

# NEWSLETTER & APPEAL

## 2023

“Establish in your hearts permanently  
only kindness and peace.  
Always help others with love;  
help them by your example.”

— Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda



*Yogoda Satsanga Society of India*

FOUNDED 1917 BY PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA



*Noida*



*Dwarahat*



*Dibika*



*Dakshineswar*



## WELCOME TO THE YSS Newsletter and Appeal—January 2023

Dear Divine Atman,

Greetings for the new year. We hope and pray that it brings you renewed zeal and determination to achieve all your noble dreams and aspirations.

As we gradually reopened the ashrams and centres in March last year and started the in-person events, one of the things that gave us great joy was meeting and beholding the smiling faces of you all who were able to visit the ashrams once more after a long gap of two years. Listening to your tales of courage and faith during the challenging period of the pandemic, we realized that our spiritual bonds have not only remained undiminished but also grown stronger because together we faced the trying times, united in our love for and faith in God and the Gurus.

In the following pages, we share how Gurudeva's blessed work continued to flourish during the past year—whether it be the release of the *YSS Lessons* in Indian languages, or the large number of online/in-person programmes that we were able to offer, or in reaching out to the poor and needy.

We have also made considerable progress in several projects: the up-gradation of the facilities at our Jagannathpur Educational Campus in Ranchi, and major renovations of our Sevashram charitable clinic and the Central Kitchen-cum-Dining facilities at Ranchi. These renovations were much needed to provide quality service to the needy public and our devotees.

With great joy, we share with you news of our acquisition of property adjacent to YSS Dakshineswar ashram.

Please receive our heartfelt gratitude for the love, support, and prayers you extend to us in bringing our beloved Gurudeva's life-transforming teachings to thirsty souls. In our daily meditations we hold you in our prayers and in the united love for God and Gurudeva. May you feel more tangibly the love and blessings of the Great Ones in your life.

In divine friendship,  
*Yogoda Satsanga Society of India*

## NEW PROPERTY ACQUIRED AT DAKSHINESWAR

### *Property Adjacent to Yogoda Satsanga Math, Dakshineswar*

Our Dakshineswar ashram has been feeling the need to expand its facilities as the work continues to grow. We have been looking for properties in its vicinity where the expansion can take place. By divine grace, around 7,000 square feet of property adjacent to the ashram was available to us. With your donations, we could acquire this property at the cost of ₹80 lakh.



*A portion of the new property adjacent to the ashram Guest House*

## UPGRADATION OF THE FACILITIES

### *YSS Educational Institutions at Jagannathpur, Ranchi*



*A view of the auditorium and the multi-purpose hall building*

Four years ago, the Government of India commemorated the 125th birth anniversary of our Guru-deva, Paramahansa Yogananda, in recognition of his spiritual stature and his timeless contributions to spreading the science of Yoga all over the world. As one of

the several initiatives that were sanctioned under this project, a sum of ₹8 crore was allocated for the construction of a new building complex

for the Yogoda Satsanga School and a large multipurpose hall for use by both the college and the school located at the Yogoda Satsanga Educational Institutions (YSEI) Campus at Jagannathpur in Ranchi.

The school and college cater to the poor and needy sections of the population on the outskirts of Ranchi. Many tribal children also attend these charitable educational institutions. Apart from regular courses, students are given training in yoga, sports, drama, and other extracurricular activities. Many of the students are first-generation learners.

Since the existing school building, constructed almost 40 years ago, was semi-permanent and had outlived its life, work began with the grant given by the Government of India and from contributions made by generous devotees.

