

SHREE SHREE ANANDAMAYEE SANGHA, KANKHAL, HARIDWAR



Annual Report of the General Secretary for the financial year ended on 31st March, 2014

INTRODUCTION

Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee, the blissful name of the Almighty is always showering Her bliss and grace to all the humanity. With Her grace, I have the pleasure in presenting the Sangha's Annual Report, together with the Audited Accounts, for the year ended on 31st March, 2014 and I pray at Ma's Lotus Feet for Her abundant grace to be showered upon all the devotees, members and well-wishers of the Sangha.

The Sangha was established in Ma's Divine presence and with Her full blessings in January 1950. It is perhaps the only organization in India where ascetics and non-ascetic devotee-members have been jointly taking part in the proper management of the Sangha from the very first day. So far, four prominent persons became the President of this organization in past 63 years of its existence. Amongst them were Maharaja Durga singh of Solan Estate (Himanchal Pradesh) who was the President in the duration of 1950-52 & 1960-77, Rajmata Kamalendu Shah of Tehri Garhwal Estate and the then Member of Parliament in the duration of 1953-59, Sri B. K. shah of Mumbai, Chairman L.I.C. & New India Assurance Co. was from 1977 to 95 and Sri Govind Narayan, Retd. I.C.S. and a former Governor of Karnataka was the President in the duration of 1995-2012. Presently, Sw. Nirvananandaji is the President of this sacred organization since May 2012. He is the first Ascetic Member of the Governing Body who was elected as President of the Sangha. He is a highly qualified person and he is the most senior and aged person amongst all the ascetic members in the Sangha. Presently his age is about 93.

The history of establishment of this sacred organization is unique. Ma in Her early life was constantly on the move covering almost all the religious places in India. Wherever She went, a unique blissful divine environment prevailed around Her. Sadhus, mahatmas (saints), scholars, philosophers, foreigners and ordinary people from all walks of life were drawn to Her. When devotees approached Her for establishment of ashrams She was reluctant saying that She was like a bird flying around. For Her, the whole world constitutes one single Ashram. However, on insistence of the devotees, several ashrams in Ma's name came up only at such specific places as indicated by Ma, which were mostly the places of sadhana (spiritual practices) since ancient times. Some of them lost their identity in course of time. The Sangha became an important instrument to take care of those ashrams and implement Ma's religious services to the spiritual seekers and to provide social services to the needy persons at these places.

The objects of the Sangha are to seek inspiration from Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee and to participate in all activities inspired by Ma for the spiritual advancement of mankind and to promote relief of the poor, education, medical relief and

advancement of any other object of general public utility, not involving the carrying on any activity for profit.

“Ma says that service purifies the mind, it brings bliss and happiness. Try to serve all beings as manifestation of God. He who can spend twenty-four hours of the day with God, he is in the path of great service to all beings. His works are worth emulation.”

The service activities, functions and various works are carried out by the Sangha through its Head Quarters at Kankhal and twenty-four Branch Ashrams situated in India and two Associate Branches in Bangladesh. The main activities of the Sangha are as follows:

- i. Research & Culture
- ii. Human Resources Development
- iii. Humanitarian & Medical Welfare Services
- iv. Religious & Spiritual Activities
- v. Miscellaneous Activities.

RESEARCH & CULTURE

Indian ancient culture is one of the oldest in the world. In ancient days, life of people were well blended with spiritual activities in shape of either services at home or to the society with utmost sincerity and in shape of religious rituals or festivals which used to provide direct or indirect benefit to the persons engaged in different professions. Such a life was free from mutual hatred, lack of superiority or inferiority complex and selfish attitudes which helped spiritual advancement as well. Obviously, such a God oriented life bestows peace and bliss amongst the persons which is most wanted now a day in the prevailing society.

When Ma was in Her physical form, all the religious festivals in Ma's ashrams used to be performed in accordance with the scriptures under Her guidance. Thus, through these heritage festivals, the ancient culture of India's 'Sanatan Dharma' which is gradually waning in modern times is being revived and restored to its original glory as per Ma's guidance. Following the same way, Shree Shree Anandamayee Sangha arranges about twenty five festivals in different occasions at its Kankhal Ashram and those are conducted as per our ancient scriptures. Many of these festivals are conducted in Ma's other ashrams as well. The heritage festivals carried out at our ashrams are covered below.

(i) Ma Anandamayee Maha Abirbhav Mahotsav

Shree Shree Ma's 118th Birth Anniversary was celebrated all over India in all the Branch Ashrams with devotion and gaiety from 2nd May to 28th May 2013. However, this function is celebrated in largest scale In Kankhal Ashram due to the existence of Shree Shree Ma's Samadhi in Ananda Jyoti Peetham Temple (AJP). The Janmotsab function started with Ma's special puja in the Samadhi Temple on 2nd of May 2013. The Puja started at 2:30 AM (in late mid-night). Special Maun was observed from 3:15 AM to 3:45 AM to commemorate the auspicious arrival of Ma in this world within that duration.

Thereafter, several religious functions had been arranged on this occasion in the ashram. Arrangements were made for 'Shata Chandi Path', daily 'Akhand Japa' uninterruptedly and daily havan in Gayatri Yanjmashala to complete 10000 ahutis in between 3rd to 28th May. A 'nishkam' Bhagavat Saptah was arranged from 10th to 20th May within the 'Janmotsab' period. Acharya Hita Navin Bhai, Radha Vallabh Peethadhiswar of Vrindavan was the exponent of the Bhagabat. Sri Raghav Saxena, a very old devotee of Ma, arranged this function and bore all the expenses. Apart from these functions, akhand path of complete Ramayan, samaveta path of complete Geeta, Matri Chalisa, Vishnu Sahashra

Naam, Shiva Mahimna Stotra etc. were arranged suitably on different days within the 'Janmotsab' period. Like every year, 'Sodashapachar puja' and bhojan (feast) of 108 kumaris and 12 Batuks had been arranged on Buddha Purnima day on 25th of May 2013, in a most joyous manner. Like every year, Sri Shailen Ghosh and his sons from Kolkata contributed for this Kumari puja function. Another special feature is the traditional Rasa-Lila performance initially introduced by Pujya Hari Baba in Ma's time. It was performed between 23 & 27 May.

Arrangements had been made for Pravachan of senior Mahatmas from the Kailash Peeth and Divine Life Society of Rishikesh in last five days. Besides, arrangements had also been made for 'Daridra Narayan Seva', distribution of fruits and sweets in the local hospitals, special puja in local reputed temples, religious cultural programmes like Rasa-lila, Naam Yajna etc. on this occasion.

On the Tithi puja night, hundreds of devotees assembled at the AJP Temple, Kankhal to attend the special puja and meditation. Special Tithi puja of 'Ma' was held at 2:30 AM in the late mid night on 27.05.13 with Special Maun from 3:15 AM to 3:45 AM on 28th May, followed by Kumari Puja and Hawan. The puja was finally concluded in the early morning with Arati and Pranam mantra path in chorus. Thereafter, whoever came was allowed to go inside the Samadhi enclosure for Pranam to Ma and they received puja prasad.

On 28th May, 108 Sadhu Bhojan and general Bhandara for all were arranged. The Sadhus of Niranjani Akhara, Mahanirvani Akhara, Udaseen Bara Akhara, Kailash Ashram of Rishikesh, Divyajeevan Sangha and Ramakrishna Mission were present in the sadhu bhandara. We all are grateful to Dr. M.R.Goel of Jaipur who had borne the expenses incurred in last two days of this function and donated Rs.3.00 lacs.

The 'Naam-Yajna' commenced from the night on 28th of May. After the manch puja and Adhiwas kirtan, the Akhanda Naam Sankirtan was carried by the women devotees for the whole night and thereafter, the male devotees continued it next day since early morning till the sunset. In the afternoon, special puja and bhog was arranged in Shankaracharya hall when the 'Malsa bhog' specially prepared on this occasion was offered to the deities. This function was concluded with evening 'Kunjbhanga kirtana' and distribution of puffed sugar (batasa) to all. Such functions used to take place in the presence of Shree Shree Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, the great religious leader about 500 years ago who propagated Vaishnavism and he was the exponent of 'Hare Krishna' naam sankirtana.

Shree Ma's Janmotsav was celebrated beautifully in all the other ashrams of Ma with gaiety and sincerity, along with special puja / meditation, mass Bhandara, Akhanda Jap (24 hrs), distribution of fruits and sweet packets etc. to hospital patients and destitute children were arranged.

(ii) 64th Samyam Saptah Mahabrata:

The Samyam Saptah Mahabrata is cosmopolitan in nature and maintains the highest ideals of all religions. It is an extremely popular function amongst Indian and foreigner devotees alike, and it is the most ideal function from one's intellectual, cultural, religious and spiritual points of view.

