

# SRI RAMAKRISHNA SEVA SAMITHI

WB 3-292/1, RAMAKRISHNA COMPLEX ROAD  
VIJAYALAKSHMI PURAM

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An affiliate of Sri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Bhava Prachara Parishat, Andhra Pradesh

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015–2016

Our organisation founded in the year 1970 as a registered society with the inspiration of monks of the Ramakrishna Order, continues to work upholding the ideal given by Swami Vivekananda - 'Atman Om K s h A r t h a m jagaddhitAyacha.'

We present hereunder the various activities undertaken on

several fronts during the financial year 2015-2016 : 1. Spiritual activities; 2. Regular Lectures 3. Narayana Seva 4. Children's activities; 5. Youth Activities; 6. Annual Competitions; 7. Publication of Books, 8. Rural works.



### 1) SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

**Daily Prayer meeting** was held on all days throughout the year. Vivekananda Ashtottara stotra is read on Mondays, Ramakrishna Stotra on Wednesdays and Sarada stotra on Fridays along with Sankirtan. On **Ekadasi** Days Ramanama Sankirtanam was conducted in the evenings.

All the important celebrations like **Tithi Pujas** of Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna, Holy Mother Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda were held with Special Puja in the morning and with Arati and a discourses in the evening.

The Birthday of **Sri Sarada Devi** was celebrated on 1 January, 2016 with Puja in the morning and by lighting of candles and lecture meeting in the evening. **Kalpataru day** which is celebrated on 1 January is also celebrated on the same day. The birthday celebrations of **Swami Vivekananda** were celebrated 31 January, 2016. **Sri Ramakrishna Jayanti** was celebrated on 10 March, 2016. Puja was performed in the





morning. Sankirtan and lecture were conducted in the evening.

On 17 September, 2015, **Vinayaka Chaturthi** was celebrated. The youth members made an idol of Ganesh with clay which was worshipped. In the evening 'Nimajjanam' was performed with sankirtan. Dasara was

celebrated with daily chanting of "Devi Saptashati" and **Vijayadasami**, which happens to be the anniversary of our samithi, was celebrated on 22 October, 2015 with puja in the morning and Sankirtan and Bilwa leaf offering in the evening. On 10 November, 2015, **Deepavali** day **Lakshmi puja** was conducted in the evening. An effigy of 'Narakasura' was prepared by the youth members and the same was burnt in the evening. Later sweets and crackers were distributed among children.



### Spiritual Retreats

Clockwise from top left: Swami Atmavidanandaji, devotees assembled, A group photo (sitting in chairs from left: Sri M. Satyanarayana raju, Swami Raghunayakanandaji, Swami Atmavidanandaji, Swami Anupamanandaji Maharaj, Dr. PSS Murthy), Swami Guneshanandaji Maharaj, Dr. P. Suamasundara Murthy, Swami Sevyanandaji Maharaj.

All the other important celebrations like **Shiva Ratri** (7 March, 2016), **Gurupurnima** (31 July, 2015), **Krishna Ashtami** (5 September, 2015), were celebrated in the Samithi with special Puja in the morning and special Bhajan in the evening. **Christmas eve** (24 December, 2015) was celebrated with a christmas tree, a speech on the life and message of Jesus Christ and children erected a christmas tree and sang christmas carols.

**SPIRITUAL RETREATS**

Three spiritual retreats were conducted during this financial year.

First spiritual retreat was conducted under the guidance of Revered Swami Sevyanandaji Maharaj (Ramakrishna Mission, Vijayawada) on 23 August, 2015.

Second spiritual retreat was conducted by Revered Swami Guneshanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Visakhapatnam on 6 September, 2015.

On 24 February, 2016, the third spiritual retreat was conducted in the presence of Revered Swami Atmavidanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Visakhapatnam, Revered Swami Anupamanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Mission, Tirupathi and Revered Swami Raghunayakanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad. The revered Swamis spoke on spiritual matters, interacted with the devotees and Sankirtan was held.

**2) REGULAR LECTURES**

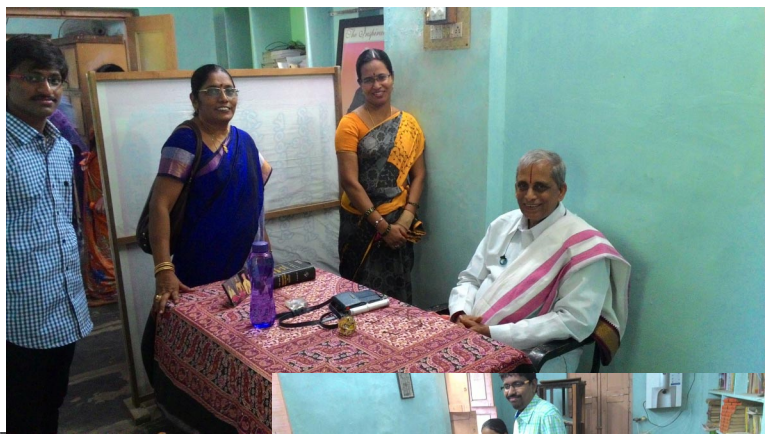
Throughout the year, Lectures on Geeta were conducted by Sri A. Naresh on Thursdays and lectures on Kathamrita were conducted by Dr.G.Ravindra Babu, member, on Sundays. Dr.N.Ramagopal, Treasurer, conducted talks on the life of Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi on Fridays. Smt.BPNV Ramani, member, spoke on the birthdays of the direct disciples of Sri Ramakrishna on their life and message.

