

March 2025 | Vol 1 | Issue 2

# Daya Anjali

MANJAKKUDI & BEYOND

## Sacred Rhythms

A testament to Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati's mission of propagating the practice of Vedic studies

**Page 6**

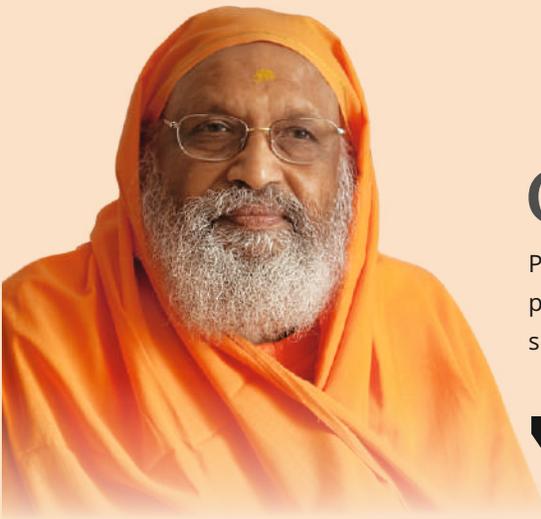
## 19th Annual Convention

A week-long celebration of culture and knowledge in varied forms.

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Brought to you by  
**SWAMI DAYANANDA**  
Educational Trust





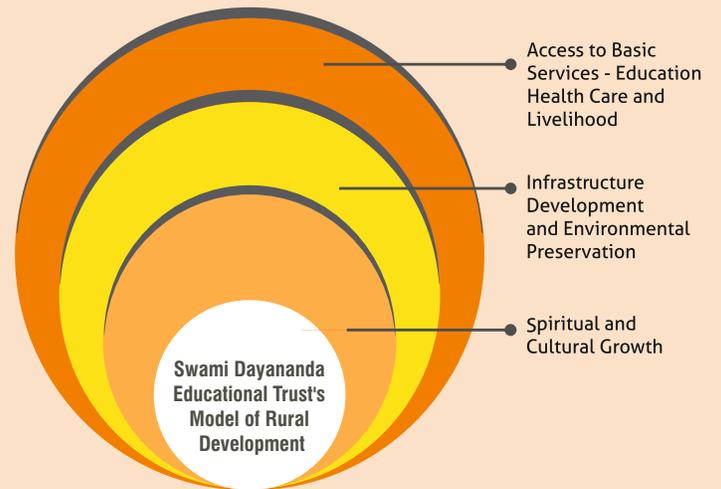
# Our Founder

Puja Swami Dayananda Saraswati was an acclaimed spiritual leader, profound thinker, philosopher and master of Vedanta who worked towards societal transformation at the grassroots level.

“A human being needs to become a contributor, and not merely exist as a consumer.”

## The Journey of Trust and Transformation

Swami Dayananda Educational Trust (SDET) focuses on sustainable rural development in and around the village of Manjakkudi, Tiruvarur District, Tamil Nadu. Founded in 2003, by Puja Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati, it aims to create societal change and progress from the grassroots without compromising the essential character of the rural traditions, culture and lifestyle.



### Promoting Education

**Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya** - 783 students | 421 Boys | 362 Girls

**Semmangudi Government-Aided Higher Secondary School** - 1011 Students | 526 Boys | 485 Girls

**Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science** - 2074 Students | 1136 Boys | 937 Girls



### Promoting Health Care

**Rural Ambulance Service**

Runs over 1,000 kilometers annually, transporting villagers to the nearest healthcare facility, 24x7

**Swami Dayananda Ayurveda Clinic**

Every month, over 300 patients benefit through this free ayurveda clinic in Kodavasal



### Ensuring Environment Sustainability

**Swami Dayananda Farms**

289 heritage rice varieties are being conserved, cultivated and distributed every harvest season

**Dayavanam - A Micro Forest**

23 varieties of fruit and nut trees | An array of medicinal plants, flowering plants, shrubs, herbs, vines and perennial vegetables

**Swami Dayananda Gaushala**

65 indigenous breeds of cows | Gir, Rati (Gujarat) Tharpakar, Sahiwal, Red Sindhi (Punjab)



### Promoting Heritage, Art & Culture

Swami Dayananda Vedapatashala - 28 students | 7 years course | Krishna Yajur Vedam and Vaikhanasa Agama

Jnana Pravaha - A Vedanta Retreat Centre for students who are ready for a more in-depth study of Vedanta

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# Words of Inspiration from Our Founder and Guru



**T**here is an instinctual attempt to survive on the part of anything alive because that is how all living beings are programmed. Survival implies a few things: air, water, food, and shelter. Everything beyond these basic needs is a plus, even clothing, unless it is necessary for protection from the elements. The human being is also subject to this programming.

## Is mere survival enough?

The human being needs to contribute something to transcend, to get beyond being just a survivor. Living at a level beyond mere survival means going beyond the 'survivor psyche' of taking care of one's needs. Thus, you cannot just be a survivor producing another survivor.

Neither can you be just a consumer and consider yourself a contributor. So, what is this contribution?

There are varieties of contributions. All that counts is whether you have reached the level of being a contributor. To reach that level your entire psychology, that is, your way of thinking, your way of looking at yourself, others and at the world, has to undergo a change. It is also important to understand that contribution is not only monetary. Converting another person from the level of a survivor into that of a contributor is a contribution.

