



Vol 1

October 2009

SETU is our humble offering to the Lotus feet of *Param Pujya Guruji, Gokarna Mandaladheeshwara, Srimad Jagadguru Shankaracharya Shree Shree Raghaveshwara Bharati Mahaswamiji*. With blessings and inspiration from our Guruji, we wish to form a channel, a bridge of communication between Guruji's shishyas and devotees, whereby all shishyas in Mumbai can become aware of all the projects and events undertaken by Shri Guruji and the Matha. That apart, we also wish to involve all our Havyaka brotherhood in communicating with each other through this medium, through their opinions and involvement in the future issues.

Presently, our newsletter will contain short stories, jokes, puzzles, riddles for children, and yes, recipes too!!! Input from our readers, by way of suggestions, comments, contributions, etc. will all help in making this effort an interesting one and help it gradually develop into a full-fledged magazine.

But we know that what everyone will look out for will be the inspirational messages from our very own Guruji, in EVERY issue!

In this issue, we will talk about a project which is very dear to Guruji, the Vishwa Mangal Gou Gram Yatra.

VISHESH SANDESH FROM GURUJI

Guruji visited a place called Ahichchathra, about 30kms from Bhopal, close to Rae Bareilly, during the Vishwa Mangal Gau Gram Yatra, this month. This is the place from where Havyakas are said to have originated, and from where King Mayuravarma convinced the Havyaka families to shift to Karnataka and Kerala, about 2000 years ago. It is our Guruji's fond wish that we Havyakas visit the place of our origins and roots, in a group.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS MONTH

In this section, we will highlight the activities held in Mumbai in the month, Guruji's schedule of visits to Mumbai, Guruji's tentative travel schedule for the next month, (This will enable all devotees to make plans for His Darshan). The main aim of this section is to enable maximum participation in every event.

In this issue, we will share with you highlights of Gurji's Mumbai visit during Diwali and His schedule from October to November 09.

Events in brief:

During the first two of weeks of October, Guruji actively led the Vishwamangal Gaugram Yatra . On 15th October, Guruji arrived in Mumbai from Bhopal and performed the morning and evening Poojas in Zandu House, Dadar. All the devotees were overjoyed to have Guruji's darshan on the auspicious day of Dhanteras. Diwali could not have been welcomed in a better way!

Though it was a very short visit, Guruji blessed us all with His divine presence and Ashirwada. We now look forward to Guruji's visit to Mumbai on 27th October 09. This time Guruji will be in Zandu House, Gokhale Rd., Dadar, Mumbai till 28th October 09 afternoon and proceed to Gokarna after performing the evening pooja in Mumbai.

VISHWA MANGAL GAU GRAM YATRA

Param Pujya Guruji has initiated and is totally involved in the Vishwa Mangal Gau Gram Yatra. Some of the reasons for starting this Yatra are:

- The cow population, the life-support of farmers, is diminishing. Only 33 of more than 70 species of Indian cows have survived. In some of these remnant species, we can count only ten or twenty cows in all.
- In 60 years, the count of slaughter houses has increased from about 300 to 35,000.
- The nation has lost 80% of cow population since independence.

Now let us look at some of the salient features of this Epoch Making Yatra :

Theme	: Cow is the mother of the world.
Resolve	: Saving the cow is my sacred duty.
Slogan	: Cow saves one who saves her.
Goal	: Villages progress by devotion to cow, progress of villages results in progress of the nation, leading to the progress of the world.
Medium	: The cow
Message	: Move to village, move toward the cow, move toward the nature
Support from	: All cow lovers

Start of Journey: On Vijaya Dashami, 30 September 2009, from Kurukshetra

Duration: 108 days

Functions: Prayer to cow, messages, processions, cultural activities a mood of festival

Total distance: 20,000 kms

Sub journeys: 15,000, from district-taluk-village centres

Sub journey distance: Totally 10 Lakh kms

Conclusion: On Makara Sankranti, 17 January 2010, in Nagpur

Signature Campaign: Millions will participate in signature campaign calling for the end of cruelty to cow and to declare cow a national animal.

