



Government of India Honours YSS by Releasing a Commemorative Postage Stamp

For a YSS devotee, March 7 is associated with several sacred events that are close to his heart. Sixty-five years ago, on this very day in 1952, Paramahansa Yogananda had entered Mahasamadhi, speaking of God and his beloved India. In 1977, the Government of India had honoured Guruji by releasing a commemorative stamp on this day, thus formally recognizing his tremendous contributions to the spiritual wealth of the world. And this year on March 7, the Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modi, paid a



fitting tribute to the organization founded by the Premavat by releasing a commemorative stamp in honour of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India at a special ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Over 1,800 YSS devotees attended the programme.

Several monks from YSS including the Board of Directors participated in this historic event.

The Prime Minister was cordially greeted by Swamis Vishwananda and Smaranananda at the entrance and escorted to the hall. The programme began with the Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi, along with the YSS Board of Directors, lighting the lamp. Swami Vishwananda welcomed the Prime Minister by presenting him with a bouquet of flowers, and Swami Smaranananda presented a shawl to the esteemed guest as a mark of honour.

Swami Smaranananda began his address by quoting a *shloka* from the *Bhagavad Gita* which states that in every *yuga*, avatars come to protect virtue and destroy evil. However, Swamiji added that there are some avatars

whose mission is to help devotees annihilate the demons of maya within; and that our beloved Gurudeva was one such avatar who came to guide deluded humanity towards divine wisdom. Swamiji explained the significance and enormous contribution made by the organization founded by Paramahansaji. He quoted Guruji's words, "When I am no longer in the body, this organization will be my body." Enumerating the tremendous impact of Guruji's organization, Swamiji said, "Yogoda Satsanga Society of India, being his lengthened shadow, continues to spread his message of love, joy, wisdom, and service. Through the Yogoda Satsanga/Self-Realization teachings millions have understood the real meaning of religion and more importantly the most effective practice of religion. Yoga meditation is available to all truth seekers at their doorstep."

Swami Vishwananda conveyed the blessings of our beloved Sanghamata and President, Sri Sri Mrinalini Mata, and read out her message on this momentous occasion. In her message she wrote:

On this special occasion of the release of the commemorative stamp honouring the 100th anniversary of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India (YSS), I send you my soul's greetings and divine love. It fills me with immense joy and gratitude that through this function the Government of India is paying tribute to YSS and its Founder—one of India's great saints—Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda. My deepest thanks extend to all who had a role in bringing this about. Although much of his time was spent in America spreading India's universal spirituality and ancient science of yoga meditation, Paramahansa Yoganandaji's love and concern for his motherland never diminished. His very last words before departing this world—on this very day in 1952—were a heartfelt tribute to his beloved India.

*Swami Vishwananda reads out Sanghamata and President,
Sri Sri Mrinalini Mata's message for the occasion.*



India's greatest wealth and strength — today as throughout her long history — lies in her cherishing and actively expressing the eternal spiritual truths that her seers have perceived and bequeathed to humanity. Down the ages, great souls — mahatmas, saints, sages of highest divine realization — have been motivated by their great love of Mother India to serve that loftiest and most noble cause. That the Government of India has chosen today to honour the lifework of one such exemplary divine personage is a profound source of hope and inspiration not only for India, but for the millions worldwide who look to her for spiritual light in these troubled times.

Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda often said, “Reform yourself and you will reform thousands.” India’s divine and universal science of yoga and meditation embodies the most effective methods of bringing about lasting positive transformations in our behavioural and thought patterns. One of the main aims and ideals of Paramahansa Yoganandaji’s Society is to disseminate among all nations the knowledge of the scientific techniques of meditation taught for millennia by India’s great rishis, by which each human being — regardless of nationality, caste, or creed — can realize his or her own divinity and experience inner peace, love, and joy. When each individual has peace within, world peace will naturally follow.

I deeply appreciate Honourable Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi’s kindness in taking time out from his busy schedule to be personally present on this special day. How fitting it is that the commemorative stamp for the YSS Centenary is being released by Sri Modi, himself an ardent practitioner of yoga. The International Day of Yoga — proposed by him and subsequently adopted as a United Nations resolution within a very short time by a record number of nations — is playing



an important role in spreading the universal message of the yoga science around the world. We are grateful to Sri Modi for this landmark initiative.

