

# ARADHANA OF PUJYA SRI SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI

*FIRST ANNIVERSARY ARADHANA INAUGURATION 10-12 SEPTEMBER 2016.*

The woman, hands folded in reverence, slipped quietly into Pujyaa Swamiji's kutiya. Carefully she laid a garland of fresh flowers at the foot of his photo. "Thank you Swamiji," she whispered. "Thank you for changing my life."

The woman was just one among 1200 disciples, students devotees and friends who came to Arsha Vidya Pitham Rishikesh over 10-12 September for the First Anniversary Aradhana Inauguration of the Adhithanam of Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati.

Devotees from all over the world came to pay respects and to witness the inauguration but mostly to remember with love the great teacher and guide whose influence had forever changed their lives. Uttarakhand's Governor and Chief minister were among the long list of VIPs who came to honour Pujya Swamiji. One former government CEO said "Swamiji's grace only keeps us going". Another said "Thank you Swamiji, for teaching me how to live this human existence with forbearance and grace."

The function, so seamlessly orchestrated by the Arsha Vidya Pitham team of Swamis' Suddhananda and Shantatmananda and general manager Sri Gunanand Rayal, began at dawn on Thursday 8th.

Dr R Krishnamurthy Sastrigal , former principal of Sanskrit College, Madras, erudite scholar of Vedanta, and long-standing devotee, along with disciples recited bhashyaparaayana of the prasthanatraya accompanied by Dr. Mani Dravid Sastrigal. The recitation continued over three days with summaries delivered by Swami Paramarthanandaji (Shankara's bhashyam for the Upanishads ), Swami Viditatmanandaji (Bhagavad Gita bhashyam), Dr Krishnamurthy Sastrigal (Taittiriya Upanishad bhashyam ),and Dr.ManiDravid Sastrigal(Samanvayadhikaranam,



**Dr. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal**

fourth sutra of the Brahmasutram Catussutri).

On Saturday morning the religious rituals for consecrating the adhithanam began, conducted by Sri Jambunatha Ghanapatigal and his group of priests from Coimbatore.

The first morning isthadevata prarthana, sri guru vandanam, anujna, vigneshvara puja were performed followed by mahakumbhabhisheka sankalpa, and several homas.

The evening rituals followed with abhishekam and a number of sacred traditional homams and prayers to consecrate the vimana and the Dayanandeshvara Shiva lingam that was later installed in the adhithanam.



**Sw Paramarthanandaji and Dr ManiDravid**





**Rituals for the new adhithanam underway**



**Consecration rituals for the adhithanam**



**Swami Santatmanandaji carries the vimana**



**Sri Swami Suddhanandaji performs abhishekam to the vimana**



**Priests carry Gangajal for vimana abhishekam.**



**Purnahuti performed by Sri Jambunatha Ghanapatigal**





Sri Jambunatha Ghanapatigal, officiating priest does pranams to Pujya Swamiji's pratima



First abhisheikam and puja in the adhithanam



The khumba, temple head, in place.



Vastu rituals for the consecration.



Swamiji's pratima before the unveiling.



Sri Swami Veditatmanandaji garlands Pujya Swamiji's image



Sunday morning vimana nyasa and kumbhabhishekam was performed on the vimana which with great ceremony was installed atop the adhisthanam. The morning included all the traditional temple rituals including mula mantra homa. The first abhishekam to Dayanandeshvara Shiva linga was done after being installed in the adhisthanam at the feet of the yet to be unveiled pratima of Pujya Swamiji.

Sunday's program continued with a Shraddhanjali where disciples and students shared their experiences and feelings about their guru, guide, teacher and mentor, Pujya Swamiji.

The Shraddhanjali was presided over by Swami Suddhanandaji, Chairman and Managing Trustee of Arsha Vidya Pitham; Swami Veditatmanandaji, president of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Saylorsburg; Dayananda Ashram Chief Acharya Swami Shantatmanandaji, and Chief Guest Sri P.R. Ramasubrahmaneya Rajha, chairman, RAMCO Group, Rajapalayam and long standing Pujya Swamiji devotee.

Honourable Chief Minister, Uttarakhand, Sri Harish Rawat was Chief Guest at the function. Swami Suddhanandaji welcomed him with mala and blessings. He was accompanied by Sri Ram Madhav, National General Secretary BJP; local MLA Sri Prem Chand; Chairman of the Municipal Corporation Munikireti Mr Shiv Moorti Kandwal, and Mr Deep Sharma, chairman Municipal Corporation Rishikesh.

Chief Minister Sri Harish Rawat remembered Pujya Swamiji as "a great scholar" He said although he was born in the south he chose Uttarakhand as his his tapo bhumi. "He established his ashram here. He did great seva to us with AIM for Seva. We were blessed to have this great saint in Uttarakhand. He made us proud when (posthumously) awarded the Padma Bhushan."

Sri Ramasubrahmaneya Rajha expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation for Pujya Swamiji's influence on his family for the past 40 years. "Swamiji was a teacher par excellence in Vedanta and Sanskrit. (And) with an in-depth

understanding and appreciation of both Eastern and Western cultures and with excellent communication skills, Swamiji could convey the vision of non-duality brought out in Adi Shankara Acharya's bhashyams."

