

BACKGROUND

Located on the shores of the Bay of Bengal, Visakha-patnam has been drawing the attention of people of every stratum from several Millennia. Now it is an important port city with headquarters of Eastern Naval Command, a mega steel Plant, world class medical and educational facilities. Thus Visakhapatnam is called the jewel of the east coast and "City of Destiny"! In 1930s, when Vizag was still a small town, mostly inhabited by fishermen community, Ramakrishna Mission was started especially for the uplift of these neglected masses.

Sri Ramakrishna, who was proclaimed as a Yugavata, was born in 1836. Swami Vivekananda, His chief disciple established Ramakrishna Math and Mission with headquarters at Belur Math, District Howrah, West Bengal, in 1897. At present the twin organizations have 181 centres spread all over India and abroad.

VISAKHAPATNAM CENTRE

Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi had exclaimed 'what a nice place' while passing through Visakhapatnam in 1911. The seed, in a way, for a branch centre of this Ramakrishna Mission at Visakhapatnam was sown by Swami Shivanandaji (Mahapurush Maharaj) the second President of Ramakrishna Math and Mission, when he visited and stayed in the city for a few days on his way to Madras in 1924. Later on, in 1938, a centre of Ramakrishna Mission germinated under the leadership of Swami Nishreyasanandaji, and with the patronage of a devout businessman Sri Kancharla Ramabrahmam. The centre was affiliated to Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math in 1939. The centre which started only in a hut with a free hostel for a few poor students of fishermen community blossomed into a full-fledged centre with multifarious activities.

PRESENT ACTIVITIES

At present, the centre, spanning over an area of about 3.5 acres on the Ramakrishna Beach, has grown into an institution to spread the ideals of Ramakrishna-Vivekananda in Andhra Pradesh.

1. A Universal temple of Sri Ramakrishna : To conduct various spiritual activities like Pooja, Arati, Bhajans, Satsangs, discourse on religious topics etc.

ASHRAMA



● Ashrama - 1941



● Inauguration of Temple - 1991



● Swami Virajanandaji - 1946



● Devotees at Temple

2. Ramakrishna Mission High School : A Government recognized English Medium Co-ed school from LKG to Xth standard with strength of about 900. The school has its spacious campus in Maharani-peta near Collectorate. The school, functioning since 1958, caters for the economically disadvantaged section of the society.

3. Cerebral Palsy Clinic : With facilities like yoga, physiotherapy, speech therapy, hydrotherapy etc, clinic renders services to the palsied children at free of cost since 1997.

4. Eye camps : Occasional Free eye camps are conducted in the rural areas from time to time.

5. Weekly Rural Dispensary : Weekly mobile camps are conducted in rural areas providing free treatment and medicines.

6. Library & Reading Room : A public library with a childrens' section, reference section and magazine section with total number of books over 18000. Admission to reading room is free.

SCHOOL



● Assembly



● Dr. S. Radhakrishnan at School - 1961



● School - 1958



● School Buildings

7. Exhibition : An exquisite Doll Exhibition depicting the lives and teachings of Sri Ramakrishna, Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda is an added attraction in the Ashrama. Entry to the exhibition is free.

8. Book Stall : For sale of Ramakrishna-Vivekananda-Vedanta literature.

9. Discourses : Discourses are conducted at the Ashrama, and also in the other areas of the city, on scriptures and the lives of holy trio.

10. Youth Orientation Classes : On every Sunday personality Development classes are held with chanting, yoga, etc., for youth (boys only).

11. Value-Education classes : Value education classes are being conducted in various schools and colleges, in and around Visakhapatnam to empower students with the message of strength propagated by Swami Vivekananda.

CULTURAL



● Book Stall



● Clay Model Exhibition



● Library



● Personality Development Class

CELEBRATIONS



● Ashrama Platinum Jubilee - 2014



● Platinum Jubilee - Procession



● Temple Silver Jubilee - 2015



● Performance in Temple Silver Jubilee-2015

HUDHUD CYCLONE RELIEF



● Water Supply Project



● Water Relief



● Food Distribution



● Solar Light and Blanket Distribution

12. Relief and Rehabilitation : Besides these regular activities, the centre undertakes extensive **Relief Works** such as Flood relief, Fire relief, Cyclone relief, Distress relief etc. in times of need. In the wake of severe **Cyclone HUDHUD** that hit Vizag in Oct 2014, the Mission conducted extensive relief by way of providing drinking water in various localities of the city with three tankers, distribution of food articles to 3500 families, and distribution of Solar Lamps with cell charging facilities to 8300 families in rural areas. Ashrama also constructed a non formal education centre in a distant Walabu village. Anganwadi programmes are held daily and free tailoring training for women are being conducted apart from the regular mobile medical services in the above centre. A project to supply waters from the natural springs, located at long distances, up to the villages with HDP pipes was also implemented. The amount spent in these operations was Rs. 140 Lakhs.