It is one of the historically significant spiritual functions with all participating devotees sitting together in congregation. This function evolved under Ma Anandamayee's direct inspiration (Kheyal) and strict guidance, and is regularly organized by the Sangha every year. The 64th Samyam Saptah was held from 10th to 16th of November, 2013 at Kankhal Ashram in Haridwar, where Head Quarter of the Sangha exists. Several hundreds of devotees from within the country and abroad irrespective of caste and creed, religion, rich or poor, participated in this programme.

The inaugural function of the Samyam Saptah was arranged on 9th of November 2013 in the evening. Sw. Nirvananandaji Maharaj, President of the Sangha, Sw. Parameswaranandaji Maharaj of Sadhana Sadan and M.M. Dr. Shyamsunder Dasji of Garaibdasi Ashram were present in this occasion. The General Secretary Sri S.C.Banerjee (Somuda) welcomed the invited mahatmas and all the vrates and informed them about the rules and regulations which were to be followed strictly during the saptah period. About 250 devotees participated in this function out of which about 150 persons were 'Vrates'. Few foreigners as well preferred to attend the Samyam Saptah regularly.

From 10th of Nov. Onward, the Mahatmas M.M. Sw. Divyanandaji Maharaj, Acharya (Sw.) Vijayanandaji and Acharya (Sw.) Devendra Chaitanayaji of Kailash ashram, Acharya Ravi Shastriji of Garibdasi ashram, Sw. Chinmayanandaji Maharaj of Parmarth Niketan and Sw. Adhyatmanandaji of Shivanand Ashram at Ahmedabad gave discourses on various subjects in the religious discourse programme during the Samyam Saptah. The Matri Prasang after 9 p.m was on various topics. All the speakers were, highly experienced old devotees of Ma beginning with Sw. Achyutanandaji, Brni. Chandandi, Brni. Bishuddhadi, Brni. Guneetadi, Brni. Geetadi, Brni. Niranjani, Sw. Golokananda, Sri Sandeep Dutta (Gobluda), Smt. Puspa Khanna, Dr.Malati Mehta, Raman Pandya, Sri S.C.Banerjee (Somuda) and Sri Krishna Pandya.

On the 17th Morning Special Puja was offered to Ma at Ananda Jyoti Peetham. A grand arati took place, thereafter one and all present were allowed to enter the Samadhi Sthal and offer garland and prayers at Ma's feet and take Her blessings and Prasad. Simultaneously yajna with purnahuti was performed nearby the yajnasala, followed by Sadhu Bhandara of 108 Sadhus. The same evening Satya Narayan Puja and the Katha was arranged by Somuda. Thereafter, 'Adhivas' of the Akhanda Naam Yajna took place on Ras Purnima Day. The next day programme ended with Malsa bhog in the noon and 'Kunjabhanga kirtan' in true spirit as used to be done in the time of our beloved Shree Shree Ma.

The 16th Samyam Saptah in Bhimpura Ashram was held on the bank of the River Narmada from 31st January to 6th of February, 2014 in which about 125 brates from India and abroad participated and graced by the auspicious participation of the invited mahatmas Sw. Paramanandaji, Sw. Adhyatmanandaji, Sri Ashok Kulkarniji and others. Few days after the Samyam Saptah, a religious education retreat was conducted by Sw. Anubhavanandaji on Vedanta Panchadashi for 7 days. Around 75 persons attended the camp and gained some knowledge of eternal peace.

(iii) Shreemad Bhagavat Parayan Celebrations:

Shreemad Bhagavat Maha Puran is one of the 18 ancient pauranic scriptures. The reading of these scriptures bestows spiritual *gyan* or knowledge, which gives opportunity to a person to transform own self into a better human being which leads ultimately to liberation from the sorrows and miseries of the world. Ma Anandamayee revived the Holy Spirit of the ancient "Shrimad Bhagavat" amongst the masses by organizing week-long 'Bhagavat Saptah' according to the Pauranic culture and tradition which is more than 5000 years old. Many devotees propose Bhagabat Saptah function in Ma's ashrams to commemorate their relations who have passed away and for the uplift of their souls towards moksha. Such Bhagabat Saptahs were arranged in following ashrams in this year:

Kankhal Ashram: Apart from the Bhagabat Saptah arranged during the Janmotsab period one more such function was arranged between 10 and 17 July 2013 for the departed souls of Ma's devotees inclusive Br. Panuda, Sw. Arupanandaji and Sri Govind Narainji, the

former President of the Sangha. The renowned Kathakar Bhagwatacharya Shri Shyamsunder Parasharji of Vrindavan was the speaker.

Varanasi Ashram: Bhagavat Saptah was organized between 11th and 19th Sept. 2013 in memory of Brni. Kanti Gurtu- Didiji- a very popular, beloved, generous and saintly person of Kanyapeeth. All felt blessed having the fortune of participating in it.

Pune Ashram: Bhagavat Saptah was held from 28.8.2013 to 1.9.2013 in this ashram. Sri Rajesh Goswami from Vrindavan was the Katha Vachak.

Agarpara Ashram: Bhagavat Saptah was arranged during the Jhulan utsav in the month of August in this ashram. Sri Prem Gopal Goswami of Navadweep was the exponent of the Bhagabat Katha which was well attended.

(iv) Utsav in honour of Late Self-realized saints in Ma's Ashrams:

a) Swami Muktananda Giriji :

The Kankhal Ashram flourished after establish of the mahasamadhi of Sw.Muktananda Giriji in Kankhal Ashram in 1970. Giriji was mother of Ma Anandmayee and she was the Deeksha Guru of Shree Shree Anandamayee Sangha for about 30 years till she was alive. Four special functions are carried out each year in the Samadhi Temple of Giriji. These functions are - (i) Chaitra Sankranti (14.4.2013) on which Giriji received sannyas in 1939, (ii) Akshaya Tritiya tithi (13.5.2013) on which Giriji's Vighraha was installed inside her Samadhi Temple in 1974, (iii) On Guru Purnima day (22.7.2013) and (iv) On Giriji's tirodhan tithi on shraavan shukla saptami tithi, on which Giriji passed away in 1970. On these occasions, special sodashpachar-puja of Giriji, sadhu bhandara with 'Vastra' and 'Dakshina', feeding of poor people etc. had been arranged. A special puja with maun from 12.45 to 1.15 AM was arranged in the mid-night with kirtan before and after the maun in the temple on the tirodhan tithi of Giriji as per Ma's standing instruction.

75th Sannyas Utsav of Swami Muktanandaj Giriji was celebrated on 14th of April 2014 at Kankhal ashram. Invitation cards were sent to all the devotees to attend the function. A number of devotees from all over India attended the programme. On this occasion the temple was beautifully decorated with garlands. An attractive 'Chandwa' was placed at the ceiling inside the temple which was arranged by Swapanda from Hyderabad. Two long cloth hangers beautifully designed and painted by Manjudi were hanged from the ceiling behind Giriji's Icon. All day long programme was organized with devotion and gaiety with usha kirtan followed by Laghu Rudra Abhishek and *Shodashopachar* puja of Giriji by Balaida. There was a special Bhandara of 51 Sadhus on this occasion. In the evening, there was a Satsang where the devotees, particularly the disciples of Giriji, narrated various incidents of her life. Similar functions were also held at Kolkata, Ranchi, Varanasi, Kalkaji, Uttarkashi and in many other branch ashrams.

b) Baba Bholanath (Sw. Tibbatananda Tirtha):

Baba Bholanath was the first Deeksha Guru of Shree Shree Anandamayee Ashram since 1930 and continued till he was alive. Three special functions are carried out each year in Shiva Temple in Kankhal Ashram where the vighraha of Baba Bholanath was installed. These functions were carried on Akshaya Tritiya tithi (13.5.2013) on which Baba bholanath's Vighraha was installed in the Ashram, Baba Bholanath's tirodhan tithi (18.5.2013) on Baishakh Shukla Saptami tithi on which he passed away in 1938 and on the Guru Purnima day (22.7.2013). On these occasions, special puja of Baba Bholanath, sadhu bhandara with 'Vastra' and 'Dakshina', had been arranged. Similar functions were also arranged at, Kolkata Dehradun and Uttarkashi Ashrams where Vighrahas of Baba Bholanath already exist.

c) Mahasamadhi Utsav of Bhaiji (Swami Maunananda Parvat):

Sri Jyotish Chandra Roy (Bhaiji) was a high Govt. official in pre-independence period and later he became a sadhu after coming in contact with Ma and attained very high spiritual status and got liberation by the grace of Ma. His Samadhi temple exists in Ma's Almora Ashram. A special function was celebrated in that ashram on Bhaiji's mahasamadhi tithi (Jhulan Dwadashi Tithi) on 18.8.2013 with holy chanting from Vedic and spiritual scriptures. A special puja of Bhaiji and Rudravishek of the Shivji installed on the Samadhi was performed on that day. Swamijis and Sadhu Pramukhs of various spiritual organizations were invited and they graced the celebration with their august presence. The ceremony concluded with Sadhu Bhandara and general Bhandara.

d) Tithi puja and Sadhu Bhandara of different Ashram Sadhus:

Special puja in Shiva temple and Bhandara of eleven Sadhus are arranged in honour of each of 18 late ashram sadhus on the tithis of their passing away. In this way, earnest regards are being paid to late ashram sadhus who had sacrificed their life for doing sadhana and offered their services at the ashrams of Ma.