### **Construction works completed to date:**

- ❖ Construction of 10,000 square feet state-of-the-art Multi-Purpose Hall with a seating capacity of 900 on the first floor and five hall-cum-class rooms of 2,000 square feet each on the ground floor. The constructions of this building costs ₹3.2 crore.
- ❖ An amount of ₹5.5 crore was spent for the construction of the new school complex, which comprised of the following:
  - Administrative Block
  - Computer and Science Laboratory buildings
  - A new library building with contemporary facilities
  - NCC and NSS buildings
  - Toilets
- ❖ Four clusters of six classrooms each (a total of 24 classrooms) were



*One of the class room clusters*

built at an expense of ₹4.4 crore. These classrooms have a unique design that permits plenty of sunlight and ventilation allowing students to be close to nature. The construction of these clusters was made possible by generous donations we received in previous years for the school.

- ❖ Interiors and ancillary work such as furniture for class rooms and Multi-Purpose Hall, mid-day meal building, cycle shed for school children, stage and acoustics for the Multi-Purpose Hall, electrical panelling, LAN, internal roads, drainage systems, street lighting, and landscaping.

Due to the Covid pandemic, construction activity which had slowed down has now been completed. Our revered President and Spiritual Head Sri Sri Swami Chidananda Giri inaugurated these new facilities on January 29, 2023.

The total cost of the entire project is ₹22 crore. We received ₹8 crore as grant from the Government. Several devotees have come forward to support various aspects of this project by contributing ₹10 crore so far. We seek your help to raise the shortfall of ₹4 crore. Your generous contributions will be much appreciated.

### *The Central Kitchen at Ranchi*

The dining hall at YSS Ranchi ashram was proving to be small to accommodate the increasing number of devotee visitors and resident sevaks. The waiting time for meals was increasing, especially during special events such as commemorations and Sangams. We undertook the project to more than triple the seating capacity of the dining area.



Until now, the kitchen and dining were housed in an old building that needed repairs. The renovation of this building was completed in November 2022. In addition to the larger dining area, the cooking

*A view of a new dining hall (below) with a seating capacity of 200. The hot-kitchen (inset) with modern cooking equipment.*



facility has been upgraded with modern equipment to cook and serve meals in a more hygienic way. A walk-in refrigerator and a larger storage facility have also been added.

The kitchen and dining hall renovation was completed at a total cost of ₹1.5 crore and was inaugurated on December 8, 2022.



## **SPECIAL SANGAM AT HYDERABAD TO BE LED BY SWAMI CHIDANANDAJI**

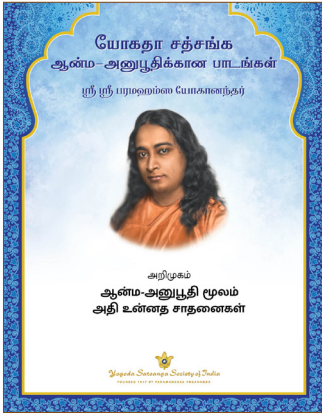
It gives us great joy to inform you that our revered President Sri Sri Swami Chidananda Giri will be visiting India in January–February 2023. Swamiji will visit YSS ashrams during this period and lead a special five-day Sangam at Hyderabad from February 12 to 16, 2023.

Although the registration deadline for the in-person event has passed, you are most welcome to watch the live-streams of the function on our website: [yssi.org/PresidentTour](http://yssi.org/PresidentTour).

# BRINGING GURUDEVA’S LIFE-TRANSFORMING TEACHINGS TO MORE SEEKERS

Your generous donations enable us to offer the *Yogoda Satsanga Lessons* in several Indian languages to thousands of truth-seekers, thus sowing the seeds of personal transformation in countless souls.

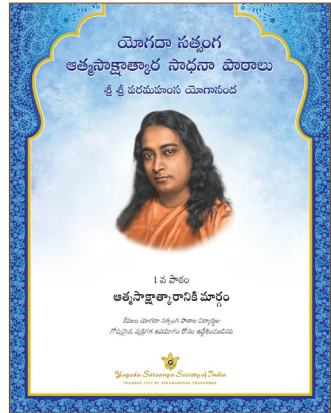
## Release of YSS Lessons in Tamil and Telugu



On July 22, 2022, the Tamil translation of the new edition of the *Yogoda Satsanga Lessons* was released by Swami Suddhananda Giri at a special function in Chennai and the first copy of the Introductory Lesson was received by Padma Vibhushan Sri Rajinikanth, renowned actor, producer, philanthropist, and a YSS devotee. The event drew participation from around 1,600 people at the venue, and many more joined via a live-stream.

