

**AVATAR MEHER BABA
ANDHRA CENTRE,
JUBILEE HILLS,
HYDERABAD**

--

A BRIEF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Silver Jubilee Celebrations
14-11-1986 to 13-11-2011

AGENDA

- o The Genesis and Inauguration of the centre
 - The Genesis of the Centre
 - The Foundation stone and the construction activities
 - The Inaugural ceremony
- o Post-Inauguration
 - New facilities
 - Current Centre activities
 - Prominent visitors
- o Future Plans

THE GENESIS OF THE CENTRE

- o Bro Aloha (Ali Akbar Shapurzaman) wrote a letter (dated 2-4-1981) to Bro RSN Murthy that he is intending to visit Hyderabad in the month of March, 1982 and repeatedly mentioned that this trip to Hyderabad is inwardly inspired by Baba
- o Perceiving some deeper significance of this trip, RSN Murthy was inwardly motivated to initiate efforts to build a bigger Centre in Hyderabad, the state capital of Andhra Pradesh

THE GENESIS CONTD.

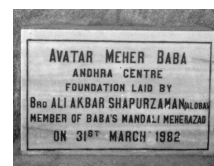
- o Persistent efforts were made but of no avail, while the date of Aloha's visit was coming closer
- o Meanwhile Bro PC Kasi Reddy came forward to donate his plot at Jubilee Hills to Baba Centre
- o Subsequently Kasi Reddy arranged a meeting on 15-3-82 with the President of the Ravindra Co-op society Bro. Kavuri Kutumba Rao, for the transfer of his plot
- o Moved and enthused by the brief but powerful talk of RSN Murthy on Beloved Baba in the meeting, Kavuri donated an acre of land for the Centre, despite being an atheist!

THE GENESIS CONTD.

- o Plot was registered on 4-10-82
- o Kavuri's spontaneous and generous act resulted in this magnificent Centre
- o Dr Thota Dhanapathi Rao Naidu, 'The grand-old man of Andhra' expressed gratitude to Kavuri in a special message
- o A building construction committee formed consisting of:
 - Rentala Surya Nayana Murthy, chairman
 - VS Rao (vice-chairman)
 - M R K Sarma (secretary)
 - B Ramakrishnaiah (Treasurer)

FOUNDATION STONE

- o Foundation Stone for the new Centre was laid on 31-3-1982 at 9:30AM by Bro Aloha
- o Thus the 'deeper significance' of the proposed Aloha's visit became evident!
- o The atmosphere was so surcharged that on-the-spot love-donations amounted to 30,000/- on that day



FIRST SAHAVAS AT THE SITE

- First sahasvas at the site was held on 2-5-82, commemorating 60th year of padayatra of Beloved Baba with his mandali from Poona to Bombay



COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION

- Commencement of Construction work started off with a sahasva held on 28-11-1982
- Chief Secretary, AP Govt Sri BN Raman and several other dignitaries attended the meeting



SECOND VISIT OF BRO ALOBA

- Bro Aloba stayed in Hyderabad from 21-24 March 1983
- He predicted that the Centre under construction would become a notable Centre in the world



Bro Aloba with Bro Kavuri who donated the land

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

- A difficult task of providing Electricity to a remote place was made possible with persistent efforts of some dedicated lovers like MRK Sarma through BN Raman
- Electricity supply was switched-ON by Sri Basavaraju, APSEB Member, on 2-1-1983
- The oval-shaped building planned and civil works supervised by Architect C Basavayya
- Initial estimate was 4 lakhs approx.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES CONTD.

- The challenges of construction include remote location, funding, daily support and supervision – have been overcome with loving contributions from several Baba lovers and others, notable among them:
 - The building committee members
 - N Durgamba, 70 year-old mother of Bro. Maheshwar Rao, who stayed at this remote site day and night for about four years all alone!
 - Bro's B Krishnaiah, SD Lalith, NS Prakasa Rao and several other dedicated Baba lovers - shared daily supervision of construction works

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES CONTD.

- Sri Dhanapathi Rao Naidu (nicknamed "The Grand old man of Andhra") visits the site under construction on 3-2-1983



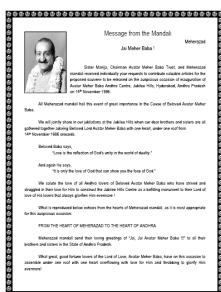
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES CONTD.



INAUGURATION OF THE CENTRE

- o The Centre was formally inaugurated on 14-11-1986 by Bro Aloha
- o A two-day Sahavas was held on this occasion
- o Many Baba lovers, exceeding 4000 in number, from all over India and abroad came to participate in the ceremony
- o Many Baba lovers from local, national and international, contributed directly and indirectly, financially or otherwise in the construction of the Centre

MESSAGES FROM MEHERA MAI AND ERUCH ON THE INAUGURATION



INAUGURATION OF THE CENTRE



INAUGURATION OF THE CENTRE



NEW FACILITIES

- POST-INAUGURATION ADDITIONS

- Guest House
- Boundary Wall
- Landscaping of the premises
- A big-screen projection system
- Borewell
- New Quarter for Bahadur
- Stage Renovation
- Amphitheatre

NEW FACILITIES – THE ‘MEHERA MAI’ GUEST HOUSE

- The main motivator for the construction of the Guest house is Smt Nori Seethamma
- Started in 1991 engaging the services of builder Tulsi Ram, it was done in phases
- Contributions both financial and otherwise came from several Baba lovers with which main unfinished structure was built and it was formally inaugurated on 8 May 1994 by Bro Alobaji.

