

SAMUHIKA GURU PUJANA BY PRARTHANA VARGA

In early 2010, Shri Sudhir Balwally (of Talmakiwadi) proposed that Samuhika Guru Pujana by Prarthana Varga children from all Sabhas could be organised at an appropriate venue and occasion. After initial discussions amongst a few Prarthana teachers, Smt. Archana Savnal placed this proposal before Parama Pujya Swamiji and obtained His approval. Sudhirmam was appointed as the Project Manager for this event to be held during Pujya Swamiji's Camp at Santacruz Sabha in October 2010.

Sudhirmam's eye for detail left nothing to chance and he meticulously planned this project under the guidance of Pujya Swamiji. He travelled extensively before selecting the most appropriate pujana articles for the children. The children were delighted to receive the pujana kits which comprised of beautiful chaurangs and sparkling tiny copper and brass items selected from Mumbai and Udipi. Over 200 such sets were packed in bright red made-to-order bags and distributed to Prarthana Centres across the country. Asanas too were sent later to all the children.

While this process was on, Prarthana teachers in various Sabhas were trained to teach the children to perform the Shodashopachara Pujana in the correct manner. Sudhir maam also standardised placement of pujana articles to bring about uniformity. Practice sessions were conducted daily for a fortnight at all centres during the summer vacation. This was followed by weekly practice sessions.



At last, the D-day arrived- Friday, 29th October 2010. The massive and tastefully decorated pandal at Santacruz provided adequate accommodation to the 117 Prarthana children aged between 5 to 15 years who arrived from 15 Mumbai Centres. The asanas were arranged well in advance in 15 rows. Each row accomodating 5 to 6 children so that Pujya Swamiji could view each child as he/she performed Guru pujana. The children arranged their own pujana samagri with colourful flowers. Some teachers volunteered to light the lamps, artis, etc.

With the arrival of Pujya Swamiji at 6.15 p.m., the function commenced with the chanting of the Sabha Prarambha Prarthana. 28 Prarthana Varga children of Mumbai and 1 child from Pune (age: 5 to 8 years old) recited Shri Parijnanashram Trayodashi and "Dhyana Shloka" of Guru Pujana. 88 children above the age of 8 years then performed Shodashopachara Guru Pujana with full concentration and confidence as Sudhirmam chanted the shlokas on the mike. The video camera captured the beautiful moments and mudras done by the little pujaka-s.

Simultaneously 74 Prarthana children performed Guru pujana and 31 children recited Shri Parijnanashram Trayodashi and “Dhyana Shloka” of Guru Pujana at 11 centres outside Mumbai. This was achieved through communication by cell phones by 11 appointed volunteers at Santacruz who asked each of these Centre teachers to be ready by 5.30pm and wait for their call to co-ordinate the Sabha Prarambha time. As the conch was blown to announce Parama Pujya Swamiji's arrival in the pandal, these volunteers informed these Centres who had been waiting for the green signal. Prarthana student Anika Misra performed Guru pujana in Chicago, USA though not at the same time as it was not practically possible due to the time difference.

Seating arrangements had been made for proud parents and other devotees to watch the entire proceedings. Nearly 100 lamps and aartis added to the beauty of the well-lit pandal of “BHRAJITOTSAVA” – a festival filled with lustre.

This unique and spectacular event planned so meticulously and executed in the august presence of Parama Pujya Swamiji was appreciated by one and all. In His Upadesha, Pujya Swamiji expressed his joy and complimented all the children for the efforts put in by them. The children had applied their mind and body for nearly an hour and displayed a sense of discipline which was bound to help them in their lives. Pujya Swamiji lucidly explained to the children the significance of puja and to experience the joy during puja and their connection with God and the Guru. Later, Pujya Swamiji blessed each child with “SADHANA PANCHAKAM” books and chocolates.



Out of the total 260 Prarthana children from all over India and USA who had registered for the Guru puja project, 223 could actually participate in this event on Friday, 29th October 2010.

We offer the success of this entire mega-event at the lotus feet of our Sadguru Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji, who inspired and guided us at every step.

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Please check the Centre-wise reports for more details