

## INAUGURATUION OF THREE MONTHS VEDANTA COURSE

Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti Coimbatore is conducting a three months Vedanta camp in Tamil. It is a long awaited course by many Tamil speaking seekers. With the divine grace of Pujya Swamiji and the blessings of Chief Acharya Swami Sadatmananda Saraswati ji the course was inaugurated on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Swami Jagadatmananda Saraswati conducts the course and Swamini Vedarthananda Saraswati and Swamini Saradananda Saraswati are conducting Chanting classes. Tattvabodha, selected verses from Vivekachudamani and Bhagavad Gita and Basic Sanskrit are the topics for the course. There are 60 students registered for the course from various parts of India, Malaysia and Srilanka.

The inaugural function commenced with Anugna puja at Guru Tirtha and pujas were conducted for the Guru Paduka, Pujya Swamiji and Bhagavan Sri Adi Shankaracharya.

Perur Adhinam Thavathiru. Shantalinga Maruthachala Adigalar, Siravi Adhinam Thavathiru. Ramananda Kumaragurupa Swamigal, Avinashi Adhinam. Sri Kamakshidasa Swamiji, Kamakshipuri Adhinam Sri Shivalingeshwara Swamigal, Arsha Vidya Peetham Sri Tadevananda Saraswati ji and Varahi Peetham Sri Manikanda Swamiji , the heads of important mutts of Coimbatore participated in the function. Along with the participants many well wishers and supporters were in the audience. All gurus lighted the lamp in front of the picture of Pujya Swamiji and inaugurated the function. Ms. Arthi sang the prayer song. General Manager Sri. Vallabeshan welcomed the gurus and the gatherings. Swami Jagadatmananda narrated the aims and objectives of the course and topics to be studied. He highlighted that the course is based on the teachings and methodology of Pujya Swamiji. He also emphasized that the learning in mother tongue will lead to clear understanding of Shastra. He marked that this course is being conducted in Tamil as proposed by Swami Sadatmananda Saraswati ji and he thanked Swamiji for the same. Then all guests were honoured.

Chief Acharya Swami Sadatmananda Saraswati ji presided over the function and he appreciated and blessed all the participants in his inaugural speech. He explained that Arsha Vidya Gurukulam means a place where the knowledge imparted by the rishis is given. He in view of the students to gain more benefits of the course mentioned that

“श्रद्धावान् लभते ज्ञानं” śhraddhāvānllabhate jñānam

One who has shradha and bhakti towards Shastra and Guru only can attain Knowledge.

He also referred Svetashvatar Upanishad

“यस्य देवे परा भक्तिर्यथा देवे तथा गुरौ।

तस्यैते कथिता ह्यर्थाः प्रकाशन्ते महात्मनः ” The meanings of Shastra is revealed only to a person who has devotion to lord and the teacher. Therefore Shradha and bhakti towards shastra and guru is important. Shradha means the sense of Validity. Secondly, Acharyaji emphasized that the time should be used for study and worship. Thirdly he insisted to earn the grace of Ishwara and lead a prayerful life.

Perur Adeenam Sri Maruthachala Adigalar in his talk mentioned that Arsha Vidya Gurukulam is situated in the Western Ghats which is called as South Kailas and Sekizhar praises this South Kailas as the place of penance. He appreciated the efforts of Pujya Swamiji who imparted the knowledge of Vedanta and respected Tamil and Sanskrit equally. He said Swami Dayananda was like a bridge to connect many mutts with different schools of thoughts. He highlighted that Pujya Swamiji conducted many conferences to upraise Tirumurai and he helped many Tamil Othuvans to perform Tirumurai parayanam in many temples. Adigalar blessed and greeted the participants.

Siravai Adheenam Sri Kumara Gurubhara Swamigal appreciated that Pujya Swamiji had established two ashrams, one in North Kailas Rishikesh and another at Anaikatti which is praised as South Kailas. He noted that Pujya Swamiji organized all heads of mutts and formed Acharya Sabha. He confirmed that the Vedic thinking is all about Self-knowledge. He expressed that he believes that this course will direct the learners in the right direction.

Sri Shivalingeshwara Swamigal praised that Tamil nadu is the land of temples and saints. Also only here atheism is rising and such courses will be helpful to raise spirituality.

Sri Kamakshidasa Swamiji said that the participants should spread the knowledge that they learn to many. Sri Varahi Manikanda Swamiji appreciated the effort taken by Arsha Vidya Gurukulam to conduct the Vedanta course in Tamil language at free of cost.

Swami Tadevananda Saraswatiji in his speech mentioned that Pujya Swamiji once conducted a class on Kaivalya Navaneetam in Tamil at Rishikesh in the banks of river Ganga on request from the Tamil speaking devotees. He also advised the participants to listen the lessons without any presuppositions as like as plain slate. Swamiji explained the shra-vana vidhi and blessed the students.

The programme was concluded with vote of thanks and the shanti mantras.

*Photos in wrapper page #32*