



Dr. Srikant Jichkar Memorial  
**ARSHA VIJNANA GURUKULAM**  
Vedapuri, Nagpur

**Report of the inaugural function of the fourth three years residential course on Vedanta and Sanskrit held on June 30, 2017.**

*Om Sri gurubhyo namah!*

By the grace of Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati, the fourth three years residential course on Vedanta and Sanskrit was inaugurated on June 30, 2017 at Arsha Vijnana Gurukulam (AVG), Vedapuri, Nagpur.



The day began with special prayers to Sri Siddhi Vinayaka, Mangalambika sameta Sri Vedavedanteshwara, Gitacarya Swami and to Sri Medha Dakshinamurti Swami at the Arsha Vijnana Gurukulam temple complex. The

prayers, presided over by Mataji, Sri Swamini Brahmaprakashananda Saraswati was attended by all the students and Management staff of the Gurukulam. This was followed by paying obeisance to Pujya Sri Swamiji and the *Guru paramparā* at the Lecture hall by Mataji and all the students.

Addressing all the eager new students, Mataji, blessed them with her *āṣīrvacanam*. She said, "Taking the blessings from , *īśvara* in the four forms as Vinayaka, Shiva, Parvati (Shakthi), Krishna and also in the form of Guru Dakshinamurti, we have come together to attend the three years residential course on Vedanta and Sanskrit, a course to gain knowledge of oneself. The only means of this knowledge, *pramāṇa* is the *śāstra pramāṇa*, knowledge in the Vedic scriptures and this is what makes one a student of Vedanta. This knowledge is to be obtained from a *Guru* who is a *sampradāyavit*, the one who unfolds the knowledge in the *śāstra* and knows how to handle this *pramāṇa*; the methodology of unfolding through *śaṅkara bhāṣya*, commentaries on the *upaniṣad*. *Saṁskṛtam* is the language of the *śāstra* and hence one needs to learn it well through the *paṇiṇi vyākaraṇa sūtrās*, Paninian grammar, and keeping all this in view, Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati, one such *sampradāyavit* in the *guru śiṣya paramparā*, teacher student lineage, has designed this structured program.

Saluting the entire *paramparā* and our Guru Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati, who is always present in this lecture hall in his *arūpa* ,subtle form, we shall now embark on the journey of the discovery of the reality of the Self, *īśvara* and the world and that all is one."

The formal inauguration function was held in the lecture hall at 10AM. The program was compered by Sri Dinesh Gandhi, in-charge, Gurukulam management.

The program began once Mataji, Srimati Rajshree Jichkar (President, Arsha Vijnana Gurukulam, Vedapuri, Nagpur), the Chief Guest Dr. Madhusudan Penna, (Dean, Faculty of Indian Philosophy and Culture, Kalidasa Sanskrit University, Ramtek, Nagpur) and all the students admitted to the three years residential course, the staff and other guests who were present to grace the occasion took their respective seats.

The auspicious occasion began with the invocatory prayers. Susri Sushma Bhargava composed and sang the Saraswati stuti. It was then followed by the chanting of the Shanthi Mantras by Brahmacarini Tilaka. Both are students from the present batch.

President Srimati Rajshree Jichkar, Srimati Rameela Gandhi and Sri Govind Mankar garlanded and welcomed Mataji, Srimati Rajshree Jichkar and the Chief Guest respectively.

Srimati Jichkar then welcomed Mataji, the Chief Guest, all the new students admitted to the course and the guests. Quoting Swami Vivekanada, she fondly recollected the formal President Late Dr.Srikant Jichkar, his vision of the Gurukulam and all the efforts that he put in, with the blessings from Pujya Sri Swamiji and with Mataji as the Chief *ācaryā*, to make his vision a reality in the form of Arsha Vijnana Gurukulam. She requested all the students to enjoy the three years residential program pursuing Vedanta studies under the caring and able guidance of Mataji and wished all the students a comfortable and pleasant stay at the Gurukulam.



Mataji then spoke briefly about the background and history of the Gurukulam and the *paramparā* for the benefit of the Chief Guest, all the other guests and students. She also added that the comprehensive Vedanta and Sanskrit course, as devised by Pujya Swamiji, imparts *ātma jñānam*, Self Knowledge. The *prastānatrayī -upanīṣad*, *śrīmadbhagavadgītā* and *brahmasūtra (catuḥ sūtrī)* is taught through *śaṅkara bhāṣyam* by the *paṅkti adhyananam* method, that is, studying in detail, a given text from *maṅgalācaranam*, the beginning, to the last word of

the commentary. To do this, very high proficiency in *saṁskṛtam* needs to be gained very quickly, so *saṁskṛtam* is taught and learned well through Paninian grammar.

She fondly remembered Late Dr. Sriakant Jichkar and his enthusiasm for this knowledge and the Gurukulam. She also remembered Sri Swami Siddhananda Saraswati who would always grace the occasion in each and every function of the Gurukulam. Paying homage to Pujya Sri Swamiji she then invited the Chief Guest Dr Penna to inaugurate the course.

The Chief Guest Dr.Penna then addressed the gathering. He formally announced and inaugurated the fourth three years residential course on Vedanta and Sanskrit. In his inaugural speech he said that he was highly appreciative of the residential program that taught Vedanta -The quintessence of life. He stated the verse from the *bṛhadāraṇyaka upaniṣad*, *ātmā vā are dr̥ṣṭavyaḥ śrotavyo mantavyo nididhyāsitaavyaḥ* and added that unlike the knowledge in the Scriptures obtained by an individual's self-studies through reading books and from other electronic media, the residential program, which involved the in depth study of the Scriptures under the able tutelage, guidance and direct supervision of a Guru like Mataji was highly commendable because the right knowledge ought be passed on to the students, which can then be learned and assimilated well through , *śravaṇam*, *mananam* and *nididhyāsanam*.

Sri Swamini Brahmaprakashananda Saraswati then initiated the students by giving each one of them some of the text books used in the course and then took the stage for the *anugrahabhāṣanam* and for the first Vedanta class. She first blessed and welcomed all the students. She said that all the students are here to gain *ātma jñānam*, to know about the Self, and also to learn all that is necessary to gain that knowledge. Taking the same statement quoted by Dr Penna from the *bṛhadāraṇyaka upaniṣad*, she then elaborated on the importance of *śravaṇam*, live listening and logical enquiry and analysis of the scriptures, *mananam*, understanding after clearing all doubts, and *nididhyāsanam*, assimilation, turn inwards and look inside, the *śāstra pramāṇa*, knowledge in the Vedic scriptures, *sampradāya*, the teaching methodology, the *guru śiṣya paramparā* ,teacher student lineage, and *śraddhā* , complete trust in the *śāstra pramāṇa* and Guru.

Mataji also said that although the core pursuit of this course through *śravaṇam*, *mananam* and *nididhyāsanam*, needs some effort put in by the students, they should always be confident about themselves. She promised all the students that she will hold the hands of each and every student of this course and guide them throughout their stay at the Gurukulam.

Thanking Dr Penna and all the guests who had made the inaugural function a memorable occasion, she once again blessed and wished all the students a comfortable stay at the Gurukulam wherein utmost care was taken to provide a conducive ambiance to make the stay a pleasant and fruitful learning experience.

This inaugural function ended with a sumptuous lunch followed by Bhagavad Gita lessons in the Evening.

-Reported by Srimati. Vijaya Kannu Rao