

MILES OF SMILES

The Newsletter of Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth School (For Private Circulation Only) Vol 5, April '09

85TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF PITHAJI, THE FOUNDER TRUSTEE OF THE VVMVP



Didi talks on the Girl Child Day in India - Jan. 24



It's an irony that in this country where women are worshipped , there is domestic violence. In a country where Kumari puja is done, there is female foeticide. Statistics suggest that over 50 million girls and women are missing from India's population because of gender discrimination. We have to tackle this malpractice by proper education in human values.

Malnutrition is another challenge in the country. The Indian traditional way of nutrition is the best. My grandmother was much stronger than my mother. At 90 years, she was able to do all the household work. She religiously followed her diet. We need to look into our food habits. If we add greens and salads in every meal, there is no way, there will be malnutrition in India.

Let us all meet these challenges together.

Let each one of us vow to support a girl child!!!!

Phnumathi Narasimhan, Director

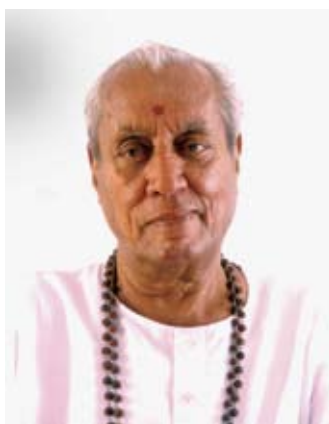
Women Empowerment & Child Welfare Programs



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The Founder Trustee of the VVMVP School celebrates 85th Birthday!!!



**ACHARYA
RATNANANDA**
*(Pithaji, as he is
fondly called)*

is the founder Trustee of **VVMVP** which has been involved in various projects for the betterment of society.

He is also the Founder Trustee of **VISTA** India (Value Integrated Services To All), a charitable Trust

working towards women's empowerment in the state of Karnataka.

Pithaji is engaged in compiling many notable folklore tales of India, which have great relevance to the present day problems. These are being presented as "*Tales for Young and Old*", "*More light on the lesser known*" and "*A Bird's Eye view of the Religious Traditions of the World*". Another project of his concerns is Yoga and its sources, as well as the ancient science of Ayurveda.

In this issue we wish him a *Very Happy Birthday* and express our gratefulness for his guidance and strength which has made our school what it is today.

Just a little about him:

Pithaji hails from a family of Spiritual Masters. His parents were associated with the youngest son of Mahatma Gandhi and took active part in India's freedom struggle.

He received his early education in a Christian institution and studied the Hindu classics and epics at home. This two-fold knowledge later helped him to develop a scientific temper and a spirit of enquiry in understanding and appreciating the heritage of India. It also enabled him to have a better perception of the differences between the eastern and western schools of thought, influencing life

in physical, emotional and spiritual planes.

He has travelled far and wide in India and abroad, spreading the message of love and joy and creating awareness about the reservoir of scientific and spiritual wisdom in the ancient scriptures.

PITHAJI ON VVMVP

The idea behind starting this institution was to understand and assimilate our ancient culture and integrate it into modern lives. How? That is why we have called it **Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth**, in other words, a correlation between the **Veda, the reservoir of knowledge, and Vignan which is the modern science**, so that we can have the **benefit of both**.

When we started the school, we had only **30 students**. We were providing free education, free food, free transport, free medical attention and everything free and people couldn't believe that education could be free. They said that there was something really wrong with it. We did not falter and today, we have thousands of students spread across many campuses in different parts of the country.

The ultimate aim of The Art Of Living is to meet the needs of the needy rather than to only give comforts to ourselves.

To think of the other fellow before thinking of oneself, to look with sympathy at those who are less fortunate rather than look with envy at those who are lucky, to stop justifying our thoughts and to stop finding reasons behind other's mistakes, to look at life with more love than lust, to go to serve rather than wait to be served, this aspect of seva, basic to The Art of Living, is seamlessly integrated into the life style of the students at Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth along with regular curriculum.