On December 3, 2022—the auspicious occasion of Gita Jayanti—the Telugu translation of the *YSS Lessons* was released by YSS monastics at Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh. Swami Smaranananda Giri presided over the function which was attended by more than 600 people.

YSS/SRF President and Spiritual Head Sri Sri Swami Chidananda Giri sent special messages of blessings for these events. In his letter to devotees for these milestone events, Swamiji thanked all involved in their release, saying: “Much loving thought and effort has gone into making this possible, and from the depths of my heart I thank all of those who have devotedly served to bring about this translation and distribution.”





## Translating the Lessons Into Other Indian Languages

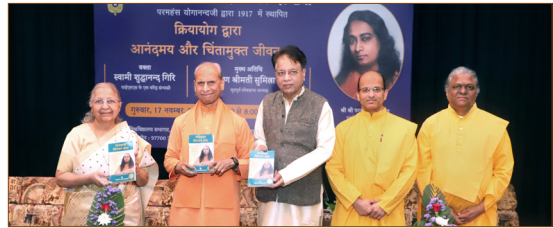
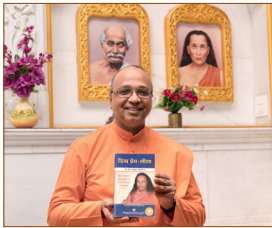


The *Lessons* are also being translated into other Indian languages—Hindi and Bengali. Teams of dedicated monastics and devotees are working assiduously to complete these translations. We have also recruited personnel for the website, typesetting, and *Lessons* dispatch to support the publication and distribution of the *Lessons* in these languages. This project is of utmost importance, and your assistance is vital to make it possible.

### Release of New Translations and eBooks

During this year we released the following new translations of Gurujī's books: *Man's Eternal Quest* in Gujarati and Marathi, *The Science of Religion* in Malayalam, *The Divine Romance* in Hindi, and *Journey to Self-realization* in Tamil. We also released *The Second Coming of Christ* and the Hindi *God Talks with Arjuna—The Bhagavad Gita* in ebook format.

Many other titles by Yoganandaji are currently being translated into various languages to make these accessible to readers in their native tongues.



# DIGITAL SUPPORT FOR SPIRITUAL NEEDS

As the world advances in information technology, YSS is investing significant resources to upgrade its digital infrastructure to provide several online services. Some of the new initiatives that have been undertaken are:

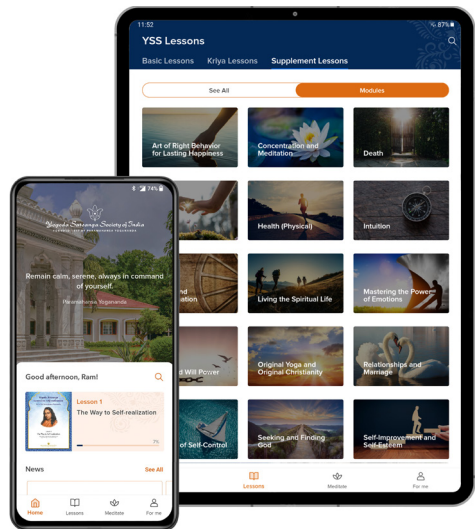
- ❖ A significantly improved SRF/YSS App, through which Lessons in various languages can be conveniently accessed
- ❖ Revamp of the YSS website, which includes providing translated versions of the website in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu
- ❖ IT integrations to support seamless access across YSS Devotee Portal, SRF/YSS Volunteer Portal, SRF Convocation, online programmes, and more.

