

**THE RAMAKRISHNA SARADA MISSION**  
**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FROM APRIL 2023 TO MARCH 2024**

**NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

On 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, the Dental Clinic and a few special OPDs along with an advanced Physiotherapy Unit with a Ladies Gym was inaugurated at Ramakrishna Sarada Mission *Sevayan* dispensary at the headquarters.

The newly constructed building for the sales section of the Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Balurghat was declared open on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2023.

A Community Hall at Sri Sarada Math, Chikmagalur was inaugurated on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

**Highlights of the year**

Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Thiruvananthapuram celebrated its Golden Jubilee on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 at the Ashrama premises with due solemnity. About 400 devotees including ex-students attended the two-day programme.

Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Khonsa duly celebrated its Golden Jubilee from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. Approximately 2000 people including state government officials, ex-students and delegates from other states attended the programme.

125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the inauguration of the School started by Sister Nivedita at Baghbazar on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1898 with Holy Mother's blessings and in the presence of Swami Vivekananda and others, was duly celebrated at different times during the year by Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Sister Nivedita Girls' School and Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Sister Nivedita Heritage Museum and Knowledge Centre.

**CENTRES AND ACTIVITIES**

Including the headquarters the Mission ran 24 centres distributed as follows : West Bengal, New Delhi, Khonsa and Dirang (Arunachal Pradesh), Thiruvananthapuram and Calicut (Kerala), Kamptee (Maharashtra), Pangot and Devprayag (Uttarakhand), Indore (M.P.), Guntur (A.P.) and one centre in Colombo (Sri Lanka), while the Math had one unit under the headquarters at Paschim Medinipur and 15 centres in the following locations : West Bengal, Chennai, Thrissur and Ernakulam (Kerala), Pune, Bangalore and Chikmagalur (Karnataka), Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Almora (Uttarakhand), Valsad (Gujarat), Indore, Guntur and one centre in Sydney (Australia). The centres at Indore and Guntur are combined Math and Mission centres.

The activities may be classified under seven heads: (1) Educational Work, (2) Medical Service, (3) Rural Uplift Work, (4) Tribal Work, (5) Relief and Help to the Needy, (6) Spread of Cultural and Spiritual Ideas and (7) Work Outside India.

The following activities were conducted by the Mission headquarters at Dakshineswar: a pre-primary and primary school for poor children, a charitable dispensary (allopathic, ayurvedic and

homœopathic) with its physiotherapy section, a vocational school and literacy classes for grown-up girls, a library , a reading room, yoga classes and Sunday school for children.

At Rasik Bhita, the Math headquarters conducted a computer centre and spoken English classes for needy girls (No. of students: 1859, full free: 20, part free: 46). 653 students of Rasik Bhita were absorbed during the year in various reputed companies in different fields such as Digital Designer, Editor, Accountant and so on. Vivek Library- the public and students' library and reading room at Dumdum Park premises had 30 members during the year. Welfare and pecuniary help incurring an expenditure of Rs. 1,60,716/- was given to 190 needy students, while scholarship amounting to Rs. 15,000/- was given to 3 deserving students.

*Ma Sarada Welfare Centre*, conducted under the Math headquarters, counted 60 local needy women, who received a remuneration of Rs. 46,705/- for sewing children's dresses, ladies' garments etc. for free distribution among the poor at the time of Durga Puja.

*Vivekananda Children Welfare Fund:*

Notebooks, umbrellas, tiffin and nutritious food were distributed among 660 needy students of 5 coaching centres. Total amount spent under this head: Rs. 12,42,549/-.

The *Self-Help Group*, under this head Rs. 1,71,310/- were spent for distributing raw material and to train 30 ladies for preparing beads items, crochet items, macrame bags, jewellery, sola work etc. for sale in an effort to promote women empowerment.

**Educational Work :**

The Mission ran 14 primary schools, 5 high schools, 1 school of Home Science, 1 college and 2 junior colleges, 7 pre-primary schools, 2 cultural centres, 4 adult schools, 7 vocational training centres, 5 Bal Mandirs, 6 coaching classes, 1 painting class, 8 computer classes and 3 spoken English classes, where a total of 8645 students received education, while 624 were accommodated in the students' homes and hostels attached to these institutions.

