



SRI RAMANA MAHARSHI HERITAGE

2025 Second-Half Year Report

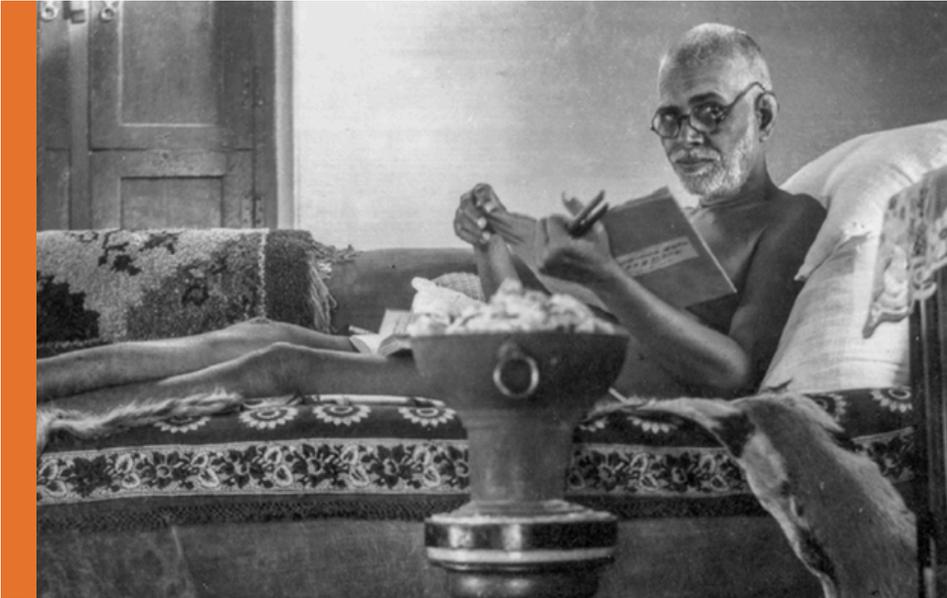
HIGHLIGHTS

In the United States

- [Sonoma Center Fall and Winter Retreats](#)
- [Centenary Coin Release ceremony](#)
- [129th Advent in California and D.C](#)

In India

- [Gosala Renovation](#)
 - [Ashram Kumbhabhishekam](#)
 - [Supporting Kendras](#)
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Sri Ramana Maharshi Heritage (SRMH) continues to actively sponsor and support various activities both in the United States and India.

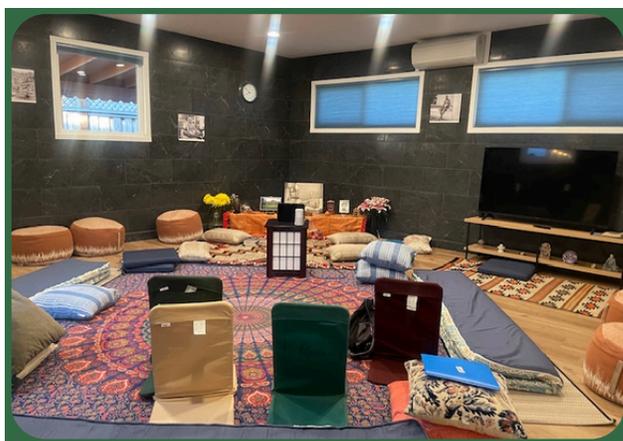
All that one gives to others, one gives to one's self. If this truth is understood, who will not give to others?"

-SRI RAMANA MAHARSHI

SONOMA CENTER FALL AND WINTER RETREATS

Peter Berking, a long-standing devotee, has transformed his Sebastopol home into the Sri Ramana Maharshi Center of Sonoma, a serene retreat space serving Bhagavan's devotees amid the natural beauty of Sonoma County.

In 2025, the center hosted two group retreats, along with several informal overnight stays by individual devotees.



Meditation hall of Sonoma Retreat center

The first was a three-day Labor Day retreat (Aug 30–Sept 1). Seven devotees attended. The loosely structured program included meditation, singing, readings, and videos, all focused on immersion in Bhagavan's teachings and grace. A highlight was a visit to Armstrong State Park, where the majestic silence of the ancient redwoods deepened the contemplative atmosphere.