NATIONAL YOUTH DAY



● National Youth Day 2016 - Audience



● A P Chief Minister on Youth Day 2016



● Summer Camp



● Teachers' Workshop

MEDICAL



● Cerebral Palsy Clinic



● Children at Cerebral Palsy Clinic



● Free Eye Camp



● Mobile Medical Service

The 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was celebrated with wide ranging programmes from 2011 to 2014.

In 2014 Ashrama Completed 75 years. As part of the **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations** Ashrama conducted Teachers' workshop, Competitions for school students, Youth convention, Puppet shows on Swami Vivekananda, and concluded with an all Andhra-Telangana Bhakata Sammelan in which more than 3000 devotees and 70 monks participated. In 2015 the Ashrama celebrated the **Silver Jubilee of the Temple dedication** with various programmes.

All the progress and projects were possible because of the whole hearted support of our devotees, donors, well-wishers, volunteers and other agencies. While thanking them profusely, we look forward to their continued support for further development of Ramakrishna Mission Centre.

10th March, 2016

Birthday Tithi Puja of

Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna

Swami Atmavidananda

Secretary

RURAL DEVELOPMENT



● Anganwadi



● Non Formal Education Centre at Walabu

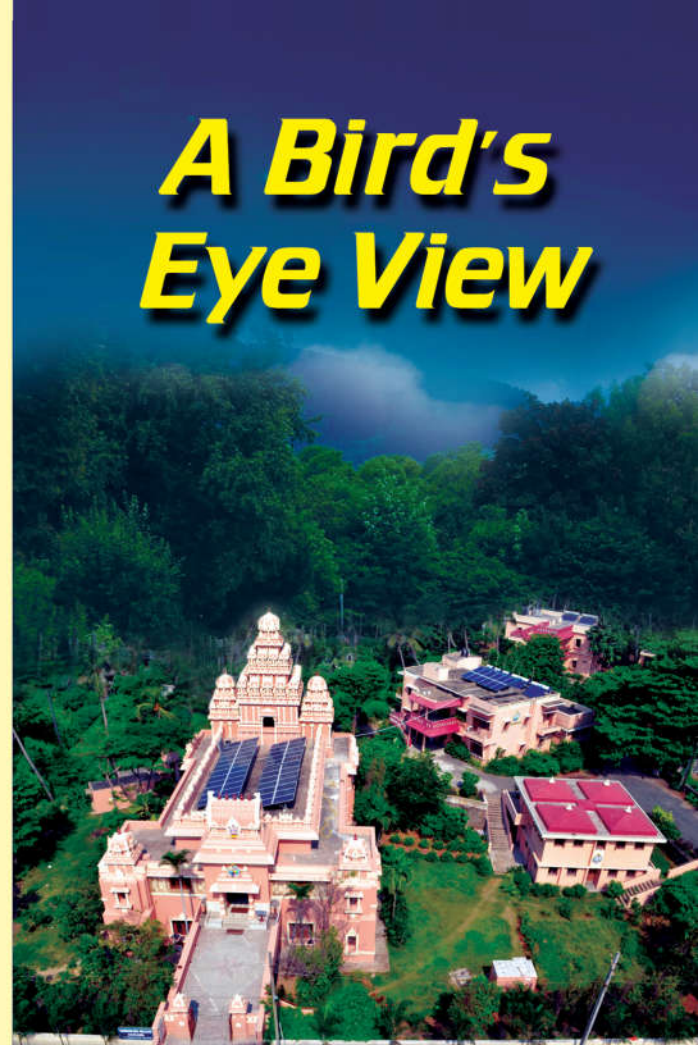


● Tailoring Training



● Value Education Class

A Bird's Eye View



ASHRAMA PANORAMIC VIEW



RAMAKRISHNA MISSION ASHRAMA

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