One rises above the psyche of a survivor when one contributes something to the world. This contributor need not be to human society alone. If you have to live your life positively and not just get by, if you have to rise above being a mere survivor, you need to act at a deeper level. This is a level that which not only includes the significant others in your life, but is one in which every other person becomes significant to you.

For this, you need to enjoy a certain depth within yourself, a certain strength or intensity with which you respond to the world and the entire environment; every plant, every tree, every organism. It is then that you become a true contributor.

I consider that living begins when one contributes something that will bring about more joy, more happiness, more light and more freedom. Until then, one merely drags one's life through old age and on to the grave. Just getting by is not really living. To live is to be a positive contributor. Seva work provides an avenue, an occasion, an opportunity for people to care for others. In doing so, one cares for oneself. Something happens to a person when he or she is able to do something for someone else. It is not pride. It is something natural, an inner expansion that is an indication of growth because the essential nature of a human being is fullness, wholeness. This wholeness find expression when you are able to help others you do not even know, except to know that they need help.

**Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati**

# A Message from the Chairperson & Managing Trustee



The Vedas are literally the heartbeat of Sanatana Dharma. Almost every aspect of our daily life is shaped to some extent by the given way of life in the Vedas. In ancient times, learning and practising the mantras and rituals given in the Vedas was a part of every child's educational journey – a practice that was disrupted time and again by invasions, and then literally uprooted by the imposition of Western education system brought in by the British rulers, particularly in urban cities.

However, the strength of our culture is such that its growth and spread continued even in the face of such challenges. Our Vedas are not passed on in the form of written or printed text – they are committed to memory and passed on from teacher to student, generation after generation. Over thousands of years, teachers and students have upheld this glorious tradition with reverence. It is their efforts that have helped our Sanatana Dharma to flourish today as one of the rare unbroken cultures of the world.

**Dear Readers,**

**Namaste**

The cover story of this issue is centred on Swami Dayananda Vedapatashala in Kodavasal (near Manjakkudi), one of the projects sustained by SDET since 2006. Pujya Swamiji was a firm believer in the importance of propagating and promoting Vedic studies – and the vedapatashala has been one of the cornerstones of SDET's integrated rural development programme in Manjakkudi.

As with every project that SDET has initiated and sustained, the vedapatashala has deep-rooted significance not just for the rural environs but also for the larger community and nation.

It is our responsibility to continue to uphold this parampara of teaching and knowledge, so that future generations in Bharat and beyond may continue to benefit from this priceless legacy. The Swami Dayananda Vedapatashala is our humble effort towards this goal. Over the past 20 years, several students have graduated from this vedapatashala and have found gainful employment as teachers and priests (in India and overseas).

For us, it is more than a vedapatashala. It is our way of contributing to keeping alive the tenets of our grand culture – a veritable 'Anjali' to our beloved Guru's vision.

**Ms. Sheela Balaji**

**Chairperson & Managing Trustee  
Swami Dayananda Educational Trust**

# Sacred Rhythms



The Swami Dayananda Vedapatashala is our way of upholding Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati's mission to propagate, promote and spread the practice of Vedic studies. What better way to preserve and impart the sacred Vedas to today's youth than through a traditional gurukulam system? Deepa Venkatraman delves into life at this institution of traditional learning.

In the tranquil darkness before daybreak, 28 young disciples awaken to begin their sacred daily routine. Sandhya vandanam prayers soon resonate through the pillared hall.

Nestled in Kodavasal, the Swami Dayananda Vedapatashala, established in 2006, stands as a testament to Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati's mission—to propagate, promote and spread the practice of Vedic studies. What better way to preserve and impart sacred Vedas to the youth than through a traditional gurukulam system?

## Life at the Vedapatashala

Initiation into the Vedapatashala requires students to be around eight to 14 years of age, and preferably from families who follow Yajurveda. The child should have completed their upanayana samskaram (sacred thread ceremony) prior to joining the Vedapatashala. (For families who lack the means to afford a upanayana ritual, the Vedapatashala helps by conducting the ceremony in the school itself.)

Given the intense, committed nature of the course, an in-depth interview is conducted with both the family and the prospective student to ascertain their readiness.

At the vedapatashala, the day begins as early as 4.20 a.m. and ends at 9 p.m., when they retire to bed. While the schedule may seem rigorous, it is well balanced with time slotted for recreation, yoga, meditation, play and physical exercise, which helps the students gain needed reprieve from their studies. Although this pristine vedapatashala has necessary modern facilities, the essence of a gurukulam system remains intact where students live with their Gurus, receiving holistic education combining spiritual knowledge via oral recitation and practical life skills. "On a daily basis, the students serve food, wash their respective clothes and utensils, sweep and mop the premises in rotation," informs Sudarshan Bhatt, the residential acharya (teacher) who teaches Krishna Yajurveda.

On the question of how young students are helped to adapt to the new environment, Bhatt explains, "While maintaining essential discipline, for about a month, we are lenient with their waking up time and provide ample play time. Senior students accompany them to temples and familiarise them with the surrounding areas, such as the Sri Varadaraja Perumal temple and Swami Dayananda Goshala in Manjakkudi. Within a month or two, they become accustomed to the schedule." Students go back home for a 10-day break during Diwali and for a month during summer (in May).

