

## The Biggest Spiritual Programme of the Twenty-first Century

A special bulletin on Yug-rishi Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya's Birth Centenary  
celebrations taking place on Vasant Panchami

(A Birth Centenary Press Note)

5 February 2011, Haridwar: "Param Pujya Gurudev Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya's spiritual birthday is on Vasant Panchami, 8 February 2011. The moment the millions of Gayatri Pariwar parijans have been waiting for last three years and have been actively engaged in its painstaking preparations, has finally arrived. The year-long Centenary Programme is going to start with a three-day event taking place on 6, 7 and 8 February. For the first time ever in the history of Gayatri Pariwar, millions of devotees and Gayatri Pariwar workers will light up millions of diyas simultaneously at more than 40,000 localities in India and more than 2400 cities of 80 countries around the world to celebrate the 100th birthday of their Guru." This was the press statement made to the journalists of India and abroad by Dr Pranav Pandya (MD), the Head of Gayatri Pariwar and the Chancellor of Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalay; and Param Shraddheya Shail Jiji, the daughter of Param Pujya Gurudev Shriram Sharma Acharya and Param Vandaniya Mataji. The press release was given from the very room where Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya, the Founder Father of Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Pariwar (All World Gayatri Pariwar) spent the last 20 years of his physical existence. Giving further details Dr Pranav Pandya said, "The moment which appeared 100 years ago at Anwalkheda is going to come again on 8 February. Millions of parijans will get rewarded with the blessings of Gurusatta living in subtle form in Himalayas. In a way, this will be a process of spiritual awakening and recharging of all committed devotees. Beside, it is also very important day for the reason that it will come once again only after a hundred long years."

Drawing attention to the importance of Pujya Gurudev's room, Dr Pranav Pandya said, "This is the room where Pujya Gurudev lived for 20 years of his life and performed a sukshmikaran sadhana (a special, immensely rigorous spiritual exercise) to transform his spiritual existence into five enormously powerful beings and working through them, he assured to bring about transformation all over the world. It was after this spiritual exercise that the world witnessed some unbelievable events like the break-up of the formidable superpower like Soviet union, the unification of East and West Germany and a freedom from the fear of the impending Third World War. Pujya Gurudev had explicitly stated that the Third World War would never happen.

Conveying the message on the historical Vasant Parva, Dr Pranav Pandya said, "Vasant, i.e. the festival of Spring essentially represents liveliness, springing into life; an ardent desire, inner restlessness and passion to do something good for society and nation. Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya's Vasant Parva symbolizes adopting 'the mind of Brahman and actions of

Rishi' in everyday life." [Brahman represents a lifestyle of simple living, high thinking; the one endowed with a strong iron will to resist worldly temptations and greed. Rishi signifies a great soul whose personal needs are bare minimum and who devotes all his resources for the betterment of society]

Dr Pranav Pandya and Shraddheya Shail Jiji cast some light on the three-day programme that is going to take place in India and abroad. They said, "Morning processions and vehicles driven in convoys will exhibit Purjya Gurudev's work and Saptakranti Aandolan (the seven mega-movements) at more than 40,000 places around India. There will be evening discourses and recital of Satsankalpa, the solemn pledge for ushering in the New Era. People will be made aware about the immense personality and work of Pujya Gurudev, the messenger of Vichar-kranti i.e. Thought Transformation. Dipa Yagya will be solemnised on 7 February at 6pm wherein millions of Gayatri Pariwar households will each light up five diyas (lamps) and display them outside their house. This will constitute dipa-dan (an offering of light), dipawali (the festival of light) and dipa yagya. The branches of Gayatri Pariwar, Shaktipeeths and Gayatri Chetna Centres will celebrate the event by lighting up 5 to 24,000 diyas as per their convenience. The programmes will be solemnised by Brahmavadini sisters. The Vasant parva itself will be celebrated through the observance of yagya, Spring festivity, Pujya Gurudev's spiritual birthday, a prayer to Mother Saraswati and as a Bodhi Divas (Self-realization Day). On this day, the disciples undertake to live a disciplined and spiritually progressive life, and engage themselves actively in Guru's mission.

The above-mentioned Vasant Parva celebration is just a beginning of a year-long series of programmes. It will be followed by a programme of Mantra Writing Campaign from 2 March (Maha Shivratri) to 12 April (Ram-Navami). Parijans of India and abroad will take part in this 40-day special mantra writing campaign which is intended for bringing in New Era, refining the atmosphere of subtle world, development of spiritual power and to bolster the success of Vichar Kranti Abhiyan (The Thought Revolution Movement). The 3-year Srijan Sadhana Maha-purushcharan (a special mass spiritual exercise) currently underway will also ceremonially conclude on 12 April (Ram Navami). The participants will donate Rs. 108 per each mantra writing book which will go towards the Vichar Kranti and translating books in various languages. This will be followed by Gayatri Sandhya, Ek Sham Gurudev ke Naam evening programmes taking place in the big cities of India which will create public awareness about Gurudev's immense character and life, and will also have a 2 to 3-hour live Naad Yoga (meditation on music) sessions. There is also a plan to organise a range of programmes in the capital cities of India. Gayatri Jayanti will be celebrated as a festival of Meditation. All the elements of Yoga are indeed essential, however, Yoga shouldn't be limited to its physical aspects only but should also focus on dharna (fixing the mind on one object and withdrawing it from everything else) and dhyana (meditation). Guru-Purnima will be celebrated on 15 to 17 July as a festival of expressing devotion and sacrifice for Guru. Any contributions received will be utilised in spreading Gurudev's noble thoughts.

The last programme—Srijan Sankalpa Mahotsav and Gayatri Maha-yagya, will take place in Haridwar from 6 to 10 November. This is really going to be an extraordinarily mammoth event. About 10-15 million people will take part in the event. The whole city of Haridwar will resonate with Gayatri. There will be a 1551-kunda yagya. Each day will witness a carnival represented by various regions of India and different countries. About 10 per cent workers of whole country will take a pledge, plan strategies and action plans to advance good work in their respective area. The event will take place over an area of 460 sq.km. in the vicinity of Ganga and there will be a live broadcast of the programme on various channels.

Param Shraddheya Shail Jiji, the daughter of Param Pujya Gurudev Shriram Sharma Acharya and Param Vandaniya Mataji appealed everyone to develop their character and be a real role model to inspire and uplift thousands of other people in the same way as Pujya Gurudev has demonstrated throughout his life. She hoped that Vasant, the Spring would bring transformation in their life. Vasant is known as kusumakarah, i.e. the season of spring gets rid of the chilliness of the winter and brings warmth. Warmth represents enthusiasm, eagerness and inner restlessness to do something good. Shraddheya Shail Jiji said, “May there be never-ending enthusiasm to spread noble thoughts of wisdom everywhere. May the life enriched with enthusiasm last not just for 40 days of the Spring but perennially. On this Vasant Parva we wish that you all become inseparable parts of Gurudev, and like Nature, may you too sprout, blossom and flourish immensely in life so that the Spring can be perceived everywhere.”

The final programme of the Centenary Year will be on the Vasant Panchami of 28 January 2012. There will be huge Mashal processions taking place in every village and city. The atmosphere will resonate with the sounds of “Ham badalenge, yug badalega” (If we transform ourselves, the world will get transformed). It will herald the awakening of divinity in every human being and the advent of heavenly atmosphere on our planet. People will witness the arrival of New Era everywhere realizing through the noble thoughts of Pujya Gurudev.