

Founder-Patron of Shantikunj

Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya and Mata Bhagavati Devi Sharma

Yug-Rishi (Saint of the Era), Vedmoorti (Wrote authoritative commentary on Vedas), Taponishtha (practiced tough spiritual penance) Acharya Pandit Shriram Sharma (who, in the present Era, is considered equivalent to the ancient Saints like Vashishtha, Vyas, Bhagirath, Yagyavalkya, etc.) and his wife Mata Bhagavati Devi Sharma (who, like Mata Arundhati and Mata Shardamani, complemented him in all his endeavors) are the founder – patron of Shantikunj. By their intense austerities and spiritual penance they proclaimed and propagated the divine Movement for the Reconstruction of the Era, which is committed to create a bright future for the entire humanity. For this, they liberated the Gayatri Mantra, which provides righteous intellect, and Yagya (which provides inspiration for righteous actions), and made it readily available to the common masses irrespective of gender, religion, caste, creed, color.



Importance of Various Sites

1 Prakhar Pragya – Sajal Shraddha

Revered Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya and Revered Mata Bhagavati Devi Sharma have been actively involved in

uplifting people and helping to alleviate their sufferings, both during their life time and also after shedding this physical sheath. Prakhar Pragya – Sajal

Shraddha, which is the eternal abode of Revered Gurusatta, is the readily accessible spot for offering heartfelt emotional prayers to them. Everyone has felt that just like earlier times, even today they provide all possible support for fulfilling the righteous prayers of their followers.



2 Yagyashala

Yagya is a way of life and the root of divine Indian culture. This is why yagya is intrinsically connected with all the festivals, sacramental rites, etc.

In the Yagyashala (place where fire ceremony is done) at Shantikunj, the fire that burns in the

yagya kundas is a part of an eternal fire that has been kept burning in the Himalayas by the sages; this was brought to Shantikunj by Revered Gurudev. Ever since the establishment of Shantikunj, every day yagya is conducted here. These days, on an average about 2000 spiritual seekers get trained in this life style together with practicing spiritual penance. Yagya generates vital life



force. Daily practice of yagya leads to a divine and peaceful atmosphere in Shantikunj. People with spiritual insights state that ancient saints and divine souls come to this yagyashala in subtle form and make oblations in the yagya to strengthen the Movement for the Reconstruction of the Era.

3. Book Stall (Enlightening Literature)

The primary foundation of the Movement for the Reconstruction of the Era is the revolutionary thoughts of Revered Gurudev. Acharyashri wrote about 3200 books on almost all aspects of human life. This life transforming literature is readily available in the book stall - the temple of righteous knowledge at Shantikunj. It provides active guidance to people of all kinds



of mindsets and conditions, solves their problems, and fills them with divine inspiration and energy. Besides Hindi and English languages, this literature is available at an extremely affordable price in several other regional Indian languages as well.

Several other things like herbal medicines, inspirational audio and video CDs of the Mission, stickers, etc. are also available at the book stall.

4. Temples of Ancient Rishis (Saints)

During the trip of Revered Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya to the Himalayas, he got a chance to communicate with the ancient Rishis in their subtle bodies, who have been doing intense spiritual penance since

thousands of years. The Rishis requested Revered Gurudev to promote and propagate their unfinished tasks. Gurudev readily accepted this as a divine directive from the Rishis and started promoting the revolutionary works of 21 Rishis after coming back to Shantikunj. The idols of seven of these Rishis have been established as temples of ancient Rishis in Shantikunj; a part of their subtle form resides in these idols and continuously provides divine spiritual energy and protection.

5. Temple of Mother Gayatri

Visit to the divine spiritual abodes of deities (pilgrimage centers) is an important part of spiritual life style. The main purpose of these visits is to derive continuous inspiration for imbibing the divine virtues symbolized by the deity in one's life as well as to seek blessings and guidance.

Revered Acharyashri told that the best thing that can be requested from God is righteous intellect. If a person gains righteous wisdom and intellect then he will automatically start moving on the righteous path and will be able to perceive happiness and contentment in every situation; these divine inspirations are actively propagated by the temple of Mother Gayatri.



A Mislead Deity

The premises of the Mother Gayatri also has the temple of 'A Mislead Deity'. Acharyashri has said that our own life is that true deity, which needs to be controlled in order to arouse the divine capabilities and inculcate righteous

virtues. This is the summary of all the teachings of spirituality. Vedas and Upanishads also tell the same thing.