Paramahansa Yoganandaji predicted that an ideal world civilization will emerge by combining the spirituality of India with the material efficiency of western nations. India therefore has an important and necessary role to play in helping elevate human consciousness in its upward evolutionary cycle. It is my ardent prayer that through the practice of the unity-bestowing spiritual teachings exemplified by Sri Sri Yoganandaji and other great masters of India we may move toward an era of global peace, divine harmony, and prosperity for every member of our human family.

A thunderous round of applause rent the air as the Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi, stood up to address the gathering. In his speech, he highlighted the importance of March 7, that on this very day sixty-five years ago a great soul broke free from the limitations of a mortal body, and became an object of veneration for the ages.

Sri Modi drew the attention of the audience to the power and popularity of the book, *Autobiography of a Yogi*, which is available now in so many languages that 95% of the world population can read it in their own language. He said that all those who read it want to share it with others, just as people don't eat all the prasad that they receive in a temple, but feel great joy in sharing it with others. This was because the life and message of Yoganandaji is as sacred and holy as the prasad received from a temple, observed the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi, releases the commemorative postage stamp and displays the stamp album. Also seen are the YSS Board Members, (left to right) Swamis Shraddhananda, Suddhananda, Smaranananda, Vishwananda, and Nityananda and Sri Kamal Nain Bakshi.



Paying homage to Guruji's deep love and devotion for, and service to, his motherland, the Prime Minister quoted from Guruji's poem, *My India*. He spoke with great clarity about subtle nuances of yoga philosophy while sharing his interpretation of Guruji's poem *Samadhi* and other writings. Applauding the commendable work done by Yogoda Satsanga Society, the Prime Minister said that it was due to Yoganandaji's spirit of selfless, non-attached service that the organization has not just crossed a century but continues to thrive and throb with the vibrant presence of its Founder. Using the analogy of a family and how it works, the Prime Minister said that YSS has successfully kept alive the purity of Guruji's teachings, allowing "neither dilution nor diversion" from the main objective.

Reciting a few lines from a poem by the great saint Kabir, the Prime Minister expressed his reverence and appreciation for Paramahansa Yoganandaji. He said that yogis are immortal; they never vanish or disappear but remain forever with us. He concluded by saying that he felt blessed to experience such a one whose spirit is ever living. The Prime Minister ended his speech by bowing to the great tradition started by Guruji, to all saints, and to all truth seekers.

The straight-from-the-heart speech by the Prime Minister got a standing ovation. A framed copy of the Hindi translation of Guruji's poem, *My India* was presented to the Prime Minister. It was truly a divine coincidence that the honourable Prime Minister had just recited lines from that very same poem in his address.

The event was widely covered by the press in print, TV, and online media channels. The first-day cover of the commemorative stamp was made available as a memento on donation basis. It was indeed an event



Devotees purchase the first-day cover of the commemorative stamp as a memento.

befitting the Centenary of YSS, and shall long remain in the memory of all those who attended the function. We thank all the volunteers who worked night and day, with immense devotion and dedication, to bring it to a successful conclusion.

Janmotsav — 2017

The year 2017 holds a special place in the heart of every Yogoda devotee as it marks the completion of 100 glorious years of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India (YSS). The journey of YSS began with Gurudeva, Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda, founding an ashram school with just seven boys in 1917 in a small hamlet in Dihika. The much anticipated Janmotsav celebrations were especially significant this year as they also marked the commencement and acted as a curtain-raiser to the Centenary Celebrations of YSS.

The 124th Avirbhav Anniversary Divas of beloved Gurudeva was celebrated at all our Ashrams, Dhyana Kendras and Mandalis throughout the country with love, devotion, and heartfelt gratitude to the Premavat. This year a special four-day Janmotsav function was organized simultaneously at Mumbai and Hyderabad.

The Janmotsav function included special long meditation, Prabhat Feri, commemorative service, charitable activities, bhandara, and Narayan Seva.