(v) Vasanti Durga Puja function:

Performance of Durga puja is done during the Navratri period in the month of October and in March every year. It is said that the Navratri Durga Puja in October was started by Sri Ram which is being followed now. Previous to that such a Durga puja used to be performed during the Chaitra Navratri in the month of March and was called Vasanti Durga Puja. Thus it is one of the ancient most festivals in India. However such a puja in the month of March in Chaitra-Navratri on the Durga Pratima is uncommon now a day.

The very first celebration of the Vasanti Durga Puja in Ma's ashram was held in Siddheswari ashram at Dhaka in April 1926 in a big scale as per Ma's divine Kheyal. Such a puja after that was arranged in Chaitra Navratri when the land for Varansi ashram was procured in 1944. The Vasanti Durga puja at that time held under a temporary tin shed and since then it is being held every year in Varanasi ashram inside the 'Chandi Mandap' without any break. Thus this ancient most religious function survived in this ashram as per Ma's kheyal. This year the 70th Vasanti Durga Puja was held from 16th to 20th April, 2013 with a lot of grandeur and enthusiasm. A good number of devotees from Kolkata and nearby states attended the programme. In the evening there was a cultural programme everyday. Three expert classical singers from Bangiya Samaj, all ladies, sang praises of the Devi in their own melodious style based on ragas. On the Dashami Tithi, Devi was given a tearful send off. Some of course felt the presence of Ma Durga in their hearts forever. In this way Vasanti Navratri utsav was concluded with devotion and love to Ma Durga for Her blessings to all the humanity.

(vi) Geeta Jayanti Utsab:

This function is arranged every year in December from Shukla Ashtami to Ekadashi tithi to commemorate the incident when in the ancient time, Lord Krishna delivered Geeta to Arjuna at the battle field in Kurukshetra in this duration. Sri Gopal Thakur, a reputed saint in Allahabad arranged this function in the ashram for the first time in presence of Ma in Varanasi Ashram and since then it is arranged in Ma's ashrams every year. According to Sri Gopal Thakur, 'Ma' Herself was the "Living Geeta". Ma inspired and encouraged all to read at least a few slokas or a chapter of Gita daily. Most of the Branch Ashrams encourage collective reading of this holy book.

From 10th to 13th Dec.(Ekadashi tithi), collective reading of the holy book 'Shrimad Bhagwat Gita' in a particular tune was arranged in the Kankhal Ashram. Path of six adhayas

(chapter) was carried out daily. Swami Medhananda Puriji, a senior monk in the Kailash Ashram in Rishikesh, gave discourse from the Geeta daily in the evening. On the fourth day, the entire text was read out and puja was performed for every chapter of Bhagavat Geeta followed by Ma's Special puja. Geeta Jayanti Utsab was also celebrated in various ashrams such as Varanasi, Agarpara, Pune, Vrindaban, New Delhi, Bhimpura, Ranchi, Vindhyachal, Dehradun etc. where hundreds of devotees participated in reading the entire text (18 chapters), and discourses were held by eminent Mahatmas.

(vii) Sanskrit Day:

On 8th of September 2013, birthday of the renowned Philosopher and learned Sanskrit Pandit Padma Vibhushan Mahamahopadhaya Sri Gopinath Kaviraj ji was celebrated in Varanasi Ashram. The Kanyapeeth celebrates that day as 'Sanskrit day'. Dr. Kamalesh Jha, Head of the Puran Department of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University Presided over the function whereas Dr. Manudev Bhattacharya was the Chief Guest and Dr. Hariprasad Adhikari and few more hounerable guests were Invitees. The programme began with Ved Path, garlanding of Kaviraj ji's photo and arati by five girls from the Kanyapeeth and simultaneously five conch shells were blown. After garlanding and greeting the honoured guests with gifts, the girls of the Kanyapeeth sang Kaviraj invocation song. A short skit "Yaksha-Yudhishtir Sambad" was staged, followed by many other programmes, all in Sanskrit language. This was followed by offering tributes to the great Kaviraj Ji by the honoured guests, as mentioned above. The programme was suitably wound up by chanting of the Ganga Stotra in a melodious tune by the Kanyapeeth girls of our ashram.

(viii) Matri Smriti Museum and Research Centre, Kankhal

With a view to preserve for posterity the relics associated with Shree Shree Ma, a museum has been established at Ma Anandamayee Ashram, Kankhal, Haridwar. It is situated on the Daksha Temple road, inside the bungalow located on the right bank of river Ganga (Kankhal branch) and this was specially built for Shree Ma's use by Sri S.N. Ghosh & Smt. Ranu Ghosh of Kolkata who donated it to Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee Sangha. Before Ma took Mahasamadhi, she stayed here for about 2 months. The bedroom of Shree Shree Ma on one side and the kitchen on the other side is maintained as such with a hall now carved in the centre to exhibit clothes, corporeal relics of Ma, ritualistic objects, rare piece of papers in which Ma's handwriting is preserved, certain handicrafts made by Ma. Besides many items, the collection consists of a pair of Manjira which was used during 'kirtans' by Shri Shri Ma and the garments used by Her during the pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar. The objects also include some articles presented to Ma by her devotees and important personalities. The clock which was kept in Ma's room at Dehradun Ashram during Her last sojourn in Her room has also been displayed which recorded the time 7.45 PM when Ma's Maha Samadhi occurred on the 27th August, 1982.

The exhibited collection also contains a large number of paintings depicting Ma's life journey from Kheora to Kankhal which include portraits of her family. There are photographs which were taken during her sadhana days in Shahbag showing her different moods, Her association with contemporary Mahatmas and important political leaders etc. The first floor of the building contains a large number of paintings of Ma's life, a small auditorium and a Research centre. The library containing books on Shree Shree Ma and all religions is situated in the new block of the main Ashram premises.

(ix) Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee Institute of Pauranic and Vedic Studies & Research, Naimisharanya (UP)

Through the blessings of Ma and as a result of the most dynamic efforts of the then Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Dr. M. Chenna Reddy this unique Institute for Pauranic & Vedic Studies and Research was built on about eight acres of land and it has completed almost thirty six years of its existence. With the blessings of Ma and dynamic efforts of the then Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Dr. M. Chenna Reddy, the Institute was established at the seat of the most ancient Indian civilization at Naimisharanya in U.P. nearby the town Sitapur. Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India came in 1981 for its formal inauguration in presence of Shree Shree Ma.

The Institute has two wings – teaching and research. Apart from the college building, a library with about 2500 invaluable books is there for the research students. Three wings of the hostel were constructed to accommodate the research students. Residential quarters also exist there for the teaching and other staffs. From the very outset, the institution was affiliated to the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi, both for teaching Shastri and Acharya classes in Puranas and Dharma Shastra and also, for guiding research work in the Puranas and the Vedas for PhD (Vidyavaridhi) Degrees. So long, about 26 research scholars of this institution received PhD. The institute gets a very nominal grant only from Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi. This unique Institute which is the only one of its type available in this country, now badly needs financial assistance from the Government, donors and well wishers for its running and maintenance and to sustain it.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(i) Shree Shree Ma Anandamyee Kanyapeeth, Varanasi (UP):

Based on the ideals of ancient India's Gurukul System, this purely residential institution for young girls, imparts training in Brahmacharya in the formative period of their lives. During the academic year 2013, sixteen girls of this Institution took part in various examinations conducted by the Sampurnananda Sanskrit University, Varanasi, as well as by the U.P. Sanskrit Education Board. Out of sixteen girls, ten have got 1st Division and others have passed. Nineteen girls appeared in music examination conducted by the Prayag Sangeet Samity, Allahabad, eleven girls have got 1st Division and others have passed.

While discussing about the financial position, it is a matter of satisfaction to note that devotees of Ma, who sincerely love this Institution, came forward not only to help to run this institution, but also to lessen our annual deficit therein. We are thankful to all the donors for their generous donations financially and in kind.

The Kanyapeeth was privileged enough to receive during the year 2013-2014 a grant-in-aid amounting to Rs.2,50,400/- only from the State Govt. of UP and Rs. 2,16,000/- only from the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi under the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Govt. of India to meet the salary component of the teaching staff.