**3) NARAYANA SEVA ANNADANAM (FEEDING THE POOR)**

On 21 February, 2015, Narayana Seva was conducted on the occasion of the birth anniversary Sri Sri Guru Maharaj. 500 people were sumptuously fed.

**HOMEO-DISPENSARY (MONTHLY)**

Homeo dispensary is being conducted by the Samithi on first Sunday of every month. Dr. N. Aruna Kumari, DHMS, a renowned homeo-physician is treating the patients. All the medicines are being provided free of cost. The activity has



Clockwise from top: Revered Sri Ekkirala Anantha Krishna garu with Dr. Aruna Kumari; disbursement of medicines, the banner, patients waiting.

received good response from the citizens of the locality and nearly 100 patients are attending each camp and are availing the services.

A special camp was conducted 24 August, 2015 which was attended by Revered Sri Ekkirala Anantha Krishna garu. The camp was conducted from 9 am to 9 pm and about 220 patients were treated.

#### 4) CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

The activity of children 'BALA VIHAR' continued as a very important activity of the Samithi. About 70 children from the nearby locality irrespective of caste and religion attend Samithi regularly and are actively involved in all kinds of activities.



1. Every evening a yoga class is conducted.

2. A singing class is being conducted. Children are learning to sing bhajans and patriotic songs.

3. Moral classes were conducted for the children which include narration of moral stories from Indian culture, life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda by using a computer for displaying various items. 'Academic assistance' was given to the children by the volunteers of the samithi.

4. Every evening the children are provided with supplementary food. A common kitchen run by the volunteers is being maintained in the Samithi. Everyday 6 kgs of food is cooked and served.

5. Computer based teaching and computer learning classes were conducted for the children of Balavihar.

#### TABLA CLASSES

Eight children of balavihar are selected to be trained in playing tabla. The classes are held for three days in a week and the classes are free as the teacher is being paid an honorarium by the samithi.

#### HINDI EXAMINATION

The children of Balavihar are encouraged to attend the Dakshina Bharata Hindi Prachara Sabha examinations. Four students at lower level and six students were sent for higher level examination in February, 2016.

#### 5) YOUTH ACTIVITIES

##### STUDY CIRCLE

Study circle is being conducted regularly. Teachings of Swami Vivekananda are the topic of discussion along with learning English and general knowledge,



through reading, discussing, and watching documentaries on the computer.

The youth are encouraged to practice yogasanas.

Sri A. Natarajan, Secretary is conducting a special study circle by online conference from 8 to 9 pm on every Sunday. Some 5 to 10 Youth members from across the world are attending this meeting. Various topics in the light of Swami Vivekananda are discussed.

### FINANCIAL AID / SCHOLARSHIPS:

1. A 'differently abled' student of Nursing Ms. Mantripragada Yamini was given a one time scholarship of Rs.25,000/- for pursuing M.Sc. in Nursing. She stood first in her college at the end of the academic year.

### EARN WHILE YOU LEARN PROGRAMME

Swami Vivekananda exhorted the youth of India to stand on their own feet. Samithi is making efforts to impart various skills to the youth attending the Samithi.

1. The youth were also encouraged to learn skills by plumbing, electric wiring, gardening, tailoring and other maintenance works in the samithi on a voluntary basis.

2. Book-stalls to spread the message of Swami Vivekananda by selling the low-priced books of Ramakrishna Math and the Samithi were conducted by the youth members.

### TRAINING PROGRAMME IN AGRIBUSINESS

Youth members are being encouraged to make innovative decoration items with poly clay, paper etc. The designs are mounted on glass etc., in a decorative fashion. This may be taken up as a commercial activity. Several youth members were trained.



### AFFORESTATION PROGRAMME

The pongamia and other plants which were planted in the road-sides of Vijayalakshmiipuram are being watered by the volunteers of the samithi. Two hundred saplings were planted during the year.

Old water bottles of 20 litre size are being used to grow pongamia saplings. The youth members worked in the project.



