



श्रद्धा Śraddhā

The Monthly Chronicle of Sri Ramakrishna Vidyarthi Mandiram

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SUBHASHITA: THE COMPANY WE KEEP

सन्तप्तायसि संस्थितस्य पयसो नामापि न ज्ञायते मुक्ताकारतया तदेव नलिनीपत्रस्थितं राजते ।
स्वात्यां सागरशुक्तिमध्यपतितं सन्मौक्तिकं जायते प्रायेणोत्तममध्यमाधमदशा संसर्गतो जायते ॥

Meaning: "Water, when placed on a hot iron disappears without a sign. When placed on a lotus leaf, the droplet of water shines as if it were a pearl. (However,) if the same water falls into a pearl shell during svātī rains, it turns into a good pearl! Most likely, inferior, mediocre, and noble qualities arise from the company kept."

Ref: Sanskrit Pearls (consolidated and enhanced) by Rashmi Kashi, Samskruti Publications, First Ed., February 2025

From the Warden's Desk: The Warmth of Winter

As 2025 drew to a close, the cool Bengaluru winter settled over the Mandiram, yet our halls remained warm with vibrant energy. December here is special—it serves as a bridge between the quiet depth of our spiritual traditions and the dynamic potential of our youth. From the gentle grace of Holy Mother's birthday to the shared warmth of the Christmas Eve *dhuni*, this month was a living testament to our shared life: a seamless blend of study, prayer, and brotherhood.

– Swami Anilayananda

THE SPIRIT OF OUR NAME

Swami Vivekananda considered *Śraddhā*—a deep, reflective faith in oneself and the Divine—to be the foundation of character. He taught that this internal conviction is what empowers individuals to stand on their own feet.

Inspired by the determination of Nachiketa and the realization of the lion cub in Swamiji's parables, we selected this name to anchor our newsletter. It stands as a reminder that true education goes beyond textbooks; it is the process of recognizing and cultivating one's inherent strength and dignity.

IN THE LIGHT OF SPIRIT

December is a holy month for the Ramakrishna Order, marked by three significant birthdays that form the bedrock of our ideology.

Sri Sarada Devi Jayanti (11 Dec)

The celebrations began with the invocation of the Holy Mother, Sri Sarada Devi. The prayer hall was adorned with special floral arrangements, reflecting the purity and grace of the Mother. Students participated in a special puja and bhajan session. The discourse focused on her universal motherhood—reminding every student that they are supported by a love that asks for nothing in return.

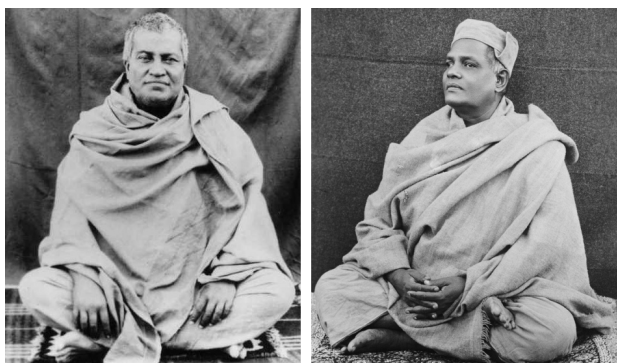


Swami Shivanandaji Jayanti (15 Dec)

We honored the birth anniversary of Swami Shivanandaji Maharaj (Mahapurush Maharaj), a direct disciple of Sri Ramakrishna and the second President of the Order. Known for his meditative depth, the day was marked by contemplating on his message and student talks, inspiring the boys to cultivate strength of mind and "Doggedness" in their spiritual practices.

Swami Saradanandaji Jayanti (26 Dec)

On the 26th, we paid homage to Swami Saradanandaji Maharaj. As the great biographer of the Master and the devoted caretaker of the Holy Mother, his life is a lesson in infinite patience. We reflected on his ideal of serving the divine with a "cool head and a warm heart."



