

Birth Centenary of Gurudev Paramahansa Hariharananda

Inaugural Ceremony, May 25-29,
Hariharananda Gurukulam , Puri, Orissa, India

Preparations for the Inaugural of the year-long Birth Centenary celebrations of Gurudev Baba Hariharanandaji Maharaj began in early May, under the auspices of Prajnana Mission, with Paramahansa Prajnanananda in residence at the Hariharananda Gurukulam.

To commemorate the sacred occasion a lighted lamp lit at Gurudev's birth place in Habibpur, Nadia, West Bengal was brought to the Jagatpur ashram at Cuttack and from there to the Gurukulam in a procession through Bhubaneshwar with stops at Shri Mandir and Karar ashram.



Consecration of Shri Guru Mandir

The magnificent octagonal shrine constructed at Gurudev's Samadhi place, now known as Shri Guru Mandir, was dedicated to the public on the 24th of May by Baba Prajnananandaji Maharaj with an all day special worship and fire ceremonies conducted by Vedic scholars following strict Vedic injunctions. The cenotaph of Gurudev was unveiled around noon time amidst Vedic chanting and devotional songs of the disciples and devotees assembled from all corners of the globe to witness the event and pay their respects. Arati and Prasad followed. The evening ceremonies came to a conclusion with a Chandi havan, fire ceremony invoking the blessings of the Divine Mother and arati in the Guru Mandir.



An imposing monument forty feet high, of rare architecture, intricate jali work, stained glass windows, arched door ways, huge glass doors and marble floors with a, Shri Guru Mandir is a piece of art, a priceless jewel of love and dedication which would herald through the ages to come, the love Gurudev Hariharanandaji invoked in his devotees and the will and vision of his chosen successor Baba Prajnananandaji, and the utter dedication of the monks of Prajnana Mission who immortalized their love for the Master with this land mark in the history of Kriya yoga.

The sanctum sanctorum of this epitome of peace, bliss and joy, houses the Samadhi - the final resting place of Gurudev's mortal remains. The life-like five and a half feet marble cenotaph of Gurudev blessing the devotees is positioned facing east and on either side, the walls of inner shrine have the sculptures of the lineage of Gurus beginning with Mahavatar Babaji. The shrine can accommodate forty people at a time. The outer octagon encloses a space that easily accommodates up to 500 people and has twenty four open arches and is surrounded by ponds with blooming lotuses and vast green lawns. A five foot lotus bud of glass reinforced concrete crowns this architectural marvel designed by the reputed architect Histadas Darnania of Mumbai.

Inauguration

The day of the Inauguration started early in the predawn hours with sankirtan lead by Baba Prajnananandaji through the ashram campus followed by disciples singing the name of the Guru. At 5 am meditation was held in the newly consecrated guru mandir. A sankirtan was also held in the city of Puri. Hundreds of devotees joined Baba Prajnananandaji with banners of Kriya yoga bracing the hot summer Sun. A beautifully decorated chariot carrying the picture of Gurudev followed. After a short stop in front of the Jagannath temple and Karar ashram the procession ended on the sea shore.



The formal Inauguration ceremony was held on a beautifully decorated dais against the back drop of the magnificent Samadhi Mandir with Baba Prajnananadaji Maharaj presiding. The function began with a congregation of several holy parsonages of different orders offering their homage to Gurudev and the lighting of sacred lamp to mark the beginning of the year-long celebration. Yogacharya Anil Giridhar of Mumbai gave the welcome address and Dr. Narottam Gyan, a long time devotee of Gurudev introduced the eminent speakers - Babaji Chaitanya Charan Das of Puri, Babaji Ravi Narayan Das of Karamala ashram, Katia Babaji of Brindavan, Swami Sadhanananda Giri Maharaj of West Bengal and Gajapati Maharaj of Puri, who paying their respects to gurudev lauded the dedication of Baba Prajnananandaji to the Master which made the Shri Gurumandir, a tribute to the Masters of the lineage and a place of peace and meditation a reality. Hundreds of devotees assembled on the vast grounds surrounding the shrine listened to their inspiring and enlightening messages. Several books and CDs were released. Devotional music and dances concluded the program which was a memorable spiritual feast.