NEW FACILITIES – THE GUEST HOUSE

CONTD.

- Bro Rama Rao (Son-in-law of Sri RS Prakasa Rao) took initiative and completed the building to its final shape during the period 1997-2002 by spending about 7 lakhs
- It consists of floors with facilities like guest rooms, seminar room, dining hall, and a kitchen
- ULC clearance of the site was obtained in 12 Aug 2005

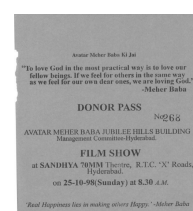
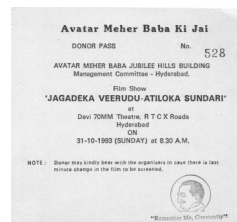


NEW FACILITIES - GUEST HOUSE CONTD.

- The Guest room at the basement was inaugurated by Sri Bhau Kalchuri on 14 Oct 2001 (50th year of Manonash programme at Hyderabad)
- Bhauji stayed in this room in his two visits to Hyderabad

NEW FACILITIES - BOUNDARY WALL CONSTRUCTION

- Two benefit shows were organized to generate funds for boundary wall construction
 - 31-10-93
 - 25-10-98



NEW FACILITIES - LANDSCAPING OF THE PREMISES

- Dr T Venkata Swamy took the initiative to develop a garden in the centre premises
- The landscaping works started in the year April, 2001
- Around the same time in 2001, Dr Swamy's younger brother Sri T Panduranga Murthy, moved to stay at the center to supervise the garden work. He stayed for about 6 years and maintained the garden.



NEW FACILITIES - LANDSCAPING OF THE PREMISES

- Internal road from gate to main hall was laid on 17th Jan 2002
- Internal road to the guest house was laid on 13 Aug 2003
- Internal path ways were laid in June, 2002
- Rain water storage tanks were built in June, 2001



NEW FACILITIES - BOREWELL

- Old borewell was dug outside the Centre on the plain area
- Water became insufficient and reliance on external tanker support became difficult especially during summer times
- Committee decided to go for another borewell within the rocky premises
- New borewell was dug on 31 May 2007
- New Quarter for Bahadur and adjacent toilet complex was build in Sep 2008



NEW FACILITIES – STAGE RENOVATION

- With the main stage for Baba photo becoming old, committee decided to replace it by a new one
- New stage was inaugurated by Bro Jal Dastur on 14-11-2010
- Baba's sadra kept in wooden box was unveiled in the centre on 14-10-2010



STAGE RENOVATION CONTD.



NEW FACILITIES - AMPHITHEATRE

- A new facility to have out-door Satsang, an amphitheater was constructed in Nov, 2011
- It will be used for the first time for the Silver Jubilee Celebrations!



SEMINARS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Don Steven's seminar on God Speaks – Feb 2002
- A workshop on Stage Management was held in 22 April 2011
- A workshop on "The path and its convergence" was held between 26-27 May 2012
- Monthly presentations on Discourses

CURRENT CENTRE ACTIVITIES

- Baba's Birthday – Feb 25th of every year
- Silence day – 10th July of every year
- Anniversary – Sunday closest to 14th Nov
- Weekly Sahavas on Sundays 10:00 -12:00 AM
- Daily Duty roster for morning Arti, started in 1997
- Daily Duty roster for day-time availability
- Dhuni on 12th of every month

CURRENT CENTRE ACTIVITIES CONTD.

- Periodic upkeep of the centre is done by a team of spirited volunteers
- It is in fact these team activities that bind the lovers together and enhance the spirit to take 'baby-steps' in Beloved's service:
 - paintings the walls of the main hall and the guest house
 - laying the pathways, maintain the garden etc

VISITORS TO THE CENTRE

- The centre had many special guests from the time of inauguration till date and most of them stayed in the guest house
 - Bro's Bhau Kalchuri, Chairman AMBPPCT, Don Stevens,
 - Sohrab and Rustom,
 - Dara and Amrit,
 - Jal and Dolly Dastur ,
 - Bill Le Page,
 - Alan Wagner,
 - Ted Judson, Ward Parks,
 - Sheila Kreinski,
 - Paul Comer
 - Mehernath Kalchuri
 - **and many more**

FUTURE PLANS

- Proposed to establish multimedia library
- Regular boarding facilities in the guest house
- Regular transportation facilities for guests
- Conducting periodic workshops and seminars for young Baba lovers

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI!!!