The Industrial Section of the Sister Nivedita Girls' School gave training to 30 ladies, while tailoring, embroidery and other crafts were taught at the Mission Ashrama at Entally, and the centre at Guntur (No. of beneficiaries : 12 and 166 respectively). Total of 658 students are pursuing computer courses. The students of our educational institutions achieved again good results this year as indicated in the following table:

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Examination 2024</i>	<i>Students appeared</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Class</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Nivedita School	Madhyamik	108	108	108	40 got 90% and above, 107 got Star Marks
Khonsa	AISSE (Cl. X)	30	30	30	4 got above 90% & remaining got above 75%
Dirang	AISSE (Cl. X)	20	20	20	1 got above 90% & 15 got above 80%
Indore	Madhyamik	17	17	16	10 students got distinction

Kamptee, Nagpur	Class X	27	27	27	20 students got distinction
	Class XII	16	16	10	
School of Home Science, Kamptee	Class X	89	89	66	32 students got distinction
Thrissur	Class X	151	150	41	29 got full A+, 12 got A 17 got full A+
	Class XII	146	129	17	

Under the Math centres, apart from daily worship in the shrine, the following activities were conducted: a high school with classes XI & XII, an Open School (Private Higher Secondary School), a hostel for girl-students in Thrissur while a girl-students' hostel was also ran at village Salur under Chennai Math, primary schools for slum children in Bangalore, Pune and Bhubaneswar; vocational training centres for grown-up girls and women at the headquarters and in Chennai, Bangalore, Chikmagalur, Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Almora, Valsad and Sihore. Coaching classes for girls and Sunday schools for children were conducted in Chennai, Bangalore, Pune, Valsad, Almora, Guntur and Sihore. Including the computer class at Valsad and the computer classes and spoken English classes conducted under the headquarters at Rasik Bhita, in all 5204 received education. The Old Age Home for women at Ernakulam (Kerala) had 30 inmates. Religious and cultural classes for women were held regularly in all the centres.

Educational aid such as uniforms, fees etc. was given by Chennai Math to 58 students. Meals were arranged whenever necessary. Total amount spent: Rs. 1,85,479/-.

During the period under review, stipends were given from the headquarters' *Ma Sarada Scholarship Fund* to 219 deserving needy girl-students of different states amounting to a total of Rs. 10,41,000/- . In all the centres, students received help in various ways.

#### **Medical Service:**

The maternity hospital in Kolkata, Matribhavan, a modern 100 bed medical centre treated 33,643 patients (mothers and children). The hospital has three well equipped operation theatres, set up with provision for all intricate gynaecological and surgical operations, including oncology and laparoscopic surgery. It has also a well-equipped eye operation theatre. The hospital has its own pharmacy, *Sri Maa Pharmacy* for prompt supply of medicines; and also runs a clinic for neonates and children of age of group 1 month to 3 years with full immunization as well as a clinical and bio-chemical laboratory equipped with modern technology to ensure efficient and quick service, details of which are given below :

Tests Done	No. of patients- Free/Concessional	Tests Done	No. of patients- Free/Concessional
Laboratory tests	5729	X-Ray	185
Ultrasonography & Colour Doppler	441	E.C.G	188
Cardio tocography	138	Outdoor check-up & other facilities	11,506
Echocardiography	145	Medicines	29,524

Free and concessional treatment for Outdoor and Indoor patients including the above tests was given to 47,856 patients (mothers and children) amounting to Rs. 63,66,181/-.

*Welfare activities* for poor children and women were conducted as before. Clothes, sarees, medicines, ration kits and pecuniary help were given to 597 poor women. Health Care Assistant Training Course was given to 26 poor and needy girls.

The No. of beneficiaries of Public Private Partnership Scheme with department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal and Kolkata Municipal Corporation was 6609 during the year under review.

Medicines were distributed free among poor and needy people. General awareness as well as continuous educational and counselling programmes on health and hygiene were carried for urban slums surrounding Matribhavan and other slums of Kolkata.

