

### **Inaugural Ceremony of the Astavakra Geeta Jnanayagna – A report**

The inaugural ceremony of the Astavakra Geeta Jnanayagna was performed at the City Central Library, Chikkadpally. The event was presided by Pujya Acharya Sri Prem Siddharth and Smt. Jyotsna Siddharth, President, Board of Trustees, AVV. The guest list included names of eminent personalities like Sri J.S.V Prasad, Commissioner, Endowments Department, Govt. of AP, Sri Gaddam Srinivas Yadav, Chairman, City Center Library, Sri P.V. Rajeswara Rao, ex-MP and Sri K.B.M.M.Krishna, a well known Chartered Accountant who has been associated with Pujya Swamiji for many years.

The members of AVV welcomed the guests with a Purna Kumbham accompanied by the chanting of Vedic hymns that set the stage for the spiritual journey the devotees were going to embark upon.

While the guests adorned the stage and did Jyoti Prajwalanam, the hearts of devotees were filled with devotion at the sight of the grand idol of Lord Venkateswara adorned with glittering ornaments and garlands of colourful flowers on the stage. With transfixed eyes, the devotees adored the grandeur of the 9 feet idol of the Lord who benignly presided over the altar. Without a hyperbole, one would have been tempted to feel that Lord of Tirumala descended the Seven Hills to bless the devotees with a glimpse of his heavenly magnificence.



At the altar of the Lord Venkateswara, the guests were felicitated by Pujya Acharya after which they shared their joy with the devotees. Sri Prasad stressed on the importance of applying the wisdom of the Anushtana Granthas to adopt a Dharmic way of life and Sri Srinivas Yadav spoke of the idyllic settings of the Library that the Jnanayagna was being conducted. Drawing the parallel between Pujya Acharya and Swami Vivekananda, Sri P.V. Rajeswara Rao appealed to the devotees to encourage the youngsters in their families to attend these lectures as exposure to this knowledge was the need of the hour to mould their young minds in the right direction.

Pujya Acharya commenced the Jnanayagna with an introductory speech highlighting the importance of Sankalpa Shakti in human-beings and their pursuit of the Purusharthas ultimately culminating in the pursuit of happiness – Moksha. Pujya Gurudev also stressed on the importance of laying a strong foundation to ensure a clear understanding of the advanced teachings of Vedantic texts like Astavakra Geeta.



The events of the day were concluded by offering Haarathi to Lord Venkateswara. The devotees feasted their eyes on the glory of the Lord and offered prayers for the Nirvighna Parisamapthi of the Jnanayagna and to grant them with many more such spiritually elevating experiences in the days to come.



For devotees across the globe, who are unable to attend the programme in person, Lord Venkateswara answered their prayers by facilitating the coverage of the programme on the SVBC channel of TTD. The programme would be broadcast on SVBC after the successful completion of the Jnanayagna

