

Pujya Acharya's visit to Xin Xing

As a part of his tour of China, on the 14th of September, Pujya Acharya Sri Prem Siddharth graced Xin Xing County, an ancient seat of Zen Buddhism, upon the invitation of the heads of the Xin Xing County. The trip was initiated by Mr Fortune Xie for obtaining Pujya Acharya's blessings and gaining his valuable advice that will aid them in developing the monastery's activities and transform Xin Xing into a city of Buddhism. Incidentally, Xin Xing is also famous for being a site of natural hot-water springs.

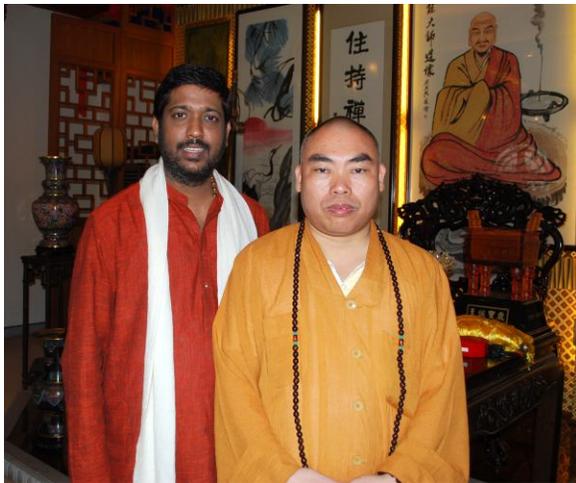
Pujya Acharya arrived by car at Xin Xing (around 3.5 hr drive from Shenzhen) accompanied by Sri Suresh, an ardent disciple of Pujya Acharya. Sri Suresh left no efforts to ensure that Pujya Gurudev's trip to China is successful and under his loving supervision, he made sure that Pujya Acharya felt comfortable at every place they visited– such is his love and dedication.

Pujya Acharya was received by Mr Feng, the Town-head and the Secretary of the Communist Party at Xin Xing along with other Town officials.



The events of the day ended after a brief meeting and dinner with a couple of Buddhist scholars and the officials, comprising of the Town head, Mr. Feng and Ms. Li Lan Fen, Vice-Director, Foreign and Overseas Chinese affairs Bureau of Xin Xing County. After this meeting, Pujya Acharya enjoyed the visit to the hot-water springs. Someone in the group said that in Xin Xing there are 3 hot water springs and wherever they are, there are very luxurious resorts! Pujya Gurudev told them that in India wherever there is a hot water spring, there is a temple!!

Next morning (15th of September), Pujya Gurudev advised the officials of Xin Xing on developing the Guoensi monastery into a seat of learning and culture. The Guoensi monastery, a seat of Zen Buddhism, has a 1300 year old history associated with Bodhi Dharma, an Indian monk who took Buddhism to China.



At this monastery Pujya Acharya met Master Ru Zhan, a Buddhist monk who was delighted to meet Pujya Acharya, a renowned teacher of Hindu scriptural knowledge. He mentioned that the Chinese' Buddhist wisdom has its origin in the Indian tradition and the two countries have always had a strong spiritual connection. The tenets of Buddhism are adaptations of the ancient Indian wisdom of the Hindus. He wished that this religious friendship between the people of the two countries should be strengthened.

After exchanging thoughts on Philosophy, Master Ru Zhan gifted Pujya Acharya with an inscribed Buddhist message and invited Pujya Acharya to attend all the Buddhist festivals that will be celebrated at the monastery and also teach at their upcoming academy.

Pujya Acharya also met Master Da Shan, a Buddhist monk at another monastery.



At 5pm in the evening, Pujya Acharya blessed the officials, took their leave, and left for Shenzhen accompanied by Mr. Leung Moo, the village-head who was very helpful in escorting Pujya Acharya around the city.

Harih Om