Front yard of Sonoma Retreat center

SONOMA CENTER FALL AND WINTER RETREATS

The second retreat, held Dec 26–30, welcomed thirteen overnight participants. With a more structured schedule beginning at 6 a.m., activities included meditation, Stuti Panchakam chanting, singing, readings, and videos. Participants again visited Armstrong State Park, enjoyed walking meditation nearby, and shared meals—some prepared by attendees and one at a local Indian restaurant.



Guest rooms of Sonoma Retreat center

Attendees at both retreats reported a deep sense of immersion in Bhagavan’s grace and look forward to future gatherings at the center.

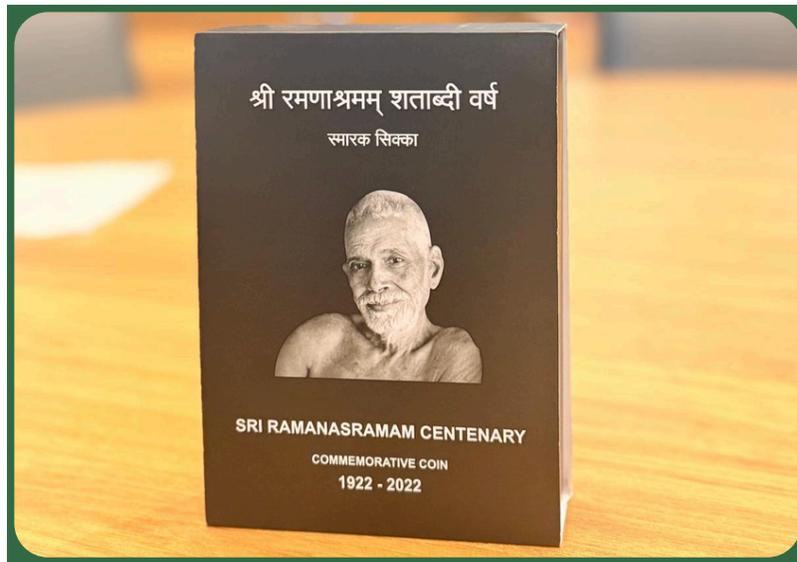
For more details about the center and its offerings, please visit their [website](#).



Devotees at the retreat

CENTENARY COIN RELEASE CEREMONY

The President of Sri Ramanasramam, Dr. Venkat S. Ramanan, officially released the ₹100 commemorative coin marking the centenary of Sri Ramanasramam. The event was held on September 14th at the Downtown Event Center in Fremont, California.



Centenary Coin Holder

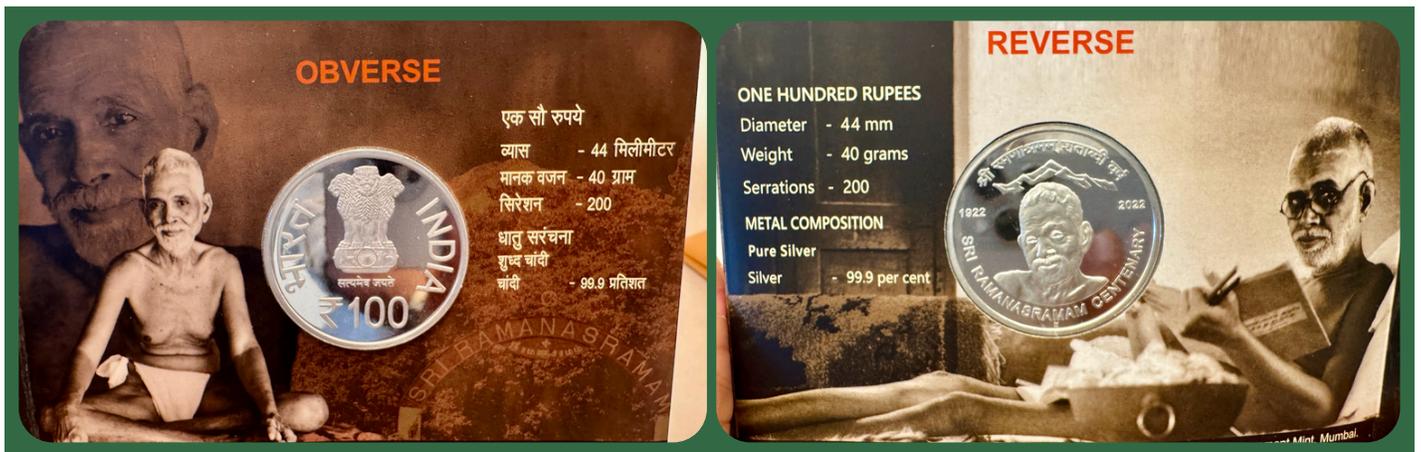
The ceremony was graced by several distinguished guests, including Sri Rakesh Adlakha, Deputy Consul General at the Consulate General of India (San Francisco); Dr. David Frawley (Pandit Vamadeva), Padma Bhushan awardee and renowned scholar; and Sri Raj Salwan, Mayor of Fremont.



