



ACHARYA'S NRV SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
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DHARA – A PILGRIM CENTER DEVELOPMENT
ARCHITECTURE DESIGN PROJECT (THESIS) – 2025-26

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the Requirements for the
“Bachelor of Architecture” Degree Course

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this thesis report titled DHARA – PILGRIM CENTER DEVELOPMENT by UDAY N. SHARMA of IX SEMESTER B. Arch, USN No. 1AA21AT057, has been submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of under graduate degree **Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.)** by Visveshwaraya Technological University VTU, Belgaum during the year 2025- 26.

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DECLARATION

This thesis title "DHARA – PILGRIM CENTER DEVELOPMENT", submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the under graduate of Bachelor of architecture is my original work to the best of my knowledge.

The sources for the various information and the data used have been duly acknowledged.

The work has not been submitted or provided to any other institution/ organization for any diploma/degree or any other purpose.

I take full responsibility for the content in this report and in the event of any conflict or dispute if any, hereby indemnify Acharya's NRV School of Architecture and Visveshwaraya Technological University, Belagavi, and its official representatives against any damages that any raise thereof.

(Signature)

UDAY N. SHARMA

ANNEXURE I

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ABSTRACT

The Pilgrim Center design presents a cohesive integration of spatial planning, cultural sensitivity, climatic responsiveness, and user-focused functionality. Rooted in an understanding of pilgrimage behavior, crowd movement, and ritual practices, the master plan creates a campus that is both operationally efficient and experientially meaningful.

Organized along a strong central axis with circular gathering courts and clear zoning, the plan ensures smooth transitions between high-activity spaces—like the Mahaprasadalaya and Yagna Shala—and quieter zones such as accommodation towers, meditation halls, the library, and the museum. This hierarchical structure supports intuitive navigation, balanced crowd distribution, and a purposeful sequence of spiritual and communal experiences.

Material selection—red sandstone, general sandstone, Makrana marble, and mud blocks—reflects a deliberate response to climate, cultural identity, and functionality. These materials enhance thermal comfort, reduce dependence on mechanical cooling, and reinforce a timeless architectural character.

Courtyard-based planning further strengthens the environmental performance of the project, providing natural ventilation, daylight, and comfortable microclimates across administrative, residential, and gallery spaces. These open courts also create psychological relief and subtle pauses within the overall circulation network.

Ultimately, the project represents a thoughtful architectural response that harmonizes tradition with contemporary needs. By aligning spatial hierarchy, material intelligence, climate strategy, and cultural resonance, the Pilgrim Center creates a unified and spiritually enriching environment capable of supporting both everyday worship and large-scale pilgrimage activity.

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