(ii) Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee Kanyapeeth's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in 2014 were performed in a befitting manner with Ma's special Shodashdopchar puja followed by Kumari Puja of 75 brahmin Kanyas on February 23, in the presence of General Secretary and Addl. General Secretary of the Sangha and many others. This was followed by a very elaborate formal function on 11th of March in the presence of the Chief Guest Padmashree Sri Prithvish Nag and Sri Devoprasad Dwivedi, Vice Chancellor of Kashi Vidhyapeeth who presided over the function. Sri Lakshmeshwaranandaji Maharaj of R.K.Mission, Varanasi,

Justice Sri Karunananda Bajpai of the Allahabad High Court, Sri Ramyatan Sukla and many others graced the occasion. The programme was organized by the brahmacharinis and kumaris of the Kanyapeeth for about four hours in which Sanskrit language was given the most important place.

The programme began with Vedic chanting followed by Swagat Geetam, welcome speech by Brni. Acharya Jaya Bhattacharya, Saraswati vandana, Ganesh stuti performed in a dance form and many other cultural programme in Malayalam, Panjabi and Sanskrit languages which enchanted the audience. The Principal, Brni. Dr. Guneeta, gave an overview of the Kanyapeeth. Elderly Brahmacharinis who had performed exemplary selfless services to our beloved Mother and Kanyapeeth were facilitated honourably.

(iii) Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee Vidyapeeth, Kankhal (Haridwar):

Based on the ideals of ancient India's Gurukul System, this purely residential institution for young boys, imparts training of Brahmacharya in the formative period of their lives. Ma always said that 'Brahmacharya' (celibacy) and self-discipline from childhood itself were important for character-building education, as it was done in the ancient Vedic days. Ma emphasized on the first ashram (stage of life) 'brahmcharya' as the vital foundation for the smooth running of the other three 'Ashramas' – 'Garhastha' (family life), 'Vanaprastha' (complete religious life after family life) and 'Sannyas' (A life of complete renunciation) for the peace and welfare of the society. With these ideals in mind, Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee Vidyapeeth was first started at the Kishenpur Ashram in Dehradun in the year 1941. Later, it was established permanently at Almora ashram. After Shree Ma's 'Mahaprayan', the Vidyapeeth was closed down for about a decade. However, it began functioning again in 1993 in the Kankhal Ashram at Haridwar. Shree Shree Anandamayee Vidyapeeth has now its own proper school building with furnished classrooms in the ground floor and fully furnished hostel facilities in its first floor. A spacious playground is also there. The Uttaranchal Govt. Education Board has granted its recognition for class VI to VIII standard.

This school is fully residential and meant for poor boys. All the boys get totally free education here. Shree Shree Anandamayee Sangha bears the entire expense of all the boys for purchasing books and stationeries, their clothing, food and medical expenses etc inclusive salary of the teachers of the school. Due attention is regularly paid to ensure the balanced and harmonious development of the students - physically, intellectually, and morally through Yoga classes, Computer training, music etc. The boys attend the "Arati prayer" in the morning and evening at Ma's temple.

It is on the record that boys have been performing well in their annual examination. During 2013-14, Twenty-eight students appeared in the annual examination and the success rate had been cent percent; 19 of them passed in first division. Eight boys of class VIII passed out who have joined other schools for higher studies. Qualified and experienced Acharyas / Teachers have been appointed who teach all the subjects as laid out by the CBSE. This unique Institute now badly needs financial assistance from the donors and well wishers for its running and maintenance and to sustain it.

(iii) Ma Anandamayee Vidyapeeth, Agartala (W.Tripura)

Ma Anandamayee Vidyapeeth, an English Medium School with Co-Education system is in its Secondary level duly affiliated to CBSE, Delhi. The school has three storied building with 291 students in its roll and 19 teachers and 5 made-servants are attending to the students. The 3rd batch of students with the strength of 11 students appeared in the Secondary School examination of the CBSE Board during the year 2013-2014. All of them

passed and secured high first division marks. One boy has secured cent percent marks in all the subjects which is a record in itself.

The school building is being maintained with continuous and progressive improvement. Development works are being undertaken by improving the teaching with the help of super quality teachers, introducing computerized audio visual methods and books in the Library have been added during 2013-2014 making the existing stock of 3760 books. Due attention is being paid to sports and games, yoga classes and educational excursion tours, fine arts and extra-curricular activities. Although every effort is being made to construct a new school building in the new site of 6.01 acres of land with appropriate infrastructure, befitting the modern quality education. However, nothing could so far been done due to non-availability of fund. It is desirable that the donors donate generously for the construction of this new school building.

(iv) Publication Activities:

The sales outlet has been reopened at Kankhal Ashram at the "Information Center" for the convenience of the devotees. This has displayed all the publication / periodicals / journals etc. brought out under the banner of the Sangha and also the 'House Journal' "Amrita Varta" published in four languages i.e. Hindi, Bengali, English and Gujarati from Varanasi Ashram. Apart from publishing new books on the life and teachings of Ma Anandamayee, the Sangha is also giving emphasis to reprinting of old classical and popular books, including its inter-language translations. A Publication and Translation Committee have been formed with seven members in the committee inclusive Sri Swapan Ganguli as its Convenor.

(v) Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee Sarva Dharma Granthagar , Kankhal (Haridwar):

The Library has a valuable collection of books on philosophical, cultural, and spiritual subjects in English, Bengali, Hindi, Sanskrit, Gujarati and other Indian and foreign languages. This facility has been well utilized by the guests and devotees. There have been substantial improvements in number of books. Presently, it is having about 5000 books and those have been stacked in Almirahs. Proper classification and display of the books has been arranged. Some new devotees including foreigners have started using the library for consultations.

HUMANITARIAN & MEDICAL WELFARE SEVA

(i) Mata Anandamayee Hospital, Shivala, Varanasi (UP):

This Hospital was established about 50 years back with the blessings of Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee with its principle objective of rendering service to the suffering humanity irrespective of any class & creed. The hospital is having an attractive frontage with a full size statue of Ma under a beautiful stone canopy designed and got executed about a decade ago by Sri S.C.Banerjee, the present General Secretary. The hospital building was formally inaugurated on 26 December 1968 by the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi in presence of Shree Shree Ma . Due to the combined efforts of all, the hospital has shown a lot of improvement in its working during the financial year 2013-14. In total, 33,496 patients were treated in various out-patient departments - Medical, Surgical, Cardiology, Ophthalmology, E.N.T., Urology, and rectal diseases, Gynecology, Pediatrics, Neurology, Diabetic Clinic, Rheumatoid Diseases and DOT's, Dental, Orthopedics, Skin, Ayurvedic and Physiotherapy etc. Besides, 2520 patients were treated in the Indoor ward during the year 2013-14.

Free Medical Aid Programme:

The Hospital organized several Medical Relief Camps to provide maximum possible services to the poor and needy patients.

1. Several BMD Test programmes were undertaken by various departments of Medicine and Surgery under the aegis of various philanthropic, medical and pharmaceutical companies during the year.
2. A special surgical camp was organized in the hospital from 5th December 2013 to 7th of January 2014 for free treatment of Hernia and hydrocil cases under the supervision of Senior Surgeon Dr. N.N. Khanna who was ably assisted by our Resident Surgeons. 15 cases were examined in the surgical O.P.D. and 23 operations were done completely free of charge with free medicine, free bed and free diet etc.
3. A free Eye camp was organized in our Hospital, sponsored by Rai Rishikumar Charitable Trust, Varanasi, from 5th December 2013 to 7th January 2014. In all, 348 eye patients were examined, and for 85 patients, free intra molar lens plantation were done. Eye operations were done by Dr. Sanjay Thakur and his team of Natraj Eye Centre, Varanasi, on our behalf. We are thankful for the dedicated services given by the renowned Eye surgeon Dr. Sanjay Thakur and Dr. Rajnish Nath assisted by Dr. R.M. Bajpai, Dr. Sangeeta Thakur and Dr. Prakash Dwivedi.
4. The Polio Eradication Programme, as well as Filarial Eradication Programme, were regularly organized in the hospital in co-operation with Govt. Health Post and Rotary Clubs.
5. Under the able supervision of our Physician Dr. A.K. Dev, free Asthma and Chest Diseases camps were also organized time to time during the year.
6. A free Health Camp was organized by us for the benefit of the students of the Boarding School of Jalan Group at Dagmagpur in Mirzapur Distt. On 8th July, 2013, health screening was done for 300 students by our Resident Doctors in their campus. Also, on 14th July, 2013, Health Examination and Investigations were done for 223 students of the school by the doctors of our Hospital. A special Blood Group Test was conducted for the benefit of the students of the Boarding School.
7. A special Health Camp was organized by us with the association of Bangiyo Samaj in Varanasi at the Bengalitola Inter College, on 24th & 25th December 2013. In this extremely successful camp, 58 patients were examined, in which 25 for Blood Sugar and 10 for E.C.G.

