly that the ‘Derram’, a tax imposed by the Portuguese in 1880, would be revoked.

‘This tax is like the ‘jaziya’, which Moghul emperor Aurangzeb imposed on Hindus during his regime (in the 17th century),’ opposition legislator Dilip Parulekar of the Bharatiya Janata Party told the assembly during question hour.

The Derram, which was introduced by the Portuguese rulers in 1880, was in 1960 formally instituted by the last Portuguese governor general. A year later, in 1961, Goa was liberated by the Indian Army from the Portuguese yoke.

In the Portuguese days, the religious tax was used to fund educational activities in the colony (by missionaries), which had earned the sobriquet ‘Rome of the East’ because of its riches and splendor as well as the extent of Christianity’s sway in the eastern part of the world.

Arsha Vidya Newsletter

Annual Subscription: Rs.180/-

Published by V. Sivaprasad

Trustee, Sruti Seva Trust, Anaikatti, Coimbatore 641108

And

Edited by S. Srinivasan - 0422-2657001

Printed by B. Rajkumar, Rasi Graphics Pvt. Ltd.,

40 Peters Road, Madras 600014. Ph. 28132790, 28131232