

# Sirigere Swamiji Inaugurates Asia Pacific Veerashaiva Samaja in Sydney, Australia

Report By: Vijaykumar Halagali

Veerashaiva Samaja of Asia-Pacific (VSAP) is a non-profit religious and charity community organisation founded recently in Australia.

The inauguration and launch of the organisation was recently held in Sydney, Australia. More than 100 people who included both local and overseas dignitaries graced the occasion.

Asia Pacific Co-ordinator and Public Officer Mr. Vijaykumar Halagali welcomed the guests. He explained the meaning of Veerashaivism and outlined the Aims and Objectives of the Veerashaiva Samaja.

The function started with lighting of the traditional lamp by Sri: Taralabalu Jagadguru Dr: Shivamurthy Shivacharya Mahaswamiji of Sirigere, India. Mr: Mukhyamantri Chandru, the President of Kannada Development Authority, Bangalore, Mrs: Amanda Fazio, President New South Wales Government Upper House and Mr: Raj Datta, Chairperson of Deepavali Committee. VSAP representative in India and industrialist Sri: Srikanta Aradhya of Devatha Builders, Bangalore and businessman Sri: Anand of Bangalore were present on the occasion.



Mahaswamiji unveiled the VSAP banner and the logo of Veerashaiva Samaja of Asia Pacific Inc in the presence of guests.



*Netra Halagali*



*Mamatharani Anuvanahalli*

Miss. Netra Halagali presented a beautiful Bharata Natya dance and offered prayer to Lord Virupaksha, another name for Lord Shiva. Miss. Mamatharani Anuvanahalli performed a Bharata Natya dance based on a Vachana. Both the dances were well received and appreciated by the audience.

The messages and best wishes from many Swamijis and Veerashaiva leaders from overseas were presented to the audience.

President of VSAP Dr. Siddalingeshwara Orekondy welcomed and introduced the

guests. He spoke about the purpose of the new organisation and the future plans. Dr. Orekondy said that the VSAP would work closely with VSNA, VSUK and other Veerashaiva organisations in the coming years and spread the Veerashaiva principles in the Asia-Pacific countries. His Holiness, Sri Swamiji launched the website of Veerashaiva Samaja of Asia Pacific Inc.

Mrs. Amanda Fazio thanked the committee for taking up a noble cause of spreading the divine values in Australian community and wished the organisation to grow and achieve its goal of enriching the multicultural society.



Sri. Mukhyamantri Chandru speaking on the occasion said vachana sahitya is the integral part of Kannada literature. He appreciated the way the vachanas that are written in a simple language but carry the deep meaning and how important they are even today. He explained with an example of a popular vachana that tells about the seven commandments &



by following them one can attain the inner peace. Sri. Chandru wished the new organisation to be successful and to have a bright future.

Mr. Raj Datta congratulated the committee for taking the responsibility of preserving and passing on the values and heritage to the future generation and also for spreading the very important message of harmony and universal brotherhood to the wider community. He also invited the audience for participation of Deepavali celebrations at the Parliament house, New South Wales Parliament.

Taralabalu Mahaswamiji who presided over the inauguration function spoke at length and explained the meaning of the word "religion". He said "religion" has been interpreted differently at different contexts. Swamiji mentioned that the religion is contradicted sometimes by asking whether the religion is a boon or a curse to the society. He emphasised that following or not following a religion can reward one with a boon or a curse. Hence the religion cannot be assessed or evaluated by it's own results. Swamiji said the religion is like the road sign, which shows the correct path and by following that path one can reach the destination. Swamiji blessed the Committee for taking the initiative of starting an organisation to spread this very important message. He blessed the gathering of devotees for taking part in this historic event.



Miss.Khushi and Miss.Mili Dakshin sisters recited a vachana at the end of the function.

Swamiji presented the certificate of appreciation to the participating children. Asia Pacific Co-ordinator and Public Officer Mr.Vijaykumar Halagali was the Master of Ceremony and did the vote of thanks.

[www.veerashaivasamaja.org](http://www.veerashaivasamaja.org)

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