Thalassemia Day Care Centre:

Thalassemia welfare society has been running its centre in our hospital for many years to prevent the dreaded disease among the children. The main objective of this NGO programme is to identify this life taking disease among the children and also to ensure their proper treatment. Monthly Monitoring Clinics are also regularly conducted here.

Special mention :

On the occasion of the Independence Day celebration at our Hospital on 15th August, 2013, the National Flag was hoisted by Hon'ble Smt. Jyotsna Srivastava, local MLA and Hon'ble Sri Shyamdeb Roy Choudhury MLA, Varanasi.

The Function commenced with the National song sung by the students of Ma Anandamayee Kanyapeeth in the presence of Doctors and Staff of the hospital, and our Managing committee members and other dignitaries.

As in previous year, packets containing fruit etc were distributed to all the patients. Thereafter in memory of Late Kalachand Brahmachari, a veteran freedom fighter of the thirties, garments along with fruits and biscuits were distributed among 50 children of the

poor. Cloths and food packets were also donated to 50 poor people in a special function organized as per the wishes of Shri Tushar Ghosh of U.S.A.

Financial Status:

The Poor Relief fund created for the purpose of rendering Medical assistance to the deserving persons now seems to be quiet inadequate. The demand from Sadhus of various ashrams as well as from the poor are on the increase. During the year under review, our total expenditure in Medical relief to the poor amounted to Rs. 3, 48,363/-. Donors will like to donate more generously.

The Hospital was privileged to receive a recurring grant of Rs. 8.00 lakhs from the State Government during the year 2013-14. We also received Rs.1.50 lac as financial aid to DoT's programme for the year 2012-'13.

We convey our heartfelt thanks to all who came forward to help us in this most noble cause of service to the mankind through this hospital. At the end, we all humbly pray for Shree Shree Ma's infinite grace to enable us to run the hospital on the chosen path and to devote our best effort for 'Jan Janardan Seva' as Shree Shree Ma had instigated.

(ii) **Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee Karuna:**

It is located within the campus of Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee Hospital. Qualified doctors are available there for providing Homeopathy treatment giving free medicines. This year in all 10252 patients were treated there. Apart from this, many charitable activities are conducted here. 30 poor children receive milk and biscuits daily in the morning free of cost. Clothes are distributed to poor children of the locality on the Independence Day and woolen sweaters and blankets are distributed to the poor people on the New Years Day every year.

(iii) **Charitable activities at Branch Ashrams:-**

Many of our ashrams provide charitable services by distributing free medicines to the patients, bear educational expenses, free milk distribution and clothing etc. to the poor children as given below:

Agarpara ashram (Kolkata): Charitable Polyclinic consists of (a) Allopathic Wing, (b) Homoeopathic Wing, (c) Ophthalmic Wing. A good number of patients get the medical facilities with free distribution of medicines available in our stock, distributed to the needy and poor patients. Besides, the regular patients, the Ashram organized camp for hepatitis 'B' – vaccination, feeding polio to infants, eye care examination, arrangement for testing of blood-sugar and examination of E.C.G. etc. A very good number of OPD patients take these medical facilities every year.

Bhimpura ashram (Gujrat): A full time residential doctor of the charitable dispensary is attending the service. People from 25 villages are taking advantage of the dispensary. During the year, 1699 patients were treated. 40 children from the nearest village were provided milk and snacks daily in the evening.

Jamshedpur Ashram (Jharkhand): Free medical treatment is being provided since last few years by DISHARI to the poor people living around the area with the help of the ashram. Yoga and Rekey classes are held for better health in the charitable homeopathic clinic manned by specialist doctors.

Kankhal Ashram (Haridwar): Two separate medical dispensaries, Homoeopathy and Allopathy, are run by the specialist doctors. These dispensaries are very popular in the area, and a good number of patients including many ascetics visit the place daily. Free medicines are given to the poor patients. Patients mainly suffering from spondylitis, skin infection, pain of joints, kidney stone, chronic bronchitis, seasonal viral fever, asthma etc are treated by the

specialist doctors. 1573 patients were treated in the Allopathic dispensary and 2800 patients were treated in the Homoeopathy dispensary during the year 2013-14.

Vindhyachal Ashram, Mirzapur (UP): Ma Anandamayee Karuna Seva, an upgraded charitable homeopathic dispensary is run regularly in the ashram manned by three doctors and five compounders. It has become quite popular amongst local villagers and poor patients around Vindhyachal area. About 5000 patients were treated with free medicine. It must be mentioned that a Sadhu residing in the Ashram, experienced in homeopathy, is the key person for rendering free services there. Sw. Chetananandaji is in charge of this dispensary on whose great effort it could achieve the present commendable shape.

Vrindavan ashram (U.P.): A charitable Homeopathy Dispensary is run by the ashram as Jana Janardan Seva. The Ashram also has taken all responsibilities for stay, food, healthcare and necessary educational expenses to the poor students (about 10), who came from various regions of the country. They stay in the ashram for Sanskrit education, study on Karma Kanda and Shrimad Bhagavat and offer seva in daily ashram activities.

Kalkaji Ashram in New Delhi: A charitable Homeopathy Dispensary is run in the ashram premises for the poor, managed by an experienced doctor. About 1200 patients were treated this year and were given medicines free of cost.

RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

The religious cum spiritual functions as envisaged and started by Ma are carried out in most of the Ashrams of the Sangha following the procedures strictly as per the scriptures. Specifically in Kankhal Ashram and in Varanasi ashram, the Brahmacharinis take maximum care to follow all the instructions Ma had given regarding maintenance of the sanctity while performing any spiritual function. The important spiritual functions arranged in different ashrams in this year are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Functions	Date	Branch Ashrams
1.	Swami Muktananda Giriji's Sannyas Utsab	14.04.2013	Kankhal , Varanasi, Agartala, Ranchi, Pune, Agarpara, New Delhi
2.	Guru Purnima Utsab	22.07.2013	Kankhal, Varanasi, Vrindaban, Ranchi, New Delhi, Pune , Bhimpura, Agarpara, Bairagarh, Tarapith, Dehradun.
3.	Jhulan Purnima..... & Shri Krishna Janmashtami	16.8.2013 28.8.2013	Kankhal, Vrindaban, Varanasi, Agarpara, Pune, Bhimpura, Delhi, Almora, Dhaka.
4.	Durgotsab / Dusserah	10-14 Oct. 2013	Kankhal, Ranchi, Agarpara, Varanasi, Bhimpura, Pune, New Delhi, Almora.
5.	Shri Kali Puja Annakut Utsab	2.11.2013 4.11.2013	Kankhal, New Delhi, Uttarkashi, Ranchi, Varanasi. Varanasi, Agartala, Jamshedpur, Pune, Agarpara, Kankhal, Almora, New Delhi.
6.	Geeta Jayanti Utsab	10 to 13 th Dec.2013	Kankhal, Varanasi, Pune, Vrindaban, New Delhi, Bhimpura, Ranchi, Agarpara
7.	Basant Panchami (Saraswati Puja)	4.2.2014	Kankhal, Varanasi, Agartala, Delhi, Ranchi, Pune, Bhimpura, Jamshedpur, Almora, Agarpara, Dhaka
8.	Maha Shivratri Utsab	27.2.2014	Vrindaban, Kankhal, New Delhi, Agarpara, Pune, Ranchi, Bhimpura, Varanasi, Tarapeeth, Almora, Dhaka

9.	Dol- Utsab (Holi)	16.03.2014	Vrindaban, Kankhal, New Delhi, Agarpara, Pune, Ranchi, Bairagarh
10	Vasanti Durga Puja	16 to 20 April,2013	Varanasi

Reports received from various ashrams about their spiritual activities are given below:-

(i) Kankhal Ashram: Kankhal Ashram is historically located at the place where the Daksha yajna was performed in ancient period and Sati, the wife of Lord Shiva, left Her sacred body in that occasion. In this sacred ashram, almost all the important Hindu festivals numbering about 30 are arranged every year in a manner as it used to be performed when Shree Shree Ma was in Her physical form. However, four prominent functions – Shree Shree Ma’s Janmotsab, Guru Purnima, Durga Puja and Samyam Saptah are celebrated in a very large scale, which are attended by large number of devotees from all over India and some from abroad as well. Apart from Ma and Giriji’s Samadhi Temples, daily puja is arranged in Shiva Temple, Shakaracharya temple, Padmanbhji and in Ganga Temple. Daily bhog is offered in Shiva Temple and Daily havan is performed in the Gayatri Yajnasala keeping the historical fire in live condition continuously which is burning since 1926 when Ma Herself performed the yajna at Dhaka.

