



SRI RAMANA MAHARSHI HERITAGE

2023 Annual Report



Centenary year celebrations of Sri Ramanasramam

2023 holds profound significance for devotees of Sri Ramana Maharshi, as it commemorates the centenary of the establishment of his Ashram, Sri Ramanasramam, in India. Sri Ramana Maharshi Heritage actively sponsored and supported various activities both in the United States and India to celebrate this momentous occasion. The events were held at various locations globally from December 2022 - May 2024.

“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

Celebrations in the United States

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- [Ramana Balachandhran concerts](#)
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Celebrations in India

- [Celebrations at various Kendras](#)
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TAMIL PLAY ON BHAGAVAN BY BOMBAY CHANAKYA

The Adyar Cancer Institute Foundation presented Bombay Chanakya's Tamil play, "Maharshi," in the Bay Area on April 1st, 2023. The event served as a fundraiser, with all proceeds dedicated to the construction of a cancer screening center in Tiruvannamalai. Swami Ishwarananda, Resident Acharya of Chinmaya Mission, Los Angeles, delivered an inspiring welcoming address, emphasizing the greatness of Bhagavan.

The show was a resounding success, drawing a full house. The play, characterized by brilliant acting, a compelling script, and the emotional engagement of the organizers, left a lasting impact. This event proved to be an excellent platform for introducing Bhagavan and his teachings to the Tamil-speaking residents of the Bay Area, many of whom were previously unfamiliar with him.

The entire play can be watched [here](#).



Ramana Balachandhran

RAMANA BALACHANDHRAN CONCERTS

Ramana Balachandhran, a musical prodigy and ardent devotee of Bhagavan, presented two remarkable veena concerts dedicated to Bhagavan and Sri Ramanasramam for the centenary celebration. Accompanied by Sri Patri Satish Kumar on the Mridangam and Sri J.SowmiyaNarayanan on the Ghatam, these concerts were marked by brilliance and devotion.

Ramana performed in California and in Washington DC. Both performances earned high praise, drawing over 300 attendees at each venue. The audience was captivated by Ramana's exceptional talent and musical genius. Focused exclusively on songs related to Bhagavan, these concerts served as a gateway for many music enthusiasts to discover Bhagavan and the Ashram through the medium of Ramana's music.

As Ramana continues his musical journey, we extend our heartfelt wishes for his continued success in the decades to come.

The video of the concert in DC can be accessed [here](#).

MUSIC ALBUM BY CALIFORNIA DEVOTEES

On the occasion of the centenary celebrations of Sri Ramanasramam, devotees from the San Francisco Bay Area Ramana Satsang composed and presented "Sri Ramana Thiruthondar Thogai," a musical offering featuring a set of 20 prayer verses honoring 108 devotees of Bhagavan. These verses drew inspiration from Sri Sundaramurthy Nayanar's Thiruthondar Thogai, which celebrates the names of the 63 Shaivite saints, and Sri Ramana Periya Puranam, a collection of biographies of 75 of Bhagavan's devotees authored by Sri V. Ganesan.



Music Album Video

The video can be accessed [here](#) and the lyrics can be found [here](#).



Tampa Retreat Altar

TAMPA RETREAT

Tampa is home to Bhagavan's Old Hall in the west. The Hall's construction drew inspiration from Dr. Samy and his wife, Mathy, with valuable contributions from devoted individuals such as Dennis Hartel, Jim Hartel, Rohit Vaidya, and Dr. Venkat Ramanan. This hall stands as a masterful replica of the original hall where Bhagavan resided for over two decades. For the centenary celebration, over 60 devotees congregated in Tampa from December 28th to

January 1st for a spiritual retreat. The retreat commenced with a special puja at the Tampa Hindu temple on the evening of December 28th. Over the subsequent four days, the program included discourses on Upadesa Saram, lectures by devoted individuals, musical performances, and sessions for chanting and meditation. The Sri Ramana Thiruthondar Thogai music album showcasing 108 devotees of Bhagavan, created by devotees in California, was officially released during the event.

Dr. Venkat Ramanan, President of Sri Ramanasramam, delivered a captivating presentation featuring compelling photos showcasing the Ashram's evolution over the past 100 years. Special programs were organized for children, who actively participated and planted a tree outside the Old Hall to commemorate the centenary. The video link to some of the talks can be accessed [here](#).

