

Aug 31.03

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वेदोऽखिलो धर्ममूलम् । वेदो नित्यमधीयताम् । वेदाः वयं वः शरणं प्रपन्नाः । वेदा ये नः परं धनम् ।



Advaitha Vidyacharya Maharaja Saheb
SRI GOVINDA DEEKSHITHAR
PUNYA SMARANA SAMITHI (REGD.)
 "SRI GOVINDA BHAVANAM"
 Office : No. 89, (Old No. 42) Kamakshi Josier Street,
 KUMBAKONAM, Thanjavur Dt. Tamil Nadu - 612 001. S. India.
 Tel. No. (0435) 2425948- Fax No. (0435) 2423 777
 E-mail : vedagdps@sancharnet.in
 Website : www.geocities.com/gdpskmu

An Appeal For the Preservation of Vedas and Sastras
for posterity under ancient traditional Gurukula System.

The Raja Veda Kavya Patasala, Kumbakonam was established in the year 1542 by the illustrious statesman - administrator Saint Advaitha Vidyacharya Maharaja Saheb Bhagawan Sri Govinda Deekshithar who was the Chief Minister to the three successive Naik Rulers of Tanjore, on the Southern Banks of the Sacred River Cauvery for the spread of Vedas and Shastras. This is the only Patasala in Tamilnadu and perhaps in the whole of India, where all the three Vedas viz., RIG YAJUS (Sukla & Krishna) and SAMA are taught with a Govt. of India prescribed syllabus under one roof to young students who are admitted at the tender age between 8-10 years. The students undergo training for a period ranging from seven to twelve years (higher learning) and they are given free boarding, lodging, clothing etc.

After successful completion of their respective courses they are given encouragement for taking higher studies on Vedas and Shastras by highly qualified Adhyapakas of our patasala. To overcome the problem of growing expenses of our Patasala, donations are accepted under the following schemes which are exempt U/S 80 G of I T Act

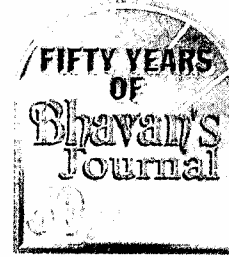
Name of the Schemes	Donation (Part expenses)	* Corpus' fund for endowment
Lunch feeding (Samaradhana) to Vedic vidyarthi (Homely meals)	500/=	
Dwadasis or Amavasya or Pournami (with Special meal) (One specific (the Above said) day of a particular month in a year)	1500/=	
For Rice & Dhal : (75 Kgs)	1,000/=	* See the note below.
For education : Vedas & Shastras - (Siksha/Rakshana)	12,000/= P.A. (Per Student)	

*Donation amount is not altered. But owing to reduction in interest yield from Banks, any amount which yields an amount equivalent to above donation can be endowed as 'Corpus' fund.

In order to cope up with the increase in strength of new entrants, construction work of a new patasala building (13,500 Sq.ft.) which is nearing completion at an estimated cost of Rs. 80 lakhs. (It will be ready for occupation by October 2003). Donations are solicited.

Donations by A/c payee crossed D.D./ Cheque may please be drawn in favour of A.V.M.S.G.D.P.S. Samithi, payable at Kumbakonam. (Please Correspond to the President & Treasurer to the above address)

Donate liberally for noble Vedic cause.



**Towards Fulfilment
 of Swaraj**
 R. Venkataraman

August 15 is a date with an emotional appeal. It reverberates with echoes of the immortal slogans of our freedom struggle: the celebrated call of Mahatma Gandhi: 'Do or Die'; the declaration of Lokmanya Tilak: 'Swaraj is my Birthright'; the song of Subramania Bharati: *Viduthalai! Viduthalai!* and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's vibrant order of the day: *Dilli Chalo*. Above all, August 15 brings to mind the image of Jawaharlal Nehru, with his radiant enthusiasm for our future, hoisting the

national flag on the ramparts of the Red Fort.

We are also reminded of the song on the Flag that was sung throughout the country during



R. Venkataraman

“A democracy is likely to degenerate into a tyranny if it does not allow the opposition groups to criticize fairly, freely and frankly the policies of the Government. But at the same time... their right of criticism should not degenerate into wilful hampering and obstruction of the work of Parliament.”

S. Radhakrishnan

our long and arduous struggle.

विजयी विश्व तिरंगा प्यारा
झंडा ऊंचा रहे हमारा

Let us pay our reverential homage to the heroic leaders who fought under that banner. Let us also pay our homage to the countless foot-soldiers of the struggle who fought in its various phases, sacrificing their homes, studies and jobs for the satisfaction of achieving Swaraj.