(ii) Agarpara ashram in Kolkata: Large number of devotees visited the Ashram from home & abroad on various religious occasions such as 108 Swami Muktananda Giriji’s Sanyas in Chaitra Sankranti, Sri Shivaratri Utsab, Dol-yatra Utsab and Shree Shree Maa’s 118th Avirbhav Anniversary on 28th May,2013. Mahatmas from different Maths & Missions participated in Sadhu Bhandaras. Besides, there was Guru Purnima, Ratha Yatra, Bhagavat Jayanti Parayan Saptah, Jhulan Purnima and Janmastami, Shree Shree Durga Puja with Kumari Puja, Sree Lakshmi Puja and Sree Kali Puja, Annakut Mahotsab Samyam Saptaha Mahabrata Parayan with Rash Purnima, yearly Naam Yagna Utsab and various other religious functions associated with Maa’s parampara. Satsang & kirtan programme is organized daily from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the ashram which includes “Bhagvat-path” as well, when more than 50 devotees participate.

(iii) Almora Ashram: Ma’s 118th Janmotsav was celebrated in the Ashram with special puja of Ma in the early hours on the day. Path of Durga Saptasadi and Srimad Bhagavat Geeta was carried out. Ram Navami Utsav was celebrated with ‘Avishek’ and special puja in Sri Ram Mandir, singing of ‘Sunderkand’ and ‘Hanuman Chalisa’ in chorus. A large Bhandara was also organized.

(iv) Bhimpura ashram: Various religious functions had been organized such as Ma’s Janmotsav with Kumari Puja, Batuk Puja and Sata Chandi Path, Hanuman Jayanti, Ram Navami, Guru Purnima, Janmashtami, Navaratri, Annapurna Puja, Mahashivaratri Puja etc. with full dedication and devotion in the temples of Ma, Mahadev Mandir, Hanumanji and Ram Mandir. On all such occasions, large number of devotees of Gujrat and other states of India joined and participated.

(v) Bhopal ashram: Ram Navami, Hanuman Jayanti, Ma’s Janmotsav, Guru Purnima, Durga Puja, Deepawali, Holi etc. were celebrated in the ashram. On Sharad Purnima, special Kheer bhog was offered. The cows in the Goshala were offered khir during Annakut utasav. ‘Dhyan’ was organized during the Samyam Saptah.

(vi) Dehradoon ashram: All the three ashrams in Dehradun are associated with several leelas of Ma. Both Baba Bholanath and Ma passed away at Kishenpur Ashram. Hence this ashram is a sacred monument for all the devotees of Ma. Various religious festivals (associated with Ma’s parampara) was organized at Dehradun group of ashrams, such as

Shree Shree Ma's first arrival ceremony and Janmasthanmi Puja in Raipur Ashram, Akshay tritiya Puja, Shree Shree Ma's Abirbhav Utshav (On Birth date & Tithi), Guru Purnima, Jhulan Purnima, Saradiya Durga Asthmi Puja, Laxmi Puja, Dipawali/Kalipuja, Makar Sankranti Puja, Saraswati Puja, Maha Shiv Ratri Utsav in Kishanpur Ashram, and Sri Ram Mandir Pratistha Utsav in Kalyan Van Ashram were arranged in a befitting manner. Besides, 'Akhanda Ramayan Path' for 24 hours followed by a large bhandara is arranged every month in Kishanpur Ashram which is well attended.

(vii) Kalkaji Ashram in New Delhi: The location of Kalkaji Ashram is prehistorical. Ma indicated that Pandavas in Dwapar era had been associated to this place. Puja and bhog in the five temples in the ashram are arranged daily. Besides, five monthly functions take place which are largely attended by the devotees of Delhi. These functions are recitation of Matri Chalisa in chorus on second Thursday, Hanuman Chalisa on last Saturday, Akhanda Naam Kirtan from sunrise to sunset on Last Sunday, Kali puja on every black moon night and Matri diwas for Matri Satsang on second Sunday every month. Apart from this, 15 important Hindu festivals are arranged here annually, out of which five functions – Ma's Janmotsab, Guru-Purnima, Kali puja in Deepawali night, Annakut and Saraswati puja are performed in large scale followed by big bhandaras attended by huge number of devotees.

(viii) Pune ashram: Daily religious programme in the ashram includes mangal arti, usha kirtan, puja in all the temples with arti and havan, samuhik satsang from 10.00 a.m. to 11.05 a.m. and evening satsang from 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., sandhya arti and 15 minutes 'maun' in the night. Samyam day is observed in the last Sunday of each month. Various religious occasions (associated with Ma's parampara) was organized e.g. Sri Ram Navami Utsav, Shree Shree Ma's Janmotsav from 2nd May to 28th May 2013 with Bhajan, kirtan, havan, Kumari puja and Matri Katha Pravachan by Sri Ashok Kulkarni, Jhulan Purnima Utsav, Guru Purnima Utsav, Janmasthanmi Puja & Bhagavat Saptah. Apart from this, Vishnu-sahasranaam path along with Gita and Saptashati path, Nama Sankirtan for peace to all the humanity, Shri Ganesh Chaturthi with special puja for Lord Ganesh with Ganesh Atharvasesh Parayan, Ma Durga puja in Navaratri, Laxmi Puja, Dipawali/Kalipuja, Maha Shiv Ratri Utsav with 4 Prahar Puja in the night, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's Janmotsav and Holi Utsav with Akhanda Naam Sankirtan from sunrise to sunset performed by the Kirtan party of Vrindavan, were arranged.

(ix) Puri ashram: Ma's Birthday Celebration was organized very well. Mahatmas and heads of Giridhari Ashram, Jagabandhu ashram, Bharat Sevashram, Brajabandhu and other *Maths* were invited for mahaprasad. Puja was performed by an ashramite Vidyarthi. Jhulan festival was celebrated on 19, 20 and 21 August with much enthusiasm. Many VIPs were invited. Amongst the speakers Sri Mukhopadhyay, Sri Pratibha Kundu, Pandit Krishnananda Maharaj and Sw. Golokanandaji spoke on Jhulan and various spiritual topics. As the programme was long, the Ashram arranged mahaprasad in lunch and dinner as well. Guru Purnima was celebrated with Ma's parampara.

(x) Ranchi Ashram: Durga puja, Laxmi Puja, Shyama puja, Annakut, Samyam Saptah and all other prominent festivals were performed following Ma's *parampara*. Kali puja in Ranchi ashram is special. The devotees organized this occasion with elaborate Sattvik Tantrik Puja of the beautiful blue black statue of the smiling Mahakali, installed in presence of Ma who is known there as 'Manush kali' i.e. Ma Kali in human form. It was accompanied by melodious shyama sangit in praise of Ma Kali. Other religious festivals were also performed as usual.

(xi) Tarapeeth ashram: Maghi Purnima utsab was celebrated here on 14th February 2014 in a befitting manner with Matri Adhibas, Puja, Yajna, Kumari Puja, Bhog, Chandi puja, Sadhu Bhandara , Matri Naam kirtan and Rudra-Avishek on “Tarapeeth Shivalinga” which was established earlier in Ma’s presence, and discourses on Ma. Ma’s Birthday Utsab and Gurupurnima Utsab were celebrated following Ma’s parampara. The Ashram organized donation of books to the needy person and medical treatment to the poor people. The other festivals were also organized as per Ma’s Parampara.

(xii) Varanasi Ashram: Like every year the Vasanti Durga Puja was held in the Navaratri from 16 to 20 April, 2013 with great enthusiasm and grandeur. Many devotees from outside also attended the function. On the Mahashtami day, Ma Annapurna was worshipped with Sodashapachar Puja followed by a large bhandara. Ma’s Janmotsab function was celebrated in a befitting manner in the Ananda Jyoti Peetham Temple. Guru Purnima was celebrated on the 22nd July 2013 with puja on Ma and Muktananda Giriji’s ‘Vigraha’ with love and devotion. Jhulan was celebrated with great enthusiasm by the Kanyapeeth girls on the 20th August. Several icon of Gopal and Radha Krishna and Shree Ma’s photo were placed on the artistically decorated swing inside the temple in kanyapeeth. The deities were swung gently and rhythmically by the brahmacharinis and kannyapeeth girls singing in praise of Sri Krishna. Keeping Ma’s tradition in Kanyapeeth, Kansavadha and bhakta Gopaldas leela were enacted beautifully by the girls on 22nd, 23rd and 24th of August.