## *Updated SRF/YSS App*

*A digital spiritual companion for study, meditation, and inspiration*

Recently, an updated version of the SRF/YSS app was released. Serving as an expanded resource for your spiritual journey, this app is for anyone who wants to learn more about meditation, the science of Kriya Yoga, and practical ways to live a spiritually balanced life. Some of the offerings on this app are:

- ❖ Guided meditations on Peace, Living Fearlessly, God as Light, Expansion of Consciousness, and more—with customizable meditation times from 15 to 45 minutes
- ❖ Access to live online meditation sessions



- ❖ YSS/SRF news and information about upcoming events
- ❖ Weekly online inspirational talks

YSS Lessons students can now read their *Lessons* and supporting material on their mobile and on the computer.

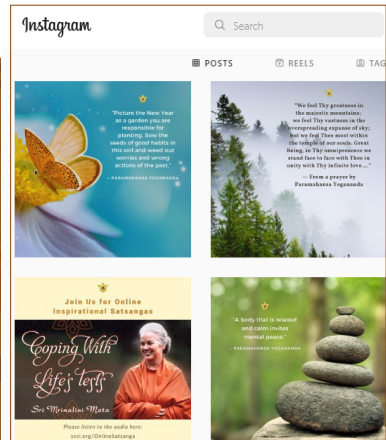
If you have not yet downloaded or updated to the new version of the app, you may do so from the app store or by visiting the link: [yssi.org/DigitalApp](http://yssi.org/DigitalApp).

### YSS Website Translated Into Several Indian Languages

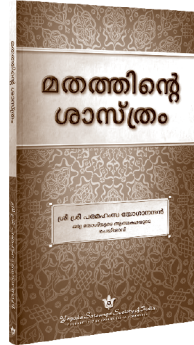
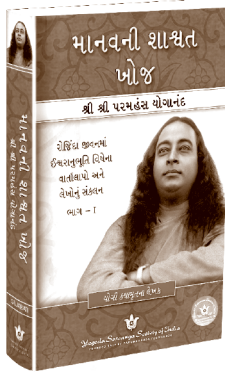
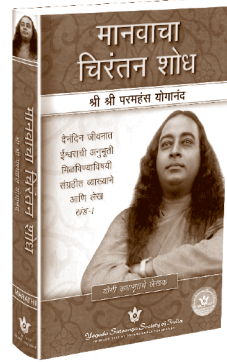
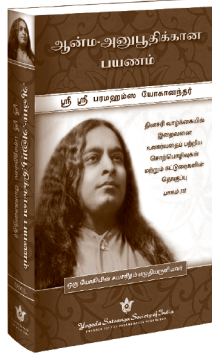
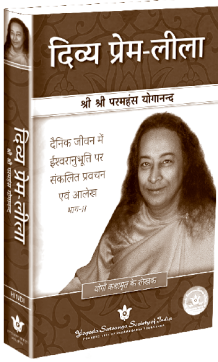
Over the last year, a team of devotees led by monastics have helped translate and publish the YSS website ([ysofindia.org](http://ysofindia.org)) in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu languages—enabling many more readers to digitally access Yoganandaji’s teachings and learn about the Kriya Yoga path. We plan to translate the website into several more Indian languages in the near future.

### Social Media

In September 2021, YSS launched its social media channels on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These platforms provide an easy avenue for devotees, friends, and truth-seekers to connect with YSS teachings, news, and events. If you have not already done so, we invite you to join these channels (our handle is @yoganandayss).

