

## Pujya Swamiji's samaaraadhanaa

Although Pujya Swamiji's puNya tithi was commemorated on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019 at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti, it was on Oct 9th 2019 that the actual samaaraadhanaa day was observed, as it was on ekaadashi, a day after Vijaya Dashami, that Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati ji took mahaasamaadhi. We, the students of the 108 day BG course, were very eager to chant the ashTottara shatanaamaavaLi once more in Pujya Swamiji's honour.

Susequent to the usual Temple puja, Anujna puja at Guru Tirtha was carried out presided over by Acarya Sadatmananandaji with the chanting of Dayananda Panchakam and Guru Stotram.

At 11.00 am we were asked to assemble at the lecture hall for the Shraddhanjali to Pujya Swamiji, which would be graced by Addhenams / Mahaasaanidhaanams from in and around Coimbatore.



A life size cut out of Pujya Swamiji seated in his aasana was at the centre stage. Soon enough the Mahaasannidhaanams arrived, and were lead to their seats by our Acharya.

Swami Jagadatmananda ji was the MC for the day and he introduced the guests one by one and also invited everyone to speak. Swami Sadatmanandaji welcomed revered Adheenams with shawls. Copies of the Souvenir that was released in honour of Pujya Swamiji by Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh was given

Acharya ji then spoke of how Dayananda Panchakam composed by Swami Paramaarthananda ji, especially the first stanza, conveyed the greatness of Swami Dayananda Saraswati, and what an embodiment of compassion he was, with an ever smiling countenance and undisturbed disposition. All the Mahaasannidhaanams followed by paying homage to the various dhaarmika activities initiated and undertaken by Pujya Swamiji, such as the Thirumurai Conferences, the revival of the Oduvar tradition, revival of the Temple Chariot tradition, Acharya Sabha in an effort to bring all the Hindu pontiffs under one roof, and so on. Mahaasannidhaams also made note of the fact that 'Conversion is Violence' (a phrase coined by Pujya Swamiji), and how Swamiji had organized various conferences and meetings to resolve conflicts by promoting social harmony and human values. AIM for Seva, which provides free hostels in tribal and remote areas, as well educational institutions in various rural areas, was another of Pujya Swamiji's brain child that was lauded for its far reaching effects.



Swami Jagatmananda ji translated their Tamil talks into English for the benefit of the various people assembled, many erstwhile students and sannyaasis who had come to grace this occasion from across the country, and he concluded the event by requesting Acharyaji to lead Mahaasannidhaanams to the dining hall for bhiksha.

**Report by Kavita Meegama**