

professionals and address common health issues.

iv. Provide rehabilitation care for the handicapped (challenged, differently abled population) and take of the needs of other underprivileged communities in course of time in collaboration with other philanthropic and humanitarian care organizations in and outside Ramakrishna Mission.

3. Spiritual retreat centre

This Centre shall aim to impart spiritual and moral education to the general public, whoever is inclined and interested, through a nurturing environment that promotes learning, personal growth and character development. It shall offer spiritual retreats (3-7 days to start with) wherein the residential participants (around 25 to start with) will be taught chanting of the Vedic and Upanishadic passages, Tamil scriptures handed over by tradition like Alwars, Nayanmars, etc., simple meditation and mind control techniques, music, yoga exercises, Sanskrit etc. Age may not be a bar for these participants provided they are healthy, able and keen on learning Bharatiya Jnana Parampara (Indian Knowledge Systems). These retreats will be led and monitored by senior, experienced spiritual leaders like monks and other spiritually oriented scholars, who will be the Acharyas to teach wide range of subjects. This Centre shall also offer training programmes for Corporate Sector heads and other personnel in the various industries for personal growth through meditation, techniques for calming the mind, etc.

4. Ashrama — residential quarters for the monks and other Acharyas

An Ashrama will be established with residential quarters for monks, prayer cum meditation hall for the monks' spiritual practices (sadhana), a multipurpose hall for discourses and other spiritual activities.

Implementation and the funds required

The above mentioned activities shall be implemented in phases consistent with the flow of funds from the Governments (both Centre and State), non-Government philanthropic agencies, Companies that can provide funds from their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) budgets. The following phases have been envisaged:

Phase 1:

A. Proposed projects:

- (1) Public Health Care Centre (Charitable Dispensary with free medical checkup, care, diagnostic facilities and medication)
- (2) CBSE School (as described above)

- (3) Sadhakas Quarters (Spiritual Retreat Centre)
 - (4) Monks' Quarters with kitchen, dining hall, prayer cum meditation hall
 - (5) Multipurpose hall
- Duration : 2 years: 2024 – 2026
Estimated financial budget: 40 crore

Phase 2:

B. Proposed projects:

- (1) Staff and teachers' quarters
 - (2) Guest House
 - (3) Kitchen Extension as may be needed
 - (4) Integral Rural Empowerment and Skill Development Centre
 - (5) Residential Hostel for boys (gurukula adapted to modern times)
 - (6) Administrative Building
- Duration: 2026 – 2028 (2 years)
Budget: 90 crore

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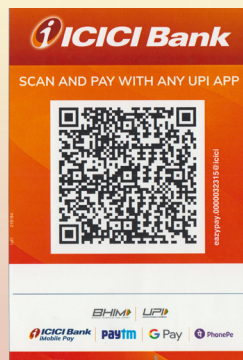
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RAMAKRISHNA MISSION

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APPEAL

An appeal to help Ramakrishna Mission in its noble attempt in reviving the ancient Veda-Vedanta-Yoga tradition of Bharatiya Jnana Parampara through imparting education to children through a unique School in the Tirumukkudal village in Tamil Nadu's Kanjivaram district, modelled on the ancient gurukula system adapted to modern conditions as taught by Swami Vivekananda, blending harmoniously the ancient and modern knowledge — Sanskrit, Veda-Vedanta-Yoga as well as English, computer applications, science and technology (including the latest developments in AI) along with integrated rural development of the Thirumukkudal village and surrounding areas through skill development courses.

"My ideal, indeed, can be put into a few words, and that is to preach unto mankind their divinity, and how to make it manifest in every movement of life."

— Swami Vivekananda

Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission

Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission are well known twin organizations started by Swami Vivekananda under the divine command of his Master, Sri Ramakrishna, in 1897, nearly 125 years ago. This worldwide twin organizations are rooted in the age-old ancient Bharatiya Jnana Parampara (Indian Knowledge Traditions) adapted to modern conditions. They are non-political, non-sectarian, ancient yet modern, engaged in various forms of humanitarian and social service activities to bring out an integrated development—physical, mental, intellectual, moral and spiritual—of society through selfless service in the spirit worship of man as God. Inspired by the ideals of renunciation and service, the monks and lay devotees of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission have been engaged in such service through its Centres all over the world (274 branch-Centres all over the world, of which 207



centres are in India and the remaining 67 are spread over 24 countries), without any distinction of caste, creed, colour, gender, race, religion, nationality, etc., based on the philosophy of the fundamental Unity of all Existence and Solidarity of the whole Universe as preached by the ancient Vedanta, the core philosophy of Hinduism, as interpreted and revived in modern times by Swami Vivekananda. The Belur Math Headquarters' website www.belurmath.org gives all the details about the twin organizations, Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission.

