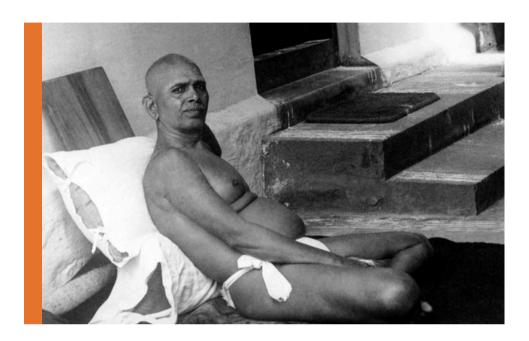


## SRI RAMANA MAHARSHI HERITAGE 2024 First-Half Year Report



Sri Ramana Maharshi Heritage (SRMH) is off to a great start in 2024. Our non-profit continues to actively sponsor and support various activities both in the United States and India, as detailed in this first-half year report.

"All that one gives to others, one gives to one's self. If this truth is understood, who will not give to others?"

-SRI RAMANA MAHARSHI

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

## In the United States

- Launch of the bookstore in the US
- <u>Library project</u>
- Summer camp for children
- Jayanthi and Aradhana

#### In India

- Gobar gas plant inauguration
- School Project in Tiruchuzhi
- **Guest House expansion**

# LAUNCH OF THE BOOKSTORE IN THE US

Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi lives on through his teachings. SRMH is committed to making these precious teachings accessible to current and future devotees worldwide by collaborating with Sri Ramanasramam in India.

We have launched our <u>US bookstore</u> on our website, now offering over 65 book titles for sale. We also launched our bookstore on <u>Amazon</u> (search "Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi") and on <u>eBay</u>. All three launches are very successful.

The bookstore will regularly stock Ashram calendars and diaries every year.

We are pleased to share that the bookstore will open for devotees in Canada in August 2024. We consider the bookstore activity to be core to our mission of keeping Bhagavan's teachings alive and feel blessed that the launch has been so successful.

Here is a beautiful video that captures our work.

## LIBRARY PROJECT

In keeping with our mission to make Bhagavan's books accessible to devotees through various channels, we undertook a project to stock them at various libraries across the United States. Devotees from all parts of the country volunteered to help understand their local county libraries' policies and assisted us in this noble project. We are very pleased to share that we have placed over 25 of Bhagavan's books in 12 U.S. counties.



Libraries in U.S.A showcases newly received Bhagavan's books

## SUMMER CAMP FOR CHILDREN

We organized an online summer camp to introduce Bhagavan to the younger generation. The well-planned curriculum included music, stories, and interactive sessions that presented Bhagavan and his teachings in a way that is relevant and age-appropriate for today's children in the US and Canada. The 6-week summer camp attracted over 35 participants across both countries.

Given the tremendous success, we plan to make this an annual event going forward.

<u>Here</u> is a beautiful video that captures the joy of a child attending the camp.



Camp participant chanting prayers to all Gurus



Bhagavan's Samadhi Shrine at Sri Ramanasramam

## JAYANTHI AND ARADHANA

The Satsang groups in California and Washington, D.C., were established in 2003. These groups convene regularly at the homes of devotees each week and observe Bhagavan's Jayanti, Aradhana, and Advent at Arunachala annually. In 2021, the groups formalized their presence as a non-profit organization, Sri Ramana Maharshi Heritage (SRMH).

Both Satsang groups celebrated Bhagavan's Jayanti and Aradhana functions in a grand manner. In California, Dr. Venkat Ramanan, President of Sri Ramanasramam, joined the group for the Jayanti function and gave an excellent talk on his vision for the Ashram. For the Aradhana function, young professional devotees Karthik Ganesan and Sharanya Iyer gave a thought-provoking presentation on using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to preserve the authentic teachings of Bhagavan for future generations. The stimulating and interactive presentation captured the imagination of all present. The DC group invited devotees to present at their Jayanti and Aradhana functions.

All celebrations also included performances by children, musical and dance presentations, and the recitation of the Vedas. Devotees enjoyed sumptuous lunch offerings at the conclusion of the programs. All in attendance experienced a profound sense of togetherness, unified by the grace of Bhagavan.

Video links to the Washington D.C. groups's Jayanthi and Aradhana functions can be accessed <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>. <u>Here</u> is Karthik's Ganesan's post on the AI project and presentation.



Washington DC Satsang Jayanthi and Aradhana Celebration



San Francisco Bay Area Aradhana day AI talk

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## GOBAR GAS PLANT INAUGURATION

Azhagammal, the revered mother of Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi, played a pivotal role in his life and the founding of his ashram. Her dedication led to the establishment of the ashram's kitchen, which has since become the heart of the community. Today, this kitchen graciously serves nearly 2,000 meals daily, a testament to her enduring legacy of nurturing and service. It not only provides physical sustenance to the ashram's residents and visitors but also embodies the principles of selfless service and devotion that are central to Sri Ramana Maharshi's teachings.

The ashram continues to modernize while preserving its sanctity. As part of this modernization, a Gobar gas plant was inaugurated a day before the annual aradhana of Azhagammal. The term "Gobar gas" originates from India, where biogas is traditionally produced from cow dung (with "Gobar" in Hindi meaning cow dung). Biogas is created through anaerobic digestion, where bacteria break down organic matter in a sealed, oxygen-free environment, producing a mixture of methane  $(CH_4)$  and carbon dioxide  $(CO_2)$  that can be used as cooking fuel. This eco-friendly plant will replace many of the LPG cylinders used daily in the kitchen for cooking meals.



Dr. Venkat Ramanan, Dr. Nithya Ramanan and Srimathi. Susila Ramanan inaugurating Gobar Gas plant

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## SCHOOL PROJECT IN TIRUCHUZHI

The Sethupathi School in Tiruchuzhi, Tamilnadu, where Bhagavan studied in his early days, required extensive repairs and additional restrooms for the children. The Ashram has undertaken a project to expand the school buildings with new construction. The work is progressing well and is expected to be completed by the end of 2024. The school authorities, teachers, and children are deeply grateful for this noble effort.



Thiruchuzhi school building in construction

In India

## **GUEST HOUSE EXPANSION**

About ten years ago, the Achalam Guest House near the President's compound was inaugurated with 21 new, spacious rooms. Now, a major expansion is underway on the adjacent property, which will add approximately 52 new rooms and an additional floor, bringing the total number of rooms available for Ashram staff and guests to 73. On May 13th, a *Bhumi Puja* for the extension was performed in the Achalam garden, presided over by the Ashram President, with devotees in attendance.



Bhumi Puja for Achalam Building Expansion



A silhouette of a peacock at the ashram with Arunachala Hill in the background

Guru's grace is always there.

-BHAGAVAN