## Spiritual Education and More

The curriculum of the seven-year course at Swami Dayananda Vedapatashala emphasises traditional repetitive oral recitation and multiple revision sessions daily in Krishna Yajurveda, Vaikanasa Agama and Sanskrit. Every subject is



*Upon completing the seven-year Vedic education course, students receive certificates from Veda Rakshana Nidhi Trust of Kanchipuram and Sri Venkateswara Vedic University at Tirupati as well.*

taught by a dedicated instructor who specialises in that particular discipline. It is a wonderful sight to see the students, attired in crisp white dhotis, sitting cross-legged on the cool stone floor and chanting the Vedas in perfect unison.

Bhatt shares, "This disciplined regime enables the students to memorise and understand these ancient scriptures. Written and oral Sanskrit is taught to make the understanding process interesting and easier." He adds, "We take the senior students to private special yagnas/poojas held in people's homes and temples for practical exposure."

Students also learn essential subjects such as mathematics, science and English, which are necessary for today's world. Some interested students have even been sent to coaching classes and have successfully passed their 10th standard Board examinations.

Annual examinations are conducted by external teachers who come to the vedapatashala. Upon completing the seven-year Vedic education course, students

receive certificates from Veda Rakshana Nidhi Trust of Kanchipuram and Sri Venkateswara Vedic University at Tirupati as well. Bhatt adds, "Students have flexibility in their evaluation schedule – they can choose to be tested by the trust and university either annually or comprehensively at the end of their seventh year. This certification validates their Vedic education."

On opportunities after graduation, Bhatt shares that their alumni have followed different paths. "While some graduates receive hands-on experience and further training from our alumni in their respective cities, others opt for teaching in other vedapatashalas," he says.

The Swami Dayananda Vedapatashala follows our founder's vision of blending cultural validation with contemporary education to instill confidence in today's youth. By balancing rigorous scriptural study with practical skills blending with formal education, the institution is creating proficient Vedic scholars who preserve ancient wisdom while navigating contemporary society with ease.



## At a Glance

*Swami Dayananda  
Vedapatashala*

*Year of establishment:  
2006*

*Vedic studies offered:  
Krishna Yajur Veda by  
Acharyas Sudarshan Bhatt  
& Krishnamurthy Hegde*

*Vaikanasa Agama by  
Acharya Sudarshan Bhatt*

*Written and Oral Sanskrit by  
Acharya B. Govindarajan*

*Current strength:  
28 students*

*Vedic Course duration:  
7 years*

*Criteria for enrollment:  
Student should be eight to  
14 years of age, preferably  
from families following  
Yajurveda, and should have  
completed their upanayana  
samskaram*

# Seeking the Divine

## Vedanta Retreats

Jnana Pravaha was conceived and designed not just as a memorial but a living tribute to Pujya Swamiji's memory and the continuing tradition of his teachings. The name 'Jnana Pravaha' ('Perennial Flow of Knowledge') was arrived at after deliberating upon the true purpose and design of the place. Like the Ganga, which embodies the flow of wisdom through generations, Pujya Swamiji's words carry the eternal essence of Vedanta – and will continue to touch and enlighten seekers world over for eons to come. We share details of the recent Vedanta retreats held at Jnana Pravaha.





## Hastamalakiyam Retreat

**Conducted by Smt. Rama Sivaraman  
(28 February to 02 March, 2025)**

Smt. Rama Sivaraman, a student of Swami Paramarthananda, conducted a retreat from 28th February to 2nd March 2025, under the auspices of Vyoma Linguistic Labs Foundation.

The retreat was spread over three days and was attended by 21 participants across age groups and from different places within India and outside India. The main text covered was *Hastamalakiyam*, and the classes were conducted by Smt. Rama Sivaraman. Smt. Poornima Prasad conducted very interesting sessions on *Tattva-Sangraha*, *Ramayana*, *Bhagavatam*, and *Mahabharata* every day, all covering different aspects of vedanta in a storytelling mode.

The participants greatly appreciated the unique and original idea of these sessions. Prof. Dr. B. Mahadevan spoke about on the practical aspects of Karma Yoga. Several other speakers addressed the

participants remotely and on special topics. Dr. Sowmya Krishnapur spoke on the importance of samskṛta for Vedanta. The Vyoma Brothers (Venkat, Viswanath) spoke about the learning path for samskṛta for serious vedantic students. Shri. Shankararama Sharma spoke about the Veda purva bhaga, and Dr. M. Jayaraman spoke about vedanta and yogasastra.

Students of the Swami Dayananda Vedapatashala in Kodavasal chanted the *Taittiriya Upanishad* in Pujya Swamiji's shrine and meditation hall. The reverberations filled the prayer hall, and it was a rejuvenating experience for all.

The daily sessions started with the participants joining the morning puja at Jnana Pravaha. Thereafter, the participants were engaged in guided meditation using Swami Paramarthanandaji's recorded meditation sessions. An interesting and unexpected visitor turned up on all three days for the vedanta sessions early in the morning – a beautiful peacock who turned up diligently and knocked on the glass ventilators. The sattvik food served at the Koodam was extremely delicious, and the accommodation was very comfortable.

In the evenings, the participants went on a tour of the neighbourhood, which included the village agraharam, the ancestral home of Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Kovil, and SDET's institutions.