Sri Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated in Gopal Mandir and inside the temple in Kanyapeeth with love and devotion. At the stroke of midnight at the time of His manifestation on earth, the black stone statue of Gopaji which is said to be more than thousand years old was brought down amidst Vedic chants from His sandalwood throne, bathed gently with milk, curd, ghee, honey and sugar and holy water of the Ganga. Thereafter, special puja was offered to Gopalji. Special pujas were also arranged in the ashram on the occasion of Navaratri and thereafter Kojagari Laxmi Puja in the Purnima evening and Kali puja on the deepawali night. Annakut function is the most prominent function of the ashram. Rice of one and quarter mund (About 50 kg) quantity with more than 108 varieties of food preparations is offered to Ma Annapurna on this day. Large number of devotees took Prasad after the puja. Maha Shivaratri was celebrated on a grand scale on 27th of February in Kanyapeeth. Ma’s direction for the puja preparations as well as puja for the whole night was followed meticulously. Holi was celebrated on 15th, 16th and 17th of March in the Gopal Mandir. The first day of Holi was Haribabaji’s birthday. He was a great devotee of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. A shodasopchar puja of Mahaprabhu was performed in Gopal Mandir on that day. Holika was burnt in the evening. The next day Narayan puja was performed at dawn followed by abeer gulal offering to Narayan by all. Thereafter, Gopal was brought out from His throne and placed in a large vessel and all the devotees were allowed to sprinkle gulal on Him. Afterwards, Sodashapachar puja of Gopalji was performed. Saraswati Puja was performed on 4th of February 2014 by Kanyapeeth Brahmacharni girls and teachers. The idol of Ma Saraswati was beautifully made and decorated. The success of all the pujas in the ashram was entirely due to loving prayerful hard work by the Ashram Kanyas.

(xiii) Vindhychal ashram: Daily puja of Shree Shree Ma and Narmadeshwar Shivalingam are performed in the ashram. During the summer season, the Shivalingam is bathed with continuous drip of water. Weekly Satsang is organized every Sunday evening with devotional songs, kirtan, dhyan, reading from Matri Lahari, Vishnu-sahasranam, Shiva Mahinma Stotra, Geeta & Chandi recitation. It is going on since last 16 years. Ma’s

Janmatithi was celebrated with Shodashpachar Paduka Abhishek, Havan etc. Guru Purnima was celebrated with special puja on Ma, nine Kumaris and one Vatuk were fed with much respect and affection. Akhanda Naam Japa was done from sunrise together with Naam Kirtan/ bhajan, recitation of Geeta, Chandi, Guru Geeta etc. Navaratri-brata (Vasanti and Sharad) were conducted in April and October. Puja was conducted for 9 days and yajna was performed on the concluding day. Chandipath was duly conducted in all these days. Mahashivaratri, Vasanti Puja, Geeta Jayanti and other festivals were also performed according to Ma's Parampara.

(xiv) Vrindavan ashram: Various festivals were organized, such as, Ma's Janmotsav, Ramnavami, Guru Purnima, Navaratri, Mahashivaratri and various other religious functions associated with Maa's parampara. Akhand Ram Charit Manas Parayan was arranged from 16th to 18th July 2013 in classical tune by Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee Manas Parivar headed by Sri Yogesh Bhasin of Kanpur and sponsored by Sri Raghavendra and Smt. Vineeta Madhav of New Delhi. Shree Radha Krishna Jhulan Yatra Mahotsav was celebrated with seven days Raas Leela Programme, Shodashopachar Puja of the Radha Krishna 'Chhalia Ananda Lal', Rudrabhishek of Shivji, 24 hours Akhanda Hari Naam Sankirtan, 108 Mohanta Seva and concluding Bhandara on Jhulan Purnima day. Shree Krishna Janmashtami Mahotsav was celebrated at mid-night on Janmashtami day. Holi Utsav was celebrated in a special way from 11th to 15th March. On the occasion of Chaitanya Mahaprabhus's birthday, the famous Ras Group of of Shri Chandra Sharma performed Ras-lila on the 16th which was followed by Akhand Nama Yajna from morning to evening and offering of bhog in all the ashram temples. Sadhu seva and finally the opening of the newly built Goshala concluded the celebration. Geta Jayanti was celebrated with Samuhik Sampurna Geeta Parayan, puja of every chapter of Bhagavat Geeta, Shodashpachar puja of Shri Partha Sarathi followed by a bhandara.

(xv) Uttarkashi ashram: Ma Kali is the presiding deity of the Ashram along with Pujya Ma, whose statue was installed on Akshaya Tritiya Tithi in 2009 in presence of Mahamandaleshwar of Bholagiri Ashram and Maharaja of Tehri. The then Governor of Uttarakhand Sri B.L.Joshi graced the occasion. To mark this occasion, Akshaya Tritiya is celebrated with special puja for Ma and prasad was distributed to all the assembled devotees. In accordance with the norms, a special puja of Ma Kali is performed on every Amavasya Tithi and Satyanarain puja on every Purnima day. The ashram celebrates two annual functions with great enthusiasm and they are Ma's Janmotsab and annual Kali puja in Diwali. In both the occasions with the help and support of the local devotees a large bhandara was organized for 800 odd people and Khari viksha for about 200 sadhus on each such occasion. Didima's Sanyas Utsav was also celebrated and bhandara was attended by about 35 sadhus. Baba Bholanathji had been the eternal inspiration for Uttarkashi Ashram and a special puja was offered for him on Shukla Saptami tithi during Ma's Janmotsav celebrations. The annual Guru Purnima festival, Navratra utsav, Jhulan utsav etc. were celebrated similarly, but in a smaller scale. The Ashram was in full of joy with the arrival of about 30 girls from the Kanyapeeth who spent 21 days in the Ashram. Devotees from all over India, though small in number, do visit the Ashram, especially between Aprils to September each year.

(xvi) Durga Puja was held in Kankhal Ashram in Haridwar on a grand scale. Sri Yogi Khanna, a great devotee of Ma, had born all the expenses. Nearly thousand people received bhog prasad each day during the puja. With Shree Ma's grace, the puja passed very well from the inspiring ceremony of *Chakshu dana* to Durga *Pratima* on 9th of October till *Darpan Visarjan*

on 14th of October 2013. All ceremonies were performed with much *bhava* by the priest Sri Ashish who felt special blessing from Ma during the Puja. The daily musical programme in the evening was of a high standard. Brni. Chandandi, Vice President (Ascetic) and her team made an excellent arrangement for the puja. Durga Puja was also celebrated in Ranchi and Agarpara ashrams with Durga Pratima duly installed in the puja mandap and in other ashrams also it was celebrated with much enthusiasm.

(xvii) Kali Puja was celebrated, especially in Varanasi, Ranchi, Delhi, Uttarkashi and Jamshedpur where Vighras of Makali are already installed and have a history of special association with Ma. In Kankhal ashram, puja was offered on the beautiful Ma Kali Pratima on the Deepawali night. Brahmacharinis enlivened the occasion with the singing of Shyama Sangit . In all the pujas, Kumari Puja was given a special place of honour with the choicest selection of the Kumaris. It was followed by the traditional Annakut Utsab next day.

(viii)Makar Sankranti on 14th January at Kankhal ashram: The occasion was celebrated with the special puja of Shri Padmanabh Narayan vighraha which was offered to Ma by the Maharaja of Trivandrum. Sodashapachar Puja was celebrated with much enthusiasm in spite of heavy rain and extreme cold weather. Shri Padmanabhji was brought from His room to the Shankaracharya Hall amidst blowing of conch shells and ringing bells and placed on His beautifully decorated 'Chowki'. Ma's picture was placed on another 'Chowki' which was also well decorated. Br. Pradeep performed the *Shodashopachar* puja amidst the chanting of Vedic Mantras and the chanting of Vishnu Sahashranam, bhajans and kirtan by the brahmacharinis of the ashram.

A special puja was also held at Gayatri Yognashala. the Akhand Jyoti brought from Varanasi was placed in the Yajna Kund on this auspicious day and with that the continuity of the sacred fire was restored again. A *Shodashopachar* puja and special havan was performed by a group of senior Sanskrit Vidyarthi and Pujaris of the ashram under the supervision of Sw. Achyutanandaji. Amongst the chanting of Vedic Mantras havan was performed. Kirtan and bhajans were sung by the brahmacharinis during Gayatri Mahayagna and 'Hari Nam' Kirtan was performed while doing Parikrama of the Yagnashala. A special bhog was offered to the deities and a Bhandara was held in which more than 100 persons partook Prasad.

Apart from all these pujas, many more religious festivals were arranged in Kankhal Ashram which includes Saraswati puja on Vasant Panchami day, Shiv puja for the whole night on Shiv Ratri festival, Special puja of Narayan on Holi festival and Akhanda Ramayan-gaan for three days continuously in classical melodic tune sang by the Ramayan Party of Sri Yogesh Bhasin.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

All the ashrams have tried to maintain spiritual and charitable services and various executions as best it was possible for them. We appreciate their endeavor in this regard. However, some of the achievements which needed special efforts are as follows.

(i) Repair and renovation works of AJP temple in Kankhal Ashram:

Two reputed Engineers, who were experienced with the construction of the Akshardham Temple at Delhi, were associated as consultants for the repair and renovation works of the AJP Temple in Kankhal Ashram. As per their suggestions, marble slabs on the outer surface of the entire temple had been dismantled and guniting works had been completed by January 2013 under the supervision of those two Engineers.