Nursing staff and other health care providers attended educational training programme while 289 medical, nursing and paramedical personnel attended the workshops on advanced care of nursing, continuous awareness and counselling on Health Precaution, prevention and control of diseases e.g. Dengue, Malaria etc.

The Matribhavan School of Nursing counted 36 students, while 132 students were undergoing B.Sc. Nursing Course during the period.

Total expenditure incurred for welfare services to poor and needy persons: Rs. 1,02,37,292/- (No. of beneficiaries : 3,54,987).

Under the headquarters at Dakshineswar, *Sevayan*, the charitable dispensary treated 6679 patients during the year. Specialized doctors in Orthopaedics, Dental, Medicine, Paediatrics, Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Homoeopathy and Ayurvedic rendered honorary service as before. 18 medical camps namely cardiology, eye and blood were conducted in the *Sevayan* as well as in Sundarbans, Thakurnagar and other places where a total of 1666 patients were benefitted. Medicines and injections worth Rs. 18,64,857/- were distributed free of cost in the dispensary and at medical camps. *Physiotherapy unit* provided ultrasonic therapy, muscle stimulator, traction, wax bath, infra ray etc. Cases treated during the period: 352 (No. of sittings: 2292). Yagavyayam Classes and Gym (No. of beneficiaries: 226) for young girls and ladies continued as before. Total expenditure during the year: Rs. 28,31,217/-.

The Ashrama in Entally ran a charitable dispensary (allopathic, homoeopathic and ayurvedic) for women and children, where 2866 patients were treated. Amount spent : Rs. 2,24,733/-. The Homeopathic dispensary run by Vivekananda Vidyabhavan treated 620 patients. Medicines were supplied free. *Sevangan*, the charitable clinic (homoeopathy and allopathy) of the Siriti centre served 6336 needy mothers and children through its different departments as detailed below :

	No. of Patients		No. of Patients		No. of Patients
General	1833	Paediatrics	402	E.C.G	33
Cardiology	473	Ophthalmology	692	Dental	992
Laboratory	479	Orthopaedics	396	Physiotherapy	91
Ultrasonography	108	Gynaecology	344	Dermatology	20

The *homoeopathic section* served 213 patients. Indoor and outdoor medical camps were conducted in which 861 patients were benefitted. In all, Medicines worth Rs. 11,04,963/- were supplied free by the Siriti centre.

*Sri Sarada Seva Kutir*, the charitable clinic of the Chennai Math treated 97,372 patients. Medicines worth Rs. 20,05,385/- were provided free of cost.

Sri Sarada Math *Healing Centre* at Indore conducted a Physiotherapy Unit (Total No. of patients: 7946), a Handicapped Children's Unit (8462 sessions) and a Homoeopathic Clinic (No. of patients treated: 6493), while the Pathology Collection Centre served 16,484 cases. The *Yoga Class* counted 41 participants. Total expenditure incurred: Rs. 36,19,725/-.

The Math centres at Pune, Bangalore, Almora, Valsad and Sihore conducted charitable dispensaries for women and children (No. of patients: 876, 520, 2187, 2490 and 1472 respectively). The Math centre at Chikmagalur ran an *ayurvedic* clinic. Pune, Bangalore, Valsad and Sihore centres arranged medical and eye camps in which 423, 427, 426 and 645 patients were benefitted respectively while Chikmagalur Math organized medical camp for women. Everywhere, medicines, spectacles, cataract operations were provided free of cost.

#### **Rural Uplift:**

150 school children were provided with registers worth Rs. 11,696/- in village Kuntighat, Dist. Hooghly and village Nalgora Dist. 24 Pgs. (S).

The centre at Shillya, Dist. Burdwan ran a primary school (roll strength: 610). Vocational classes were conducted for grown up girls and women (attendance: 20), while computer classes were attended by 150 students. The dispensary (Homoeopathic and allopathic) run by the centre treated 2947 patients. Educational help was given to 20 students. A medical camp was organized in which 100 villagers were benefitted. Educational help was given to needy and meritorious students. Distribution of clothes, warm garments, etc. was done regularly. In all, the centre spent Rs.26,89,204/- for the above activities.

