

# Shri Gurudev Sevamandal: A Tool for Making Scrupulous

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## Abstract

Having a distinct vision for the improvement of India and her countless sons and daughters, Rashtrasant Tukdoji was a modern embodiment of age-old traditions. Although he lacked formal education, he authored books in both Marathi and Hindi. Rashtrasant penned the monumental "Gramgeeta" exploring Indian village life, drawing from his insights and experiences. In it, he disclosed existing circumstances and proposed a new concept for the advancement of rural India. His "Gram Gita" still motivates village progress and national revitalization in modern society. This book offers instructions for community living, covering topics like birth, education, marriage, and social relationships. His main aim in writing this book was to present the novel concept. On 16 November 1943, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj founded the Akhil Bharatiya Shri Gurudev Seva Mandal. After his release from prison on December 2, 1942, during the fight for freedom, he changed the name of Aarti Mandal to Shri Gurudev Seva Mandal. The All India Gurudev Seva Mandal is a group focused on rural rehabilitation and seeks to improve the general well-being of each person

**Keywords:** Rashtrasant, Gramgeeta, Village, Seva Mandal, Rural.

## 1. Introduction

Rashtrasant Tukdoji was a modern revelation of age old traditions with definite foresight for the better India and millions of her sons and daughters. Though not educated in the conventional way, he has yet written books in Hindi and Marathi. On the basis of his experience and insight the Rashtrasant composed an epic on Indian village life 'Gramgeeta' wherein he exposed the present realities and gave a new concept of development for rural India. Even today, for the modern society, his 'Gram Gita' provides inspiration for village development and National reconstruction.

This book has principles on the life of a village person from birth, education, married life and social life in village. His main reason of writing this book was to permeate the new thought of Navayug Dharma – Prem dharma (Contemporary thoughts- the thought of love) amongst the people. He made a major contribution in the development of villages with this book. This book and Saint Tukadoji's work would definitely contribute in making villages self-sufficient and make India into a prosperous country. This modern Geeta has 41 chapters, covering all aspects of a village life towards a complete development of a village. This book is divided into eight different Panchak (a collection of 5 points) based on the important aspects of a village life, and they are as follows:

1. *Sadharna Manthan* (manifestation of God through all religions) panchak
2. *Lokwashikaran* (attracting people through rendering honest service) panchak

3. *Gramnirman* (village development) panchak
4. *Drushtiparivartan* (change in perspective) panchak
5. *Sanskar sanshodhan* (seeking of good upbringing) panchak
6. *Prem dharma sthapan* (establishing the religion of love) panchak
7. *Devatwasadhan* (practice of devotion) panchak
8. *Adarsh Jeevan* (ideal lifestyle) panchak

एकांगी वाहती पंथ हे किती संप्रदायही भारती ।  
हे सकल देवा वर्णिते परि एकना यांची मती ॥  
हे वर्म घेऊनिया करी सर्वास सुख द्याया भला ।  
'गुरुदेव सेवा मंडळा' हा जन्म भारती लाभला ॥

Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj founded the Akhil Bharatiya Shri Gurudev Seva Mandal on 16 November 1943. After being released from the jail on 2nd December 1942 during the freedom struggle, he converted the Aarti Mandal into Shri Gurudev Seva Mandal. An organization called All India Gurudev Seva Mandal promotes rural rehabilitation and works for the general well-being of all people.

In India, Gurudev Seva Mandal is being propagated in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, etc. There are more than 35000 branches of Gurudev Seva Mandal all over India. Rashtrasant established Gurudev Seva Mandal institutions, not to add to the number of sects or to oppose the prevailing sects, institutions or caste-religion, but to eradicate the intermingling of virtues among them, to create brotherhood among all.

संशोधुनी, पंचासही या योजने संबोधिले ।  
कोणी समन्वय घेईना, भिन्नत्व जेणे पावले ॥  
म्हणूनिच सर्वा घेऊनी हा मार्ग निर्मळ साधला ।  
'गुरुदेव सेवा मंडळा' हा जन्म भारती लाभला ॥

Rashtrasant says that the board was formed to give a philosophical form to the stereotypes and distorted views of the society. According to Rashtrasant, "The nature of the Seva Mandal is the sublimation of the sacred aspirations of the people and their goodwill". The objective of the Seva Mandala is not business or entertainment, but to create things that are needed for public life with a view to the overall welfare of mankind, to promote the production of useful things for life, to imbibe the spirit of society skillfully, to move with the flow of world peace and to pursue the national interest. An organization called All India Gurudev Seva Mandal promotes rural rehabilitation and works for the general well-being of all people.

## 2. Material and Method:

According to Rashtrasant, true educated people, Followers and Monks are needed to spread the idea that those whose duties are good, are high and those whose intentions are bad, are low. That is why Gurudev Seva Mandal was formed. Shri Gurudev Seva Mandal is a place of reverence for all religions, sects and sects. Rashtrasant says, 'If everyone thinks differently and everyone can be coordinated within the limits

of a single thought process, then this work can be very useful, keeping in mind that no single work leads to the overall development of the nation. This board has been formed to create a model and field of work for people of all institutions and communities. Some service-seeking people of the village should pay attention to doing important work, that's why Rashtrasant established Sri Gurudev Seva Mandal, a service-seeking organization. The seeds of development of all the organs of life will be revealed through this service.