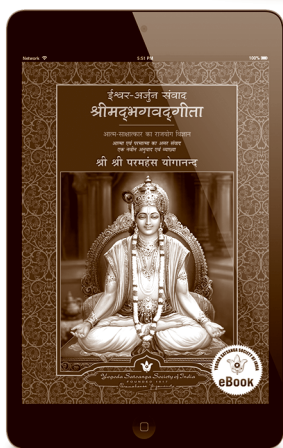


## New Book Releases

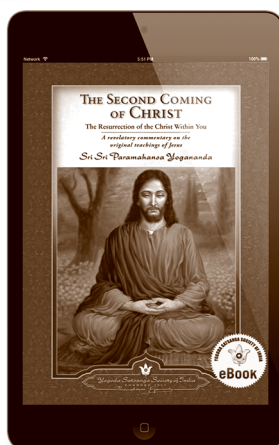


The Divine Romance—Hindi  
Journey to Self-realization—Tamil  
Man's Eternal Quest—Marathi  
Man's Eternal Quest—Gujarati  
The Science of Religion—Malayalam

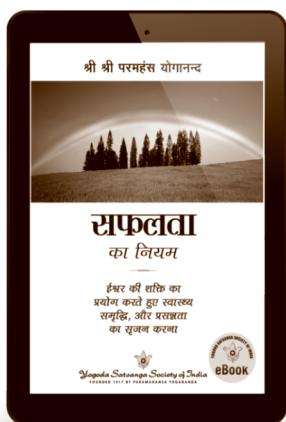
## New eBook Releases



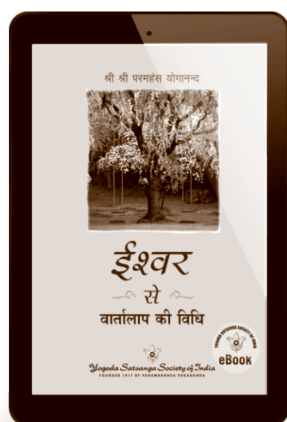
**God Talks With Arjuna:  
The Bhagavad Gita — Hindi**



**The Second Coming  
of Christ — English**



**The Law of Success**  
Hindi and Telugu



**How You Can Talk With God**  
Hindi and Telugu

And various How-to-Live titles in Hindi: Answered Prayers • Focusing the Power of Attention for Success • How to Cultivate Divine Love • Healing by God's Unlimited Power • Harmonizing Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Methods of Healing • Remoulding Your Life • Where Are Our Departed Loved Ones?

## SPIRITUAL PROGRAMMES DRAW THOUSANDS

After a gap of more than two years, YSS ashrams and centres gradually reopened with Covid appropriate measures in March 2022, and progressively began offering daily and weekly programmes – meditations, long meditations, satsangas, and special events.



*As a part of the International Day of Yoga celebrations, a YSS devotee conducts guided meditation and healing prayer session at one of the schools in Belagavi, Karnataka.*

During the International Day of Yoga celebrations on June 21, 2022, YSS Ranchi and Dakshineswar ashrams welcomed visitors and offered guided meditation sessions in Hindi and English. These sessions were simultaneously live-streamed for the online audience.



Around 2,000 devotees and friends attended the Guru Purnima celebrations at the YSS Noida ashram.



On Mahavatar Babaji's Smriti Divas, YSS Dwarahat ashram organized a *prabhat feri* to Babaji's cave, led by YSS monastics, devotees, and students and staff of Yogoda Satsanga Balkrishnalaya.

# MONASTICS TOUR PROGRAMMES RESUME

From July 2022 onwards, YSS monastics resumed tours to cities around the country. They have started conducting weekend retreats and inspirational programmes including classes on Paramahansaji's "how-to-live" teachings, meditations, and Kriya Yoga *diksha*.



*Abmedabad*



*Chandigarh*



*Chennai*



*Chittoor*



*Indore*



*Visakhapatnam*

## CONTINUING DIVINE FELLOWSHIP THROUGH ONLINE OFFERINGS



With your generosity, we continue to support our spiritual family of YSS/ SRF devotees in India and around the world with online offerings such as group meditations, inspirational talks, and discourses on the Bhagavad Gita. Aided by the tireless efforts of

hundreds of volunteers, our online offerings help bring upliftment, solace, and encouragement to many devotees—especially to those who are living far away from YSS ashrams or centres. As part of our celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the *Autobiography of a Yogi*, YSS *sannyasis* led group study and contemplation sessions on this spiritual classic.