JAYANTHI, ARADHANA AND ADVENT

The Satsang groups in California and Washington DC 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). SRMH had the privilege of inviting the President of Sri Ramanasramam, Dr. Venkat Ramanan, to the US for the centenary celebration. Dr. Ramanan delivered inspiring addresses, emphasizing the enduring presence of Bhagavan and outlining his vision for the Ashram. The celebrations featured performances by children, musical and dance presentations, and the recitation of the Vedas. Devotees relished sumptuous lunch offerings at the conclusion of the programs. All in attendance experienced a profound sense of togetherness, unified by the grace of Bhagavan.

The video links to Dr. Ramanan's addresses can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#).



San Francisco Bay Area Satsang devotees at Advent



Jayanthi celebration



Washington DC Satsang devotees and children at Advent celebration



COIMBATORE- JULY 2023

Devotees in Coimbatore celebrated the Ashram centenary with immense enthusiasm. The Ashram President, Dr. Venkat Ramanan, graced the occasion, delivering a beautiful address on the significance of satsangs. Dr. Ramanan spoke eloquently about the magic that unfolds when devotees come together to celebrate their Master, underscoring the deep sense of unity and spiritual resonance that permeates such congregations. The program included talks by other members of the kendra and a music program. Lunch was served to all present.

The video link to the entire program can be accessed [here](#)

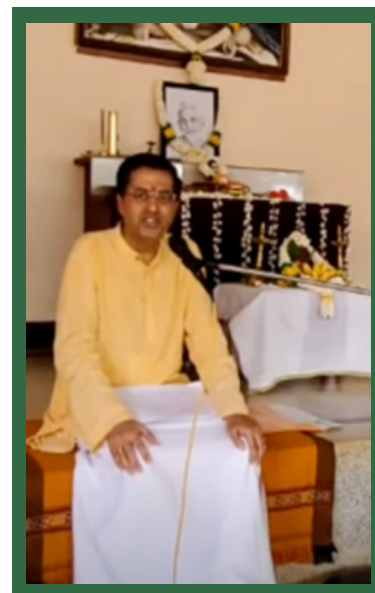
DELHI-AUGUST 2023

Ramana Kendra Delhi celebrated the Ashram centenary by welcoming the Ashram President, Dr. Venkat Ramanan and his family. Dr. Ramanan, in an informal address, shared insights into the significance of satsang and the teachings of Bhagavan, captivating the hearts of all present. The program also included a musical performance led by Dr. Vijay Vancheswar, and soulful renditions by Dr. Nitya, the President's wife, and Smt. Sushila Ramanan, the President's mother. The celebration culminated in a sumptuous dinner served to all attendees.

The video link to Dr. Ramanan's address can be accessed [here](#).

JAFFNA, SRILANKA - AUGUST 2023

Ramanalayam, situated in the northern Sri Lankan village of Kadduvan, Tellippalai, was established in 2019. The center observed a day-long celebration to commemorate the Ashram's centenary, graced by the presence of Dr. Venkat Ramanan, President of Sri Ramanasramam, and Sri S. Krishnan, Ashram Trustee. Dr. Ramanan delivered an eloquent speech on the essence of Bhagavan's Atma Vichara teaching. His speech, delivered in both English and Tamil, was captivating and stood out as the highlight of the day. The program also featured talks by Dr. M. Jeyarajan, the chairperson for Saraswathy Illam Ramanalayam, Prof K. Balasubramaniam, the President of Saraswathy Illam, and Swami Gunatitananda Saraswathy of Chinmaya Mission. Following the talks, devotees were treated to a sumptuous lunch prepared by the staff and volunteers. The video link to the entire program can be accessed [here](#)



Dr. Venkat Ramanan at Jaffna Celebrations

CHENNAI- SEPTEMBER 2023

As part of the Centenary celebrations and Advent Day on September 1, 2023, the Ashram President, Dr. Venkat Ramanan, delivered an enlightening talk at Modern Senior Secondary School in Nanganallur, Chennai. Addressing a gathering of 200 students, the President emphasized the portability of self-enquiry, highlighting its practice as a source of calmness that can be embraced anywhere. The program featured a delightful music performance by children and concluded with an address by the President of the Nanganallur Ramana Kendra. Lunch was served to all.

The video link to Dr. Ramanan's address can be accessed [here](#).