Centenary Coin received by Dr. Rakesh Adlakha, Indian Consulate General of SF (far right in picture)

CENTENARY COIN RELEASE CEREMONY

The program opened with a video presentation showcasing the 100-year history of the Ashram. Dr. Venkat S. Ramanan then inaugurated the coin by presenting it to Sri Adlakha, after which each guest received a commemorative coin. The esteemed guests jointly presented the coin, encased in a special glass case, to the Board of Directors of Sri Ramana Maharshi Heritage. They delivered inspiring and timely reflections on the significance of the centenary and the enduring relevance of Bhagavan’s teachings. The Mayor of Fremont presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Board of Directors of our non-profit. The Ashram President also presented coins to Sri Dennis Hartel and Sri Mohan Ramaswami of Arunachala Ashrama.



Sri Ramana Maharshi Centenary Coin front and back sides

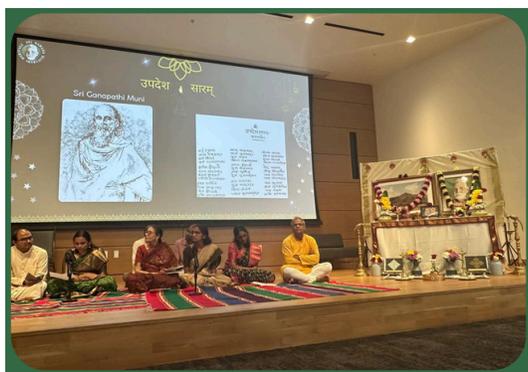
Following the formal release, children presented a moving skit on the life of Sri Ramana Maharshi. Devotees attended from across the United States. The program concluded with a delicious lunch served to all, a fitting close to this historic gathering, where devotees came together to express their gratitude to the Ashram management for preserving the purity and spirit of Bhagavan’s Ashram for 100 years.



SF Children portraying Bhagavan’s life

129th ADVENT IN CALIFORNIA AND D.C.

The Satsang groups in California Bay Area and Washington, D.C., were established in 2003. Since then, they have gathered regularly in devotees' homes and observed Bhagavan's Jayanti, Aradhana, and Advent at Arunachala annually. In 2021, these groups came together under the formal banner of Sri Ramana Maharshi Heritage (SRMH), a registered non-profit organization.



SF Bay Area musical offering

This year, both Satsang groups were honored to celebrate Bhagavan's Advent with Dr. Venkat S. Ramanan, President of Sri Ramanasramam, who traveled from India for 10 days to participate in the coin release and Advent celebrations.



SF Bay Area musical offering



SF Bay Area musical offering

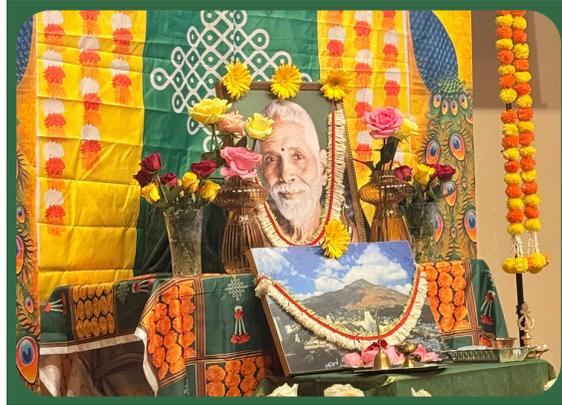
In California, the event was part of a day-long celebration on September 14th in Fremont, beginning with the coin release in the morning, followed by the Advent function in the afternoon. The program featured a grand musical celebration, with devotees offering musical tributes to Bhagavan in multiple languages. Soulful renditions of verses composed by close devotees of Bhagavan, including Sri Murugnar and Sri Manavasi Ramaswami Iyer, were performed by both adult and children devotees.