EMPOWERING FUTURES

Scholarship Distribution (10 Dec)

Excellence requires support. On the 10th, we were honored to host the members of **Rotary Bangalore South**. In a dignified ceremony, scholarships were awarded to deserving students.

The Rotary President addressed the gathering, emphasizing that these funds are not charity, but an investment in the future leaders of the nation. The students, in turn, pledged to pay this kindness forward in their future careers.



BRIDGING GENERATIONS

Annual Alumni Meet (07 Dec)

The community came together for the Annual Alumni Meet on the 7th, celebrating our shared heritage. *(Please see the attached detailed report for full coverage of this event.)*

Reunion: Batch of '83-'85 (20 Dec)

The corridors echoed with nostalgia as the alumni from the batch of 1983-85 returned to their alma mater. It was a moving sight to see established professionals touching the feet of the monks and embracing their old dorm-mates.



Entrepreneurship Presentations

Coinciding with the reunion, current students presented their final Entrepreneurship Projects. The alumni acted as judges and mentors, bridging the gap between theory and industry reality. The alumni were visibly impressed by the innovative business models proposed by the current batch, ranging from sustainable agriculture to tech solutions.



The winners were Dinesh, Indraneel and Hemesh of 1st PU.

LIFE AT MANDIRAM

Mandiram Day 2025 (06 Dec)

We celebrated our Annual Day, "Mandiram Day 2025", on the 6th with great enthusiasm. *(Please see the attached detailed report.)*

Christmas Eve & Dhuni (24-25 Dec)

Christmas Eve was observed with the lighting of the sacred *Dhuni*, recalling the historic night at Antpur where Swami Vivekananda and his brother disciples took their vows of renunciation before a similar fire. We also reflected on Swamiji's resolve during his meditation at Kanyakumari, which transpired during these very days in 1892.

Gathered around the warmth, students and monks sang bhajans, celebrating the spirit of renunciation and universal brotherhood under the winter sky.



Stargazing (27 Dec)

We hosted Sri Sathish Aryabhata, Founder & CEO of Bharath Dome Innovation. In a spirited interaction, he fielded multidisciplinary questions, urging students to overcome shyness, step out of their comfort zones, and identify real-world problems as potential startup opportunities.



The evening culminated in cosmic wonder as he led a stargazing session. Through the telescope, students gazed at The Moon, Jupiter and the majestic rings of Saturn, their scientific curiosity ignited by his detailed explanations—a perfect blend of entrepreneurial vision and awe for the universe.



THE MONTH AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 2025

A complete record of activities reported by all departments.

Date	Event	Category
06 Dec	Mandiram Day 2025	Cultural / Annual Day
07 Dec	Annual Alumni Meet	Alumni Relations
10 Dec	Scholarship Distribution	Academic / Outreach (Rotary B'lore South)
11 Dec	Sri Sarada Devi Jayanti	Spiritual / Culture
15 Dec	Swami Shivanandaji Jayanti	Spiritual / Culture
20 Dec	'83-'85 Batch Reunion	Alumni Relations
20 Dec	Entrepreneurship Final PPT	Academic / Skill Development
24-25 Dec	Christmas Eve (Dhuni/Campfire)	Cultural / Student Life
27 Dec	Stargazing Session	Science / Recreation

Partner in Our Seva

The Vidyarthi Mandiram is more than a hostel; it is a home where character is forged. Your generous support ensures that deserving students continue to receive this holistic education regardless of their financial background.

To ensure the holistic growth of our students—intellectually, physically, and ecologically—we are embarking on these vital initiatives:

- Integrated Smart Learning Hub (AV Room, Smart Class, Skilling Centre)
- State-of-the-art Computer Lab
- Comprehensive Rainwater Harvesting System
- Sports Complex Development (Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Track)
- Utility Vehicle for Medical Emergencies & General Use

We also invite you to contribute generously to our Corpus Fund, ensuring the Mandiram stands as a financially independent beacon of service for generations to come.

Support our mission here: <https://srvm.org/donation-form>

Sri Ramakrishna Vidyarthi Mandiram

Bengaluru, Karnataka

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