

## Vinayaka Puja celebrations at China



Pujya Gurudev Sri Prem Siddharth invoked the blessings of Lord Ganapati on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September at Sri Suresh ji's residence in Shenzhen, Peoples Republic of China. Pujya Acharya offered Puja on Vinayaka Chaturthi.

Chanting various Vedic hymns like Purusha Suktham and Sri Suktham, Pujya Acharya performed an elaborate abhishekam and archana to the Lord Ganapathy with panchamrutham. The devotees meditated on the magnificent form of Sri Gajanana as they performed the Vinayaka puja with steadfast devotion.



Pujya Gurudev says that Lord Vinayaka's form is a teaching in inculcating leadership qualities and following Karma Yogam. While the "Gaja" "Ananana" (Large head) symbolizes great intelligence required to perform a task, the large ears teach us about the importance of listening and small eyes – the sukshma drishti – a subtle vision. His trunk is an epitome of the nimbleness and skill that is to be practiced while performing a task; as beautifully described by Pujya Acharya, a job is said to be done skillfully if it is forgotten after completion. One broken tusk (dantham) is symbolic of accepting a loss and a victory in the proper spirit. The large udaram or stomach assures the devotees that the benign Lord is protecting us by keeping the worlds in his womb. He is depicted with four hands – any task we take up should have four benefits, it should benefit the Society, it should benefit our Family, it should be of use to us and most importantly, it should be an offering to the Lord. On one hand he carries the Pasam – we should bind people with love; the Ankusam – to sever the unwanted aspects from the world and take only what is necessary for the success of our work, the modakam – symbolizing the sweet phalam on inculcating such qualities and the abhaya hastham – symbolizing the dawn of Vairagyam. The mooshikam or mouse is our Mind, like a mouse searching for food that is right in front of it and missing it in the darkness, our minds miss the most important essence of this world in the darkness of our ignorance, the mind should take refuge at the Lord's feet and pray that his Gnana Jyothi illuminates the path of spirituality for us.



Sankeerthan was followed by Astottara Puja, Durva Puja and Patri puja that were performed; where the Lord is offered various leaves and flowers along with chanting of Stotrams. The celebrations of the day ended with offering Mahanivedanam to Lord Ganapati and performing Harathi.



After Puja, Pujya Gurudev proceeded to the venue of Satsang where some Indian families residing in and around Shenzhen, had gathered to hear the talk and take blessings.

*HARIH OM*