Gandhiji once said: “The word ‘swaraj’ is a sacred word, a *Vedic* word, meaning self-rule

and self-restraint, and not freedom from restraint which ‘independence’ often means.”

As we look back over the five decades of Swaraj we can derive legitimate pride over the fact that self-rule has come to be truly and firmly established in our country. The democratic form of governance-which is based on the principle of self-restraint-has taken firm and unshakable root in our soil. Eight general elections have been held in the country since Independence, apart from numerous other elections to State legislatures and individual by-elections. All these have shown the maturity and decisiveness of the Indian electorate. The Indian voter has, indeed, become conscious of his political rights and though he may be unlettered and wearing the humblest of clothes, he is using the electoral process skilfully for democratic self-expression.

A polity has thus come into being in India which represents and reflects Indian opinion in

all its vibrant diversity: a *Kalpataru* of democratic opportunity.

The tree of Indian democracy is today strong of root and large of girth. But like all trees this one also attracts the illicit woodcutter’s eye. I refer to certain elements in our society which, for their selfish and narrow ends, seek to undercut and undermine the electoral process. No words can be too strong to condemn the saboteurs of parliamentary democracy in our country. To interfere with and thereby seek to thwart the mechanism of the ballot is to lay an axe at the very foundations of our polity. Political parties whether ruling or in opposition have a grave responsibility for ensuring fair and free elections.

I would appeal to all parties to remember Gandhiji’s words about the twin ingredients of Swaraj, namely, self-rule and self-restraint. Let all political parties and groups make sure that no one acting in their name takes liberties with election procedures. Election ethics are not a matter

of procedure alone; they are the veritable life-breath of the political system which our people have given unto themselves. Free and fair elections are the fountainheads of democracy. Let not the source be sullied.

I would also like to share with fellow-citizens my fervent hope that the elected representatives of our people will always so act as to justify the trust reposed in them. I am reminded, on this occasion, of a statement made by Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan on the day he assumed the office of Chairman of the Rajya Sabha:

“A democracy is likely to degenerate into a tyranny if it does not allow the opposition groups to criticize fairly, freely and frankly the policies of the Government. But at the same time... their right of criticism should not degenerate into wilful hampering and obstruction of the work of Parliament.”

These words of our sagacious former President, whose birth centenary falls this year, deserve our deepest attention. The functioning of our legislatures

ought to be a source of inspiration and encouragement to our people in the face of their many challenges.

As you are aware, the rhythms of normal activity in some parts of the country have been repeatedly disrupted by terrorist attacks which leave a trail of innocent blood. Simple men, women and children who have nothing to do with politics, much less with the politics of extremism, are the victims of these attacks. The killings in Punjab, of those who have spoken up for communal harmony and the unity of our country, has caused the greatest anguish to me. Government is, of course, addressing itself to the task of meeting the terrorist challenge at many levels.

But violence cannot be met or countered by any quarter other than by the people themselves refusing to be cowed down into fear or hatred. I would urge our people to continue to hold fast to the values of tolerance, friendship and amity that have marked our national life down the ages. Let communal hatreds which are

aberrations in our national life, belong to the past. And may peace prevail in the country.

The outlook for world peace, has taken a positive turn. In the area of disarmament, the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the INF Treaty at the Moscow Summit has been a welcome development. There is a growing realisation by all the peoples and almost all the governments of the world, of the urgent need to rid the world of nuclear weapons. It is to further this objective that India proposed a time-bound Action Plan for ushering in a nuclear weapon-free and nonviolent world order at the recently held Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament. The Action Plan gives operational form to the principles and ideals of the Five Continent Peace Initiative and the Nonaligned Movement.

The Plan underscores our belief that nonviolence and the principle of peaceful coexistence are crucial to the

world and, particularly, to the developing countries. Our country cannot afford to divert its energies from the tasks of development.

This year the monsoons have been favourable. I am confident that widespread and copious rains will restore the pace of progress in all sectors. While the overall position in respect of the monsoons is heartening, the havoc caused by floods in some states have distressed us all deeply. They point, once more, to the need for a long-term plan for

dealing with such natural calamities. Be it disaster-relief or disaster-avoidance, or be it any other area of activity, the agencies of the State and the people must pool their resources and work together. Nationhood consists of a partnership between the people of a country and its government.

This partnership cannot function without both proceeding in unison. Let us march, shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand, towards the fulfillment of Swaraj through self-rule and self-restraint.



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