Sadhana (Spiritual Penance) Room

Inside Shantikunj, every true spiritual seeker experiences the divinity inherent in its atmosphere. This is the effect of daily chanting of about 1 crore Gayatri Mantra chanting and daily performance of yagya. Whoever does mantra chanting and meditation in the Sadhana Room situated in front of the Mother Gayatri temple, gets the benefits of the collective spiritual penance that is being performed here regularly.

6. Akhand Deep (Eternal Lamp)

In Shantikunj, people can also see the divine eternal light (Akhand Jyoti) that was lighted by Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya in 1926 on the day of Vasant Panchami festival. This lamp



was lighted by Acharyashri at his birth place (Anwalkheda village in Agra district, Uttar Pradesh) when he was 15 years old; this lamp has ever since been kept lighted.

Acharyashri performed intense spiritual penance in the presence of this eternal flame, and thus made it the root source of all the achievements of the huge Gayatri Pariwar (family). More than 2400 crore Gayatri Mantra have been chanted so far in its presence. Just by taking a glimpse of this eternal flame, people receive divine inspirations and inner strength.

7. Devatma (Divine) Himalayas temple

The temple of the Divine Himalayas is an extraordinary creation that does not exist anywhere else. Here, one can get the divine sight of the four Dham (auspicious pilgrimage centers - Badrinath, Kedarnath, Yamunotri & Gangotri), the five Prayag (Vishnu Prayag, Nand Prayag, Karn prayag, Rudra Prayag and Dev Prayag) & the pious streams of holy rivers Ganga & Yamuna.



Himalayas are the source of divine spiritual energy for the world where the Council of ancient Rishis (saints) has been practicing intense spiritual penance since eternity. Seekers of the spiritual path are naturally attracted towards the Himalayas. Revered Gurudev believes that all the seekers of the spiritual path must meditate upon the Himalayas; this nourishes them with divine energy and strength. He established the temple of the divine Himalayas in Shantikunj so that spiritual seekers can easily meditate on it.

8. Exhibition of the Divine Culture

This picture exhibition depicts the life history of Revered Gurudev and Revered Mataji, their

Movement for the Reconstruction of the Era (Yug Nirman Yojna), the constructive social activities being conducted from Shantikunj, and a brief glimpse of the voluminous literature written by Revered Gurudev. The books written by Revered Gurudev are also displayed here.



9. Haritima Devalaya (Temple having Collection of Rare Plants & Medicinal Herbs)

Shantikunj has undertaken two constructive movements related to the protection and conservation plants – 1. Conservation and enhancement of the green cover of the



Earth (Haritima Samvardhan) and 2. Health conservation through medicinal herbs. Haritima Devalaya has the collection

of both normal and rare medicinal herbs found in different regions. Here, proper training is given for identifying these herbs and knowing what are their benefits and how are these used. This training is also a part of the one month training camp for creating lok-sevi (individuals dedicated for social service) that is regularly conducted at Shantikunj. Training is also imparted on how to plant trees in houses and farmlands, and how to enhance the green cover of the Earth. The visitors are given saplings of various plants in the form of blessings.

Important Contacts

Reception: Reception takes care of the stay arrangement of the people who come here for specific reasons in accordance with the discipline of the ashram.

Guide: For inquisitive visitors, there is free of cost arrangement of guides and video presentations.

Training Camps (Shivir) Office: Contact this office for getting information about various training camps and seeking permission to participate in these.

Zonal Office: Contact this office for getting information about various branches-Shaktipeeths of Gayatri Pariwar all over the country and the programs conducted by these.

Youth and Seven Constructive Movements Cell: Contact this cell to get information about various Movements being run all over the country and how to participate in these.

Sacramental Rites Cell: If you want to get some sacramental rite done then first get it registered in this cell.

Abroad Cell: People who want to get information and participate in the activities being conducted in foreign countries should contact this Cell. The stay arrangement and guidance of visitors from foreign countries is also arranged by this Cell.

Medical Facility - Hospital: Contact for getting free of cost medical consultancy and treatment.

Membership of Magazines / Donation: Counters have been set up at prominent locations for subscribing to various magazines of Gayatri Pariwar and giving donations.

Constructive Movements being run by Shantikunj all over India

Sadhana (Spiritual Penance): Nine day Sanjivani Sadhana camps are regularly conducted at Shantikunj (every month from 1st to 9th, 11th to 19th, and 21st to 29th). These camps explain the difficult concepts of spirituality in a simple manner and teach various simple methods for adopting these principles in our lives. The inculcation of these principles results in the upliftment and refinement of our character, thoughts and behaviour, which in turn creates an effective personality. For more elevated spiritual seekers Antah Urja Jagaran (arousal of divine inner strength) camps are organized on specific dates.