TIRUNELVELI-SEPTEMBER 2023

Devotees at the Ramana Kendram in Tirunelveli joyously celebrated the Ashram centenary. The program featured an insightful talk by the Ashram President, Dr. Venkat Ramanan. Sri Prabhakaran and his team led a delightful music program. Ashram trustee, Sri Krishnan, delivered the concluding address. Lunch was served to all.

The video link to the entire program can be accessed [here](#).

MADURAI- NOVEMBER 2023

Devotees at Ramana Mandiram in Madurai joyously celebrated the Ashram centenary. The program featured insightful talks by the Ashram President, Dr. Venkat Ramanan, the Ashram trustee, Sri Krishnan, and distinguished IAS officer, Dr. Tiruppugazh. Karthik Raja. Dr.Raja's team led a delightful music program that heightened the atmosphere of spiritual joy.

The video link to the entire program can be accessed [here](#).

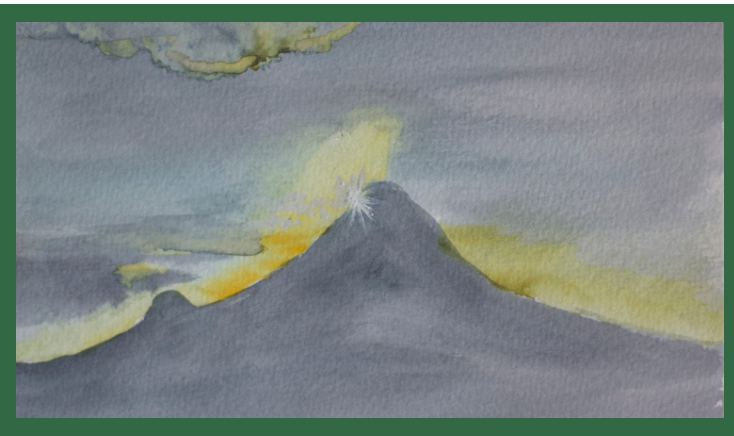
HYDERABAD- FEBRAUARY 2024

The Ramana Kendra in Hyderabad was established by Dr. K. Subramanian in 1979. To commemorate the centenary of Sri Ramanasramam, the Kendra organized a day-long special satsang. The esteemed President of Sri Ramanasramam, Dr. S. Venkat Ramanan, delivered the keynote address. Other presentations were made by Ashram Trustee Sri Krishnan, Kendra members Sri Hari Rao and Sri N. Ram Mohan, as well as members of the editorial board of the Mountain Path, Sri V. Krithivasan and Sri S. Ram Mohan. The program featured devotional bhajans performed by members of Sri Ramanasramam and devoted followers in the Kendra.

During the event, a new book titled "Sri Ramana Margam Anusaraneeyam" in Telugu was released, and the Kendra's updated website was launched. A sumptuous lunch was served, and devotees rejoiced in their remembrance of Bhagavan.

MUMBAI- MARCH 2024

Devotees in Mumbai are planning a grand centenary celebration in March.



Guru's grace is always there.

-BHAGAVAN

MUSIC CONCERTS AT THE ASHRAM

As part of the Sri Ramanasramam Centenary Celebrations, a memorable debut Ashram performance was held on 28th August 2023 in the Dakshinamurthi Auditorium, featuring Sri Sangeet Mishra and Sri Lalit Kumar. Approximately 150 attendees were present to witness their inaugural performance. The artists were honored with prasad, including Centenary shawls adorned with the Ashram Centenary Year logo.

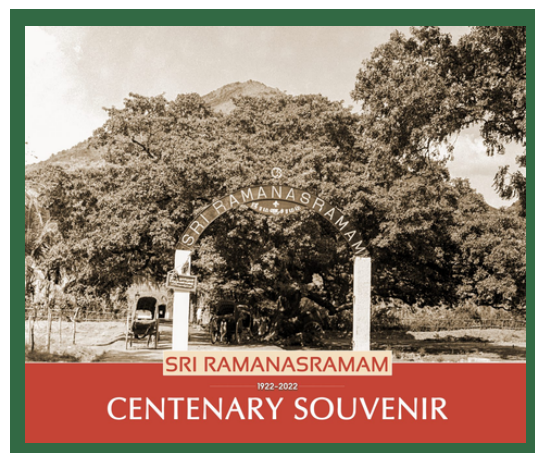
On 26th December 2023, Thanjavur Sri N. Srinivasan, accompanied by Madurai M. Vijay Ganesh on violin and K. Madheshwaran on mridangam, presented the Harikatha titled "Sri Ramana Vijayam," based on Sri Embar's original Nirupanam.

