



**JAGADGURU SHANKARACHARYA MAHASAMSTHANAM
SHREE SAMSTHANA GOKARNA
SHREE RAMACHANDRAPURA MATH**

An introduction to Shree Raghaveshwara Bharathi Swamiji's mission and work

India's wealth lies in her spiritual history. She has given birth to many prophets and saints who have shown the way to God and righteous living. The ancient Indian tradition holds the Guru, the spiritual preceptor, in such an elevated position that he/she is worshipped as God incarnate. A prayer which millions chant every day all over India reads:



Guru Brahma Guru Vishnu, Guru Devo Maheshwaraha
Guru Sakshath Parabrahma, Thasmai Shree Gurave namaha

Guru, you are the creator, protector and destroyer,
You are the living God, I bow down to you.

One can attain liberation through the grace of a sadhguru. A true guru is not just an imparter of knowledge, he is the father, mother and the guardian of the soul - so holding on to his holy feet is the first step towards happiness and salvation.

Shree Shree Raghaveshwara Bharathi Swamiji



His Holiness is the 36th pontiff in the unbroken lineage of seers of Shree Ramachandrapura Math, a spiritual order established in Gokarna, centuries ago, by Adi Shankaracharya, the great guru born on the Indian soil.

His Holiness has millions of devotees all over the world. He radiates the joy of living and is a fountain of positive energy. A visionary who dreams of building a world on the pillars of dharma, justice and equality, he is comparable to Mahatma Gandhi in his power to turn people to positive action. In a world torn by violence, he advocates harmony, coexistence and peace. His compassion extends beyond humanity to the world of flora and fauna. Here is a brief introduction to a few key projects, inspired and guided by Shree Guruji, in the service of mankind.

Kamadhuga – a project to preserve indigenous Indian cow breeds

For many years now, Shree Guruji has been ceaselessly striving to wake up a slumbering nation to the need to preserve its dying cattle wealth. Cows, the backbone of India's agrarian economy, have been the most neglected in recent times. So much so, that today several indigenous breeds are on the verge of extinction. Project Kamadhuga is a socioeconomic program launched by the Shreemath to protect, preserve and propagate these indigenous breeds.



Of the hundreds of native cow breeds that once lived in India, only 33 survive today. Under the Kamadhuga project, the Shreemath actively seeks these rare cows from all over the country and houses them in benign natural environs provided through a network of goushalas (cow pens). The Hosanagara goushala houses 30 indigenous breeds and is the largest cattle gene pool in the

world. The Shreemath runs a number of goushalas which are supported by philanthropists and cow lovers. These goushalas also serve as centers of research and study of indigenous cows.

Many mass awareness movements on cow, organic farming and environmental protection have been carried out under the leadership of Guruji. Prominent among them are the **International Conference on Cow (Vishwa Gou Sammelana)** in April 2007 in Hosanagara. Scientists of international repute from different parts of the world participated in this event, which was attended by more than 2 million people. Farmers, who formed a sizeable portion of the attendees, benefited from the educative programs organized during the event.



Shree Guruji's energies are now concentrated on the **Vishwa Mangala Gou Grama Yathra** (Sept 2009 – Jan 2010), which is an initiative to put Indian villages on the path of sustainable development by focusing on cow based agriculture. It is Guruji's conviction that a cow based rural economy is the cure to the destitution witnessed in Indian villages that are reeling under the ecological and economic fallouts of over-reliance on mechanization and chemical fertilizers.



Pic: Visitors examining cow products at a stall in Gokarna

Cows not only provide milk for the household and farm labor in the fields, but also eco-friendly manure. In addition, “Panchagavya” - a mixture of milk, yogurt, ghee, cow urine and dung – has medicinal properties and finds extensive use in Ayurveda. The Shreemath has been working with scientists to develop household products like disinfectants, face creams, toothpaste, etc. from Panchagavya and today prototypes of these are ready for production. This move not only promotes healthy living, but also provides an incentive to farmers to rear and care for cows that have crossed the milking age.