### *Discourses on the Bhagavad Gita*

A series of inspirational talks on the wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita as interpreted by Gurudeva Paramahansa Yogananda in *God Talks With Arjuna* were given in English by a senior YSS *sannyasi* Swami Smaranananda Giri. These Gita discourses, now available on YSS YouTube channel, are deeply appreciated by one and all. For the benefit of Hindi-speaking devotees, Swami Ishwarananda Giri has begun giving online series of Gita discourses in Hindi, and he will continue to share more inspiration in the coming months.



Through your kindness, all our ashrams infrastructure has been upgraded to support online activities. These include: creating studio facilities, acquiring video production and archival software, and facilities for digitally transmitting high-quality audio-visual content.



## SPIRIT OF SERVICE

“We cannot live happily by spiritual sustenance alone nor by material prosperity alone. It is only by having ambition and by crowning that ambition with the idea of service to others, either by helping them individually or by working for some great cause, that you will find a spiritual reason for making money for yourself and others. To help others to help themselves also spiritualizes ambition. An Almighty Power has linked us all together. Whenever you help others you are helping yourself.”

— Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda

### *Donation of Ambulance to District Hospital, Almora*

YSS has been actively extending relief support to the locals in several villages around our Dwarahat ashram, especially during the recent challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As part of our ongoing charitable activities, YSS donated an ambulance to Almora District Hospital in Uttarakhand. The Basic Life Support ambulance costing ₹16.5 lakh is well equipped with contemporary medical equipment to provide help to patients during transit to the hospital. With the addition of this ambulance donated by YSS; the district hospital can now safely transport local patients to higher medical centres in case of medical emergencies.



## *Enhancing the Facilities at Sevashram—Charitable Medical Clinic—in Ranchi*

Since 1958, the charitable medical clinic—Sevashram at YSS Ranchi ashram, has been providing free medical help to the poor and needy. It includes an eye hospital where free eye surgery is conducted, and a general OPD where specialist doctors provide free consultation. All the medicines are given free of cost.

Because of the high quality of service offered free of cost, the eye hospital has become very popular in Ranchi and surrounding localities. As a result, the daily attendance and the number of weekly operations have been continuously increasing, putting pressure on the existing infrastructure and facilities. To keep up with the growing needs, YSS completely renovated the old hospital building with the help of your generous donations. These included: complete renovation of the operation theatre; new equipment for cataract surgery; renovation of the roof of the building; electrical rewiring of the entire building; construction of a ramp for the physically challenged; and a new and larger reception area for greater convenience of the patients. All these renovations cost ₹ 50 lakh.



## *Flood Relief Efforts in Assam*

Heavy rainfall in the pre-monsoon season caused havoc in villages in Assam, leading to loss of food crops, ill health, and extensive damage to houses. Most of the families had to leave their homes and take shelter in makeshift camps or on the roadside. YSS devotees in Guwahati spearheaded our relief efforts in supplying rations and essential items to affected families. “Initially when we surveyed the flood-affected area, we estimated that around 2,000 families would need support,” wrote a YSS



volunteer from Guwahati. “But, as we went to the area with our first batch of rations, we were confronted with the dismal conditions of a far greater number of people in these villages. We updated Ranchi ashram, and promptly received help to provide relief to an additional 1,200 families. To do our part in serving the unfortunate not only helps to bring Guruji’s love and compassion in their lives but in ours too; and this is very soul satisfying!”

### *Flood Relief Efforts in Odisha*

The Recent floods in Odisha in August affected about 1.5 lakh people from 201 villages under 55 gram-panchayats in Puri district. Many areas continued to remain inundated with floodwater for more than a week, and residents were taking refuge on roads or river embankments without any electricity supply. YSS devotees of Bhubaneswar and Puri Dhyana Kendras, with help from local school teachers and administration, carried out the distribution of 716 solar lamps to the flood-affected residents of Gopa and Nimapara blocks of Puri district.