On the evening of Saturday, 20th January 2024, Kalaimamani Sri Sikkil Gucharan Srinivasan took the stage for a captivating performance. He was accompanied on the violin by Sri Sayee Rakshith, on the keyboard by Sri Ravi G, and on percussion by Sri Sarvesh Karthick, creating an enchanting musical experience for the audience.

CENTENARY SOUVENIR

A visually stunning homage to Bhagavan Ramana and his Ashram in the format of a coffee table book was released in January. The book showcases over 400 photographs and includes articles in English, Tamil, Hindi, Gujarati, Malayalam and Telugu.

Meticulously chronicling the evolution of Sri Ramanasramam, the book traces its journey from a modest single hut in 1922 to the expansive structure it became in 2023. Priced at Rs.1000, the book offers a tangible connection to the remarkable history and teachings encapsulated within the sacred grounds of Sri Ramanasramam.



Souvenir Book Cover

The book can be ordered online [here](https://www.srmh.org).

TALKS AT THE ASHRAM

From 3-5th February, discourses on “Sri Ramana Tattva Bhodha” were given by Dr. Garikipati Narasimha Rao in Telugu at the Granthalaya auditorium in celebration of Sri Ramanasramam’s Centenary Year. On the morning of the 26th February a discourse on “Bhagavan Ramanula Vaibhavam” was given by Brahmāsri Dr. Chaganti Koteswara Rao. All the events were well-attended and prasāda for all attendees was served afterward.

The video links to both programs can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#).

In a series of talks titled ‘Arunachalamu Ramanachalamu’ from the 14th-18th August, Sri Samavedam Shanmukha Sarma, a renowned spiritual teacher and a Sri Vidya upasaka, discussed the significance and glory of Arunachala, and the immeasurable love and respect Bhagavan had for the sacred Hill. Sri Sarma concluded his five days of talks at the Granthalaya auditorium with a call for compassion, devotion and realization of the divine essence in all aspects of life.

The video link to the entire program can be accessed [here](#).



Brahmāsri Dr. Chaganti Koteswara Rao

- The complete Sri Ramana Sannidhi Murai in Tamil. This new edition also contains the shorter work, Ramana Devamalai and contains final corrections made by Bhagavan and Muruganar. It also includes reproductions of Bhagavan's handwritten copies of pages from Muruganar's magnum opus.
- Bhaje Ramana Namam, a music recording on songs from Sri Ramana Sannidhi Murai, vol II, (retaining the 'call and response' style of vol I with musical arrangements and voice by Sangeetha and Swaminathan Venkataraman)
- Ramana's Children... Of All Ages by the Harvard child psychiatrist and devotee, Dr.Carlos Lopez.
- Tamil translations of Spiritual Stories as Told by Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi and of Ramana's Arunachala, Ocean of Grace.
- A chronicle of the experiences of Sub-Registrar Narayana Iyer with Bhagavan entitled, To See God is to Become God
- Two Gujarati translations of Who Am I? and of Maharshi's Gospel.
- Dr. Sanjay Raghav's Journey to the Heart of Devotion, a collection of transcribed talks from the Melbourne Satsang meetings
- Veda Parayana – Book that contains the Sanskrit verses, English transliteration and the English translation
- Gujarati translations of Bhagavan Ramana by T.M.P. Mahadevan and of Sat Darshan by Jagadisha Swami
- Bengali translation of Suri Nagamma's 'Letters from Sri Ramanasramam'

All books can be ordered online [here](https://www.srmh.org).

INVITED TALKS: CHINMAYA MISSION, CHENNAI- JUNE 2023

The Ashram President, Dr. Venkat Ramanan, was honored to be invited as a speaker for the 108th Jayanti Celebrations of Swami Chinmayananda, part of the Memorial Talk Series 2023-24 held at Tapovan Hall, Chinmaya Heritage Centre in Chennai. The topic was, “The dynamic silence of Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi”. In his eloquent address, Dr. Ramanan shed light on the profound inspiration drawn by Swami Chinmayananda and his Guru, Swami Tapovan Maharaj, from their visits to Bhagavan as young teenagers. He emphasized the deep respect they held for Bhagavan.