Ranchi Ashram

A special Guru Puja was conducted at Shiva Mandir followed by *havan* and bhandara. Devotees with their friends and family members from far and near joyously participated in this celebration. A total of 12,000

Devotees serve prasad (left) and a volunteer guides children (right) during bhandara.



A floral offering to beloved Gurudeva.





Volunteers serve food during Narayan Seva at Nirmala Leprosy Colony, Ranchi.

in Ranchi.

Dakshineswar Ashram

The function included the review of YSS meditation techniques in three languages (English, Bengali, and Hindi), talks on Gurudeva's teachings, and Kriya Yoga diksha.

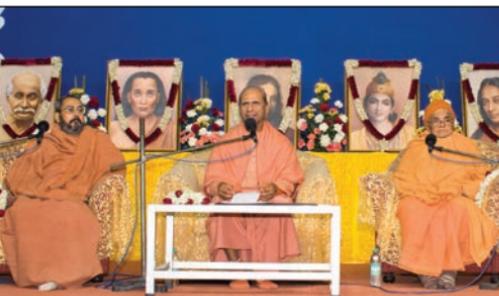
As part of centenary celebrations, a public talk was organized on January 5 at YSS Dakshineswar Ashram. Srimat Kinkar Samananda Maharaj, the General Secretary of Akhil Bharat Jaiguru Sampraday and Pravrajika Amalaprana Mata, the General Secretary of Sri Sarada Math, were the guests of honour. In their talks, both the guests dwelt on the guru-disciple relationship stressing on the quality of surrender. Around 2,000 people participated in this public event.

The Janmotsav function was also celebrated at Garpar Kendra, Serampore, Telary, and Dihika. Several charitable activities like medical camps at Telary and Dakshineswar, school books distribution, and distribution of blankets, were carried out.



Swami Suddhananda distributes school books at Kamarhati, West Bengal.

Swami Suddhananda with the guest of honour, Srimat Kinkar Samananda Maharaj and Pravrajika Amalaprana Mata and section of devotees during the Centenary function at Dakshineswar Ashram.



Noida Ashram

January 5, 2017, saw the ashram grounds filled with enthusiastic devotees of all ages unmindful of the cold, joyously taking part in Guruji's

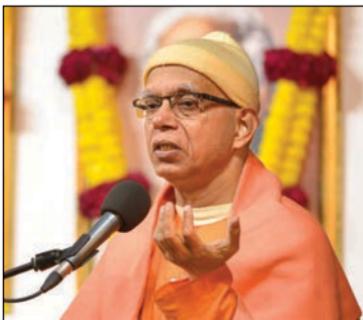
Avirbhav celebrations. The celebrations commenced with a Prabhat Feri. The procession made a *parikrama* of the ashram grounds singing melodious bhajans and carrying a picture of beloved Gurudeva seated on a floral palanquin. About 2,000 people turned up to take prasad at the Narayan Seva.

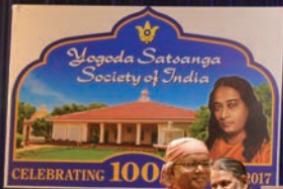
YSS Sannasis carry Gurudeva's picture on a palanquin during Prabhat Feri.

The main event was held in the auditorium in the evening. The Chief Guest for the occasion of the centenary programme was the Secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission, Delhi, Swami Shantatmananda. The evening programme began with a brief meditation followed by bhajan. Sri Kamal N. Bakshi, a former Ambassador of India and a YSS Board Member, welcomed Swami Shantatmananda on behalf of YSS and read out the message sent on this occasion by our beloved Sanghamata and President, Sri Sri Mrinalini Mata. Sri Mrinalini Mataji conveyed her heartiest congratulations and blessings to YSS.

Swami Shantatmananda's address reflected the reverence and high regard he had for Gurudeva, Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda. Swamiji said that the consciousness of rare great souls like Paramahansa Yogananda doesn't touch the earth; they belong to higher realms and endeavour to

Swami Shantatmananda, the Secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission, Delhi, addresses the devotees during the Centenary function, Noida Ashram.





