

## Graduation Day address by Pujya Swamiji at the Kongunadu Arts and Science College (Autonomous)





The Graduation Day function of Kongunadu Arts and Science College (Autonomous) was held in the Kongunadu Auditorium in the college premises on Wednesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, 2011.

Revered Pujyasri Swami Dayananda Saraswati Maharaj was the Chief Guest.

The traditional ceremonial procession of the Chief Guest, Members of the Governing Board, Principal, Deans and Heads of department took place at 10.15 am.

The function began with an invocation to the Almighty. This was followed by the lighting of the auspicious 'kuthuvilakku' by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries.

The President of the College, Thiru V.K. Lakshmanan, M.Sc., ex-MLA, welcomed the gathering. He exhorted the young graduates not to forget their alma mater and assured them that the doors of the institution would always remain open to them. He pointed out the need for increasing the enrolment percentage in higher education. Gender equality and the empowerment were the needs of the day, he stressed. "We should not only be consumers, but also contributors to society," he said. Students should aim at being entrepreneurs, "job givers, not job seekers." Teachers, whatever their field, should be well-versed in the digital media," he advised. He praised Pujya Swamiji for being a spiritual guru and an 'Ācārya' par excellence.

The Principal, Dr. R. Devi then formally declared the Graduation Day open and gave an introduction to the Chief Guest, Pujya Swamiji Maharaj, who is the founder of



several educational, spiritual and charitable institutions.

Revered Pujyasri Swami Dayananda Saraswathi Maharaj, in his Graduation Day address, said that Graduation Day was a significant and unforgettable event in the life of a student. It was one of a series of “rituals of passage” which mark achievements. He said: “The future rolls before you like a red carpet. Opportunity knocks but once, and we should seize it by the forelock before it is too late. Students should act in such a way that they would be able to look back and applaud their performance. Success does not come to you without your effort. He then listed out six important norms for achieving success:

1. Udhyamam— well-directed effort, which can also be called Prayatnam.
2. Sāhasam— enthusiasm or enterprise.
3. Dhairyam—courage.
4. Buddhi—knowledge— the capacity to plan systematically
5. Śakti—resources: physical, financial, etc.

6. Parākramam—capacity to ward off difficulties—the adaptability and flexibility needed for progress.

After naming the six norms, Pujya Swamiji said that one could not succeed by them alone. There was always the “hidden variable,” something which was so complex that it was beyond comprehension and calculation. To deal with it, one had to resort to the power of prayer. The grace of God could be obtained through prayer, acts of charity and goodness and reaching out to people. This rendered one “twice blessed”. With God’s grace one never need to look back with regret on one’s life, which would surely be meaningful. “Commitment is needed to attain success after success”, he said.

The Chief Guest’s speech was followed by the conferment of degrees by the Chief Guest and the Members of the Governing Board. The Principal then administered the Pledge to the graduating students. The Graduation Day function came to an end at 1 pm. with the singing of the National Anthem.

*Report by PRINCIPAL*