

**RICHAA 2025**  
**Ramana Indian Cultural Heritage Archives and Awareness**

**A Project by Ramana Maharshi Centre for Learning**  
**Supported by CSR from TATA ELXSI LIMITED**

**Highlights of Project till June 30th**

Sri Ramana Maharshi's life, teachings and poetic works invite one and all to partake of the rich bounty of the Indian Cultural Heritage. They are the essence of this heritage and further proclaim that it is indeed the birth-right of each and every one to savour and continuously enjoy this experience. **RICHAA** is a unique initiative of RMCL Bengaluru, which brings about awareness of the symbiosis of this Heritage with the teachings of Ramana Maharshi.

The Centre is honored to take Indian Cultural Heritage Awareness free of cost to under privileged school children every year for the past decade through its project RAISE. Currently the Centre educates more than 1000 children every year in Indian Heritage and provides them with a platform for Excellence through Self Awareness.

**Five Contributions of the RICHAA project**

There are five contributions to the society that stem from the RICHAA program

1. Preserving and Rejuvenating Ramana Maharshi Centre of Learning's four decades Archive of Indian Cultural Heritage
2. Creation of New Cultural Material – videos of music, dance and theatre
3. Special Inputs for Children
4. Awareness through offline and online sharing of the Archives and the New Material
5. Global Online Contest and Awards

**Project Implementation in the first quarter 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**1. Preserving and Rejuvenating Archives - Digitization:**

The digitization of all the audio cassettes has now been completed. The 600 hours of audio material now available has to be indexed, sieved and then cleaned for audio enhancement. This process has been started in the first quarter and will continue into the next quarter as well owing to the volume of the material.

In addition, 13 hours of Beta tapes containing the docu-drama 'Ramana Dhara' in Telugu and Hindi has also been digitized. The same is now available for being edited and shared on our YouTube channel.

### **Digital Library:**

The structure and format of the digital library has been arrived at after several sessions of brainstorming to make the library most user friendly.

***Launch of Digital Library: 31<sup>st</sup> August during the Aruna Vijaya Celebrations commemorating September 1<sup>st</sup>, the date of Ramana's arrival at Tiruvannamalai in 1996.***

## **2. Creation of New Cultural Material – videos of music, dance and theatre**

The following new videos have been prepared in each of the respective categories of Music, Dance, Drama, Talks and Music Concerts. Some of these have been premiered on the Centre's YouTube Channel *Ramanacentre Bengaluru*. However, it is proposed to make public a few of these videos in a phased manner to create interest and to bring them out collectively once the software for the digital library is in place.

### **Music**

1. Guru Ramana Murthy – Ganesa Vandana
2. Shonachala Siva - Swarajathi
3. Arunachalamanuchu – Varnam
4. Moorda manadai (Arabhi) – Ramana Pada Pancharatnam – Pancharatna Kriti
5. Sadguru Ramana - Kriti

### **Dance**

1. Om Nama Arunachala Ramana – Roja Kannan 2011
2. Poyyaa Varam – Dr.Ambika Kameshwar 2011

### **Drama**

1. The Momentous Meeting – Ganapati Muni (Tamil) 1997
2. The Universal Family – Ramana Dasa Sadananda (Tamil) 1997

### **Talks**

1. V.Ganesan – International Seminar 1980
2. Dr.S.K.Ramachandra Rao – National Seminar 1981

### **Classical Music Concerts**

1. Smt. Sulochana Natarajan 1989

**See video links at Annexure 1**

### **3. Awareness through offline and online sharing of the Archives and New Material**

#### **Offline Programs for RICHA 2025 – Enhancing awareness of Archival material and creating new material**

While we waited for the digitized data to be available before beginning the online work, a new and significant avenue opened up in the RICHA project. A key vision of the project was to create awareness of the archival material. It had been proposed to do so mainly through online sharing of the archives. However, the Centre's strength in producing offline programs was remembered. It was also seen that practically the entire Archival material has been created through offline programs over the past four decades.

Based on this new insight a series of offline programs and workshops were conducted in the first quarter setting the pattern for the rest of the year as well. These programs brought the understanding that a combination of offline and online expositions of the cultural archives of the Centre would be the best approach for the RICHA project. Continuing this stream of activity as part of the project would serve both to enhance awareness of the archival material and make it directly participative, as well as to create new material using the existing material.