Swami Lalitananda presents a framed picture of Yogeshwar Krishna to Swami Shantatmananda. Also seen are (left to right) Swamis Hiteshananda and Ishwarananda, Sri Kamal Nain Bakshi.

take everyone to that state. He emphasized the importance of following the guru given sadhana with *shraddha* without which no progress is possible. Swamiji was presented with a shawl, a picture of Yogeshwar Krishna, and a copy of Gurudeva's interpretation of the Bhagavad Gita: *God Talks With Arjuna — The Bhagavad Gita*.

During his address, Swami Ishwarananda pointed out that the story of the growth of YSS is a “love story”—the love of God and Gurus for the devotees and the devotees’ loving service to Them in return. He said that Guruji being an incarnation of love, the organization established by him is nothing but a manifestation of that divine love.

About 1,100 devotees attended the programme. The devotees left happy and contented—joy was visibly writ large on their faces; Guruji had tangibly touched each one of them with his unconditional love and boundless joy.

Mumbai

Yogoda Satsanga Dhyana Kendra—Mumbai hosted the inaugural programme of Centenary Celebrations by conducting Gurudeva's Janmotsav celebrations from January 5–8, 2017. This was also the first time the Kendra organized such a large event. In a city where space is perpetually at a premium, by Gurudeva's divine grace a sprawling venue of 30,000 sq. ft. was available at the Bharatiya Krida Mandir to conduct the programme. The venue was a mere four-minute walk from the Dhyana Mandir at Wadala.

Approximately 1,100 devotees registered for Janmotsav with about 200

outstation devotees joining in from all parts of the country. Nearly 200 devotees volunteered their services. Swamis Shraddhananda, Amarananda, Ishwarananda, and Sadananda, and Brahmachari Nischalananda conducted the four-day celebrations.

At the public satsanga on January 4, Swami Shraddhananda set the tone by speaking on *Finding Love, Peace, and Joy* to a large audience comprising of both devotees and the public. Many interested truth-seekers enrolled for *Yogoda Satsanga Lessons*.

On January 5, in his opening satsanga, Swami Shraddhananda emphasized the importance of developing attunement with the Guru. This event was followed by a press brief at the Kendra. Swami Shraddhananda's interview was published in the DNA newspaper with the title *Kriya Yoga In the Modern Day World*.

A special event on the occasion of YSS Centennial Celebrations was held in the evening. Swami Tejomayananda Saraswati, Worldwide Head of Chinmaya Mission and recipient of the Padma Bhushan Award, was the Chief Guest, while Swami Shraddhananda Giri presided over the ceremony, which was attended by about 1,000 people.

Swami Shraddhananda formally welcomed Swami Tejomayananda and honoured him with a shawl, books

(Left) Swami Shraddhananda presents a framed picture of Yogeshwar Krishna to Swami Tejomayananda. (Below) A section of devotee attending the centennial function.





Swami Ishwarananda addresses in Hindi on Qualities of A Devotee during evening satsanga.

of Gurudeva and a picture of Lord Krishna. Speaking on the occasion, Swami Shraddhananda lauded the contribution of Swami Tejomayananda to the welfare of humanity over the decades. He then spoke of Gurudeva's childhood and his blossoming into a globally renowned spiritual leader. Swamiji recounted details from the life of the great Guru as enumerated in *Autobiography of a Yogi*. He spoke of how YSS had grown to become a large organization from humble beginnings in 1917. Swamiji also read out the inspiring message from our Sanghamata and President, Sri Sri Mrinalini Mata on this joyous occasion.

Swami Tejomayananda spoke about meditation and its benefits. He said that apart from the higher goal of finding one's true Self, meditation also helps in combating the uncertainties of life and providing abiding peace to the devotee. He praised the role of Paramahansa Yoganandaji in spreading the light of yoga-meditation throughout the world. He recalled that he had read the *Autobiography of a Yogi* in 1976. He recounted his meeting with Sri Sri Daya Mata at the Mother Center in Los Angeles along with his own Guru, Swami Sri Chinmayananda, and he had also visited

Swami Amarananda leads evening group practice of Energization Exercises.



the YSS Ashram at Ranchi on a few occasions. The event was covered by Doordarshan and News18 channels, and local newspapers.