Thereafter, a team of four GB members Sri Swapan Gangulie, the then Acting General Secretary, Sri P.K. Mandal, Sri Pradeep Brahmachari and Sri Ashish Chowdhury with Sri S.M.Sharma a devotee from Jaipur went to Makrana and selected the quarries of white marble and also approved the rates of the suppliers who would supply the marble slabs for the temple. They procured marble slabs, measuring about 11600 sq.ft. by March 2013 and other marble materials like carved slab of about 1150 sq.ft., marble jali with pillars, molding etc were also procured in that period. However, later it was found that about 3800 sq.ft surface area remained uncovered and that quantity of marble slab had to be procured in April 2013.

In this financial year 2013-14, the remaining stone cladding works of about 4000 sq. feet on projected structures like sun-shades, parapets, corridors etc. and on verandah pillars were completed. Simultaneously, the ongoing stone polishing works, dismantling and stacking of the bamboos of the entire scaffolding works were also completed. Thereafter, roof terracing work over the gunited surface was taken up on the roofs of the AJP temple, corridors, Matri Niwas and the book stall, covering a total area of about 5200 sq.ft. In this work, waste broken stone pieces were utilized and laid in slope towards the rain water outlets and the annular spaces therein were filled with mosaic mortar. Thereafter, such laid surface was finished with grinding and polishing works. Rain water down pipe was also fixed at each rain water outlet at the roof level. Remaining works of wood polishing on doors and windows were also completed.

Recently four stone slabs had fallen from the top region of the Shikhar of Ma's temple on 23.5.2014 which was restored within a month. Besides, in order to reduce the possibility of falling of more stone slabs, preventive measures have been taken at the uppermost three regions of the Shikhar where the slope of the Shikhar walls is most steep. Fixation of the stone slabs in those regions was further strengthened by making grooves in each stone slab and inserting and fixing 0.8 mm thick 4 inch long copper nails on all the stone slabs around the Shikhar. The lightning conductor provided earlier was not fixed properly and as a result it was damaged by the monkeys. Therefore, the copper strips of the lightning conductor has been again fixed properly over the insulators at suitable interval to make it more effective whenever a lightning strikes at the apex of the Shikhar. Total expenditure incurred for these repairing works is only about 0.94 lacs, which includes cost of providing proper scaffolding around the temple shikhar for a month. The previous contractor Moiuddin and Sri P.K.Mondal, EC member, cooperated to complete this job.

Total expenditure incurred against this renovation project up till now amounts to Rs.156.74 lakhs inclusive 0.94 lakh spent for the works done in June 2014 to restore the fallen stone slabs, whereas donation received so far amounts to Rs. 155.71 lakhs.

(ii) Repairing works in Giriji Temple complex in Kankhal Ashram:

In view of 75th anniversary of the Sannyas Utsav of Muktananda Giriji , the entire Giriji Temple complex has been repaired and renovated and the roofs of Giriji Temple, Shiva Temple and that of bhog kitchen which were leaking since long have been repaired completely. Besides, old electrical wiring which was in dilapidated condition was completely replaced. Rs 1.00 lakh has been received in the name of Lt. Kamla Pandya and Rs. 0.50 lakh in the name of 'Shree Shree Anandamayee Kripa Baleshwari Prasad Trust' for this work.

(iii) Agarpara Ashram: Banks of the ashram pond have been restored by filling soil and the pond has been connected with the Ganga through an under-ground pipeline for the disposal of excess rain water whenever accumulated in the pond and it prevented soil erosion at the banks which used to occur in earlier years. The Ashram has been given an

attractive look by giving more priority on landscaping, cleaning and sanitation. A new Dining Hall above the Nat Mandir had been completed which can accommodate more than 200 devotees to receive Prasad at a time. Moreover, the hall had been constructed with the objective of protecting Nat- Mandir from any damage from the seepage of rain-water.

(iv) Vindhyachal Ashram: All the ashram-buildings are now fully surrounded by a pucca wall. The jungles and thorny bushes inside were cleared and pucca - path ways along the surrounding walls were constructed to facilitate to develop a full-fledged garden and establishment of a *Panchavati*.

(v) Vrindavan Ashram:

a) Construction of Goushala (Dairy farm): 60 ft by 50 ft new 'Goushala' (cow-shed) has been constructed in **Vrindavan Ashram** sponsored by Smt. Tania Dhamija of U.K. It has been inaugurated recently by Ashok Kulkarniji, the renowned exponent of the Matri Katha. We are grateful to Smt. Tanya Dhamija for her donation of about Rs.12 lacs for this project.

b) Tree plantation works: About 5000 trees have been planted in the back side open land in Vrindavan ashram sponsored by Sri Supriya Pidara & family of Mathura. If all the plants survive and grow into trees, its wood will be available for sale within 5 years. The income will help to fulfill the maintenance expenses of the ashram to a considerable extent.

(vi) Varanasi Hospital: A ramp with cover has been constructed in Varanasi Hospital out of MPLAD Scheme fund costing Rs. 10.00 lac which was allotted by Sri Murli Manohar Joshi, MP from his MP quota. This will facilitate to carry the patients conveniently to the first and second floor of the hospital building using a push trolley bed.

(vii) Varanasi Kanyapeeth: Repairing and renovation of the electrical works in the kitchen complex of the Kanyapeeth in Varanasi Ashram have been completed with the help of Smt. Vineeta Raghav.

(vii) Naimisharanya Ashram: Repairing and renovation works in Puran Mandir complex in the ashram has been completed and now the renovation works in Ma's residential complex will be taken up shortly out of the donations received from Smt. Vinita Raghav and Mrs. Kunda for this purpose.

(viii) Court cases won:

a) The Sangha has won a very old case relating to the corner plot of North West side of the Varanasi Hospital measuring 71'9"X 55'6" (About 4000 sq.ft). The case was continuing since 1983. Its possession has been taken by Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee Hospital. The land is located very near to the main Bhadaini Road on the lane coming out from that main Road. Two very old temples of Hayagriv Narayan and Hanumanji exist in that campus where daily puja is being done. Ma had visited those temples.

b) The High Court of Nainital has overruled the judgment given earlier by the District Court which had gone in favour of Mrs. Joshi in the Joshi embezzlement Case.

(ix) Ashram Book Stall in Kankhal Ashram :

The book stall of the Sangha looked after by Ms Mercy, an American devotee of Ma, has submitted accounts of sale in the book shop during her last eight months tenure which shows that the sale occurred in this short period is to the extent of about Rs. 2.50 lacs which has been deposited in the Sangha Account. We all are grateful for her free service to the Sangha with utmost honesty and sincerity.

(x) Yajjnashala in Kankhal Ashram:

The Khandit yajjnagni in our Gayatri Yajjnashala has been restored by bringing yajjnagni from the Gayatri Yanjnashala in our Varanasi Ashram. Sw. Achutanandaji and Brni Bishuddhadidi with two attendants travelled with the sacred fire all the way by a taxi.

(xi) Puran Mandir at Naimisharanya:

Cloth covers of all the books of 18 Puranas and 4 Vedas which were preserved in Naimisharanya ashram by Ma have been changed after about 40 years and preservatives have been kept in the almirah for safety of the books. Brni. Vishuddhadi was deputed to do this most important job and she did it nicely taking help of the devotees there.

(xii) Bhakta Niwas (Guest house):

Devotees, as guests and visitors, come to Ma's different ashrams regularly for doing spiritual practices like Japa, meditation and to participate in the *Satsang* and various functions and worships. Substantial Bhakta Niwas (guest house) facilities have been created at Kankhal, Agarpara, Tarapeeth, Ranchi, Rajgir, Varanasi, Vindhyachal, New Delhi, Naimisharanya, Vrindavan, Bhimpura, Uttarkashi, Almora and at few other ashrams. Construction of Guest House in Agartala Ashram is nearing to completion. A Guest House in Puri Ashram has been approved and its implementation is in preliminary stage. The Sangha does not specifically charge any rent from the guests for stay in the guest house or to provide meals to them from the 'Annapurna sthal', the free kitchen in Kankhal ashram. Whatever donation is paid by them is received in lieu of that so that the poor devotees may also take opportunity to come to Ma even after spending high travelling expenses.

(xiii) Bairagarh Ashram (Bhopal): Ma Anandamayee Goshala is run by the Ashram in memory of (Late) Sir Datar Singh, who was a renowned figure in the field of Dairy Farming in India and abroad. The Ashram gives shelter and all care to 77 old and ill cows that others avoid to look after.

CONCLUSION

The Sangha Management expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude to all those who have participated in the propagation of the noble aims and objects of the Sangha by donating physical, moral and financial help and assures to perform better in the coming years. We are also grateful to all those members of the Local Managing Committees and Members of the Governing Body who have cooperated and endeavored to improve the religious environment in our ashrams and participate in financial, educational, charitable, religious and other activities in a desired manner as could be possible.

We all offer our humble obeisance to the Universal Mother Ma Anandamayee. Jai Ma!

S.C.Banerjee
General Secretary