It is Guruji's mission to persuade the Indian farmer to refocus on cow-rearing with right earnest and thereby ensure sustainable development for one and all. Eminent gurus like Sri Ravishankar Guruji, Mata Amrithanandamayi and Shree Ramdevji Baba have lent their support to this noble mission.

Gokarna – resurrection of an ancient pilgrim center



Pic: Mahabaleshwara Temple, Gokarna

Gokarna is one of the holiest pilgrim centers in India. It is a temple town, renowned as the birth place of Hanuman. It is the seat of the only Atmalingam in the world. Thousands of pilgrims flock to this town and offer prayers at its numerous temples.



*Atmalinga
in Gokarna*

When the Shreemath was established, Adi Shankara bestowed upon it the duty and privilege of worshipping the Atmalinga of Lord Mahabaleshwara. Shree Guruji has undertaken several initiatives to rejuvenate the temple and improve facilities for the devotees. Many developmental projects have been launched to give the town a much needed facelift.

Along with the renovation of the Mahabaleshwara temple, the greatest work to be executed is the construction of a worthy temple at the birth place of Lord Hanuman.

Lord Hanuman



Hanuman is one of the outstanding personas that adorn the holy pages of Ramayana. He seeks fulfillment in the selfless service rendered to Rama with devotion and love. He is the son of Kesari and Anjana and is said to be an incarnation of Siva. Many interesting stories are narrated about Hanuman's valour and intelligence. Even as a child, he leapt across the sky to gobble the rising sun, as he mistook it to be a ripe fruit to be eaten. As a disciple of the Sun God, he learnt all the scriptures traversing in the sky at the same speed as his guru. In spite of his prowess, Hanuman took pride in only one title showered on him, that is – Rama Sevaka - the servant of

Rama. That was the only boon and privilege Hanuman begged of Rama. Where else can we find such strength and humility bonded together?

Birthplace of Hanuman

Astrological divinations and local legends have revealed that the birth place of Hanuman is Kesari Theertha, a holy lake near Gokarna. Kesari, the father of Hanuman performed Thapas (meditation and prayers) at this sacred spot.



Pic: Gokarna, sea shore

Kesari Theertha is located in a mountain range situated on by the sea shore. It is amidst lush green forest which is home for several holy trees and birds. The cave of Jatayu, the brave bird which fought for the protection of Seetha Devi, and the cave where Anjana Devi gave birth to Hanuman are located in this holy hill which is cooled by the winds of the western sea. Hanuman's divine presence is felt here.

Local legends and tribal folklore corroborate these findings about the caves. These caves are covered with sand and rock that need to be cleared. The Kesari Theertha lake needs to be cleaned and restored. Having gotten so far, it is now our duty to celebrate this spiritual milestone by building a befitting temple to Lord Hanuman.



It is Guruji's wish that an image of Anjana Devi holding Infant Hanuman on her lap should be installed at the entrance of the cave, for worship. A monolithic statue of Veera Hanuman, the tallest in the world, is to be installed at the top of the hill. A yoga centre and a prayer hall (bhajana mandir) will be established. There is also an ancient neglected Uma Maheshwara temple nearby that needs to be renovated.

Shree Bharathi Gurukula Vishwa Vidyalayam

A brief introduction to the Gurukula system of education



Pic: Living quarters at the Gurukul

Education is a very important aspect of human culture and civilization. We become the education we receive. According to the Ancient Indian tradition education transforms an individual into a complete person and Gurukula is the institution which moulds the people of a nation. The Sanskrit word Gurukula - means the Guru's residence. In this system of education, the teacher and the taught live together in the Guru's house and there is a close bonding between the two. The teacher is not a mere

impartor of knowledge, he refines the body, mind and the soul of his disciples. It is education for life, not for mere livelihood. Guru is the living example of the values, ideals and conduct he strives to instill in his disciples.