The schedule for the four-day programme included twice daily group meditations, review of YSS meditation techniques (simultaneously in Hindi and English), Question and Answer Session by Swami Shraddhananda, and spiritual discourses in the evening in Hindi by Swami Ishwarananda on the topics *Qualities of A Devotee* and *Guru-Disciple Relationship*. On the morning of January 7, the *Avirbhav* special six-hour meditation was enthusiastically attended by over 600 devotees.

The sacred Kriya Yoga diksha ceremony was held on January 8. The Janmotsav celebrations culminated with the closing satsanga in the evening. Swami Ishwarananda shared his personal remembrances and the lessons he learnt while working with our erstwhile beloved Sanghamata, Sri Daya Mataji. Quoting from Guruji's poem "When Will He Come?" Swami Shraddhananda inspired the devotees to remain steadfast in devotion and in following the Guru-given sadhana until He comes.

Throughout the celebrations, the sublime presence of the Gurus, their love, and blessings were tangibly felt and experienced by all. At the end of the programme, devotees reluctantly returned to their homes, with a renewed determination and zeal to deepen their own daily meditations.

YSS Sannyasis meet informally with the devotees and volunteers after the closing function.



Devotees at the Books Sale Counter.





Swami Madhavananda reviews YSS meditation technique.

Hyderabad

Alongside Mumbai, YSS Centenary Celebrations and Janmotsav were also held in Hyderabad from January 5–8. The four-day function was organized at Arya Vysya Abhyudaya Sangam. The programme was attend-

ed by around 850 devotees. The programme was presided over by Swamis Smaranananda and Madhavananda, and Brahmacharis Kedarananda and Raghavananda.

The celebrations began with an inspiring satsanga by Swami Smaranananda on devotion and how to cultivate it. On the same evening, a public talk was organized to formally inaugurate the Centenary Celebrations of YSS. Swami Raghunayakananda graced the occasion on behalf of Swami Jnanadananda, Head of Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad. Swami Smaranananda during his talk highlighted the significance of the Centenary Celebrations, and the yoga ideals as propounded by our Gurudeva, Paramahansa Yoganandaji. Swami Raghunayakananda reiterated the points made by Swami Smaranananda, explaining why it is important to focus on meditation, right activity, and behaviour for success in our spiritual life.



Dr H. R. Nagendra, Chancellor, S-VYASA, Bengaluru, delivers a talk on Meditation for the Well-being of Body, Mind, and Soul.



On the evening of January 7, a public function was organized with a special invitee, Padma Shri Dr. H. R. Nagendra, Chancellor, S-VYASA, Bengaluru. He gave an enlightening talk on *Meditation for the Well-being of Body, Mind, and Soul*. Using *shlokas* from scriptures and various allegories, Dr. Nagendra explained the futility of man's life without the strong foothold of yoga meditation. Swami Smaranananda talked about the importance of being a yogi based on Gurudeva's interpretation of the *Bhagavad Gita*. The talks not only expressed the necessity of yoga but also the urgency of it. At the end of the programme, Dr. Nagendra gave scholarships to girl students with limited economic means to pursue professional courses.

The four-day event included review classes on meditation techniques, satsangas, bhajan, and twice daily group practise of the Energization Exercises and meditation including a special six-hour Avirbhav meditation. The Janmotsav programme concluded with Kriya Yoga diksha ceremony on January 8. Around 50 new members signed up for the *Yogoda Satsanga Lessons* during the programme. The overwhelming response from the programme showed a deep hunger for God.

The service activities during Janmotsav included distribution of medical equipment which included mobile ventilator to Gandhi Medical College Hospital and 25 wheelchairs to Osmania General Hospital on January 2, 2017. On December 31, around 350 people were fed at the local Rama Temple in Tandur.

(Left) Swami Smaranananda presents a framed picture of Yogeshwar Krishna to Swami Raghubayanandana. **(Right)** Swami Madhavananda donates wheelchair to Osmania General Hospital.