Inter-School Sports Competition



Our school organised an Inter-School Sports Competition for children which was followed by a Cultural program. Children and teachers participated with enthusiasm. Children who won were awarded prizes.

Parents Meeting

for class X students was called and the students' progress was discussed with their parents. Parents were encouraged to create a favourable environment for the children at home.

Kannada Rajyotsava Day

was celebrated on *1st November*.

The program was organized by students to show their respect to their mother tongue - Kannada.

On Children's Day,

there was a grand function of sports and cultural programs. On this day, white uniforms were distributed to all students.

"Special classes"

have been arranged for students who needed extra help. Unit tests were conducted for the students.

Free medical, dental and eye camps

were organised for all the children in the school campus. Children who needed extra attention were taken to 'Shankara Netralaya Eye Hospital' for further diagnosis and treatment.



Annual Day

The School Annual Day was celebrated on **24th December**. Preparations started with a meeting of the school parliament members and the teachers to decide on various aspects of the program. Different sports and cultural activities were prepared for the same.

Parents of students were invited for the School Annual Day function. There were folk songs, devotional songs, play etc. presented by the students.

Sundar Murthy Swamiji and other important people from the Art of Living International Ashram inaugurated the Annual Day Celebrations. The **Bank Manager of State Bank of Mysore, Kaggalipura** also attended the function and distributed prizes to the students. Ms. Mallika Krishna, the School Coordinator, gave an inspiring talk to the children. Christmas holidays were declared at the end of the function.



EDUCATIONAL TRIP REPORT

On the 10th of January Saturday morning, at 6. a.m., all students of 10th standard & the teachers gathered together in front of the school “VEDA VIGNAN MAHA VIDYA PEETH” to go to Belur & Halebedu as a free Educational tour.

The Temple Of Belur was built by Vishnuvardhana, the king of Hoysalas. The art in the Belur temple is marvellous. King Vishnuvardhana upheld the culture & tradition of our country. It's been more than 103 years since this temple was constructed. This temple is in the shape of a STAR. As it is in the shape of a star, it doesn't require much place & the idol doesn't get spoilt when the sun rays directly fall on the idol. This is the only dynasty which has built a temple in the shape of a star.

While entering the temple there is a big pillar. We can see the picture of Hoysala King, where he fights with the tiger. This is the symbol of Hoysalas. There is a Mantap, which is made only for dance performances, situated just in front of the Lord Keshava. Shantala devi, the wife of Vishnuvardhana used to dance everyday in the mantap .

As Arab people fought against us, some of the idols on the pillar have been spoiled. But still there are very beautiful idols which show our culture & some of the steps of Bharatanatyam as well.

After visiting the temple all of us including the bus drivers had lunch. Then, we left for Halebeedu which is another beautiful temple in Karnataka.

The architecture there is also very beautiful. The mantap which is there just in front of the Deity is the same as the one in Belur. In Belur we find Lord Hari but in Halebeedu we find Lord Vishnu. The main idols which we can see there are of Lord Krishna, dancing Shiva & Lakshmi Narayana.

We all enjoyed a lot, our teachers were very co-operative and friendly. Our teachers took complete responsibility and made us reach home safely. We returned home by 11 p.m.



NOTE: EVERY YEAR THERE IS A FREE EDUCATIONAL TOUR FOR THE STUDENTS OF 10TH STANDARD FROM OUR SCHOOL.

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MY EXPERIENCE IN THE TOUR

Ramya, 10th "C"

It felt like heaven in both the places on seeing the idols of Vishnu, Lakshmi & the dancers. We have read this in our lessons but when we saw it practically it was amazing. I can't forget this.

It shows us the culture & tradition of our country. We even come to know how rich our country was. I really don't have words to express this, it was unforgettable. I am very thankful to all my teachers & to the management for giving us a chance to see this once in our lifetime.

“By nature children are friendly. If they are not, it's because of stress” Sri Sri

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