*Excerpted from a report by Swami Ramesvarananda Saraswati, published in the Arsha Vidya Monthly Journal.*



understanding of Ishvara. This means we need to see as much as possible all the intricacies of our choices in daily life. As we live in an interconnected universe, every choice we make will have an effect on our surroundings. To try to choose more wisely every day is what a bhakta will work for.

Suryaji's guided morning meditations helped us to understand and connect with the basic person. The person who can temporarily give up his roles but as an individual cannot give up his connection with the total. To see this clearly invokes naturally the bhakta within us. Similarly, we had a silent morning walk during each retreat through the beautiful nature and rice fields with the idea to see Ishvara everywhere.

*Excerpted from a report by  
Swami Ramesvarananda Saraswati,  
published in the Arsha Vidya Monthly  
Journal.*

## Kathopanishad and Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 12)

*With acaryas Neema Majmudar and Surya Tahora  
(01 to 10 and 11 to 20 December, 2024)*

In both the retreats, *Kathopanishad* and Chapter 12 of the *Bhagavad Gita* were brilliantly unfolded. In between classes, a lot of activities were organised with the help of Swami Ramesvarananda Saraswati, Prasenjit Bhattacharjee, Rajagopalan and the rest of the team.

The flow with which Neemaji taught us about the brilliant dialogues between Lord Yama and Nachiketa, and Krishna and Arjuna made it easy for us students to see the timelessness of this unique tradition. By her unique interactive style of teaching, Neemaji herself creates dialogues in her classes and inspires her students to discuss what they have learned with one another outside of the classroom.

In Chapter 12 of the *Gita*, Krishna is teaching us about what a bhakta is. Then, in the last class of our retreat we all shared what we had understood. This collective learning experience made everyone involved and created so many different angles to look at what a bhakta exactly is. One person focussed on emotions and how a bhakta will align emotions with Ishvara's psychological order instead of denying the presence of this order. Another person brought in that our decision-making capacity also needs to be guided by our





## Arsha Vidya UK Retreat

**With Pujya Swamini Atmaprakashananda**

It is always a delight to be back in India, a land of cultural forms based upon a vision of reality. These cultural forms take many guises – being expressed in artwork, sculptures, through dance, music, worship and more. As we were to discover during the teaching at the camp, the cultural forms present an opportunity for the mind of the individual to be wholly captured, and oriented towards its subtler basis – the spirit behind the form.

Pujya Swamini Atmaprakashanandaji began the camp by unfolding the meaning behind the cultural forms presented in the small text of *Kasi Pancakam*, composed by Adi Sankaracharya. Kasi is a city of pilgrimage, well-known to all Hindus. In these five verses, Sankaracharya encapsulates how Kasi is a symbol for the light of all lights, of one's own nature of consciousness.

The evenings at the camp were spent learning stotras of Adi Sankaracharya: Vedasara-Siva stotram, Lakshmi-Narasimha-karavalambam, and others. Pujya Swamini Atmaprakashanandaji explained how in these stotras,

Sankaracharya shows the student how to pray and what to pray for. The stotras dwell on the Lord in all his forms, and also as the formless. Through this prayer, the minds of all students were well nourished – captured by the beauty of the Sanskrit words, the melodies and their prayerful meaning.

The main teaching at the camp was the text *Advaita Makaranda – The Nectar of Non-Duality*. Pujya Swamini Atmaprakashanandaji masterfully presented an in-depth exposition of this profound text of 28 verses. Within it is an explanation of the nature of the individual, and the Lord, and how there is essentially non-difference between the two. Both being of the nature of existence, consciousness, happiness. This beautiful text granted the attendees the opportunity to discover and dwell upon their own reality, the intended truth behind all cultural forms. Between classes, numerous trips to various temples and birthplaces of Carnatic musicians (Saint Tyagaraja Swami, Muthuswami Dikshitar, and Syama Sastri) were untiringly and flawlessly organised by Swaminiji.

In the pursuit of the vision of non-duality, one's mind has to become refined, for which cultural forms are a blessing. The refinement has to be to the degree that sufficient



## Two-Week Vedanta Retreat (in Japanese)

**With Brni Medha (06 to 23 February, 2025)**

By the grace of Pujya Swamiji, and an ideal environment provided in Manjakkudi, we successfully completed two study camps by Brni Medha (Japan):

1. 10-day camp on Chandogya Upanishad with Shankara Bhashya and
2. 5-day camp on Kaivalya Upanishad

Thanks to Swami Ramesvaranandaji, Prasenjitji, Rajagopalanji, and all the staff members, we had an enriching learning experience, and all participants expressed their deep gratitude.

The sessions began with Srinivasanji's blessings on the first day. The classes were conducted in Japanese, following the Sanskrit original texts.

The first camp had 10 participants from Japan, while the second camp had 11 participants.

Since all participants have been diligently studying Sanskrit grammar in Japan, they were able to follow the discussions

on pūrvapakāśa and siddhānta in Shankara Bhashya with keen interest.

During the second camp, we were given a tour of the SDET campus and schools and had the opportunity to visit the Veda Pāṭhaśālā (Vedic school) and Chhātrālaya (student residence). Seeing how Pujya Swamiji's sankalpa and compassion have been manifested in this village really widens our mind, which helps us grasp the vision of Swamiji's teaching.

On the final day of the camp, Swami Ramesvaranandaji conducted the concluding class. Throughout the camps, Swamiji's advice and support always helped us in connecting Pujya Swamiji's teaching.