In India with the advent of colonization, this traditional system of education lost its prominence. It is Shree Guruji's wish to revive the Gurukula system of education before it becomes extinct and Shree Bharathi Gurukula is a step in that direction.

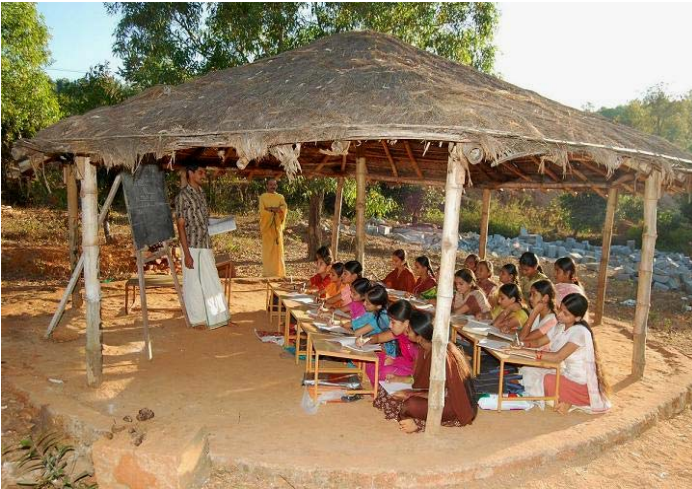


Pic: Vedic classes by the bank of the Sharavati river

Shree Bharathi Gurukula Vishwa Vidyalam is a unique institution of learning established by Shree Guruji in the sylvan surroundings of Hosanagara, in Karnataka. The Gurukula is on the banks of the perennial river Sharavathi and the spiritual ambience of the place draws seekers of knowledge from all over. It is doubly blessed by mother nature and the guru parampara (tradition of gurus) as many gurus who preceded our Shree Guruji lived and performed tapas on this holy land. Here, as Shakespeare puts it, one can find,

“books in running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything”. Often lessons are imparted in the open air under the green trees and blue skies. The students and the teachers live together on the campus sharing knowledge, joys and sorrows of life together.

Special features of this institution



Pic: Classrooms in nature

The guiding force behind the The Gurukulam is Shree Guruji who is himself a fine product of such a system of education. The school combines the best in the traditional education with the necessary skills of modern systems of learning. The thrust of the study is on Vedic texts, rituals and subjects like astrology, Ayurveda, Yoga, Vasthu Shilpa and fine arts.

A band of dedicated teachers work under the guidance of an illustrious scholar Sri. Jagadish Sharma, who is the founder principal of the institution. They have built this temple of learning stone by stone. Even the eco friendly class rooms and the residences were built by the teachers with the help of the students. The Gurukulam stands a testimony to the labour of love and dedication. It is a place where young girls and boys are moulded into fine human beings.



Pic: A scene from Ramayana enacted by students of the Gurukula

Eminent artists like Dr. Padma Subramanyam, a dancer of international repute and Dr. Jeusdas, the famous singer are guest faculty of the Ghandarva Gurukulam which imparts instruction in fine arts to students. This year, the Gurukulam has sent out its first batch of 10th class students. Over two hundred scholars and thirty teachers are working day and night to realize the dream of Guruji to revive the glorious tradition of learning.



The Gurukulam has a moderately well equipped lab, computer centre and library. The library houses many invaluable palm leaf manuscripts. Work on restoration of historical documents related to Shreemath and other important issues has started in a small way at the research centre. All the activities of the Gurukulam are supported by the well wishers of the Shreemath.

Shree Bharathi Gurukua Vishwa Vidyalam aspires to evolve into a model institution of Higher learning like Takshashila and Nalanda - the great universities of Ancient India. This is the only place in the world which will impart instruction in all the 64 ancient *Kalas*(fine arts) under one roof. With Guruji's blessings and guidance the day is not far for the realization of this dream.

--Hare Rama--

By

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