SF Bay Area musical offering

It was a memorable first-of-its-kind celebration in California, delighting all who attended. The Ashram President presented the centenary commemorative coin to Smt Rajalakshmi (grand daughter of Sri Manavasi Ramaswami Iyer) and Peter Berking (founder of the Sonoma retreat center).

129th ADVENT IN CALIFORNIA AND D.C.



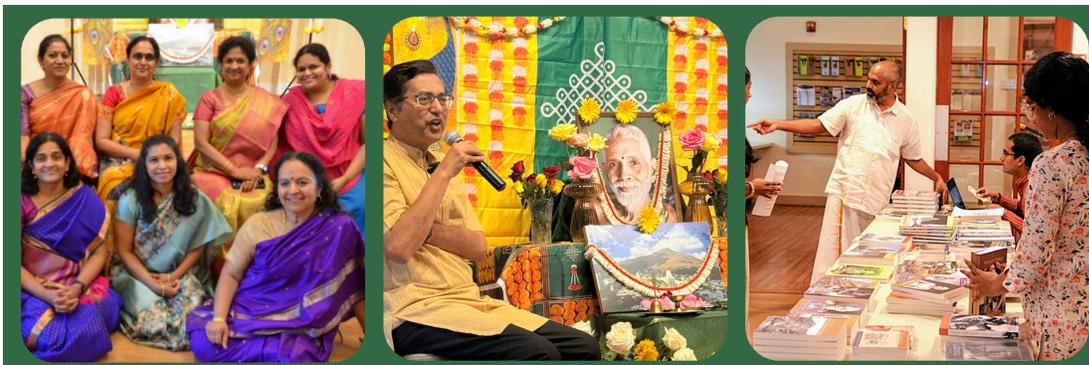
Washington D.C. Advent Shrine

The Washington, D.C., celebration featured talks by the Ashram President and the President of SRMH, children's performances, and musical presentations. Children sang beautifully, performing songs taught to them by Sri P. Subramanian and Smt V.S. Lalitha. The program concluded with a bountiful lunch prasadam, leaving all participants with a profound sense of unity and shared grace.



Washington D.C. Advent celebrations

Video links to the Aradhana celebrations of both the Bay Area and Washington, D.C., groups can be viewed [here](#) and [here](#).



Washington D.C. Advent celebrations

GOSALA RENOVATION

Previously, the Gosala at Sri Ramanasramam had cramped conditions, with cattle tethered and little space to move or socialize. Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi, who cared deeply for the Gosala, took a personal interest in its construction when he was in the body. The recent renovation has transformed it, combining compassionate care with modern animal husbandry.

Key initiatives include:

- Cattle Identification System: Every animal now has a unique ear tag linking to medical, lineage, and performance records.
- Expanded Housing: Seventeen new sheds with ample space, ventilation, and safe flooring reduce stress and overcrowding.



- Free-Roaming Zones: Four open-air enclosures allow natural movement, socialization, and exercise.
- Modern Milking Facility: Milk collection now occurs in a hygienic, dedicated space, separate from housing.



GOSALA RENOVATION

- Advanced Sanitation & Ventilation: Industrial cleaning equipment and high-capacity fans improve hygiene and comfort.
- Optimized Nutrition & Green Fodder: Science-based feeding and on-site fodder cultivation ensure year-round, balanced diets.



- Health Protocols: Comprehensive vaccination, deworming, and preventive care support herd immunity and zero mortality.
- Retirement Sanctuaries: Samudram and Nallavan Palayam villages provide dignified care for aged and non-milking cattle.



GOSALA RENOVATION



The Ashram now cares for 346 cattle with compassion and modern husbandry standards, reflecting its deep respect for all life.