As the camps went well, I have made a firm decision to teach in Japanese all the Bhashya texts that Pujya Swamiji taught us during the three-year course as part of my revision. To make this a reality as soon as possible, I sincerely pray that I will be able to return to Jnana Pravaha every year and continue my studies.

Om Tat Sat.

**Excerpted from report by Brni Medha, published in the Arsha Vidya Monthly Journal.**

# Upcoming Retreats at Jnana Pravaha

*With Brni Medha (06 to 23 February, 2025)*

Vedanta workshops, courses and retreats are held on a regular basis at Jnana Pravaha in Manjakkudi in 2025. If you are interested to join a retreat or workshop in person, or online via Zoom, please write to Swami Ramesvarananda Saraswati, the Resident Acarya at Jnana Pravaha atramanathanv.avrandpt@gmail.com. For more details, please visit <https://jnanapravaha.in/>

**01 to 06 August, 2025**

*Talks on Happiness*

*By Swami Suddhananda Saraswati*

**21 to 24 August, 2025**

*Vedanta Retreat*

*By Acarya Vanitaji*

**01 to 25 October, 2025**

*Introduction to Vedanta*

*By Swami Sivasvarupananda Saraswati*

**09 to 24 November, 2025**

*Vedanta Retreat*

*By Swamini Cidekarananda Saraswati*

**27 November to 02 December, 2025**

*Vedanta Retreat*

*By Miguel Homem*

**05 to 20 December, 2025**

*Vedanta Retreat*

*By Swamini Atmaprakashananda Saraswati*

**22 to 31 December, 2025**

*Vedanta Retreat*

*By Brni. Mukti (limited participants)*



# College Updates

## Graduation Day



Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi, marked a proud and memorable occasion on 2nd February 2025, as it celebrated its 21st Graduation Day. The ceremony honoured the academic journey of the 2021–2024 batch, beginning with the prayer song *Bharata Desa Hitaya* and *Tamizh Thaa Vaazhthu*.

Smt. Sheela Balaji, Chairperson and Managing Trustee of SDET, delivered the welcome address, concluding with an inspiring quote by Swami Dayananda Saraswati: “Give the world the best you have and the best will come back to you.”

Dr. V. Hema, Principal, shared the academic milestones of the college, followed by the Graduation Day Address and Anugraha Bhashanam by Swami Sakshatkrtananda Saraswati, Chief Acharya of Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh. He congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to become meaningful contributors. Degrees were awarded to 526 Undergraduates, 37 Postgraduates, and 2 M.Phil graduates, with 22 students recognised as rank holders. The event was graced by Sri G. Dharmarajan and Sri M.G. Srinivasan, with the latter delivering the vote of thanks. Ms. S. Kiruthika, Assistant Professor of English, served as the Master of Ceremony. The celebration concluded with the National Anthem and left smiles and a sense of accomplishment in the hearts of everyone present.

## Five-Day Faculty Development Programme on Microsoft Power BI



Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, in collaboration with IQAC and ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu, supported by MEITY, Government of India, conducted a five-day Faculty Development Programme on “Microsoft Power BI Data Analyst Associate” from February 10 to 15, 2025. The programme was held at the Computer Science Lab – II.

The training aimed to enhance the technical skills of faculty members in data analysis using Microsoft Power BI. Faculty from the host institution, along with eight participants from other colleges, took part in the programme and gained valuable insights. The session empowered educators with modern tools to upgrade their teaching and analytical capabilities.

## Seven-Day National Integration Camp



Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, is delighted to share the proud achievement of NSS volunteer Pratima Kumari (II B.Sc Physics), who successfully participated in the seven-day National Integration Camp held from 15th to 21st January 2025. The prestigious camp was jointly organised by the Government of Karnataka and Gulbarga University, Janana, Karnataka, and brought together students from across the nation to foster unity, leadership, and cultural exchange.

Representing our institution with great enthusiasm and commitment, Pratima Kumari actively engaged in various sessions, activities, and collaborative tasks that promoted the spirit of national integration. Her participation reflects the values of service, discipline, and unity that the NSS upholds.

The management, Correspondent Sri M. G. Srinivasan, and Principal Dr. V. Hema extended their heartfelt appreciation to the student and acknowledged the dedicated efforts of the NSS Programme Officers. The college takes immense pride in this accomplishment, which marks yet another milestone in encouraging student excellence beyond academics.

## NSS Service at Thirunageswaram Vadabathara Kalliamman Temple Kumbabhishekam



On the auspicious occasion of the Maha Kumbabhisheka Thiruvizha of Thirunageswaram Vadabathara Kalliamman Temple, Thanjavur District, held on 10th February, 2025, our NSS volunteers actively rendered selfless service.

Guided by the valuable support and encouragement of Sri M.G. Srinivasan, Correspondent, and Dr. V. Hema, Principal, the volunteers contributed to the smooth conduct of the ceremony by assisting in crowd management, maintaining cleanliness, and offering general support during the celebrations.

Their involvement was deeply appreciated by the temple authorities and the local community, marking another proud moment of service and dedication from our NSS unit.

## 76th National Republic Day Celebration

The 76th Republic Day of our nation was celebrated with great patriotism and pride at Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi. The ceremony commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by the Chief Guest, Smt. Sheela Balaji, Chairperson and Managing Trustee, SDET, who, in her address, highlighted the importance of unity, equality, and the spirit of social service in building a progressive nation.