Memorandum to the President of India: Will be submitted on 29 January, 2010 with crores together signatures.

Guruji's travel schedule over the next month:

Parama Poojaya Guruji is expected to reach Gokarna on 28th October 09. During the first week of November, Guruji will be in Hornadu, then Hosnagara on 8th November 09. From there, Guruji will proceed to Yellapura, Hubli and finally join the Vishwa Mangal Gau Gram Yatra (VMGGY) on 15th November in Hyderabad.

We also request all Guruji's devotees in Mumbai to whole heartedly support and participate in the **Vishwamangal Gau Gram Yatra**. We look forward to **volunteers** from Mumbai in large numbers for this purpose.

For details pertaining to Guruji's travel schedule during VMGGY, please contact Dr. Thirumala Prasad 09480791449

Events planned for the month:

We wish to inform you that a chanting session of **Ramtaraka Japa** has been organised on **6th December 09** at **Pejawara Matha**. All devotees are requested to participate in this programme, details of which will be intimated to you in the next issue of SETU. Please keep yourself free of any other commitments on the 6th of December!

For further details regarding Guruji's schedules or any events, please contact Rajalakshmi Joshi

Ph: 09821007838 email: rajalakshmi.j@gmail.com

Do visit the website www.gougram.org for more details on the Yatra.

Do sign the petition supporting the Yatra and Gaumatha (for ban on cow slaughter) at http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/Gow_Gram_Yatra?e

SOME OTHER NOBLE WORDS FROM GURUJI

For him who has conquered the mind, the mind is the best of friends; but for one who has failed to do so, his mind will remain the greatest enemy.

There is no royal road to success; BUT after success, every road becomes royal; best wishes for those who believe in Struggles.

A STORY about 'GAU-MATHA'

In a farm in rural India, there co-existed many animals. The owner of the farm looked after every animal in the farm very well and all the animals were also happy. Every morning, the farmer came to the cow shed and prayed to GauMatha and fed her grass specially. He rubbed her and fondled her calf also with lots of love, and only then would he milk her. The cow also loved the farmer very much.

In the same farm lived some pigs. One of the pigs was very friendly to the cow. One day, the pig asked the cow, "You know, I wonder why master likes you so much. Why does he pray to you? If you think about it, even we pigs are very useful to the master. He earns a lot by selling us; the whole family fills their stomach by eating us. Even our hides (skin) are useful in making many things. Even our children are cute. Then why does he love you more?"

GauMatha replied "Friend, the difference is that we give everything *when we are alive*. That share of milk which my children should get goes to the farmer and his children. We help in making the crops grow better with our dung; we help in keeping everybody healthy with our urine. Thus, even the waste thrown out of our body is useful to the farmer. Can you find even one more animal like that? We give the farmer and his family delicious milk, some of which he even sells and gets an income. And we don't even ask for anything special for all this. We feed ourselves when we go out grazing. Now tell me, who is better?"

The pig now understood why the cow was worshipped by the farmer.

Children, sacrifice is the noblest act that any living thing can do. GauMatha and her calf sacrifice their milk for us. Should we not worship them too?

WORDS OF WISDOM

The Samayochita Padyamalika says :

"There is no sin graver than falsehood; no noble deed greater than adhering to truth and no friend greater than one's own conscience."



GREATNESS OF JAGADGURU

ADI SHANKARACHARYA

The greatness of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya, the beacon light whom all scholars on Hinduism look to, can never be measured by us mortals. In the words of Dr. S.Radhakrishna in his book on Indian Philosophy : "He is a philosopher and a poet, a savant and a saint, a mystic and a religious reformer.... There have been few minds more universal than his." To understand the greatness of His teachings, one must appreciate the fact that in ancient India, our holy books like the Vedas, the Upanishads and all other scriptures were taught orally by the Rishis or Gurus to their students (shishyas).

