

Kenopanishad Retreat Report - Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti

Away from the hustle and bustle of the city, this pristine campus of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti, has been a cradle of knowledge for seekers from all over the world imparting the teachings of the Vedic Tradition.

On the 7th of December 2024, the Ashrama received over a 100 Vedanta students and aspirants keen on exploring the teachings of Kenopanishad elegantly articulated by Swami Sakshatkrtananda ji, Acharya at Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh. As we dived into the Shankara Bhashyam, Swami ji explained various discussions in the text unfolding its teachings with great lucidity.

Paired with the teachings of Kenopanishad Bhashyam, we were also walked through the summary of Brhadaranyaka Upanishad with a great detail of its structure and content by Swami Sadatmananda ji.

Towards the end of the retreat, Swami Sadatmananda ji also introduced 'how to study Tika (sub-commentary)', with the Ananda Giri's Tika of Kenopanishad.

While the Vedanta classes were insightful and deep, the Chanting sessions covering Medha sukta, Samvada suktam etc., by Swamini Sharadananda ji brought more colour to our retreat. Guided meditation sessions by Swami ji led us to deeper contemplations based on the vision of Vedanta. The campus has resonated with sacred chants offered at the feet of Lord Medha-Dakshinamurti at the temple every morning and evening.

On the 11th of December, we had the utmost fortune of celebrating Shrimad Bhagavat Gita Jayanti in the Ashram with Gita Pooja and parayana of all the 18 chapters.

The evening Satsangha-s were always filled with surprises, spanning from our Acharyas answering our questions, Swami Sadatmananda ji leading heart-warming Bhajans, Swami Jagadatmananda ji's talk on relevance and understanding of Panchangam, to guest speakers and artists, our days always ended with a treat to our minds and hearts.

Our guest speaker, Dr. S. Gurumurthy ji offered us two insightful presentations on Brhadeshvara Kovil in Tanjavur and Nataraja Kovil at Chidambaram.

Kumari Keerthana presented popular carnatic songs gracefully played on her Veena, accompanied by Mrdangam Vidvan Manikanthan.

Students of Veda-Bhrahmashree Jambunatha Ghanapathigal from Perur presented our retreat with a Parayanam of Ghana patha, Pada patha, Jata patha and Varna

lakshanam, followed by a Parayanam of Atharva Veda Mantras by students of Swami Dayananda Saraswati Veda Patha Shala, Anaikatti.

In keeping with the spirit of our ancient tradition of offering our gratitude and seeking blessings of Sadhus, a Bhandara was organised on the 19th Dec, where about 35 Sadhus graced us with their presence. Students and campers of the Ashram prayerfully and cheerfully volunteered in their service.

The immersive experience of the last 2-weeks has been indeed a retreat from the busy and stressful lives of cities. The immaculately maintained Gurukulam campus has served as a safe haven not only to cows, peacocks and deer but also to the campers.

We are eternally grateful to our teachers for leading us on the path of Dharma and Moksha. We offer our sincere salutations to Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati Ji for the vision of this Gurukulam which continues to impart this timeless knowledge to seekers around the globe.

Om Shri Gurubhyo Namah.



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