

# Matri Sharanam

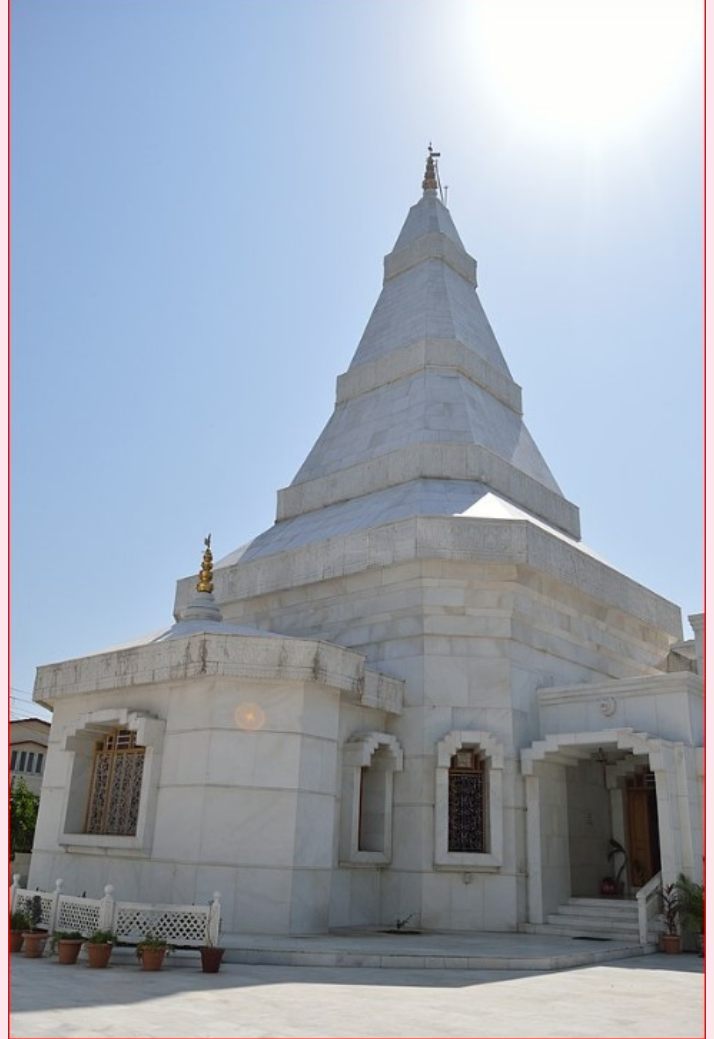
Newsletter on Updates from Shree Shree Anandamayee Sangha



January 2023 | Volume 1

*Inside this Issue - An update on Sangha's activities*

-  Vidyapeeth..... PG.3
-  Ananda Jyoti Peetham..... PG.3
-  Gaushala..... PG.4
-  Vindhyaachal Ashram..... PG.4
-  Devotees Outreach..... PG.5
-  Elections in Sangha..... PG.5
-  A New Beginning..... PG.6



*Guru Kripa hi Kevalam Matri Kripa hi kevalam*

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January 2023 | Volume 1

## Jai Maa

We are making an endeavor to reach out to all devotees and ensure that the Sangha be led by sincere devotees who are willing to come forward and support the sewa activities. There are several concerns that face us- be that rebuilding ashrams, ensuring the Puja Padhati carried out properly, addressing the problems of dearth of Sadhus in various ashrams, be it the state of the Vidyapeeth and Kanyapeeth that needs reforms or be it the voice of many devotees that are not heard in any forum- Ultimately any area not attended to is only going to stall our growth.

We wish to have focused discussion on each of these areas with devotees and find resolution in a fair and transparent manner. On 18<sup>th</sup> Dec'22 we initiated the First Devotee Discussion Board on Zoom which was very well received. We have also scheduled the second discussion on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan'23 on Puran Institute. Subsequently we shall discuss all other issues with you and take your feedbacks. Additionally, to provide transparency and updates on our activities, we are starting this communication via Newsletters to update you on our activities.

There are many issues both at Kankhal and in our various branches. We need to create small teams of sincere devotees who can come forward and bring solutions. These concerns are also an opportunity to perform Nishkam sewa for devotees. We must all strive towards bringing the days of glory back for all our ashrams. This cannot be done by the Sangha alone, but with you actively participating, and sharing this responsibility with us, we surely can make that change happen! Devotees can send suggestions or express participation by sending an Email to: [ssas.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:ssas.outreach@gmail.com)

We as EC members will be in regular communication with you. We all need to work together and make our Ashrams an abode of '*Peace and Happiness*' as Ma wished. These are grounds where GOD lived, walked, and chose to enact HER Leela. If we all resolve to make it glorious again, for ourselves and for future generations yet to come, then by HER Grace, it MUST happen because we are HER chosen children.

