

RETREAT 1

Three day Shibir by Acarya Lavanya Ramgopal on Sri Dakshinamurthy Stotram, Aug 13-15, 2021

Arshabodhini Group from Chennai whose acaryas are disciples of Swami Brahmayogananda and Swami Paramarthananda was welcomed eagerly by the facility group. We had a retreat after a long gap of one and half years due to Covid-19 Pandemic.

The participants, being their first visit to Pujya Swamiji's birthplace felt blessed and enjoyed every moment of their stay and were taught Adi Shankara's text on Sri. Dakshinamurthy. It was an auspicious prayerful beginning for the retreats, especially coinciding with I-Day celebrations.



RETREAT 2

Three day Shibir with Acarya Ranganji and Smt.Suryapriya of Arsha Bodhini Trust- Vedanta retreat in Manjakkudi, Oct 1-3, 2021

A group of 40 students from Chennai Arsha Bodhini Trust attended a Vedanta program at the *Jnana Pravaha* in Pujya Swamiji's *Jan-mabhoomi*--Manjakkudi.

The topic was Manisha Pancakam by Acarya Ranganji and "Ishvara, Guru and Sastra" was addressed by Smt. Suryapriya. The participants were focused in getting meaningful insights during the retreat and expressed their appreciation of the facilities and ambience provided for Vedantastudy. Some of them made use of access to digital archives and the reading room facilities. The Group chanted Bhagavad Gita and took Bhagavan Krishna around the Perumal temple as a culmination of the retreat.



RETREAT 3

Swamini Vidyananda of Arsha Gurukulam, Chennai conducted a Vedanta retreat for her students from Oct 18-23, 2021.

The topic was Vedanta from Upanishads – 10 verses

The students were grateful to their teacher to have been able to conduct a live retreat after a long gap and made full use of their time with teacher. They also enjoyed the ambience the facility provided.



RETREAT 4

Mrs Neema & Surya, Acarya, Mumbai conducted a Vedanta retreat for her students from Dec 01 -10, 2021.

The topic was Maitreyi Brahmanam and Bhagavad Gita – Third Chapter. The participants were mainly from Mumbai and a cosmopolitan group. They enjoyed the uniqueness of the village, the birth place of their acaryas' guru and were able to listen to the acarya in an undistracted manner away from the buzz of their city. They profusely thanked the staff for their hospitality and promised to come again.



RETREAT 5

Swamini Sumatmananda conducted a Vedanta retreat, topic – Jiva Yatra – Dec 20-25, 2021.

They were a small group of 17 students who have been long studying with Swamini, some of them on-line. It should be mentioned that this was the only group which completely participated at the puja at Pujya Swamiji's shrine on all days. We thank Swamini for the same. The group members who are long time donors of AIM for Seva could see first-hand and feel doubly happy how the chatralayas are run and how the children are happy to be here.



RETREAT 6

The year ended like even the retreats began in August by the same Acarya, Mrs. Lavanya Ramgopal, Dec 29 2021 - Jan 02, 2022

As they were familiar with the place they had even more a productive session on Vakya vritti, Adi Sankara's updesha text. The students and even people who listen to the acarya online are amazed at the excellent teaching in Tamil on such a profound text. Arshabodhini group participants are blessed to have such acaryas in their midst. We were also blessed to have Swami Brahmayogananda, the acaryas' guru present during this retreat.



At the end of each retreat, the senior most person around, Sri. M.G. Srinivasan, Correspondent, SDET facilitated the *acaryas* and shared his perspective about the village and how it grew over the years and welcomed all retreaters to keep coming back to Pujya Swamiji's Janmabhumi.

The retreat members and *acaryas* were also briefed about the structure of *Jnana Pravaha*, the availability of a reading room facility where AVR & PT (Arsha Vidya Research & Publication Trust) books are made available for study anytime of the day and access to Pujya Swamiji's talks on Vedanta texts spread over six 3-year courses at Gurukulams and also public talks and *satsangs* - over 7000 hours of talks are available for repeated *shravanam* and *mananam*. Some of the members made use of the facilities.

Satsangs and temple tours

At the end of the retreat, the groups embarked on temple tours. The participants were amazed to see how life revolved around temples and how our tradition continues to be maintained and followed in these religious structures and the local populace has their day-to-day life revolve around temple routines. *Satsangs* were conducted after dinner.

Manjakkudi tour

The participants witnessed first-hand how a tiny hamlet in the Kaveri delta transformed into a model village in the last decade and half. They took a tour of our *Gaushala* and organic rice fields and spent time with our Chatralayam students and came to know their dreams and aspirations.

Address by the Chairperson and Managing Trustee

In her heartfelt address (10th December 2021) to the *acaryas* and other members assembled at the *Jnana Pravaha*, Smt. Sheela Balaji, Chairperson and Managing Trustee of the Swami Dayananda Educational Trust (SDET) said she was inspired by Swamiji's vision and joined his movement of Seva. The result was transformative—both at a personal level as well as from the community standpoint—the way Manjakkudi evolved itself from a sleepy hamlet to a knowledge hub in the last 15 years. She also elaborated on how

Jnana Pravaha has evolved as a tribute to Pujya Swamiji's teachings

Concluding note

At the end of the retreats, the *acaryas* and some of the retreat members shared their experiences and had a word of appreciation for the excellent facilities provided in terms of accommodation, food and other arrangements. The *acaryas* also Visited SDET school, College and interacted with them and got to know the challenges teachers face in a village situation and offered whatever help they can to make the institutions grow and students get enough opportunities in their field of study.

On their part, representatives from the Swami Dayananda Educational Trust (SDET) welcomed the participants and *acaryas* to visit the village again to keep the tradition of teaching and Seva flourish at Pujya Swamiji's birth place. Swami Ramesvarananda welcomes all retreat participants to come again and make use of the Jnana Pravaha facilities, especially the Digital Archives and Pujya Swamiji authored books, and benefit from the retreats to have a wholesome and self-fulfilling life which Vedanta understanding can offer and lead to claiming the self to be one with Ishvara. **All that is here is Ishvara.**

- Report by Swami Ramesvarananda

"The ways of the mind are simple as long as you don't complicate them. And you complicate them only when you are confused, taking thought as "I" and "I" as thought. If you have that confusion, you will put yourself on all kinds of trips – sensuous trips, psychological trips, even spiritual trips. All of them will prove to be trips requiring further trips, until you trip into the grave. You must know that you are already full. As you are, you are limitless, free from sadness and sorrow."

- Swami Dayananda Saraswati