Dr Nagendra presents scholarship to a student pursuing professional course.



Janmotsav was also celebrated at all the YSS Dhyana Kendras and Mandalis throughout the country. We are happy to share with you few photo memories of this event.



Swami Nigamananda addresses devotees during the Janmotsav function, Serampore.



(Above) Devotees meditate during a special commemorative service at Mysore and (left) Visakhapatnam.



Devotees and friends partake of prasad, Dihika.

Monastic Tours



Rajkot, January 12 – 14, 2017



Indore, February 10 – 12, 2017



Bhubaneswar, January 27 – 29, 2017



Coimbatore, January 28 – 30, 2017



Salem, January 26, 2017

100-hour Meditation at YSS Ashram — Ranchi

A 100-hour continuous meditation session spread over five days was conducted at Yogoda Satsanga Math, Ranchi. The meditation, held in the Dhyana Mandir, began at 7:00 a.m. on December 28, 2017, and concluded at 11:30 a.m. on January 1, 2017. It included periods of chanting and singing of bhajans, interspersed with 40-45 minutes of meditation. Devotees could join for the meditation as long as they were able to.

The special meditation ushered in the year-long YSS Centenary Celebrations. Enthusiastic devotees from Ranchi and several cities throughout India participated in this commemorative meditation. It was the first time ever that an uninterrupted hundred hours were devoted solely to meditation.

Swami Smaranananda led the first hour of meditation. At the outset, Swamiji pointed out to those present the uniqueness of the event, and the opportunity it provided for so many devotees to think of God and Gurus single-mindedly for the next five days. He mentioned that during such special meditations the Great Ones are tangibly present and shower their blessings. Swamiji urged devotees to make the most of this blessed opportunity and encouraged them to focus on and practise each meditation technique for a longer duration and to deeply enjoy the ensuing stillness. He also advised devotees not to overlook the body's need for food and rest. Fruits, biscuits, and hot drinks were made available near the Shiva Mandir round-the-clock. The meal timings at the Central Kitchen were also extended.

Twice daily, devotees joined in the Worldwide Prayer Circle, sending prayers and healing vibrations to all those who had asked for prayers, by practising Gurudeva's healing technique. The healing service was followed by a break of thirty minutes for devotees to practise the Energization

Devotees during one of the healing service, Ranchi.





A section of devotees participate in 24-hour meditation in Chandigarh (*left*) and 100-hour meditation in Coimbatore (*right*).

Exercises. Many rooms were made available for local devotees to take rest during the day or stay overnight. In addition to the local devotees, around 90 devotees from different cities participated in this event. Braving the winter chill of Ranchi, many were seen meditating late into the night and the wee hours of the morning.

As the days went by, the vibrations in the Dhyana Mandir and surrounding areas grew stronger and stronger. One of the devotees commented that after the first few days he could feel the vibrations of stillness all the way to the dining hall! Another devotee remarked that such events are what makes YSS unique since meditation is the cornerstone of Guruji's teachings and the Yogoda path.

The devotees were grateful for having been able to participate in this blessed opportunity and wished that this event would become an annual affair in Ranchi.

YSS Noida Ashram and a few Dhyana Kendras — Agra, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Tanuku, Pithapuram, Rajahmundry, and Chennai — also held twenty-four-hour meditations and Coimbatore Dhyana Kendra held 100-hour meditation to commence YSS Centenary Celebrations.

Tamil Translation of *The Divine Romance* Released in Chennai

The Tamil translation of the book *The Divine Romance*, an anthology of Gurudeva's talks, was released at a public function in Chennai on February 4, 2017, as part of the Centenary Celebrations of YSS. Noted film actor, producer, philanthropist, recipient of Padma Vibhushan Award, and a Yogoda devotee, Sri Rajinikanth, was the Chief Guest. The hall at Raghavendra Mandapam, Chennai, was packed to capacity, with nearly 1,500 people attending the function. Swamis Smaranananda, Suddhananda, Pavitrananda, and Brahmacharis Nishthananda and

தெய்வீக்க காதல்

Padma Vibhushan Sri Rajinikanth

Film Actor, Producer, Screenplay Writer, Philanthropist



Swami Smaranananda Giri

General Secretary, Yogoda Satsanga Society of India

Swami Suddhananda Giri

Secretary, YSS, Satsang Ashram



Sri Rajinikanth (*second from left*) with YSS Swamis and a devotee display the newly released Tamil translation of the book *The Divine Romance*.