### *Students of YSS Charitable Coaching Centre get Selected for IITs*



Three former students of our Charitable Coaching Centre at the YSS Noida ashram, have got selected in highly prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology or IITs. Rohini Mishra has joined IIT Kharagpur; Yogesh Lodhi studies at IIT Patna, and Anshu

Pal has preferred to join Delhi College of Engineering.

Started over a decade ago, the Coaching Centre offers free coaching to students from the economically weaker sections of society, residing in the vicinity of the YSS Noida ashram. Students from classes IX to XII are taught at the ashram premises after their school hours.

## NEW DHYANA MANDIR DEDICATION

Swami Ishwarananda dedicated a beautiful dhyana mandir at Jaipur, Rajasthan, during a three-day programme on September 30, 2022 —Avirbhav Divas of Sri Sri Lahiri Mahasaya. A sacred Kriya Yoga *diksha* was also conducted in the new dhyana mandir. The programme was attended by 390 devotees. This multi-storeyed building can accommodate around 350 devotees and includes two meditation halls, book room, Children Satsanga room, kitchen and dining hall, conference hall, and rooms for the visiting monks.



## YOUR SUPPORT IS DEEPLY APPRECIATED

Guruji's work is constantly growing, bringing with it many joyous challenges and at the same time many opportunities to serve. Without your generous and constant support, we could not have accomplished all that we have been able to, so far. Your manifold contributions truly make a difference in the world. Together, we can continue to bring about this positive change by spreading Paramahansaji's message of Kriya Yoga to all who are hungrily seeking a true path that will lead them from despair to hope, from restlessness to peace, and from unhappiness to divine joy.

To make an offering, you may visit our website or your local YSS ashram, kendra, or mandali. If you are unable to make a donation at this time, please know that we gratefully welcome your continued support in all forms. Your prayers for Paramahansaji's work and the world, your participation and volunteering in YSS events and meditations, or in being a living example of Gurudeva's teachings to all those who cross your path — are deeply cherished by us and by God and Gurus.

Yogoda Satsanga Society of India is recognized as a charitable society (PAN: AAATY0283H) under the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Contributions made to this Society are Income Tax deductible under Section 80-G of the said Act. Donations may be made payable to Yogoda Satsanga Society of India by crossed Demand Draft drawn on a Ranchi Bank or an A/C Payee Cheque; and sent to Yogoda Satsanga Society of India, Paramahansa Yogananda Path, Ranchi 834 001, Jharkhand.

You may also donate online at [donateyss.org](http://donateyss.org)



## DONATION ADVICE

**Yogoda Satsanga Society of India  
Paramahansa Yogananda Path  
Ranchi – 834001  
Jharkhand**

Dear Friends,

Please accept my/our donation of ₹ \_\_\_\_\_ (Rupees \_\_\_\_\_ only) which is offered voluntarily for use by Yogoda Satsanga Society of India to form part of its corpus and/or for the purpose(s) indicated below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
in BLOCK LETTERS

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Mandatory*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

PAN/Aadhaar \_\_\_\_\_  
*Mandatory*

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson Reg. No. L- \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if available)*

**Paid by :**  UPI  Card  Cheque/DD  Cash  Others

**Payment details :** \_\_\_\_\_

*UPI ID / Cheque No., Bank Name, etc.*

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION TOWARDS**

*Please tick (✓) the relevant box(es)*

**A. CORPUS DONATION**

**YSS of India Fund** .....

To form part of the corpus of the Society which will be used to fulfil the objects of the Society

**Kendra Fund** .....

Any projects or activities at Ashrams/Kendras/Mandalis/Retreats:

