

## Youth for Dharma Celebrates its 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Anaikatti Ashram



The members of Youth For Dharma celebrated their 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary by spending an enlightening weekend with Pujya Swamiji at the Anaikatti ashram on July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. It is noteworthy that July 28<sup>th</sup> turned out to be Pujya Swamiji's star birthday.

The members arrived at the ashram on the morning of July 27<sup>th</sup> and immediately had a session with Pujya Swamiji. Swamiji addressed them on dharma and the concept of Samaanya dharma and vishesha dharma. This was followed by a question answer session where the participants asked questions and Swamiji, in his own inimitable style, answered them.

The members, then, had a session with Sri. Aravindan Neelakandan, noted ethnographer, social scientist and writer, on how the Sanatana Dharma has been put through various difficulties and how the book "Breaking India" (which he has co-authored along with Sri. Rajiv Malhotra) seeks to point out the trials and turbulations that the Sanatana dharma has gone through. The writer, through five to six sessions over the two days, covered extensively on the above topic and also pointed out how the ways used by the foreigners to take away Hindus from Hinduism was faltered and illogical.

Post this session, the members had a personality development session with Sri. Sreenivasan Ravichandran, a member of Youth For Dharma. Sri. Sreenivasan conducted one session each on both the days which primarily focused and assisted on discovering the personal traits of each of the members. Soon after this session, the members had the good fortune of meeting Pujya Swamiji once again for an exclusive session. Pujya Swamiji continued the address on the topic of dharma and answered more queries. The members ended their day on a highly positive note by attending the regular gita class and the satsang session conducted in the ashram.

On the next day i.e. Pujya Swamiji's birthday, the members paid an early morning visit to Sri. Medha Dakshinamurthy temple, where a yagna was being conducted for Pujya Swamiji's good health and longevity. The members prayed for a while and then attended a Vishnu sahasranama chanting session led by Swami Sakshkrtananda on the occasion of Pujya Swamiji's Janma nakshatra. The rest of the day was spent over a session with Pujya Swamiji where they were given more insights into dharma and more of their doubts and questions answered. They also had a session with Sri. Manikandan, member of Dharma Rakshana Samiti on how a team should function and how the greater cause should always be given more importance than the individual goals. They also gifted Swamiji with a gift handmade by Sri. Jagadeesh, a member of YFD. They also had the planned sessions with Sri. Aravindan Neelakandan and Sri. Sreenivasan. The team departed from the ashram on the night of July 29 after having a relaxing yet a thought provoking weekend.

*- Report by Vinodhinee*