ASHRAM KUMBHABHISHEKAM

SRMH supported Sri Ramanasramam's sacred Maha Kumbhabhishekam, held from August 18–20, 2025.



Sanctified Kumbams in Yagasala

As part of the celebrations, extensive renovation work was undertaken at the shrines of Matrubhuteshwara and Sri Ramaneshwara Mahalingams, in full accordance with traditional śāstric principles. These periodic renovations and Kumbhabhishekams are far more than structural undertakings; they are profound acts of preservation and consecration. Through the decades, such ceremonies have safeguarded the sanctity, spiritual power, and architectural beauty of these hallowed shrines with unwavering devotion and discipline.



Matrubhuteshwara towers prepared for Kumbhabhishekam (left), Kumbhabhishekam (right)

ASHRAM KUMBHABHISHEKAM



Pujas performed in Yagasala to sacred pots

The first Kumbhabhishekam in 1949, led by the revered Vaidyanatha Sthapathi, inaugurated a sacred tradition that has since been carried forward by his lineage. In this auspicious year of 2025, his grandson, Selvanatha Sthapathi, once again upheld and renewed this timeless legacy.

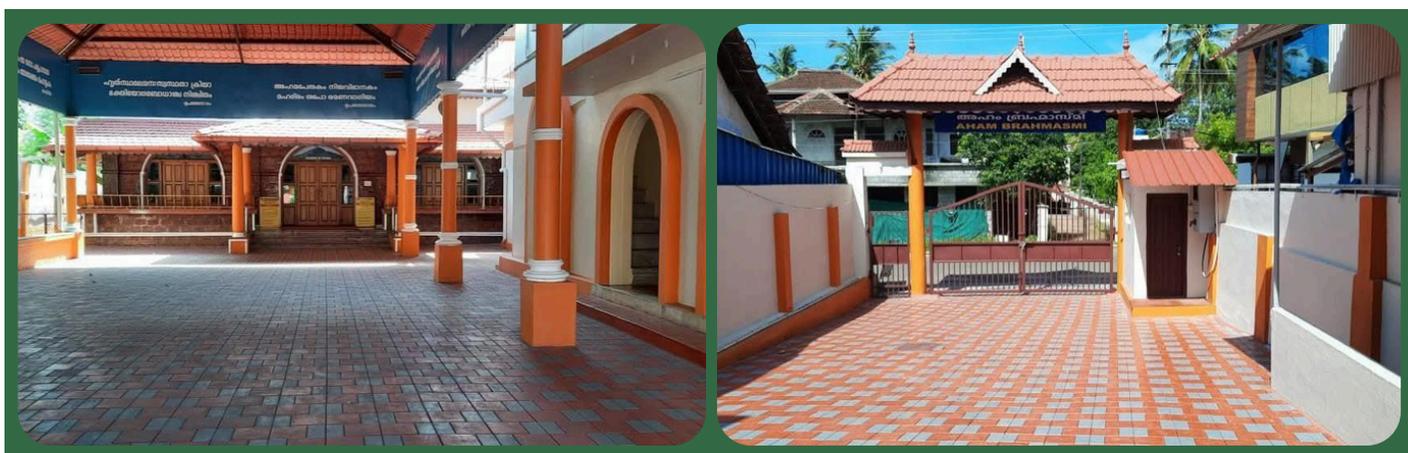
Videos of this sacred celebration are available on the Ashram's YouTube channel, organized by date and time: August 20, 2025, August 19, 2025 evening, August 19, 2025 morning, August 18, 2025 evening and August 18, 2025 morning.



Nadhaswaram music preceding procession (left), Sacred water in pots are carried by Vedic priests (center), Sanctified Kumbam (Right)

SUPPORTING KENDRAS

SRMH supports the Ashram's efforts in organizing celebrations, community outreach, and renovation projects at various kendras across India. These initiatives help to spread the teachings of Sri Ramana Maharshi through publications and spiritual gatherings, fostering vibrant centers of devotion and inquiry throughout the country. Here are some photos from recent renovation work done at Vijnana Ramaneeyam, the kendra in Palaghat, Kerala.



Vijnana Ramaneeyam, Palghat Kendra