The Weaving-cum-Tailoring Training centre in Thakurnagar village, Dist. Purba Medinipore had 36 trainees who earned money while learning. Religious and cultural classes for ladies in and outside the centre as well as other charitable activities continued as before. Coaching classes counted 35 students. Scholarship and pecuniary aid were given to deserving students. Sarees, dhotis, warm garments etc. were distributed among poor women and children of Thakurnagar and nearby villages at the time of Durga Puja and in winter. The homoeopathic dispensary and the eye section treated 1113 patients. Total expenditure for the above activities: Rs. 8,81,506/-.

The centre at Gangarampore, Dist. 24 Pgs(S) conducted a primary school for poor children of different castes and religions (No. of students: 282) and a Balwadi (No. of children : 22). All the children were provided with books, uniforms, tiffin, midday meal every day and medicines whenever needed. Clothes and warm garments were given to them twice a year. The vocational section for the village women imparted training in tailoring, embroidery and other handicrafts (attendance: 10). The computer class counted 10 students, while coaching classes (class V - X) were attended by 32 students. Coaching classes for class IX and X students were held regularly in collaboration with Viveka Chetana. *Daridra Narayan Seva*, financial help for medical treatment and supply of medicines and nutritious food to needy women and children as well as distribution of clothes and blankets at the time of Durga Puja and in winter continued as before (No. of beneficiaries: 5544). The health clinic *Sevakendra* treated 2207 patients during the period. Medicines were provided free of cost. In all, the centre spent Rs. 45,75,400/- towards rural welfare.

The centre at Baladbandh, Dist. Hooghly conducted coaching classes (class II – BA 2<sup>nd</sup> year) for village students, they were also given tiffin and nutritious food regularly. Basic computer training is given to 20 students through Sri Sarada Math Rasik Bhita and Sunday classes (avg. attendance: 50)

were conducted for local children. The centre also maintained a library for village women and children with a membership of 100 during the period. Training in cutting and sewing as well as jewellery making is given to needy ladies. Clothes and winter garments were distributed among students and needy people.

The Pangot centre conducted welfare activities for needy villagers of Pangot and nearby areas. Sunday classes were conducted for village children (Attendance: 102), while the computer class counted 7 students. Study materials and umbrellas were distributed among 922 students from different schools. 69 women and girls were taught various handicraft, knitting, embroidery, crochet work etc. As every year clothes, sarees and warm garments were distributed among the poor villagers. The centre spent a total Rs.2,27,536/- towards welfare activities.

Sri Sarada Math, Sihore conducted a coaching class with 85 students. Sunday classes and Yogavyayam classes counted 40 students. Tiffin, clothes, study material and sanitary items were provided to all students. The health clinic (Homeopathic and Allopathic) treated 1472 patients. Sarees, clothes and blankets were also distributed among needy villagers and children, while books, fees etc. were given to school students. Total amount spent for the above activities: Rs. 8,77,469/-.

The Bangalore Math continued its rural development work in the village of Junjaramanahalli, Tumkur Dist., about 85 km. from Bangalore, where the following activities were conducted : *Nivedita Vidya Peetha*, a pre-primary and primary school recognized by the Karnataka Government, with 93 children. They were given textbooks, notebooks, uniforms, lunch etc. free of cost; help in cash and kind to students and others (No. of beneficiaries: 4187). National and cultural days were celebrated with active participation children and mothers, also an educational tour was organized for the students. Financial help to needy villagers for medical treatment etc. continued as before. Sister Nivedita scholarship was given to 34 deserving college-girl students. In all, the centre spent Rs. 16,44,628/- for the above purposes.

The Math at Chikmagalur conducted a tailoring class for ladies (average attendance: 28), while the computer class counted 17 students. Ayurvedic clinic was running thrice a week. Every month a medical camp is conducted in which 187 patients were treated. Medicines were provided free of cost. Grocery kits and other necessities were provided to poor families, while Education and medical help was given to needy students and others. In all, Rs. 2,27,091/- were spent for welfare activities.