Training of Lok-Sevi (people dedicated to social service): One of the main aims of Shantikunj is to provide holistic training to people committed to social service (lok-sevi) and in turn refine the thought process of the masses. One month Yug-Shilpi (people who can contribute to constructive recreation of the Era) camp, one month Parivrajak (person committed to going place to place for creating mass awareness) Training camp, three month Music camp, and Village Management camps are regularly organized here. Besides these, personality refinement camps for teachers, scout-guide, bank, railways and government officials, etc. are organized here from time to time.

Education: The Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya (University) established by Shantikunj is inculcating the virtues of patriotism and social service in its students through its state-of-the-art unique curriculum. The nationwide organization of Bhartiya Sanskriti Gyan Pariksha (examination for testing the knowledge of Indian Culture) and Bal Sanskar Shala (camps for inculcating divine virtues in children) are coordinated from Shantikunj. It is also the headquarter of 'Yug Nirman Bharat Scout and Guide'.

Sanskar (Sacramental Rites): All the sacramental rites of Indian Culture (Punsavan-

Baby Shower, Namkaran-Naming Ceremony, Annaprashan, Mumdan-Tonsure, Shikha Sthapan, Yagyopaveet-Thread Ceremony, Vivah-Marriage, Janmadivas-Birthday, Vivahdivas-Marriage Anniversary, Shraddha-Tarpan, etc.) are conducted in Shantikunj in an extremely inspirational manner and totally free of cost. The divine ambiance and pious inspirations present herein make the sacramental rite extremely effective. Thousands of people come here every year to conduct various costly sacramental rites like marriage, thread ceremony, etc., in an extremely simple manner; thus they save crores of rupees of both themselves and the nation.

Health: Shantikunj has revived Ayurved so that health services may be easily available to everybody. Shantikunj inspires everyone to attain holistic health by adopting proper food habits, proper daily routine, purity of thoughts and easily available medicinal herbs.

Self-Reliance: For financial self-reliance training of various cottage industries like handloom, hand-made paper, screen printing, bakery, etc. is given in Shantikunj.

Protection of Environment: Shantikunj has started the Vriksha Ganga (river of trees) Movement for the enhancement of the green cover of the Earth. Through this movement one crore trees have been planted all over the nation. There is special arrangement for 'Waste Management' in Shantikunj. Not even a single speck of waste is thrown out; there is full provision for recycling of all kinds of waste.

Movement for the Cleaning of Rivers and Pilgrimage Centers: Gayatri Pariwar has launched the nationwide Bhagirathi Jalabhishek Movement, in which the cleaning of holy Ganga river from Gangotri to Gangasagar has been undertaken. Since past several years continuous efforts have been on for the purification of various rivers like Narmada and Tapti (lifeline of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat), Shivana (Mandasaur, M.P.), Dohi (Alirajpur, M.P.), Mandakini (Chitrakoot, M.P.), and Banas (lifeline

of Rajasthan). Various activities being conducted under this Movement include cleaning of the banks of river bodies, awareness drives and constitution of service groups (seva mandal) in coastal cities and villages, extensive tree plantation on the banks, and encouraging people to do organic farming.

Disaster Management: Shantikunj is a nationally recognized center for expertise in disaster management. An active disaster management team is present here that has been trained in government run disaster management training institutions. This team is always involved in the management of sudden disasters as well as tackling the problem of irregular waste disposal and open air defecation in rural areas, running mass awareness campaigns, enhancing the green cover of the Earth, etc. There are thousands of disaster management groups of Gayatri Pariwar spread all over the country. Gayatri Pariwar has actively participated for months in relief and rehabilitation drives during several national disasters. In Uttarakhand it is an extremely effective and reliable disaster management center for the government. Shantikunj participates in the management of various recurrent disasters in the state as well as in the nation such as landslide, cloud burst, fire, flood, etc.

Eradication of Unjust Social Customs: Shantikunj has run strong campaigns against various unjust social customs like addiction, dowry, female feticide, etc. that are weakening the society. Extraordinary success has been achieved in these campaigns.

