

## VED PATHASHALA



STL Ved Pathshala, popularly known as Ved Pathshala, is a new institution and learning that does not seek any fee from students and divulges its ancient way of imparting Vedas



“Milking the cow is as important as learning the ancient Vedas in Sanskrit,” Ved Pathshala institution is following the age-old ancient gurukula system, religiously following the ‘guru-sishya parampara’ (a teacher-disciple lineage) of imparting education in Vedas in every sense of the term and Vedic values.

The ved Pathshala is supported by Sterlite Technologies Limited (STL) under its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives to continue the providing ancient invaluable education through Vedas in partnership with Swami Sacchidanand Vedahyay Pratisthan and Swami Dayanand Seva trust at Pirangut campus.

The Ved Pathshala is following the ancient method to teach the vedas and the STL has created/developed that type of structure for joyful learning. Guruji Mr. Siddhivinayak rises from his sleep sharp at the stroke of 4 every morning when the bell rings loud and clear. After a quick face wash, he is at his seat, immersed in the study of the ancient Vedas in Sanskrit in the stillness of the breaking dawn for two continuous hours. Between 6 am and 6:30 am, he starts milking the cows. Once the daily chore is over, the 25-year-old student bathes and begins chanting the Gayatri mantra japa to attain the blessings and boons of this mantra. After the pooja and Surya namaskaras (the yoga



Following the ancient gurukula system of guru-sishya parampara of imparting knowledge and teaching of the Vedas, the institution trains students in Rig Veda in Sanskrit for 12 years before ordaining them as Ved-Vaidyiks (fullfledged priests), also known as Sanathan Vedic dharmagurus. The students are required to appear for an exam conducted by trusts. “As Ved-Vaidyik, they are revered as full-pledged priests and are in great demand to perform various religious rites and rituals and yagnas.





Sun salutations), all are given a fresh glass of cow milk.

“But ours is a gurukula system in its pure form. We do not seek nor charge any fees to our students. So, there is no difference between poor and rich students. But only those students capable of rigorous training and learning are admitted in the residential school. With such pure intention to churn out Hindu priests well-versed in Vedas through the ancient path, providence has been taking care of the expenses incurred at Ved Bhavan, as it were. Shri. Siddhivinayak., whom everybody reveres as Guruji, says it is his duty, dharma to teach Vedas as handed down in ancient India like when Lord Rama was sent to learn Vedas to Brahmrishi Vashistha Ashram and Lord Krishna and Sudama to Sandipani Muni Ashram.

“This is not an educational business like some universities and colleges. This is a selfless service,” says Mrs. Jyoti Agarwal Trustee Sterlite Tech Foundation. It is an attempt to preserve the gurukula system in its pure form and promote its values. “This is God’s work. We neither seek

nor ask for donations and providing service to society by taking forward our ancient invaluable knowledge to next gen.

Situated at the sylvan surroundings at the end of Pirangut in Mulsi block of Pune, the two-acre donated campus built free of cost, comes alive with young Brahmin boys in spotless white dhotis with tonsured heads chanting the mantras. The students spend a total of 12 years mastering and learning by heart 10,552 mantras of Rig Veda and Dashgranthas, including Rig Veda Samhita, Aitareya Bhrahmana, Vedanga, Shi kshachatushataya, Ash tady ayee, NairuktaShrauta, Griha Sutras and the complete Upanishadas, Padhpath, Kramapath, Jethapath, and Ghanapath by heart.

“It takes about four-and-half-year to learn to memorise these mantras to be recited at over 1,000 yagnas for various occasions. For ceremonies such as birth, death and marriage, the duration of the mantras is hardly 10 minutes whereas various types of yagnas are performed for eight days to 16 months.”

Admission to Ved Bhavan begins early in life. Brahmin boys, who complete their class IV at around 10, are presented for admission but only those passing an aptitude test make it. “We accept students in April and for three months, we teach them Sanskrit and test them on their aptitude, their competence and general orientation. Those who are not fit are sent back. Not all admitted make it till the end. “On an average, we have about 90 per cent success rate. pointing out that the course is only for the intelligent and not for drop outs.

“This is not a career for us but service of God and society, who need knowledgeable priests. This is not a mass training institute but imparting one-on-one personal education and training which takes time,” says Mrs. Jyoti Agarwal trustee STF. STF is also looking for extracurricular development of the students through various sports, study visits, excursions, adding new curriculum such as E education, internet, personality development, English speaking, earn while learn concept etc.