*(Continued on following page)*



The welcome address was delivered by Dr. V. Hema, Principal of the College, followed by the presidential address by Sri M.G. Srinivasan, Correspondent, who emphasised the institution's dedication to holistic development. Ms. R. Rukmani, Principal, Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya, delivered the vote of thanks.

NCC cadets presented a well-disciplined March Past that added pride to the occasion. Teaching and non-teaching staff, along with students from NSS and NCC units, actively participated in the celebration. The event was hosted by Dr. S. Sivakumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil.

## Quiz Competition 2025 By Shankar IAS Academy



Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science organized the Quiz Competition – 2025 on 15th February 2025 in association with Shankar IAS Academy, Tiruvarur Branch.

The event began with the Presidential Address by Dr. V. Hema, Principal, and special remarks by Prof. S. Senthilvel. Sri. V. Sakthivel welcomed the guests, and Ms. Sivani hosted the quiz. Nine teams participated, with one team declared the winner and selected for the next level. The Vice-Principal distributed prizes and certificates. Audience members also received spot prizes. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Sri. S. Vigneshwaran.

## Career Counselling Programme by Zoho Learning Academy



The Training and Placement Cell of Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science organised a Career Counselling Programme on Digital Accounting, Auditing, and Cloud Accounting for second and final year undergraduate and post-graduate students, in

collaboration with ZOHU Learning Academy, Chennai. The session was held on 6th January 2025, and was led by Mr. Md. Rameez Faizal T.A., Global Head, and Mr. Pradeep Radhakrishnan, Technical Trainer, Zoho Finance Suite. Dr. V. Hema, Principal, welcomed the gathering, highlighting the importance of preparing for modern trends in accounting. Mr. R. Lakshmi Narayanan, Placement Officer, introduced the guests and coordinated the session.

The Topics included Accounting, Auditing, Sales, Invoice, and GST, with real-time industry insights. 267 students actively participated and gained valuable knowledge. The event ended with a vote of thanks by Mr. R. Lakshmi Narayanan.

## District-Level YRC Students Study Camp



A one-day District Level YRC Students Study Camp was held on 8th January 2025 at the Global College of Arts & Science, Ammaiappan. The camp was organized by the Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu Branch, Chennai, in association with Youth Red Cross Society, Tiruvarur District.

The event began with a Welcome Address by Dr. K. Lakshminarayanan, Principal, followed by the Presidential Address by Sri. K.S.S. Thiyagapari, Chairman. Mr. J. Varadarajan, Secretary – IRCS, Tiruvarur, delivered the Inaugural Address, and Mr. R.M.T. Nadarajan, Vice-Chairman – IRCS, gave the Keynote Address.

Sessions included:

- ◆ SDC Manjakkudi – Red Cross History & Emblem by Mr. K. Ezhumalai, YRC District Organizer
- ◆ Aims and Principles of YRC by Mr. S. Karthikeyan, JRC Convener
- ◆ First Aid Training (with demo) by Mr. Thulasi Duraimanickam, Trainer
- ◆ TNB – Disaster Management (with demo) by Mr. J. Benjamin, IRCS
- ◆ Blood Donation Awareness by Mr. N. Balasundaram, Shiva Institute Optical
- ◆ Eye Donation Awareness by Dr. B. Akila, Pharm.D

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. R. Thennarasan, YRC Programme Officer. Around 100 students and Programme Officers participated and benefitted from this enriching camp.

## National Youth Day 2025



The National Youth Day Programme was held on 25th January 2025 at Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science. The programme was organised by the YRC Unit of the college.

Mr. K. Ezhumalai, Assistant Professor of English and YRC District Organizer, welcomed the gathering.

Dr. V. Hema, Principal, delivered the Inaugural Address, followed by the Presidential Address by Sri. M. G. Srinivasan, Correspondent.

Mr. M. Manimaran, Inspector of Police, Kudavasal Police Station, delivered the Chief Guest Address, where he emphasised the importance of following worthy principles to bring positive changes in students' lifestyles. He also highlighted the importance of helmet usage, avoiding drunk driving, and being aware of anti-drug abuse, stressing on safety and responsibility among youth.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. S. Sivakumar, Assistant Professor of Tamil. Over 100 YRC students participated in and gained valuable insights from the event.

## Book Fair



The Tamil Nadu Government organised the annual district-wise Book Fair in Tiruvarur, from 24th January to 2nd February 2025. The theme 'Books are the keys to knowledge' was the reigning call to action, and the 10-day event featured a variety of student competitions to give students a chance to showcase their literary talents. Students from Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science actively participated and brought laurels to the institution by winning prizes in multiple categories, details of which are shared below.

### Prize Winners List

S. No	Name	Class	Event	Prize
1	R. Shivadharshini	III CS	Speech Competition	I Prize
2	A. Harris Jayaraj	II BA English	Speech Competition	III Prize
3	Anupriya	II Chemistry	Poetry Competition	II Prize
4	Sasmina Parveen	II IT	Essay Writing Competition	I Prize
5	S. Akshaya	II CS	Essay Writing Competition	III Prize

## Career Counseling Programme – Interview Skills

The Training and Placement Cell of Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science organised a Career Counselling Programme for students in their final year (undergraduate and postgraduate studies). The programme, focused on 'Interview Skills' was to help prepare them for the upcoming campus recruitment drive.