At village Salur, Kancheepuram district, the Chennai Math conducted the following activities on land allotted by the Tamil Nadu Government for the development of the area: coaching classes counted 150 children, Sister Nivedita Girls' Hostel with 25 students and vocational training for village women (Average attendance: 20). Medical services were provided to the villagers free of cost. No. of patients: 2693. Besides, financial and other help was given to 2554 students and others. Total amount spent: Rs. 15,86,975/-.

### **Tribal Work:**

The secondary school at Khonsa, Arunachal Pradesh counted 327 tribal students (residential: 304). The primary school at Khonsa village counted 127 students. The children were given uniforms, textbooks, midday meal and medical help, free of charge. Pecuniary and other help was given to meritorious students and needy people. Total amount spent: Rs. 8,87,904/-.

The residential secondary school at Khasso, Dirang Circle, Arunachal Pradesh counted 276 students from different districts of Arunachal Pradesh, mainly from West Kameng and Tawang districts.

Scholarship amounting to Rs. 6,46,091/- was given to 36 students. Pecuniary and medical help worth Rs. 2,29,256/- was given to 17 needy people.

The Valsad Math conducted Value Education Classes and Food and Nutrition Programme at an Ashramashala in Pindwal in which 167 students were benefitted. Notebooks were distributed among 700 students in tribal village schools. Total amount spent: Rs.69,021/-.

### Relief and Help to the Needy:

The Mission headquarters rendered the following services during the year under review : Financial help amounting to Rs. 1,83,374/- was given to needy women (monthly: 21), poor students (monthly: 48, occasional: 26) and patients (occasional: 10) during the year, while Rs. 26,65,243/- were spent for distribution of the following items at Dakshineswar and in other places:

Articles	Beneficiaries	Amount Spent Rs.
Blankets	8000	15,36,050/-
Sarees	4050	4,98,774/-
T shirts	120	19,194/-
Study materials etc.	120	19,455/-
Feeding of students- biscuits, snacks, rice, dal, soybeans etc.	100	1,37,815/-
Milk powder for students	300	67,104/-
Distribution among needy families of locality: dal, oil, rice, soybeans etc.	10 families (monthly)	1,36,353/-
Groceries for patients at SEVAC rehabilitation centre	110	97,450/-
Distribution of rice, biscuits etc. at Burdwan, Kotolpur	1460	1,53,048/-

Flood Relief: grocery items were supplied for feeding of flood victims and a medical camp was arranged at Amta, Dist. Howrah. Expenditure: Rs. 77,320/-.

12<sup>th</sup> January, National Youth Day, was observed with procession, meeting and distribution of booklets. Around 1000 students and teachers from various schools and others participated in the programme. All were served snacks etc. Amount spent: Rs. 1,14,007/- .

As every year, the Math headquarters also undertook welfare activities : Financial help amounting to Rs. 3,93,514/- was given to needy women (occasional : 1, monthly : 20), poor students (occasional : 21, monthly : 17) and poor patients (occasional :3, monthly : 8), while the following items worth Rs. 22,64,650/- were distributed at Dakshineswar and other places:

Articles	Beneficiaries	Amount Spent Rs.
Blankets	8000	18,12,625/-
Sarees & clothes	4507	4,80,226/-
Study materials	551	31,276/-

(including 1 laptop)		
Feeding at Malda- dal, soya chunks, biscuits etc.	900	3,11,916/-
Milk powder	80	29,824/-

The Nivedita School distributed cooked food among poor and needy people of Baghbazar locality (No. of beneficiaries: 100 per day; amount spent: Rs. 5,99,547/-), while clothes, tiffin, milk, medicines etc. amounting to Rs. 3,06,411/- were given to some needy people. The Siriti centre also provided clothes, warm garments, pecuniary and medical help worth Rs. 2,24,819/- to 799 needy women and children.