In the Lotus feet of Shree MA,

**Vinay Goenka, General Secretary**

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Newsletter on Updates from Shree Shree Anandamayee Sangha

January 2023 | Volume 1

## Vidyapeeth

The Vidyapeeth at Kankhal is one of the oldest institutions of the Sangha. It was established for boys for Class VI, VII & VII on the ideals of Ancient Indian Gurukul System. It was envisioned by Bhajji and nurtured by Gurupriya Didi.



Over the years hundreds of students have passed out from Vidyapeeth under the Gurukul Parampara. Presently the Vidyapeeth has 25 students. The world has undergone change and it has become necessary to review the education system, provide computer education etc. so that the young Brahmin boys passing out from Vidyapeeth become better equipped to survive and stand on their own feet.

To review and improve the education being imparted to the students a Vidyapeeth Seva Committee has been formed with Smt. Beena Pandya as the convenor. Sri Kiran Chandra an eminent educationist who retired as the Dy Commissioner of Education at the Navodaya school has also agreed to be part of the Vidyapeeth Committee. Other members include Sri Jagabandhu Bhattacharya (Balaida),

Sri Shiv Pujan ji, Br. Bishuddhadi, Sri Rajib Ghosh Addl. GS (Co-ord) and Sri Roma Prosad Chatterjee GS (admin). The building that is housing the Vidyapeeth is also in need of thorough repair and this work has already commenced under the guidance and supervision of Ms. Beena Pandya.

## AJP

The Ananda Jyoti Peetham (AJP) was constructed about fifty years ago. It has undergone wear and tear and requires thorough repairs and maintenance. Water seepage and the marble tiles falling off has become a common occurrence. The repair of AJP must be done with the best available resources and with the latest technology so that the AJP is safe for generations to come.



With Shree Ma's Kheyal and efforts put in by Madhavi Behan, the Shapoorji Pallonji Group has come forward to undertake this job. Their representatives have already made several visits to Kankhal and have studied the AJP structure. Sri Siddhartha Banerjee, a devotee with vast experience in Infrastructure is overseeing the

# Matri Sharanam

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January 2023 | Volume 1

technical side as a representative of the Sangha. Sri Apurva Dewanji, a devotee and eminent lawyer based in Mumbai along with Madhavi ji is coordinating the efforts with the Shapoorji Pallonji Group.

The complete renovations, reinforcement of the temple from the foundation right up to the Shikar, and replacement of marble slabs wherever needed is likely to take between 8-12 months. Hopefully, the work will commence very soon. It is only possible with Ma's Kheyal that such noble people with huge resources and technical knowledge have come on the same platform to do this selfless Seva.

## Gaushala

Having a Gaushala and seva of the holy cows is one of the very important activities of an Ashram and a spiritual organization. Our Sangha has Gaushala in various Ashrams like in Agarpara, Vrindavan, Bhimpura etc. where the seva of cows is being done very nicely.



We also have a Gaushala at Kankhal. All the cows in the Ashram are 'Desi' cows. Pure Cow milk is being made available for the aged

ascetics/ devotees in the Ashram and for Prasad/ 'Bhog'. The Gaushala at Kankhal was initially started at the initiative and the funds were arranged by Ms. Amla Narain, Ms. Rekha Khanna, and Swami Nityanandji.

The Gaushala at Kankhal needed the supervision by Gau sevaks. A Gaushala Seva Committee has been formed with Smt. Amla Narayan as Convenor along with Smt. Gauri Nanda, Swami Nityananda ji, Sri Ratan Mathur and Sri Tarun Ghai as representative of GB/ EC

## Vindhyachal

The Vindhyachal Ashram is one of the oldest Ashrams of the Sangha. It used to be one of the favorite ashrams of Shree Ma whenever she desired to retire temporarily for 'agyatvas'. Sanyam Saptah and many of Ma's Leelas have taken place in this Ashram. For several decades Swami Sharananandaji (who recently took samadhi in October'2022) had been running a charitable homoeopathic Dispensary for the destitute and several lakhs of people have benefitted from this seva.

The Ashram is spread over 28 acres and is in a remote place on the Ashtabhuj hills. At the end of last year, a part of the property was forcibly occupied by the local Land grabbers. It was with a herculean effort that Swami Chetanananda, who resides at Vindhyachal, managed to recover the land.