The session was conducted by Ms. Padma Jayaraman, Trustee of Dreamworks, Chennai and Senior Associate Director at Movate Technologies, Chennai. Around 330 students participated in the session.

The programme began with a Welcome Address by Ms. R. Harini, who also emphasized the objective of the session—to equip students with the confidence and clarity needed to face personal interviews.

During the session, Ms. Padma Jayaraman provided valuable insights on overcoming interview fear, developing strong communication skills, and presenting thoughts confidently. She highlighted strategies to decode tricky HR questions and encouraged creative thinking. The session also included live mock interviews, offering real-time learning experiences for students. The session proved highly beneficial, offering students a clear understanding of interview patterns and effective answering techniques.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Mr. R. Lakshmi Narayanan, the college's Placement Officer.



## Delving into Jane Austen's Literary Legacy

The Department of English, in collaboration with English Eclat, organised a literary session titled 'Delving into Jane Austen's Literary Legacy' on January 23, 2025. The event began with a prayer and welcome by Ms. S. Abinaya of III B.A. English. Mr. J. Narayanan, Assistant Professor of English, served as the Chief Guest, and delivered an insightful keynote on Jane Austen's timeless influence.

Students Mr. A. Harrish Jayaraj (II B.A. English) and Ms. M. Gayathri (III B.A. English) presented well-researched talks. The Head of the Department shared her thoughts on



Austen's legacy, followed by a Vote of Thanks from Ms. S. Sajini of III B.A. English. The session was hosted by Ms. B. Bharathi and Ms. M. Latha. The event offered valuable insights and celebrated the enduring charm of Jane Austen's works.

## National Start-up Day



The Entrepreneurship Development Cell of Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi, celebrated National Start-up Day on 24th January, 2025. The event began with an invocation song and lighting of the kuthuvilakku, followed by a Welcome

Address by Dr. K. Visagaswaruban, ED Cell Coordinator. Dr. V. Hema, Principal, delivered the Inaugural Address, highlighting the importance of entrepreneurial skills in today's world. The event was attended by over 60 students.

The key session on 'Best Start-up Business Ideas for Beginners' was handled by Mr. M. Martin, Master Trainer from EDII TN, Tanjore, who shared practical insights and business ideas for aspiring entrepreneurs. The session was interactive and well-received by the participants.

The Chief Guest was honoured, and Dr. Durgadevi K, ED Cell Coordinator, delivered the Vote of Thanks. The event concluded with the National Anthem, leaving participants inspired to pursue entrepreneurship.

## Faculty Development Programme – 'International Financial Reporting Standards' (IFRS)

The Department of Commerce and Financial Studies, School of Business Studies, Bharathidasan University, in association with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), organized a one-day Faculty Development Programme on 'International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)'. The programme began with a prayer and Tamil Thai Vazhthu, after which Dr. S. Vanitha, Professor & Head, welcomed the gathering. Dr. R. Kalidasan, Registrar (Full-Time Additional In-Charge), delivered the Inaugural Address. Mr. Alkesh Subash, ACCA and CIMA Finalist, handled the technical session highlighting the importance of IFRS in global financial reporting, key accounting treatments, and shared real-world examples on IFRS implementation and its impact on financial statements and decision-making.

The session was highly interactive and informative, and participants shared their feedback at the end. The Valedictory Address was delivered by Mr. Mugnesh, Student Relationship Manager, ACCA. Certificates were distributed to all participants by the keynote speaker.