The following centres continued to help students in various ways : Sister Nivedita Girls' School, the Ashrama, Vivekananda Vidyabhavan, and the Siriti centre in Kolkata; the centre in Kantanagar, the village centres in West Bengal and the centres in Khonsa, Dirang and Guntur. The Vivekananda Vidyabhavan and centres in Thakurnagar, Kantanagar, Baladbandh, Gangarampur, New Delhi and Pangot conducted coaching and value education classes for slum or village children of nearby areas.

During the year, the **Mission** spent a total of **Rs. 6,01,53,353/-**, while the **Math** spent **Rs. 2,71,87,035/-** towards relief, welfare and rural uplift work.

#### **Spread of Cultural and Spiritual Ideas:**

The headquarters as well as the Math and Mission centres conducted classes, lectures, general and textbook libraries as well as other cultural activities.

The Math and the Mission also published books as well as periodicals, namely, NIBODHATA, a bi-monthly journal in Bengali and SAMVIT, twice a year in English. Special programmes were live streamed on Sri Sarada Math You Tube channel.

#### **Work Outside India:**

##### **AUSTRALIA**

Under the leadership of Pravrajika Gayatriprana, the Ramakrishna Sarada Vedanta Society of NSW in Sydney conducted regularly spiritual and cultural activities in and around Sydney. Religious festivals were observed, and lectures and retreats were conducted in Adelaide and other places. Due to Covid, Sunday classes for children (to acquaint them with Indian culture), weekly Sanskrit classes, Young People's Forums (for age group 17-35) etc., and the monthly meetings of the Women Interfaith Network as well as the quarterly meetings of the Religion for Peace were conducted online through Zoom platform. However, some classes and meetings were also conducted.

Sunday talks and Friday discussions were held virtually and/or in person (average attendance: 20-25). The Sunday talks were uploaded on the Vedanta Society's You Tube channel also.

##### **SRILANKA**

The centre at Colombo, Ramakrishna Sarada Mission (Lanka Branch) continued its regular activities. Worship, *bhajans*, *Pradeep Puja*, spiritual and cultural classes, lectures, a *Balmandir* etc. Special Puja was performed on the birthdays of Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda as well as on Thai Pongal, New Year and Deepawali days. The centre conducted the *Matri*



*Mandir*, an old age home for women with 10 inmates, 2 *orphanages* in Colombo and Matale with 30 and 22 children respectively. At *Matale* a Sunday school is also conducted to inculcate moral and ethical values in the children (average attendance: 40).

**Dedication of new Prayer Hall at Matale:**

A newly constructed Prayer Hall was dedicated on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at Matale. There was special puja, Homa and other rituals according to the local customs. On this auspicious occasion Pravrajika Atandraprana, General Secretary of Sri Sarada Math and Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Pravrajikas Sushantaprana, President of Lanka Branch, Bhavaniprana, President, Sri Sarada Math, Guntur, Gayatriprana, President of Sydney centre and a few other sannyasinis were present. A public meeting was also held which was attended by leaders of different organisations, government officials associated with Matale project and some monks of the Ramakrishna Mission, Colombo.

After the sudden passing away of Pravrajika Sushantaprana, President, on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2024, Pravrajika Atmadevaprana has been appointed President of the Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Lanka Branch along with Pravrajika Dhyanamayaprana as a Secretary.

**OTHER NEWS**

Pravrajika Divyanandaprana was invited to the United States from March 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup> 2023, by seven universities for conferences and discussions on Vedanta as the Science of Consciousness. She also spoke at the Vedanta Society of Providence, Vedanta Society of New York, Vivekananda Vidyapeeth, New Jersey and other places. She returned to India on 4<sup>th</sup> May via London where she spoke at the Ramakrishna Vedanta Centre, Bourne End, UK and a few other venues.

Pravrajika Prabuddhaprana left on 31<sup>st</sup> May for the US where she was invited by the Vedanta Society of Washington D.C. and Sri Sarada Mahila Samiti of Northern California, where she conducted retreats and gave talks mainly on Holy Mother and Her Companions during the summer of 2023. In San Francisco, she conducted a retreat at the Olema Retreat Centre of the Vedanta Society. She also met the nuns of the Sarada Convents in San Francisco, Santa Barbara and Hollywood and returned to India on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2023.

\*\*\*\*\*