Noting other achievements of Pujya Swamiji, Sir Ramasubrahmaneya Rajha mentioned the initiation of Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha Pujya Swamiji founded in 2000; his convening of United Nations peace summits; a world congress for preservation of religious diversity, and the All India Movement (AIM) for Seva.

Honourable guest Sri Ram Madhav, who on sharing his musings remembered Pujya Swamiji as the greatest Vedanta scholar of the 21st century. "He was detached. He was without ego. He dedicated his life to the protection of our dharma."

Smt. Neema gave the welcoming address and her own observations on how Swamiji had changed so many lives. Other shraddhanjalis were given by Swami Sadatmanandaji, chief acharya of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam Anaikatti; Swamini Brahmaprakashanandaji, chief acharya of Arsha Vijnana Gurukulam, Nagpur, and Swami Tattvavidanandaji, deputy chairman of Arsha Vidya Pitham, who was not able to attend the aradhana function but sent a message.

Pujya Swamiji's legacy extended with the release by Chief Minister Rawat, of two new books from Arsha Vidya Research and Publications Trust. A handsome two volume set of Taittiriya Upanishad with Shankara's bhashya, and the long awaited publication of his Brahmasutram Catussutri.



Chief Minister Uttarakhand, Hon. Harish Rawat, launching the new



**Sri Ramasubrahmaneya Rajha inaugurating the the Adhithanam**



**Swami Dayananda Nagar**



**Bhandara for 300 sadhus**



**Chief Postmaster General of Uttarkhand releasing special Postal Cover**

Swami Veditatmanandaji said the shraddhanjali was also to pay tribute to the people of Rishikesh who over the years had contributed to Swami Dayananda Ashram in so many ways.

Swami Santatmanandaji explained the pivotal community role of the Swami Dayananda Career Public School, which was established by the ashram back in 2004. He said the school catered to Uttarakhand's disadvantaged children and children from remote tribal villages. "We now have over 40 children (attending the school and) boarding at the ashram. A hostel for them was also underway.

"It was Pujya Swamiji's dream to make a model school for the state (and for it to be) English medium and affiliated to the Uttarakhand Board", he said.

Sunday's program concluded with a music concert by Sri Ram Parasuram and Anuradha Sriram and accompanying musicians. Sri Ram

noted how he and Anuradha had been mentored by Pujya Swamiji who was himself a powerful composer and supporter of the traditional and classical arts of the Vedic tradition.

Sri Rudram, Chamaka and Vasordhara homas ushered-in Monday, the concluding day of the aradhana, to consecrate the Dayanandeshvara Shiva Linga and the adhithanam as a new temple.

Sri Jambunatha Ghanapatigal performed Mahabhisheka on the Shiva Linga, witnessed by a large crowd of disciples, students and devotees.

Unveiling of Pujya Swamiji's pratima in the adhithanam was then performed by Swami Suddhanandaji. Sri P.R. Ramasubrahmaneya Rajha performed the inauguration of the adhithanam.



## Vaidhika Functions





A book, "Shankara's Teachings" by Telegu author, Swami Diptananda Saraswati was launched by Swami Suddhanandaji in the samadhi mandir. The first copy was received by Sri P.R. Ramasubrahmaneya Rajha.

More than 150 of Pujya Swamiji's disciples, attended the inaugural event and at a late morning function, were each presented with copies of the newly published commentaries of Taittiriya Upanishad and Brahmasutram Catussutri.

The various trusts in the Arsha Vidya family were also included in the prasadam distribution. A special thank you also went to Smt. Sheela Balaji for her commitment to many of Pujya Swamiji's favoured projects. Sheelaji has taken up responsibility for three trusts, Arsha Vidya Research and Publications Trust; The Education Trust, and All India Movement for Seva.

Before the meeting adjourned Swami Suddhanandaji invited all of Pujya Swamiji's disciples to attend the second anniversary to be held on 23rd September 2017. He said the event would also serve as an official Arsha Vidya meet.

The morning's events concluded with a bhandara for 300 sadhus.

But more was to come: Solidifying Pujya Swamiji's presence in Rishikesh for all time, Uttarakhand Governor Dr. K.K. Pal officially renamed Shisham Jadhvi, official address of Arsha Vidya Pitham, as

"Swami Dayananda Nagar". A special arch has been constructed at the entrance to the area.

Later, during a short ceremony, Chief Postmaster General of Uttarakhand, Sri Udai Krishna released a special postal cover of Pujya Swamiji Dayananda Saraswati dated from 12 September 2016. The stamps are to be in circulation by November 2016.

"Uttarakhand has a history of countless saints here with the Himalayas and Ganga" said Dr. K.K. Pal. "And it is here that Pujya Swamiji brought to life the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita.

"His vision transcended caste and creed. He was a paragon of daya - compassion."



Smt. Sheela Balaji addresses the disciple gathering



Pujya Swamiji's disciples meet at the aradhana inauguration

Further photos are there in Wrappers 2,3 and 4

**Report: Swamini Nityananda Saraswati**

**Photos: John Warne**