



MADURAI

Grounds of the new Ashram

*New Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Centre and Ashram
open in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, South India*

January 18, 2004, marked the inauguration of our new Centre in Madurai, South India, making this the fourth in India and the twentieth Centre worldwide.

Staff and guests from the Neyyar Dam Ashram were invited to attend and participate in this truly auspicious occasion. In total around one hundred and twenty people made the overnight bus and train journey from our Neyyar Dam Ashram to Madurai for the inauguration ceremony.

With the assistance of Sri Potty Swamiji the day began with a series of beautiful Ganapati, Pancha Durga and Sudarsana homas, followed by a delicious traditional south Indian meal. The large group of guests from Neyyar Dam visited the beautiful two thousand year-old Meenaskhi temple, covering an immense area of twenty-six acres. After meditating in the temple they visited the site of the planned new Ashram in Madurai. Work is underway on the new ashram building. Guests were able to sit on the quiet balcony (of the part-constructed building) and enjoy the calming, sattvic energy of the new ashram land. After visiting the new Ashram site, guests returned to the Centre in order to participate in the final inauguration ceremonies. Sri Swami Mahadevanandaji gave an inspiring talk about the growth of the organisation and Swamiji's mission. Guests heard about the Five Points of Yoga and saw a demonstration of basic and advanced yoga asanas. The oil lamp was lit for the Centre by Sri Swami Mahadevanandaji and other distinguished guests, followed by arati and distribution of prasad.

The Centre has started classes and courses and has already established a steady flow of students. The Madurai Ashram work will continue with the support of the local community. Once completed it is proposed that the Ashram will conduct Teachers' Training Courses and other programmes such as the Advanced Teachers' Training Course and Kids' Camp. The season at Madurai will be longer than at our Neyyar Dam Ashram due to gentler weather conditions - the monsoon rains are less extensive and summer is cooler.

The Centre staff would like to thank all of the great souls who helped in this noble cause of Swamiji Maharaj. We also thank all who blessed us with their emails and prayers.

Enquiries and further information please contact
maduraicentre@sivananda.org

OR

www.sivananda.org/madurai

CHENNAI

Opening of the

*Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Centre,
Chennai - Sunday 25 January 2004.*

January 25 2004, marked the inauguration of our new Centre in Chennai, South India. A new property was recently acquired one kilometer from the present Center. This property is the future site of an expansive Yoga Hall and a building from which to run the Center. The new property is close to the beach and the atmosphere is tranquil and calming.

The Yoga Hall will measure 3200 square feet and will easily accommodate eighty students for yoga practice, its cheerful blue roof acting as a beacon to students. We are already conducting morning classes in the Hall.

The main Yoga Centre building is still under construction and expected to be complete in a few months time. Once complete the entire Chennai Centre will be moved to the new property which will be fully equipped with halls for yoga practise, a boutique and offices, ayurvedic massage rooms, accommodation for staff and guests, and a kitchen.

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Temporary Chennai Yoga Hall