

Centenary Closing Celebration in Cuttack - India, 24th - 27th May

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The yearlong Birth Centenary Celebration of Gurudev Paramahansa Hariharanandaji held in over hundred locations around the globe came to a grand conclusion with the closing ceremony held at Cuttack, Orissa.

The city of Cuttack took on a festive appearance with special arched decorated gates on the four sides of the city to welcome the many children of Gurudev. The six day event of the closing ceremony of Gurudev Baba Hariharanandaji was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor stadium. Elaborate and meticulous arrangements were made in the areas of press and public relations, accommodations of guests, transportation, and reception to welcome the delegates from around the globe.

Huge sign boards announcing the event were seen in all prominent locations. Reception committees worked around the clock at the Airport and Railway stations. The local support from the municipal and police departments, district administration and the press were tremendous.

Schools and stadiums lent their support in housing the guests and providing venues for the multifarious activities that were organized. Food was provided for all participants on all the days of the program.

All ceremonies were organized under the auspices of Prajnana Mission and presided over by Paramahansa Prajnananandaji, the successor of Gurudev and the president of Kriya Yoga International.

24th May: Nagara Sankirtan



As a prelude to the five day seminar to be held from the 25th to 29th of May, on the 24th of May beginning at 5 pm, a grand Nagar Sankirtan was held in the City. The procession of the 'chariots of Love' carrying the pictures of Lord Jagannath, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Gurudev Paramahansa Hariharanandaji to the accompaniment of devotional music, playing of instruments and blowing of the conches through most parts of the city to

reach Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium was a scene of great love and devotion. At the lead of the 10 kilometre walk was Paramahansa Prajnananandaji followed by several monks, yogacharyas and kriyavans carrying flags and banners of Kriya Yoga.

Several local bhajan groups participated also joined in to honour Gurudev. An estimated five thousand people participated in the auspicious event which was proclaimed as the most organized and peaceful procession that the city has ever seen.



The Five Day Seminar-May 25-29

An early morning Yogasana class was open to the public on the ground of the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium.

Every evening at 5 pm, was a public program of Mahasatsang and Bhajan Sandhya in the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium. A full day program of meditations, spiritual discourses and interactive sessions were held for the Kriyavans at the different locations. Close to 400 people were initiated into Kriya Yoga by the monks and acharyas of the Kriya lineage. An Interfaith Conference was held on the morning of the 27th.



25th-29th May: Mahasatsang

The Mahasatsang each evening started at 5pm at the JHIS a land mark of the city that could accommodate several thousands of people. The stadium was decorated with colourful banners about Kriya Yoga and the life and teachings of Gurudev. The stage was set with a huge back drop of a life size portrait of Gurudev in the centre with the pictures of Jagannath Temple and Sri Gurumandir on either side. Each evening started with the

lighting of the lamp by the invited guests of honour and dignitaries. The first day's chief guest was the Gajapati Maharaja the king of Puri. Each evening talks were given by spiritual luminaries of various ashrams and orders who shared their words of wisdom, and blessed the congregation. The speakers also included renowned persons from all walks of life – Peoples representatives, mayors, Editors of News Papers and social workers.



Spiritual luminaries included Swami Gurusevananda, Dadaji Hridaya Mohini, Babaji Rabinarayan Das, Swami Nirliptananda Saraswati, Swami Virajananda Giri, Swami Sadananda Saraswati, Tapasvi Kalyan Das Maharaj, Babaji Chaitanya Charan Das, Swami Satyaprajnananda and Swami Jnanananda, Sri Baba Thakur, Shri Shankarananda, Sri Nijananda Saraswati, Sri Prakashji and several others.

Other guests included Gajapathi Maharaj Sri Divyasingh Dev, Shri Trilochan Kanoongo – ex education minister of the state of Orissa, Sri Sharat Mishra and IM Quddusi, Sri Samir dey, Smt Manorama Mohapatra and Miss Nivedita. A large number of saints and seers from the Himalayas to Kanyakumari graced the occasion.

The audience



The Complete Works

The special release was the complete works of Gurudev a set of 10 volumes in English – A comprehensive treatise of a compilation of all of the published and unpublished works, discourses, metaphorical interpretations of the scriptures of the East and West, teachings and letters of the great realized Master that was undertaken by his loving disciples Baba Prajnananandaji.



