

Pujya Swamiji Jayanti at AVG, Anaikatti

On 15th August 2019, the birthday of Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati was celebrated with great fervour at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti. Since this day also happens to be the Indian Independence Day, in addition to remembering of great national leaders who fought and sacrificed their life for the nation, the celebration of Pujya Swamiji's Jayanti doubled the joy of the devotees and the disciples of Swamiji all over the world.



The program started at 9:30 AM with a simple *shodashopachara puja* at Guru Tirtha by Swami Sadatmananda Saraswati. An elaborate arrangement was made for the students and the devotees to sit in the satsang hall, Sannyasi disciples were seated in the temple for doing archana either to the photo of the Dakshinamurti or the lamp.

Namaarchana started around 10:00 AM and all offered flowers for every chant of mula mantra of Dakshinamurti, the mula mantra being

ओम् ह्रीं दक्षिणामूर्तये तुभ्यं वटमूलनिवासिने ध्यानैकनिरताङ्गाय नमो रुद्राय शम्भवे ह्रीं । (My salutation to You, the Lord Dakshinamurti, who resides under the banyan tree absorbed in meditation, who removes the sufferings of the devotees and who is auspicious.)

Swami Sadatmananda Saraswati, the Acharya of the Gurukulam told that the birthday as well as the samadhi day of Pujya Swamiji has significance, the birthday of Swamiji (15-08-1930) coincides with the Independence day of our country and the samadhi day of Swamiji (23-09-2019) is the day when the day and the night are equal. His birthday signifies freedom, both for the country as a whole as well as for the individual from samsara and his samadhi day signifies "samatvam" meaning equality. He also suggested to celebrate Pujya Swamiji's birthday by participating in one of the programmes started by him.

Then Swami Sudheeranandji, Swami Tadevananda ji and Swami Brahmaleelananda ji delivered their address sharing the teaching of Swamiji, and also emphasizing the significance of human birth and having satsanga with person like Swamiji. After the puja and arati, devotees were given mahaprasada. The celebration concluded with bhiksha for all the devotees in the dining hall.

Report by Sharan.

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