Expressing gratitude to Chinmaya Mission for disseminating Bhagavan’s teachings across all their centers, Dr. Ramanan delved into how Bhagavan represents the highest reality and the essence of all scriptures. He touched upon the exemplary life of Bhagavan, showcasing how a master can embody perfect detachment even while in mortal form.

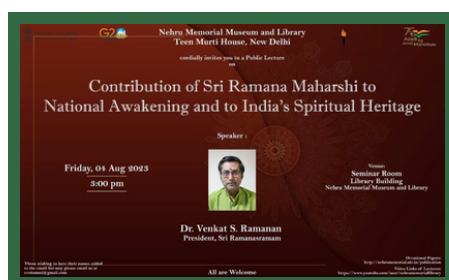
The video link to Dr. Ramanan's insightful address can be accessed [here](#).

INVITED TALKS: PRIME MINISTER’S MUSEUM AND LIBRARY- AUGUST 2023

Dr. Venkat Ramanan, President of Sri Ramanasramam, delivered an invited talk on the topic “Contributions of Sri Ramana Maharshi to National Awakening and to India’s Spiritual Heritage”. The event took place at the Prime Minister’s Museum and Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi.

Dr. Ramanan's talk was warmly received and drew attention to the silent contribution of the Sage of Arunachala to the spiritual regeneration of India. The library was filled to capacity, with standing room only. Dr. Ramanan engaged in a Q&A session at the conclusion of his talk, providing clear and knowledgeable responses to the questions posed.

The video link to Dr. Ramanan's insightful address can be accessed [here](#).



Invitation for Dr. Venkat Ramanan's talk at Prime minister's Museum and Library

INVITED TALKS: INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY(IIT) DELHI- AUGUST 2023

IIT Delhi is the first university to offer a course centered on the teachings of Bhagavan. Titled "Practicing the Teachings of Ramana Maharishi," this course has swiftly gained popularity among students on campus. In a special event, the institute extended an invitation to the Ashram President, Dr. Venkat Ramanan, to address students and conduct a Q&A session.

During his engaging session, Dr. Ramanan expounded on Bhagavan's path of self-enquiry, highlighting it as the most practical method for navigating the challenges of the modern world. The interaction between Dr. Ramanan, students, and professors left everyone delighted, fostering a deeper understanding of the profound teachings of Bhagavan within the academic community.

COIN AND STAMP RELEASE

The Government of India is planning to release a coin and stamp to commemorate the Ashram's centenary, in May 2024.

FILM AND TV SERIES

The Ashram has generously granted permission for the creation of a Kannada movie on Bhagavan, to be directed by a renowned filmmaker.

Bombay Chanakya has been granted permission to produce a thirteen-episode TV series on Bhagawan.

These collaborative efforts aim to bring the teachings and life of Bhagavan to a wider audience through the cinematic and television mediums.

ENVIRONMENTAL WORK: PANDAVA TIRTHAM AND TEMPLE RENOVATION

Pandava Thirtham holds a special place in the history of the Ashram as Bhagavan swam in its sacred waters. Located in close proximity to the Ashram, this site is historically significant as it served as the residence for the Pandavas during their wandering years in exile, when they reached Tiruvannamalai. In 2017, the thirtham underwent extensive renovation.

In recent years, the temple bearing the Pandavas' name required restoration, and the Ashram took the initiative to fully fund and supervise the comprehensive renovation of this ancient site and temple. The Mahakumbhabhishekham ceremony marked a significant milestone in the revitalization of the sacred place. After a gap of 64 years, on the early morning of January 17th, 2024, Lord Arunachaleswarar graced the temple with His presence. Ashram President, Dr.Venkat Ramanan, and Ashram devotees were present to receive the divine procession.

NEW GUEST HOUSE

The inauguration of the new Ashram guest house, located in Osborne Lane, took place on the morning of 9th November. Named "Sonadri: Swami Ramanananda Centenary Building", this newly constructed three-storied complex has twenty-one double rooms, complemented by a convenient parking facility on the ground floor. Additionally, each floor features an optional family room, comprising two double rooms interconnected by a shared door.

Video coverage of the inauguration is included [here](#).



Sonadri building and Inauguration Pooja