Niranjanananda from YSS participated in this function.

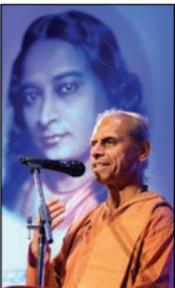
During the function, Swami Suddhananda spoke about how Gurudeva Paramahansa Yoganandaji started YSS in 1917 as a “How-to-Live” school with just seven students in Dihika, a village in West Bengal, and that it has now grown to a worldwide organization with over two hundred meditation centres in India and many educational institutions from Primary to Post Graduate level.

Swami Smaranananda gave a talk on *Expressing and Experiencing Divine Love in Daily Life*. He explained that God is to be experienced and not necessarily seen, as Divine Love is present everywhere, all the time.

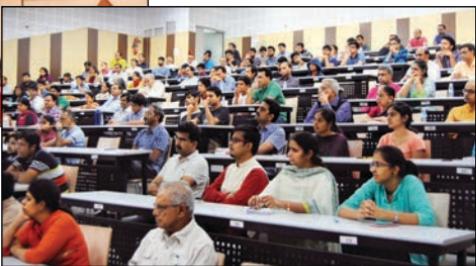
The Chief Guest, Sri Rajinikanth, while addressing the audience shared how he found his Guru, Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda, when he read the book *Autobiography of a Yogi* in 1998. Ever since then he has seen the transformative power of Guruji’s teachings in his life. About the book, *The Divine Romance*, he said, “This book is the first book that I am releasing in my lifetime. While reviewing the book, I soon realized that every page, nay every line, is filled with gems of Paramahansa Yogananda’s love and wisdom.” His address was received with thunderous applause. Swami Suddhananda presented a framed picture of Yogeshwar Krishna to Sri Rajinikanth.

The event was widely covered by the press in print, TV, and online media channels. Nearly five hundred copies of *The Divine Romance* (Tamil) were sold shortly after the programme. As many as forty people expressed interest in Guruji’s teachings and signed up for the *Yogoda Satsanga Lessons*. We would like to thank all the devotees who, with full enthusiasm, rendered their *seva* in organizing this function and thus made it a success.

Public Talks



Swami Suddhananda delivers a talk in Hindi on Tension Free Life And Soul Unfoldment Through Kriya Yoga, Indore, February 9, 2017.



(Left) Dr G. R. Sethi introduces Swami Ishwarananda at BIMTECH, Noida, where Swamiji was invited to talk, in Hindi, on Achieving Success Without Stress Through Yoga Meditation, February 4, 2017. **(Right)** A section of devotees and the general public attending a public talk given by Swami Smaranananda at International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad, January 8, 2017.



Swami Pavitrananda gives a talk on The Light Is Within You, Coimbatore, March 15, 2017.



*Brahmachari Achyutananda addresses in Hindi on benefits of meditation,
Dehradun, February 10, 2017.*



*Swami Smaranananda gives a talk on Meditation: Antidote for Stress, Anxiety,
and Fear, Rajkot, January 11, 2017.*

Opposite page: Presented here is the final stanza of Paramahansa Yoganandaji's poem "My India," reciting which he entered *mahasamadhi* on March 7, 1952. (*Photo at bottom*) The great Guru (circled) is seen shortly before his final speech. SRF President Sri Sri Mrinalini Mata said of him, "In India he began his mission, and with words of tribute to his beloved homeland he left his mortal form — and his spirit and India-inspired work will ever live on."

A note on front and back cover designs: India has an age-old and rich diversity of artistic folk traditions. Many regions of our country have their own unique traditional painting styles, which depict ancient mythology, stories from scriptures, and pastoral scenes from daily life. The covers of this issue feature one such style — Madhubani paintings from the Bihar/Jharkhand area, where Ranchi is located.