# Matri Sharanam

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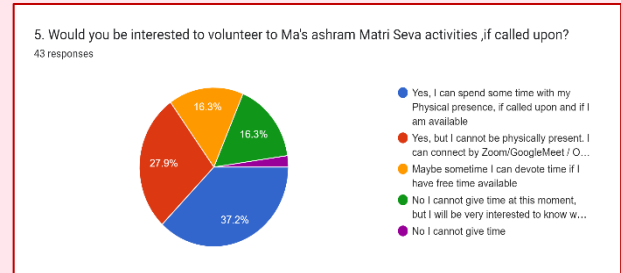
January 2023 | Volume 1

To protect the property, work of constructing a strong [Boundary](#) wall (click to see video) six-foot high and running along the entire periphery has been initiated. This is a huge project and only with collective participation of devotees, can it be completed.-The HO has already remitted INR 4 Lakhs to Vindhyachal ashram for this purpose.

## Devotee Outreach

To make a transparent mode of communication, the Sangha has initiated an effort to consolidate the devotees from different groups into one Sangha WhatsApp Community channel since WhatsApp is a widely used messaging platform used by both old and young devotees. In Mid-December, we initiated the first open discussion with devotees in this forum. The discussions were based on the survey feedbacks from devotees covering a wide range of issues and everyone felt that it is an incredibly positive beginning, and we should keep the momentum going with our interactions tackling issues with the participation of devotees. Discussing amongst us will lead to positive solutions which many can undertake by Grace of Shree MA. This will strengthen our ashrams and make us more collaborative.

We are also extremely glad to see few new and young devotees who joined the meeting and are interested to strengthen our initiatives. We had issued a survey for feedbacks from devotees and the Survey results were very encouraging:



- ❖ 43 Responses were received from Devotees.
- ❖ 16 participants said- “Yes, I can devote my physical presence”.
- ❖ 12 participants further did say- “Yes, I can devote time online”.

We request all to participate in these endeavor as we initiate specific discussions with devotees on challenges faced viz. Dearth of Sadhus/ Reforms and standardization in Puja Padhyati/ Infrastructure upgradation/ Focus on our various Institutes etc.

## Elections in Sangha

A committee of Reputed Lawyers has been formed to address several issues raised by a few devotees related to elections to the Sangha GB, and give their opinion if any restructuring of MoA is required to keep pace with the demands of present-day rules and regulations and facilitate smooth conduct of elections to the GB within a period of six months.

The committee comprises of eminent lawyers from amongst the devotees of Shree Ma. The

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committee includes legal luminaries like Sri Anand Pathak, son of Sri R S Pathak – ex CJI of India and International Court of Justice, a nephew of Sw. Purnanandaji (Shantadi) and Indiradi, Ma's Sevikas.

Sri Pathak is amongst the top lawyers in the world and has been on the Brexit committee as well. He has kindly consented to contribute. Sri Apurva Dewanji is also an old devotee and an eminent lawyer from Mumbai and is also a Trustee of the Sangha. Another lawyer-devotee Sri Sanjeev Sapra will act as a member secretary to this body. The detailed procedure will be soon established in consultation with the lawyers and shared with the Sangha Members.

All efforts will be made to complete this exercise within a period of approximately six months and hold elections as per the advice of the legal committee.

## A New Beginning

We are also pleased to announce, what is probably a first-time simultaneous induction of 3 Brahmacharinis of Kanyapeeth into the Ascetic Committee of the Sangha.



They are- Brni. Madhumita Kapoor, Brni. Nivedita Mohanty and Brni. Jyoti Mehta.

The induction of these three highly qualified young ascetics, all from Varanasi Kanyapeeth, will infuse new dynamism into our functioning, and strengthen our efforts to preserve the spiritual heritage bestowed upon us.

## Shree MAA on Ashrams

On being asked something concerning the Delhi ashram Ma said:

*"Look Baba, I do not want your ashram, I do not want anything. I only say that you must also live together peacefully. I only want that pure emotions should develop and increase within you. All of you try to live in peace and happiness. If you talk of an ashram, that is again for your sake, and you can make it. After all, the aim of the ashram is to increase the peace and happiness within each of you. If that is not achieved and only factions are created, then what is the use of having an ashram? It is better not to have an ashram at all. There is joy only in your joy. If you speak of 'my ashram' then the whole world is but one ashram or the ashram is limitless."*

- Page 82 of Gurupriya Didi's Diary Volume 6