### 3. Objectives of Gurudev Seva Mandal:

1. To build an organization.
2. Creating an advertiser.
3. Bringing together people of different races, religions and ethnicities.
4. Encouraging the production of living things.
5. To inculcate in the minds of the people the necessities of life.
6. To give form to the backward thoughts, customs and traditions of the society as sattvikta.
7. To strive for national development by inculcating national spirit among the people.
8. Working for world peace.

### 4. Mission of Sri Gurudev Seva Mandal

If the village has to be self-reliant, then every person in the house should come forward as a servant and show courage to take this work forward. Today's society, which has deteriorated due to sectarianism or casteism, should think about how national, religious and worship forms will remain forever. This is not religion or caste. There will be no wrongdoing by this board. The mission of this congregation is to always strive to uphold true saints, gods, sects and religions. The mission of this organization is to serve the people.

The congregation wants to keep the old ways and traditions intact and bring out its true character. The temple should be the center to make the village a model. There should be discipline, marriage should be without dowry, the conduct of those who say Pothiapuram should be like that. Humanity should be seen in the service field. We want to revive old traditions. Rashtrasant says, "The service-seeking people of the village should pay attention to doing important work. Gurudev Seva Mandal has been formed for this purpose. The Board's ethos of all-round and timely service to humanity will always remain. It is a service organisation. Janardan is the God of the whole world. All possible measures necessary for their peace and progress are the means of the Board.

'गुरुदेव सेवा मंडळे', स्थापोनिया सुखवी सदा ।  
सांगे बहुता 'कार्य हे, करण्यासी या रे ! सर्वदा' ॥  
नच स्थिर राहे एकसा, फिरती स्वकार्या क्षणक्षणा ।  
घे इश्वरी आदेश हा, करि सामुदायिक प्रार्थना ॥

### Gurudev Seva Mandal Programs:

#### Daily Program –

1. Morning remembrance
2. Community meditation
3. Suryanamaskaradi Yogasana

5. Study and community prayer

**Weekly Program –**

- Thursday - Prayer Day
- Friday - Industry Day
- Saturday - Exercise Day
- Sunday - Promotion day
- Monday - Shramdan and Bhajan day
- Tuesday - Sushrusa Day
- Wednesday - Speech Day

**Panch Mahotsav of Shri Gurudev Seva Mandal:**

1. Industry Day - Year Pratipada - Chaitrashuddha Pratipada Gudi Padwa
2. Propagation Day - Ashadha Purnima Gurupournima
3. Sneh Sammelan Day - Vijayadashami - Ashvinshuddha 10
4. Day of Prayer - Kartik Purnima - Kartik Shuddh 15
5. Wisdom Development Day - Gitajayanti - Margashirsha Shuddha 11

**Gurudev Seva Mandal's 21-point program:**

Gurudev Seva Mandal has decided the program so that the service officers, preachers, activists of Gurudev Seva Mandal can determine the direction of rural reconstruction and the nature of work under Gurudev Seva Mandal. The programme is as follows:

1. Rural Sanitation and Shramdan
2. Tree plantation.
3. the environment
4. The organization of youth
5. women's organization
6. Eradication of superstition
7. Intoxication
8. Use of indigenous products
9. Agricultural Development - Technology Information
10. The Water Conservation Plan
11. Employment Generation (Village Industries, Kutirodyo Gandwara)
12. Community prayer meeting
13. Setting up of a Child Care Centre and organising a Funeral Camp.
14. Mass marriage
15. Formation of Kalopasak Mandal
16. Public meetings in schools and colleges
17. Food grain production
18. Creation of an exercise school
19. Setting up a library
20. Establishment of Rashtasant Literary Promotion Centre
21. Creation of service centres in villages.

## 5. Conclusion:

- Gurudev Seva Mandal was of great use in organizing the masses in the pre-independence era.
- Gurudev Seva Mandal has a huge contribution in the freedom movement.
- Gurudev Seva Mandal helped reduce caste, sectarian and religious differences.
- Swadeshi got a boost due to Gurudev Seva Mandal.
- Due to Gurudev Seva Mandal the importance of cow dung increased.
- Gurudev Seva Mandal helped in creating pracharaks.
- In Gurudev Seva Mandal, superstition, addiction, dowry system, child marriage, casteism, inter-caste marriage are eradicated and programs like rites, education, discipline, good parenting, women empowerment are organized which contribute to the development of the nation.
- In the post-independence period, Gurudev Seva Mandal has developed at the national as well as international level.

The work of this All India Sri Guru Dev Seva Mandal established by Rashtasant Tukadoji Maharaj is going on effectively even today. We are all his followers. Let us all dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to the service of Sri Gurudev Seva Mandal and contribute to the progress of the nation.

'गुरुदेव सेवा मंडळाचा' चाहता आणि सेविता ।

उत्साहता, उपकारता, दाता आणि संरक्षिता ॥

ही सर्व कार्य करूनिया, करि नित्यनेमोपासना ।

उपकार सेवा साधण्या , कर सामुदायिक प्रार्थना ॥

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