Arsha Gurukulam, Somangalam, Chennai - Activities report

July 22 events

A two day camp titled "Bharatiya Samskara - Vedamum Nadamum" was conducted on 30 and 31 July for the students of "Sukhi Niketan Arts Academy". The purpose of the camp was to meld Carnatic music renderings to Arsha vidya which was the vision of Pujya Swamiji. This camp was organized by Arsha Gurukulam and SNAA. It started with a Ganapathi Homam performed at 4:30 AM on 30 July by Brahma Sri Chandramouleeswara Sastrigal, followed by special Rudra Abhisheka pooja to Lord Vidya Dakshinamurthi. Sri. K.Subramanian gave an introductory talk on the beginnings of the Ashram arising from the blessings of Pujya Swamiji. Swami Sakshatkritananda Saraswati gave a brief Anugraha Bhashanam audio message which was played to the participants. Swamiji blessed the event and beautifully brought out the importance of Prayer along with efforts for success as his message. Swami Shiva Swaroopananda talked about Guru Parampara and the importance of Guru as told in the sastra. It was followed by a well organized, melodious music practice of Pujya Swamijis compositions taught by Dr. B. Siva, the founder Trustee of SNAA. The talk on values by Swami Saccinmayananda from Malaysia delighted all the participants and he highlighted their importance even for today's contemporary lifestyle. Smt. Kannan honoured all students for their commitment to the Art of music, especially carnatic and classical devotional music. Participants visited the ancient Siva temple and Chandra sthala in Somangalam and joined the evening nitya Puja of the Ashram. The students gave an excellent performance of Thiagaraja Pancaratna Kritis in the lecture hall of the Ashram which was coordinated with Sahasranama Pooja for Lord Rama. The hall was looking like Thiruvayyaru Thiagaraja Mahotsavam. The day ended with Satsang with Swami Saccinmayananda.

The second day started with Homa at 5 AM for Lord Dakshinamurthy followed by teaching of chanting of Lord Dakshinamurthy stotram by the students. Special Rudrabhisheka Pooja was done for Lord Vidya Dakshinamurthy and the Lord was adorned with Vibhuti Kaappu, bedecked with flowers and ornaments. There was Vel Puja for Lord Subramania (Kartikeya) over two hours along with Thiruppugazh renderings in chorus by the students. Sri. Kannan beautifully explained how he is blessed with Thiruppugazh renderings again in this Ashram. He recalled the Thiruppugazh rendering with stalwarts when he had started a Veda Pathasala at Vadukkupattu, twenty years back, which was blessed by Pujya Swamiji. The Ashram air was filled with divine music on both the days. Dr.Siva gave another two hours practice session on Pujya Swamiji's music compositions in the afternoon for all the students.

The whole event was organized by Dr. Siva and Smt. Gayatri Siva managed the event with great commitment, silent execution and meticulous detailing. Students were well disciplined in every which way, maintaining punctuality, chorus singing, listening to the master and accommodating the shortcomings in the infrastructure without any complaints. The whole event

would not have been a great success, without the efforts of Swami Saccinmayananda in having the maintenance work done in time, ensuring availability of the infrastructure for the event and of course attracting all the students to the Vedic values. We have received enormous accolades from many people who participated in the event online.

August 22 events

August 8th - Veda Parayanam

Veda parayanam followed by special Abhisheka aradhana was performed at Arsha gurukulam for Lord Dakshinamurti, the presiding deity by Sannyasi disciples of Poojya Swamiji. Veda parayanam was performed by Adyapakar students of Sri Veda Vyasa Patashala. The shukla yajurveda team rendered wonderful hymns covering the most important mantras related to Soma yaga, while the Rigveda team chanted the holiest Pavamana suktam. The vocal rendition by Dr. Siva added flavour to the program. The program ended with Abhishekam for the Vighraha of Poojya swamiji and Anugraha bhashanam by Swami Shiva Swaroopananda and Swami Sacchinmayananda Saraswati.

15 Aug 22 Pujya Swamiji's Janma Dinam

Shodashopacara Puja was done and students and Swamijis of the Arsha Gurukulam Parampara chanted Prasthana Thraya Upodgata Bhashyam. Agama Patashala students of Sri Kamakshi Koti Kainkarya Trust from Chengalpattu did Parayanam from Krishna Yajur Veda followed by Ekadasha Rudra Abhisheka for Lord Dakshinamurthy. The Alankara done for the deity by the Patashala Students was very nice. They also stayed in the evening and did the Puja in Agama style for Lord Mahaganapati on the occassion of Maha Sankatahara Chaturti. The students thoroughly enjoyed the Ashram lifestyle and gained the knowledge on Vedangas and importance of Agama in Krishna Yajur veda from Swami Saccinmayananda Saraswati.

21 Aug 22 Bharatiya Samskara - Sri Krishna Jayanti Mahotsavam

The day started with Thirumurai parayanam in Lord Vidya Dakshinamurthi temple, by the students of "Sukhi Niketan Arts Academy". This was followed by Anugrha bhāṣaṇam by Swamijis of the Ashram. The students presented Pujya Dayananda Swamiji's composition "Bharata Desha Hitaya", under the able guidance of their Guru Dr. Siva. It was followed by a talk on Panca Maha Yajnam by Swami Sacinmayananda Saraswati. SwamiJi's address to young children, most of them below 15 years of age, giving stories to draw their attention, reminded us of Pujya Swamiji and his style of connecting with children.

Swami Shiva Swaroopananda talked about the importance of Guru especially in learning the Vedas and taught them the Guru Stotram with meaning. The children then had a session of thirupugaz and music practice. They later enjoyed a tour of the Ashram, gathering Thiruvodu fruits and admiring the natural surroundings. Later in the evening, the fun filled Bharatiya Samskara style of celebrating Sri Krishna Jayanti with "Uriyadi Game" was enjoyed by all of them. They took home the sweet memories of their fun filled Ashram visit.

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