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## Agasthya Gurukulam, Samskrit-Based Modern School, Opens In Houston



Priest Raghuram Bhat leads prayer with the children chanting after the priest.



Teachers at Arshavidya Gurukulam, L to R, Mrs. Anuradha Chervirala, Mrs. Sarika Arora, Mrs. Bhooma Sridhar, Dr. Hema Chaurasia (Principal), Revathi, volunteer, and Dr. Archana Purushottam (Founder).

Sun, Sep 10, 2023

HOUSTON

Agasthya Gurukulam, the world's first Samskrit-medium modern school unveiled its first North American campus in Houston with a grand inauguration ceremony.

The event on August 26 was attended by a diverse group of educators, community leaders, parents, children, and well-wishers who gathered to celebrate the expansion of this unique institution.

The Houston community applauded the momentous occasion for Bharateeya traditional knowledge systems and linguistic diversity, and the unique concept of the school.

The event began with a traditional homa or havan dedicated to Saraswati, the goddess of learning.

In keeping with Sage Agastya's philosophy of empowering children with learning and knowledge, the children present acted as the yajamaans, reciting the chants after the priest, Sri Raghuram Bhat.

After a Vidyarambha ceremony, the chief guest was introduced in fluent Samskritam by one of the senior Agastya students, giving attendees cause to marvel at the dedication and talent of these young scholars.

The event's highlight was the keynote address delivered by Dr. Raj Vedam, a renowned scholar and historian of Indian traditional knowledge systems. He spoke about the dissemination of Bharateeya knowledge, discoveries, and inventions across the world over centuries and the challenges with distinguishing the authenticity of "historical facts" regarding ancient knowledge.

Children and adults alike listened with rapt attention to the rich content of his talk. Dr. Vedam's address underscored the importance of preserving India's ancient knowledge systems, emphasizing the need to correct several of the erroneous narratives prevalent regarding the discovery and development of key scientific and mathematical ideas.

He encouraged the audience to embrace traditional Bharateeya teachings not only for personal growth but also as a means to promote global harmony and sustainability.

Agasthya Gurukulam is dedicated to rejuvenating the traditional Bharateeya shiksha paddhati. By using Samskrit- and Shastra-based education at the K-12 level, delivering it in a way that makes it relevant to the modern world, Agasthya Gurukulam opens up the timeless wisdom of India's ancient texts and traditions to the students. The Houston campus marks the organization's first physical campus in the United States, and it promises to be a hub for cultural exchange and learning.

The Houston campus is located VPSS, 11715 Bellfort Village Dr, Houston, TX 77031.

The sprawling campus, set against the backdrop of lush greenery, boasts state-of-the-art teaching, research, and community engagement facilities. Its serene atmosphere fosters an environment conducive to the pursuit of knowledge and self-discovery.

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The Agastya Gurukulam Board Chair, founder, and visionary, Dr. Archana Purushotham, showcased the school's commitment to holistic education via a diverse curriculum, environmental awareness, parent engagement, and community initiatives. She emphasized the relevance of Sanskritam and Bharateeya knowledge systems in modern times. She also spoke of Agastya's grand vision of making such education accessible and available to all children desirous of it, irrespective of their ability to pay. Co-founders Smt. Vijaya Viswanathan and Sree Balaji conveyed their greetings on the occasion. The ceremony's success heralds a promising journey for the institution, dedicated to nurturing linguistic and cultural traditions while fostering academic excellence.

The school Principal, Dr. Hema Chaurasia, herself committed to knowledge, thanked the parents for trusting Agastya Gurukulam in enrolling their children into this new school to nurture their blooming minds. Agastya's deep dive into Indic Knowledge Systems automatically has the extraordinary side effect of decolonizing the mind. Moreover, the children learn three languages with high proficiency – Sanskrit, English, and the mother tongue.

After successfully running the world's first online Sanskrit medium school for the past three years, Agastya Gurukulam's Houston campus is now set to become a beacon of light for those seeking to explore the depths of Indian wisdom and culture.

Its mission of fostering holistic education and cultural preservation has the potential to bridge the gap between tradition and modernity, offering a unique opportunity for all to connect with the timeless treasures of human heritage.

As it opens its doors to students and seekers alike, the campus promises to be a transformative educational force. Agastya Gurukulam is accepting admissions for the current year to their full-time school and after-school programs, both in Houston and online. Contact: Dr. Hema Chaurasia, Principal,


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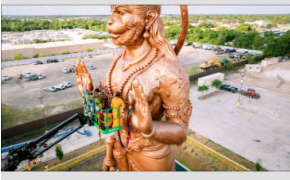
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