Bhajan Sandhya



The Bhajan Sandhya that followed was a spiritual feast of devotional songs in Oriya, Hindi Bengali and Sanskrit by famous artists like Prfula Kar, Mahaprasad Kar, Anuradha Podwal, Suchitra Mohapatra and Ajay Chakrabarty.

A special feature was a spiritual magic show by Swami Jnananandaji. The highlight of the program was the variety entertainment by the children of our Hariharananda Balashram , our free residential

School for the underprivileged children (classes 1 and 2) who enticed the audience with their songs, dance and drama.



26th May The Interfaith Conference



An Inter- Faith Conference was held in the Stadium on May 26th in commemoration of Gurudev's love of all religions and to explore the holy teachings advocated by the different faiths of India. Several eminent dignitaries representing various faiths and disciplines of the spiritual path assembled on a single platform. Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Christian and Bahai leaders shared their views on the theme – Vasudhiava Kutumbakam – The entire Earth is one family" and enlightened the audience.

An excerpt from a Message: Yogacharya – Dr. Kameshwar Rao

I consider it a great achievement on the part of Paramahansa Prajnananandaji Maharaj to be able to gather so many eminent people of different faiths on a single platform to explore the universal values and purposes of life, which is highly essential in these days of conflict between various religious faiths and spiritual paths.

India being the hub of the various faiths, being the originator of the great Vedantic thought, being the birthplace of religions like Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism etc, it is but natural for the people that gathered here to eagerly expect what message India can give on the spiritual path at this juncture.

For that I humbly say that the Indian Vedantic thought has got the required potential clarity and scientific basis applicable not only to the human beings but to all the animate and inanimate manifestation in the Universe with a clue for its reception.

'He who sees Me everywhere and sees everything in Me, he never becomes lost to Him'

This is the uniqueness of Vedantic thought.

The almighty and his manifestation are interrelated as the ocean and the waves on it. He is therefore not lost to the Lord and the lord is not lost to him. That is the broad based Universal outlook of Indian philosophic thought. This approach has withstood the test of time. Hinduism, is not a religion. But it is a way of life known as Sanatana dharma being perpetuated from time immemorial.

27th May Guru Paduka Puja



On the 27th of May - the actual birthday of Gurudev, a Gurupaduka Puja was performed at the Indoor stadium. The sandals of Gurudev were washed and worshipped according to tradition with Vedic chanting followed by the recitation of the 108 names. Fresh flower garlands, sandalwood paste and flowers were offered and a grand Aarati followed.

At the end of the ceremony all present had the opportunity to touch the sandals and offer their homage. Sweets were distributed to the thousands that attended the program.

Yogacharya Conference

Many Yogacharya of the lineage attended the closing ceremony from all over the world. An highlight of the program was certainly the conference of the beloved Yogacharyas with Paramahamsaji and other Swamijis.



Furthermore 12 other authorized Yogacharyas were introduced by Paramahamsa Prajnanananda to the auditory. All of them are longtime disciples of Paramahamsa Hariharananda and practice the authentic Kriya Yoga since long ago.

From Europe: Claudia Cremers, Petra Hellwig and Uschi Schmidtke; from USA: John Thomas Lopategui, David Strasser, Hassan Srinidi and Richard Peterson; from India: Anita Patnaik, Pitambara Mohanty, Santosh Kumar Choudhury, Swapna Chatterjee and Sakuntala Pandya.

The Vision of a Master

The much dreamt of concluding ceremony was indeed a dream come true. The event was memorable and was given extensive coverage by the press who acclaimed it as one of the grandest celebrations that Orissa ever has seen. It was truly a celebration of a Life of Love and Joy of a glorious Master of a great lineage that left a mark of indelible ink on all those who participated.

Three major land marks in the history of Kriya Yoga were achieved during the birth Centenary year of Gurudev as envisioned by Paramahansa Prajnananandaji the worthy disciple of a worthy Master.

- The completion of Guru Mandir – an architectural marvel and a temple of meditation
- The publication of the complete works of Gurudev – A treasure house of spiritual Wealth
- The Centenary Celebrations in 108 selected places around the globe – to propagate the life and teachings of the realized yogi.