\_\_\_\_\_ *(Please specify the name of the place or project)*

**B. CONTRIBUTION (for the following specific purposes)**

**YSS Publications** .....

**How-to-Live Yoga Training** .....

**Educational Seva** .....

**Upgradation of YSS School and College at Ranchi** .....

**Medical Seva** .....

**Natural Calamities Relief** .....

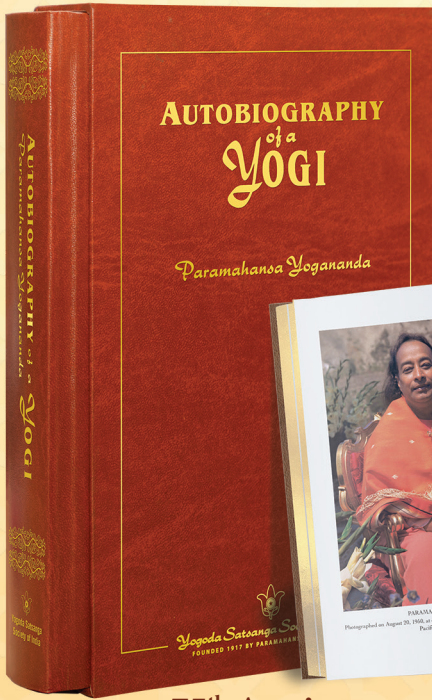
**Welfare of Poor** .....

**C. GENERAL DONATION** .....

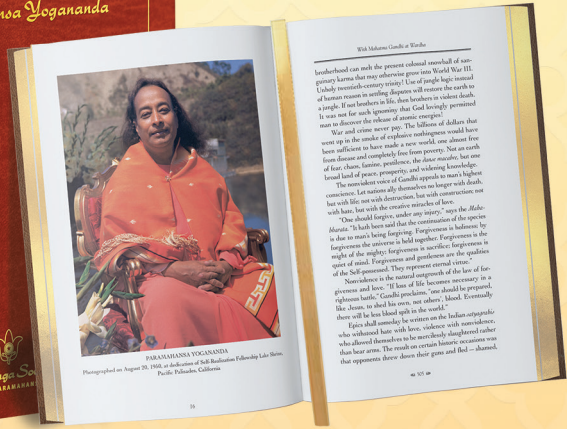
**Total**

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# Autobiography of a Yogi



Coming soon



75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Deluxe Edition

*“This book will change the lives of millions. It will be my messenger when I am gone.”*

— Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda

This unique hardcover edition of *Autobiography of a Yogi* includes a durable slipcase, long-lasting binding, ribbon bookmark, and more than 100 photographs with a special colour photo section depicting many of the sacred places associated with Paramahansaji’s life and legacy.

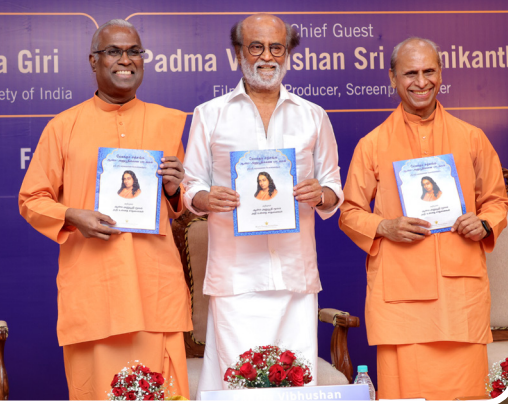
A book to last a lifetime — makes an excellent gift!

# RELEASE OF THE NEW EDITION OF YSS LESSONS IN INDIAN LANGUAGES

YSS *sannyasis* release the Telugu  
translation of *YSS Lessons*,  
Rajahmundry, December 3, 2022.



## முலாம் இனிய வெற்றிகர வாழ்வு



The Tamil translation of *YSS Lessons* was  
released by YSS *sannyasis* at Chennai,  
July 22, 2022.