#### **1. Carnatic classical repertoire - Ramana Pada Pancharatnam – Online workshop and offline program:**



In the month of April an online workshop and an offline program were conducted on a key cornerstone of Ramananjali music in the Carnatic music genre. This is the 'Ramana Pada Pancharatnam' or five musical gems dedicated to Ramana's life and teachings. The Centre is celebrating 25 years of the launch of this composition. These five songs would be later released online in the RICHAA video format and would also form a part of the syllabus of the global online contest. The online workshop was conducted by Smt.V.Radha, senior music guru of the Centre. The offline students, who performed at Bengaluru, were trained both by Smt.V.Radha and Kum.Revathi Sankar. Performances were held at Bengaluru and Chennai on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2025. The workshop and programs served to popularize the archival content and create greater awareness regarding the RICHAA project.

**2. Special Inputs for Children – Summer Camp of 2025 – Faith, Courage and Compassion:**



In April, a summer camp of three weeks for children was conducted as part of the special inputs for children section of the project. The theme of the camp was the three values of faith, courage and compassion imparted to the children through drama, dance and music using the methodology of TAHD which is Theatre Arts for Holistic Development. 60 children from ages 4 to 14 participated in the camp and were given value inputs by senior teachers formally trained in methodology. At the conclusion of the camp the children gave a stage performance. New costumes were prepared and some existing costumes were made ready for reuse in the event. Parents and others in the audience were equally amazed by the depth of talent in the children that the training and program had unearthed in such a short span. Many parents felt



that it was actually a life-transforming experience for the children. Archival material from the theatre repertoire of the Centre was used to create the new skits by the children rejuvenating the existing material.

3. **Bharatanatyam Workshop – Creation of New Repertoire:** In the month of May a two-day Bharatanatyam Workshop was conducted on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at the Centre by the renowned danseuse and Acharya, Dr.Ambika Kameshwar, Director of RASA, Chennai. She was assisted in the workshop by Dr.Vaishnavi Poorna, Deputy Director of RASA. A new composition – Dashavatara Ramana – was created by Dr.Ambika Kameshwar for the workshop and imparted to the students.



4. **The Confluence – Bharatanatyam and rhymes:** In the month of June, a program ‘Hap Hap Happily...’ by a neurodivergent achiever served to highlight both some unique aspects of the Bharatanatyam repertoire in the Archives of RMCL as well as the children’s rhymes, having a combination of both in the presentation. This was an interactive program where Ananth invited members of the audience also to participate with him.



5. **Workshop - Highlight on talks and the philosophy of Existence through self-enquiry:** In the last weekend of June two days were given to a workshop on self-enquiry. The workshop, which had 40 plus participants, was guided by

four senior faculty members, a guest faculty and two supporting faculty. Short skits from the Archives of RMCL were presented during the workshop to highlight several aspects of the talks and interactions. The workshop also brought greater awareness about the YouTube channel of the Centre and the archives of talks and publications.



***See more photographs of all the programs at Annexure 3***

***See video links for some of the above programs at Annexure 4***

#### **4. Global Online Contest and Awards**

The Structure of the Global Online Contest has been planned and arrived at.

The Contest will be conducted in three rounds:

Round one the participants will choose songs from RMCL Archives Digital library, perform and upload videos in their own YouTube channel.

Selected videos will be uploaded in Ramanacentre Bengaluru, RMCL's YouTube Channel.

Selected participants will appear for the second round which they will perform to the Judges' choice from the Archives. All the videos of this round will be uploaded in the Centre's YouTube Channel.

The top five participants in each category will present their performances in a live online contest.

Competitions will be held in solo and group categories for devotional music, classical music, Bharatanatyam, theatre and essay writing with different age categories.

The Contest will be launched after the launch of the Digital Library on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **Timeline**

### **By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

- ✓ Making strides in the Digitizing Process – Digitizing 600 hours of audio and 13 hours of docu-drama Ramana Dhara
- ✓ Creation of New Material – 5 videos of music, 2 videos of dance, 2 videos of drama, 2 videos of talks and 1 video of Carnatic concert have been created and uploaded on our YouTube channel. In addition, live streaming of Pada Pancharatnam, Hap hap happily and Summer Camp Valedictory has been done.
- ✓ Special Input for Children – Summer Camp for 60 children on Self-Awareness using archival and new material of Ramana Maharshi Centre being worked on in the RICHA 2025 project.
- ✓ Awareness through offline and online programs – Two programs and three workshops have been held in the first quarter to create awareness about the Archival material.