Women Empowerment: Revered Gurudev had declared '21st Century – the Century of the Women' (ikkisavi sadi – nari sadi) and said that women will lead the new Era. Through the strength of his intense spiritual penance, crores of women of the nation got the right to pray to Mother Gayatri. Thousands of divine women are inculcating righteous virtues in their families and generating a refined constructive consciousness in the society by performing the role of spiritual preachers (purohit). The women empowerment movement of Gayatri Pariwar is continuously striving to make the women well cultured, gentle, emotionally sensitive and full of divine virtues.

Specialities of Shantikunj

- Shantikunj is an academy for refinement of personalities. It teaches people to rise above the mean mentality of caste, creed, sect, religion, etc. and learn how to lead a holistic lifestyle. People belonging to all the religions and sections of society come here to participate in various training programs and practice spiritual penance.
- Here there is extremely favorable environment, proper guidance and intense spiritual energy for the upliftment and sound health of the entire personality including body, mind and consciousness.
- Shantikunj inspires people to believe in righteous thoughts and actions instead of having faith in superstitions, illogical beliefs, fate, etc. Everything should be tested on the basis of logical reasoning and due wisdom should be employed in adopting anything.
- As per ancient Indian tradition, Shantikunj encourages joint family system and practices the same. This huge spiritual center is fully managed by dedicated volunteers. The family members living here are allotted various tasks according to their expertise and various resources as per their basic needs are made available to them. Everyone keeps each other's welfare in mind.
- The attachments of the world do not exist here. The world works for achieving name, fame, position and money, Shantikunj inspires feelings of selfless service to humanity.
- The Supreme Consciousness of Mother Gayatri is being propagated all over the world from here. There are more than 6000 Shaktipeeths/Branches established by Gayatri Pariwar all over the world that gain continuous inspiration and guidance from Shantikunj for conducting mass awareness campaigns and strive for the revival of spirituality.
- There is perfect confluence of Dharma (righteous duty - Spirituality) and Science in all the teachings that are imparted here. People are made aware of the scientific basis of all the spiritual activities that are performed here.

Essential Information about Stay Arrangements at Shantikunj

- The stay arrangements in Shantikunj are available only for those people who come here either to participate in spiritual penance and training camps (the main focus of Shantikunj), or to conduct some sacramental rite, or, after taking due permission, just to visit this spiritually charged pilgrimage center. Those who come here just as visitors are given a maximum permission of two day stay and they are required to participate in all its daily activities.
- Stay arrangement is free of cost. There is no need for prior reservation. Space is given subject to availability at the time of arrival. Spiritual seekers are given group accommodation only – separate rooms are not given. People can stay outside Shantikunj also and take part in all its activities.

What to do, How to get connected?

1. For detailed description of Shantikunj, read – 'Shantikunj – An Introduction'; 'Our Pledge for the Constructive Recreation of the Era' (basic tenets and concepts for the creation of the new Era); 'My Will – Its Legacy and Message' (Autobiography of Vedmoorty, Taponishtha Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya).
2. There are three steps for participation in the Movement for the Constructive Recreation of the Era (Yug Nirman Yojna) – **Upasana, Sadhana, Aradhana**.
Upasana: Chant three rosaries of Gayatri Mantra for self refinement.
Sadhana: Take a pledge and strive to leave your vices and bad habits.
Aradhana: Ensure your participation in some kind of social service activity.
3. In order to maintain continuous contact with Shantikunj, you must subscribe to the magazines of the Mission. Make sure to take the literature written by Acharyashri in the form of blessings of righteous knowledge. Regularly read and contemplate upon this literature. The thoughts and teachings of Acharyashri bring revolutionary transformation in the life of a person.
4. Practice Bali-Vaishya Yagya for the refinement of thoughts and emotions of family members and inculcating divine virtues in them.
5. Contact the Youth and Seven Constructive Revolutions Cell of Shantikunj, get detailed information about the various Constructive Movements run by Shantikunj, and ensure your participation in these Movements.

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GAYATRI TIRTH SHANTIKUNJ

PHILOSOPHY AND VISION



ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं
भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि
धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात् ।

Gayatri Teerth Shantikunj

- Shantikunj is a spiritually charged pilgrimage center that has given righteous direction and long lasting peace-happiness to the lives of crores of people. Here, about 24 lakhs (24,00,000) Gayatri Mantra are chanted daily by dedicated spiritual seekers and about 1000 people take part in the Gayatri Yagya.
- This is an ideal center that imparts training to the masses based on divine spiritual principles. Training on Scientific Spirituality is imparted here free of cost.
- All the sacramental rites are conducted here in accordance with the divine Indian culture and by arousing divine inspirations; all these are conducted free of cost.