Ramakrishna Mission, Thirumukudal

With its historic temple and serene surroundings, Thirumukudal Panchayat Uthiramerur in the State of Tamil Nadu is a place of cultural significance and natural beauty. It derives its name from the three rivers, Palar (Ksheera Nadhi), Vegavathi (Saraswathi) and Cheyyar (Bahu Nadhi) as they merge together at this place, thereby called sangam of three rivers (called mukudal in Tamil). Here exists an ancient temple devoted to Narayana (Vishnu) which is said to be 1200 years old. Appan Venkatesa Perumal Temple. The temple is located on the banks of the river giving a scenic view. It is located in Pazhaya Seevaram on one

side of the river and Sri Appan Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal temple on the other bank of the river. The temple's history dates back to at least the 9th century AD and has been associated with the Pallava monarch, Nripatungavarman. Historical inscriptions reveal that the temple enjoyed patronage from various rulers, including Raja Raja Chola 1, Rajendra Chola, and Veera Rajendra Chola. Interestingly, there is evidence



of a Veda Pathashala (Vedic School) as seen in the inscriptions on the temple walls showing that this was an ancient Centre of Vedic studies and culture that once existed within the temple premises, which Ramakrishna Mission is now planning to revive in a modern form.

Ramakrishna Mission has received as donation nearly 28 acres of land in this holy place with the juxtaposition of rivers on the one side and hill on the other side—an ideal place for tapas (austerity), cultivation of knowledge (jnana/vidya charcha) and selfless service towards integrated rural development, because while the village embraces and is rooted in its ancient heritage and traditions, there is at the same time an urgent need to address the pressing issues concerning education (both ancient and modern), healthcare services, integrated rural development.

Overview of proposed activities:

Ramakrishna Mission Thirumukkudal Centre aims to establish an educational institution, a higher secondary school (Sub-Junior from Classes 1-5, Junior from Classes 6-10, Senior 11-12, to be implemented by) that will impart ancient wisdom (Bharatiya Jnana Parampara), value-based education, focusing on the study of Veda-Vedanta-Yoga, Sanskrit, universal and liberal principles of Sanatana Dharma, both in Sanskrit as well as the ancient Tamil scriptures of the Alvars, the Nayanmars and other great Tamil saints and sages, blending it with modern education in English, Computer Science and Applications, Hindi, fundamentals of modern scientific knowledge including emerging areas like Artificial Intelligence, (Virtual+Augmented) Reality (called 'Mixed Reality') etc. In addition, integrated rural development, comprehensive health care in the Tirumukkudal village and surrounding areas, community and skill

development, women's empowerment, etc., will also be focus and priority areas for job creation and employment generation among the youth, both male and female.

Discussed below are the phase wise planning to achieve the above objectives.

1. Residential school

Residential school which will be a blend of ancient and modern education, modelled on the ancient gurukula adapted to modern conditions, as taught by Swami Vivekananda (see the detailed discussion above)

The school, christened Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Jnanapitham, shall be affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), will integrate into its curriculum both ancient Indian Knowledge Systems (Bharatiya Jnana Parampara) like Yoga-Veda-Vedanta in both Sanskrit and Tamil, in-depth knowledge of these two ancient languages, as well as modern scientific knowledge like sciences, computer science and applications (including emerging areas like AI, etc.) thus blending the ancient and the modern systems of knowledge.

As stated above, the residential students will have the opportunity to learn Sanskrit, Vedas, Vedanta, Yoga, and various other aspects of Sanatana Dharma, as well as the Tamil tradition in the form of scriptures coming from Alvars, Nayanmars, Timulular, Arunagiri Nathar, Vallalar, Tayumanavar, Tiruvalluvar, and other great Tamil saints and sages. Like any modern school, this school will provide opportunities to develop the sports, musical and artistic talents, etc. The objective is to develop an integrated, all-round personality in the students with physical, mental, moral, intellectual and spiritual aspects harmoniously combined, in the light of Swami Vivekananda's holistic educational vision.

Eventually, we may consider adding ITI stream with Industry linkages.

2. Healthcare Centre for the public

Establish a public health centre as a community outreach programme with the following objectives:

- i. Conduct free medical camps (with free diagnostic services) and free medication to the locality and neighbouring villages centering around Tirumukkudal.
- ii. Provide non-formal health education through awareness programmes on healthy living and first aid for the local community.
- iii. Provide primary healthcare with qualified