As time went by, most of these teachings were lost either because fewer and fewer people had complete knowledge about them, or because such works were not written anywhere and kept for posterity. The Vedanta Sutras on which Adi Shankaracharya's Bhashya were based were almost just headings or an index on the Vedanta philosophy.

Probably, in the past, the teachers used to refer to these Sutras and explain them to their students with elaborate commentaries. But due to the influx of other forms of religions, like Buddhism and Jainism, the knowledge and teaching of ancient Hindu philosophy was on the decline. It was at this time that Adi Shankaracharya took on the mantle of explaining our ancient texts, in his commentaries or Bhashya on the Sutras. Not only did he explain our ancient texts, he also wrote many new poetries (Bhaja Govindam, Soundarya Lahiri, to quote a few), taught us the ideal Hindu way of life (Vivek Chudamani) and many other works. So strong was his influence and teaching that not just was Hindu religion revitalized as a whole, his followers and particularly the Uttaradhikaris of the various Mathas he founded, continued researching and writing on the ancient books that our Hinduism is based on.

(In the next issue and in the future issues, we shall present details surrounding his birth and life, beauty of his poems, etc. We hope that all our readers will support our endeavors and will send us their views too. We shall try and publish your views too.)

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Contributed by : **Rajat Hegde, Andheri (W).**

CHECK THIS OUT :

1. The Project which is dearest to our Beloved Guruji : _____
2. The SMS group you can all join for free, for messages from our Guruji : _____
3. The Project which **only** Havyakas can wholeheartedly give support to : _____
4. The Project which requires our physical participation in Gokarna : _____
5. The name of our Goshala in Kolad, Maharashtra : _____

ANSWERS :

1. kamadugha project (conservation, protection and research on indian breed cows) 2. shrubharathi (to join, type join in shrubharathi and send sms to 567678). 3. ashoke moola matha nirman (guruji wants to rebuild our shrinatha at its original place in 'ashoke', gokarna - it is our duty to contribute to it and we should be proud to participate in rebuilding it). 4. koi rudra pathana (all those who can chant the rudra, should join in the rudra chanting in front of lord mahabaleshwara in gokarna - it is a unique opportunity). 5. brindavan (a most serene and beautiful place).

SO HOW MANY DID YOU GET RIGHT?

Did you Know why Lord Ganesh is offered the Durva grass?

At one time a ruthless demon named Anlasur created havoc around the world. Even the gods in heaven were not spared. All the Gods went to Lord Shankar for help. He revealed that only Sri Ganesh could help them as He had a pot belly and He alone could swallow Anlasur. The Gods offered prayers to Him and pleased Him. Lord Ganesh agreed to help. He chased Anlasur, caught and swallowed him. But this created a great burning sensation in Lord Ganesh's stomach. When Sage Kashyap heard that no remedies worked on Sri Ganesh's plight, he went to Mt. Kailash, collected 21 stems of durva grass, and offered them to Sri Ganesh. The moment Sri Ganesh ate this grass, the burning vanished. Since then, we offer Durva grass to Lord Ganesh who is then pleased, and grants one's heartfelt desires.

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CONTACT : MAHESH JOSHI 09322227084
mahesh@jupiter-global.com
www.jupiter-global.com

This newsletter has been compiled, edited and printed by Rati Hegde and Rajalakshmi Joshi. For your valuable suggestions, queries, comments and contributions please contact :

Rati (9819018240, ratihegde@yahoo.co.in)
SETU, 602, Om Viraj, Paliram Path, 9 V.P. Cross Road,
Andheri (W), Mumbai 400 058.

Rajalakshmi (9821007838, rajalakshmi.j@gmail.com)
SETU, Savoy A-404, Raheja Gardens,
L.B.S. Marg, Thane (W). 400 604.