

## Six-months Course in Vedanta and Sanskrit Inaugurated at Arsha Vijnana Gurukulam



Two-tier resident course of in-depth study in Vedanta and Sanskrit was inaugurated at Dr. Shrikant Jichkar Memorial Arsha Vijnana Gurukulam, Vedapuri, Bazargaon on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2009 by the hands of paramount trustee of the Gurukulam His Holiness Swami Dayananda Saraswati. The first phase of course is of six months while the second phase will be of

in-depth study of three years. This course is a part of Gurukulam's attempt at preserving the treasures of knowledge and wisdom contained in our invaluable ancient scriptures by educating people who will carry forth the torch of this knowledge, which is part of our priceless heritage. The current batch for this course includes students not only from India but also from Russia, Japan, Malaysia and Reunion Island.

The inaugural ceremony started with Vedic prayer at 10.00 AM at the lecture hall of Gurukulam. Shri Avinash Pande, trustee of the Gurukulam, welcomed Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati while the chief

Acharya Swamini Brahmaprakashananda was welcomed by the president Smt. Rajashri Shrikant Jichkar.

President Smt. Rajashri Jichkar welcomed all the guests and the new students who have joined this course. She described it an auspicious day for it was the day when Dr. Shrikant Jichkar's dream of spreading our ancient knowledge to the world was coming true.

Chief Acharya Swamini Brahmaprakashananda, in her address, welcomed the students to this course. She remembered how despite a number of obstacles and hardships, the Gurukulam has progressed to this stage. She offered a word of praise towards the president Smt. Jichkar and all other trustees for the perseverance they have shown all the way without which, this achievement would have been impossible. Also, she blessed Shri Avinash Pande as it was his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

Swami Siddhananda Saraswati of Siddha Kuti, Ramtek, also spoke on the occasion. He stated that the seedling sown by Dr. Shrikant Jichkar has now nourished to a plant and blessed that soon it will be '*Vataoriksha*' under the able guidance of Smt. Jichkar and Swamini Brahmaprakasananda. He offered his best wishes to the president and all the trustees for their future endeavors at Gurukulam.

Vice president Shri Avinash Pande expressed his gratitude for the blessings offered to him by all on his birthday. He deeply remembered his friend, philosopher and guide Dr. Shrikant Jichkar on this occasion. He expressed his regards for Swamini Brahmaprakasananda for the tenderness shown by her towards all and described her as '*Mataji*' of the Gurukulam in the real sense. He assured the assembly that under the able leadership of president Smt. Rajashri Jichkar, Gurukulam will reach to the new heights and the graduates from this Gurukulam will spread our knowledge to all parts of the world.

In his inaugural address, Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati blessed all the students. He stated that it was the right time and right place for students to learn Vedanta and Sanskrit. He expressed his happiness that the world is being fascinated by the great Indian values, culture and knowledge and students from different countries are willing to join these courses. Also he informed that unlike other Ashrams where only Veda is studied, this Gurukulam at Nagpur was unique where both *Veda* and *Vedanta* are being studied. He urged the people to come forward in all the way to help for this noble cause.

The ceremony concluded with the prayer of peace, followed by Mahaprasad.

Yajnavalkya Shrikant Jichkar conducted the proceedings. Swami Sakshatkritananda, Swami Vishnuswarupananda, secretary of '*AIM For Seva*' Smt. Shiela Balaji, Shri B. C. Bhartia, Chief of Rashtra Sevika Samiti Smt. Pramilatai Medhe, Shri Kumar Kale were among the prominent figures who graced the occasion.

