

## 20th Anniversary Celebration of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti



Pujya Swamiji, Sri Lakshminarayanan and Sri Ravi Sam on the dais

Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti celebrated its 20th Anniversary on the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2010. More than a thousand persons attended the function.

The function began with music concert by Maharajapuram Sri Ramachandran. Pujya Swamiji congratulated him for delivering a complete music concert in one hour. Kum. Darsana and Kum. Sowmya sang the prayer song.

Sri Ravi Sam, Trustee of Sruti Seva Trust welcomed the Chief Guest and the gathering. He said that he had kept his promise made in the last year anniversary celebration and spent more time in AVG, Anaikatti by attending evening classes during the Pujya Swamiji's Bhagawad Gita three-months course.

Sri V. Sivaprasad, Secretary, Sruti Seva Trust presented a brief picture of the activities at the Gurukulam during the year. He said

the year began with a five-day public talk by Pujya Swamiji at the Avinasalingam University auditorium where he spoke on "Self-Growth". Pujya Swamiji conducted Isavasyam camp in which 120 persons participated. During November, Pujya Swamiji honored four musicians by conferring upon them the title of 'Arsha Vidya Bhushanam'. He conducted three-month Bhagavad Gita camp during April this year and also inaugurated the jnana yagna of Swami Paramarthananda at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. Three-year long term Vedanta Course at AVG was inaugurated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2010. During the period under review now, there were as many as six camps. The camps were conducted by Sri Sanjeev Krishnan, Sri



IMG. 163 – Ravi Sam addressing



Sri Lakshminarayanan addressing the gathering

Swami Brahmoparananda of Jaipur, Swami Brahmayogananda of Madras, Sri Surya and Smt. Neema. There were camps for the teachers of Ekal Vidyalaya and also a Sandhya Gurukulam camp. He also explained how the Gurukulam was actively involved in the AIM for Seva activities in and around Anaikatti.

Pujya Swamiji introduced the Chief Guest, Sri N. Lakshminarayanan, Vice Chairman, Cognizant Foundation. He said that Sri N. Lakshminarayanan was a person with modern skills, rooted in our tradition and had the cultural humility. He was a role model to be emulated by our students and industrialists.

Sri N. Lakshminarayanan congratulated the Chairman and Trustees of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti for the wonderful work done. Cognizant Foundation, he said, had identified health care and education as their key areas of public work. They identified technology in health care that would reduce medical cost and donate the equipment to deserving hospitals. They had

donated Laparoscope equipment to AIM for Seva hospital at Anaikatti at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs. They had identified that laparoscope, dialysis equipment and high frequency ventilator could reduce significant medical cost and also save lives.

He further said that Cognizant felt that if their employees were honest, upright, tax paying citizens obeying the laws of the land, then that itself was a great service to the nation. But some employees wanted to do more and volunteered their services by teaching in schools and colleges under the Cognizant Foundation. They also donated money to Cognizant Foundation. The employees were encouraged to learn new things daily and mingle with virtuous people.

Pujya Swamiji honoured Staphathi Sri K. Ganesan with a citation and purse for his renovation work on the project undertaken by Pujya Swamiji to reconstruct five rathas for Sri Mahalingaswami Temple at Tiruvidaimarudur. The Chariot of Sri Mahalingaswami will take a trial run on November 24 and 25.

Pujya Swamiji then released a book on Mundakopanishad, compiled by Smt. Sarojini Varadarajan. The book is based upon lectures of Sri Swami



Award to Staphathi



Sthapathi with Pujya Swamiji



Pujya Swamiji releasing a book

Paramarthananda and contains anvaya, word-by-word meaning, a running translation and elaborate notes.

Another special guest then took briefly to the stage to offer gratitude to Pujya Swamiji and his teachings. Sri Venkatachalam Krishnan of United Nations congratulated the work done by AVG and AIM for Seva.

Pujya Swamiji delivered his anugraha bhashanam. "We are all recipients of anugraha or blessings. If anybody has the will to understand life as whole, oneself, world or truth of Isvara, it is a samskara one has brought along with one self. Anugraha is always earned. Grace is not that comes without a reason. It has a cause. Really speaking one has earned it. One has pleasant and unpleasant events daily. What happens daily is unfoldment. Hidden variables are too many. A cricketer knows the difference between duck and century is only one ball. All that is here is only hidden variables. One needs to be humble. One should do some thing to control the hidden variables. That something is prayer. Unlike animals, human beings have free will. One has the freedom to restrain from inappropriate actions. Desiring is a privilege of human being. Lord Krishna says that he manifests as dharmic desires. Where there

is more dharmic desire, there is more Bhagawan. Desires happen. One has no freedom. But one can go with that or not go with that. Freedom lies in saying no, whenever the desire is not appropriate.

One does not want to get hurt. Similarly one should not hurt others with thought, word or deeds. Ahimsa is a manifestation of Isvara. Everyone is endowed with the knowledge of ahimsa. Ahimsa is the primary dharma. Isvara manifests as dharmic desire. Hindu Sastra is a blessing to humanity. When one enters a five star guest house, one should leave it as it is. The host should want him to come back again. We have entered this world with our body as a brief case. That brief case becomes big. When we leave, we have to leave this brief case also and go. One cannot say that one had this phala, because of one particular karma that one had done. That is why one says it is due to grace. When one prays it is hundred percent free will. No one can make anybody else pray. The variables are too many. Hence one should do reaching out action and prayer and earn enough anugraha".

Sri S. Sairam proposed a vote of thanks.

*Report by  
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