

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary celebration of Arsha Vidya Gurukulm, Anaikatti

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary celebration of Arsha Vidya Gurukulm, Anaikatti was held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022. There was a huge gathering seen after the past two years of pandemic period. The program started with prayers at Guru Tirtha at 10.15 am. Dr. S.P.Thiyagarajan, Chancellor, Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore was the Chief Guest who presided over the function. The sacred lamp in front of the decorated picture of Pujya Swamiji was lighted by the dignitaries. The program commenced after the prayer song sung by Smt. Shanti Subhramanyam. The General Manager Sri. G. Vallabesan welcomed the gatherings. The Chief Guest Dr. S.P.Thiyagarajan was honoured by the Chief Acharya Swami Sadatmananda Saraswati. General Manager presented the Annual Report of the Gurukulam activity. He highlighted about the various camps conducted and organized by the gurukulam in the past one year which include the following:

2 years Vedanta and Sanskrit Course, which had been conducted by the Chief Acharya Swami Sadatmanandaji was completed in March 2022. A total of 27 students, including 13 persons from abroad successfully completed the course. The valedictory ceremony was addressed by the Swami Shakshatkritananda Saraswati on 18th March 2022. Our Honourable Chairman attended the function and offered his blessings.

A Sunday Tamil and Sanskrit class, after a gap of 2 years, has been started by Swami Jagadatmanandaji since 01.05.2022.

A Three month Tamil Vedanta Course from 16.07.2022 to 16.10.2022 was conducted by Swami Jagadatmanandaji in which 54 students participated.

### Spiritual Camps:

From 25.12.2021 to 01.01.2022. Camp on Upanisad organized by Swami Shakshatkritanandaji, in which 97 devotees participated

From 24.03.2022 to 28.03.2022. Vedanta & Meditation camp organized by Swami Buddhatmanandaji, in which 22 devotees participated

From 29.04.2022 to 03.05.2022. A camp organized by Acharya Lavanya, in which 52 devotees participated.

From 05.05.2022 to 08.05.2022. Kaivalya Shibir camp organized by Acharya Vasudevan, in which 61 devotees participated

From 14.05.2022 to 15.05.2022. Values in Bhagavat Gita camp organized by Sh. Avinashilingam, in which 33 devotees participated

From 09.05.2022 to 15.05.2022 & 16.05.2022 to 22.05.2022. Vedanta camp in English and Telugu organized by Swamini Satyavratandaji, in which about 30 devotees participated

From 21.05.2022 to 28.05.2022. Amritabindu camp organized by Swami Sachitanandaji, in which 118 devotees participated.

From 24.05.2022 to 28.05.2022. Vedic Heritage camp organized by Swamini Satyavratandaji, in which around 40 devotees participated.

From 25.06.2022 to 26.06.2022 Youth camp was organized by Swami Jagadatmanandaji, which was attended by 23 persons.

From 10.07.2022 to 13.07.2022. Gurupurnima camp organized by Swami Satatmanandaji & Swami Jagdatmanandaji, in which 72 devotees participated.

From 08.08.2022 to 10.08.2022 Vanavasi Seva Kendrah camp was conducted, in which 37 devotees participated

From 26.08.2022 to 28.08.2022 Cultural Validation & Value education camp was conducted by Swamini Vidyanandaji, in which 53 devotees participated

From 30.09.2022 to 02.10.2022 Vedanta camp was organized by Acharya Rangarajanji, in which 87 devotees participated

From 16.10.2022 to 20.10.2022 Camp by SVYASA, Bangalore, has been organized.

Dr.R.Parthasarathy Chief Medical Officer presented the Annual Report of the activities of SDJ Ayurvedalaya. He noted that due to the pandemic period the activities were less and the time was used to develop the infrastructure of the hospital which includes yoga and meditation hall, staff quarters, patients room and treatment areas.

Swami Jagadatmananda Saraswati delivered his Anugraha Bhashanam and in which he remembered the great contributions of Pujya Swamiji and the mass gatherings in those days. He marked the Pujya Swamiji's wish to provide free food to all visitors of the Ashram and the same tradition is continued even now and he prayed that it should be extended to more people. He requested all the devotees of Pujya Swamiji to visit Gurukulam frequently and extend the support. He thanked the Chief Acharya for initiating a three months Vedanta camp in Tamil for the first time.

Swami Tatdevananda Saraswati ji in his Anugraha Bhashanam appreciated Chief Acharya for maintaining the prominence of the Gurukulam as like as the era of Pujya Swamiji with

the values and teaching tradition.

The Chief guest Dr. S.P. Thiyagarajan in his key note address praised the great contribution of Pujya Swamiji not only to the country and also to the entire world. He marked the continuity of the same values and tradition established by Pujya Swamiji without any change by the eminent leadership of the Chief Acharya Swami Sadatamanandaji. He also appreciated Swami Jagadatamananda for his academic and spiritual contributions. He highlighted the importance of love and devotion for ones spiritual progress.

Chief Acharya Swami Sadatmanandaji in his Anugraha Bhashanam stated that all our desires are motivated from our knowledge as sashtras say *Janati, Ichati, karoti*. Our happiness or unhappiness is decided through our attitude towards the situation. Situation may be the same and if attitude is proper there will be happiness and gratitude. If the attitude is not proper then there is sadness and unhappiness. So the quality of the life is depending upon the attitude towards oneself, to the world and Ishwara. Attitude comes from knowledge. Wrong understanding leads to wrong attitude, which further leads to suffering in life. That is why knowledge is very important. Our country's name itself is Bharata, Bha means light of knowledge and rata means committed. Bharata means a country committed to right knowledge. Therefore we need to understand the place of knowledge in our life. In our sashtras it is said, “ *Annadanam Mahadanam, Vidyadanam Mahattaram, Annena kshanika triptih, Yavat jivam tu Vidyaya*”. Sharing food is a great gesture as the receiver says “alam(enough)”, but sharing knowledge is greater than giving food as the satisfaction obtained through food is Kshanika (temporary), but the right knowledge changes one's perspective and that gives freedom from sorrow. This knowledge is also called *Raja Vidya*. Bhagawad gita says that *Panditaha nanu shochanti*. The wise never grieves. That knowledge is only imparted as Brhama Vidya, the knowledge of limitless self also called *Tarana Vidya*, that is told as *tarati shokam atmavit* - the knower of truth crosses the ocean of sorrow. The specialty of the Gurukulams established by Pujya Swamiji is that this knowledge is being taught without any prejudices and distortion.

The program was concluded with vote of thanks delivered by Sri. Nagesh, Manager, Arsha Vidya Gurukulam followed by Maha Prasadam.

*Om Tat Sat*

*Photos in the cover page #31 and #32*