## CARNATIC MUSIC PROGRAMME 'SANGEETA JHARI'

With a view to encourage young learner's of Carnatic Music, entitled "Sangeetha Jhari", monthly programmes are arranged on every third Sunday, where young talent is showcased. Every month young singers would sing to accompaniment of drums and other instruments played mostly by youngsters.



The programme which completed 63 monthly concerts, celebrated the fifth anniversary this year on 17 January, 2016. On this occasion a special lecture on carnatic music was conducted by Sri Gauravajjula Anjaneya Sastry garu, Music Teacher, Tenali. Smt. G. Lakshmi, Music Teacher, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bapatla also participated. A special quiz on music was conducted by Sri A. Naresh, member, to test the musical knowledge of the young participants. The participants of this years programmes gave a special music programme and were given away participation certificates

and mememtoes.

## 6) ANNUAL COMPETITIONS FOR YOUTH: 30TH VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL AWARDS PROGRAMME

Annual Competitions were conducted for students of School and college under the name Vivekananda Cultural Awards Programme. During this year, the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the competitions, they were conducted for school and college students separately.

### SCHOOL LEVEL

From 06.08.2015 to 20.08.2015 competitions for school children were conducted from L.Kg to 10<sup>th</sup> class at 6 levels. Various events like Essay writing, Elocution in English and Telugu, Quiz, Recitation of Poems, Slokams and quotations of Swami Vivekananda, Spot painting, Singing devotional songs, patriotic songs, model making and vocabulary tests, group discussion were conducted. For several of the competitions, the Samithi publication 'Pushpanjali' was used as a source book. A total of 2000 children from 21 schools hailing from Bapatla and surrounding areas, participated in the event.

On 23.08.2015 at 4 p.m. the school level VCAP prize distribution ceremony was conducted. Revered Swami Sevyanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Mission, Vijayawada graced the occasion, blessed the children and gave away the prizes and mementoes.

### COLLEGE LEVEL

From 27.08.2015 to 30.08.2015 competitions for college students were conducted for intermedite and degree students seperately.

A Youth Seminar was conducted on 06.09.2015 on the topic, 'Youth and Positive Thinking' in which Revered Swami Guneshanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Visakhapatnam spoke, answered questions of students and later gave away the prizes to winners of the competitions. Prof. Pannala Syamasundara Murthy, our president, presided over the meeting.



## 7) PUBLICATION OF BOOKS

A new book for youth by the title, "Arjunudu - EkAgrata, sankalpa shakti, vyaktitva nirmANamu" (code: /018) is published and released in October, 2015. The book contains the life of Arjuna and his great deeds in the light of the message of Swami Vivekananda.

During this year all of our publications were re-printed and all of them continued to receive good response from public.

మహాభారతంలో వర్ణించబడిన అర్జునుడి జైష్ణత్వాన్ని మనం ఈ పుస్తకం ద్వారా తెలుసుకోవచ్చు. అతడు మహావీరుడుగానూ, అత్యుడుగానూ, గొప్ప విలుకాడుగానూ మనందరికీ తెలుసు. అయితే, అతడు సాధించిన విజయాలకు మూలకారణం ఏమిటి? అతడు తన నైపుణ్యాలను, సంకల్పశక్తిని ఎలా పెంపొందించుకున్నాడు? తన వ్యక్తిత్వాన్ని ఎలా తీర్చిదిద్దుకున్నాడు? ఈ ప్రశ్నలకు సమాధానాలను మానవమే కాక ఏకాగ్రత, సంకల్పశక్తి వంటి ఉదాత్తమైన గుణాలను ఎలా పెంపొందించుకోవాలో, మన వ్యక్తిత్వాన్ని ఎలా నిర్మించుకోవాలో ఈ పుస్తకంలో చక్కగా వివరించారు.

- స్వామి అక్షరాశ్వానంద

# అర్జునుడు

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## 8) RURAL WORKS

Saradapuri: Samithi helped the village committee of the Poleramma temple in organizing Tirunallu during the month of May, 2015.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the monks of the Ramakrishna order for their continued guidance and patronage.

We thank our auditor Sri Karumanchi Krishna Murthy garu, Chartered Accountant for auditing the accounts of the Samithi.

We also thank the numerous friends, well-wishers and donors for their continued patronize the Samithi. May Sri Sri Guru Maharaj bless them all is our constant prayer.

Since the year of its inception in 1970 there are no paid servants in the Samithi. All the maintenance work like sweeping, dusting, cooking food for children, cleaning the vessels, maintaining the accounts etc., in the samithi are done by the volunteers. We pray to the Holy Trio to shower their blessings on all the volunteers for their tireless efforts.



OM TAT SAT  
SARVAM SRI RAMAKRISHNAR PANAMASTU

Date: 01.07.2016  
Place: Bapatla.

(Amirapu Natarajan)  
Secretary