## Lucas TVS Conducts Campus Recruitment Drive at Our College

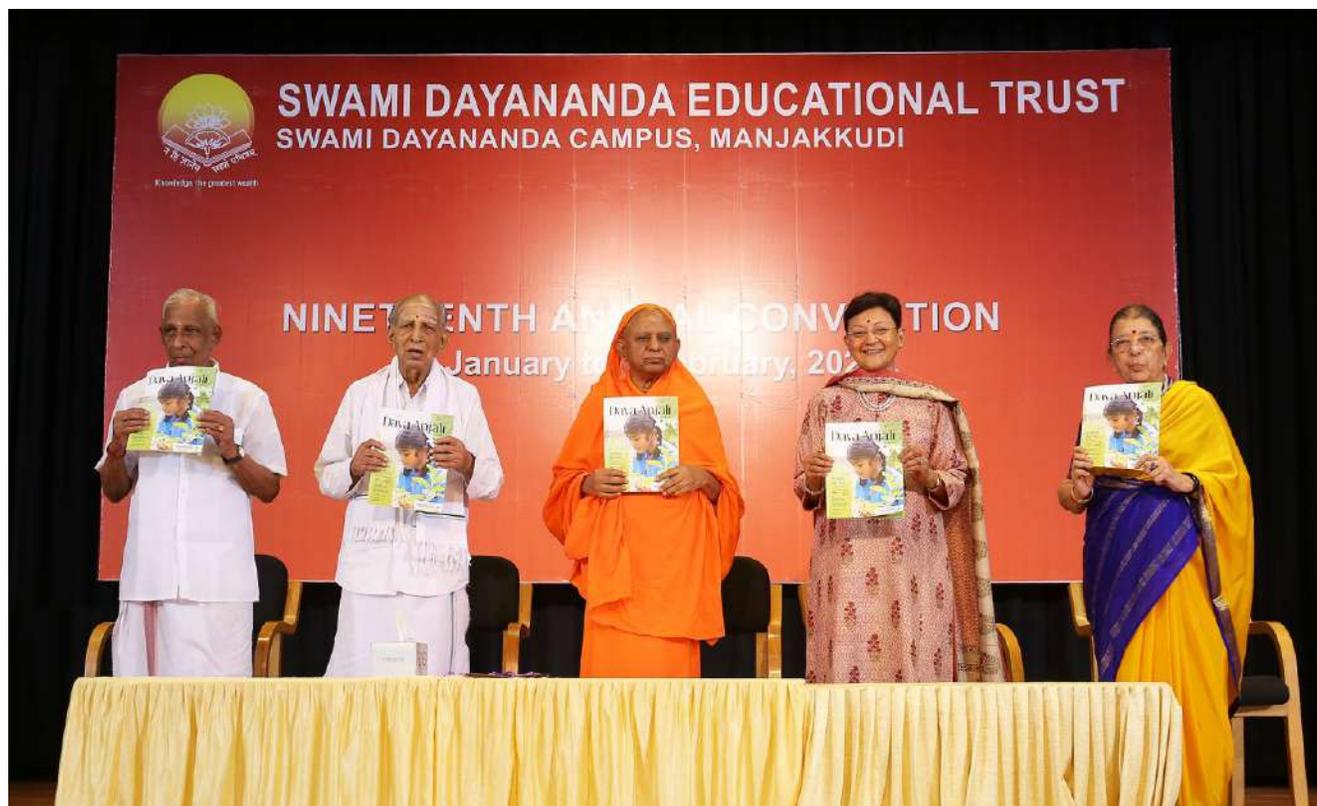


As part of its ongoing commitment to nurturing young talent, Lucas TVS Limited conducted a campus recruitment drive at our college, aiming to hire students for the role of Production Trainees. The recruitment team was represented by Mr. Santhanam (HR) and Mr. Manivasagam from Lucas TVS Limited.

A total of 183 students participated in the drive, showcasing their skills and enthusiasm throughout the selection process. Following the rounds of interviews, 140 students were successfully selected after the final personal interview. The HR team from Lucas TVS Limited announced that the selected students would be inducted in May/June 2025, after the completion of their 6th semester examinations, subject to medical fitness.

Principal of Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Dr. V. Hema congratulated all the selected students for their achievement and encouraged them to make the most of this opportunity. Correspondent Sri M.G. Srinivasan extended his heartfelt thanks to Mr. Santhanam HR, for providing valuable career opportunities to students from rural backgrounds.

This recruitment initiative marks another milestone in SDET's efforts to bridge the gap between education and employment, empowering students for a brighter future.



# Cultural Immersion and Spiritual Awakening:

## A Week of Learning at the 19th Annual Convention

The 19th Annual Convention was held at the Sri GR Auditorium, Swami Dayananda Arts & Science College, Manjakkudi, from 27th January to 1st February, 2025. The six-day grand event was a resounding success, offering students an immersive cultural and spiritual experience. Through a combination of insightful lectures, captivating performances, and spiritual guidance, the convention provided a platform for intellectual, artistic, and personal growth. The participants left with a deeper understanding of their cultural heritage and an inspired spirit to carry forward the values imparted during this memorable event.



## Day 1: 27th January, 2025

The 19th Annual Convention was inaugurated on 27th January by Smt. Sheela Balaji, Managing Trustee & Chairperson of SDET. The occasion was graced by the chanting of Vedic mantras by the students of Swami Dayananda Vedapatashala, setting a spiritual tone for the convention.

The convention kicked off with a captivating presentation by Sri Vinay L. Varanasi, who took the audience on a fascinating journey along the Ponni River. His talk beautifully illustrated the river's passage from its source to its final destination at Poompuhar, touching on both geographical and cultural aspects. Sri Vinay also answered numerous insightful questions raised by the students.

This was followed by a presentation by the students of Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya – a well-scripted theatrical and dance performance on the theme, 'The Journey of the Ponni River'. Their performance was met with great appreciation from the audience, including special guests, and was encouraged by Smt. Sheela Balaji.

The evening session featured a mesmerizing musical performance by students of renowned Carnatic vocalist, Smt. Bombay Jayashri Ramnath – an event that showcased the richness of Carnatic music.



## Day 2: 28th January, 2025

The second day began with an enriching visual presentation by Dr. Chithra Madhavan on 'The Sayana Perumal Temples along the Sacred Banks of Ponni (Kaveri)'. She explored the beauty of the reclining deities and the daily rituals performed at these ancient temples, addressing the audience's queries with clarity and depth.

In the afternoon, Sri. Surya Narayana Rao presented a unique dance drama titled 'The Untold Story of Ravana's Eleventh Head'. The drama delved into the significance of Ravana's eleventh head, symbolizing his inner conflict and turmoil during the final battle with Lord Rama.



### Day 3: 29th January, 2025

The day began with an inspiring discourse by Swami Sakshatkrtananda Saraswati ji, Chief Acharya of the Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh. He delivered an inspiring discourse on Vedanta, focusing on simple spiritual practices and meditation techniques suitable for students. His words resonated deeply with the audience, offering valuable guidance for personal growth.

In the evening, Smt. Sriranjani Santhanagopalan performed a soulful Carnatic music concert, including songs by revered mahakavi, Subramanya Bharathi. Her performance left a lasting impact on the audience.



### Day 4: 30th January, 2025

Swami Sakshatkrtananda Saraswati ji continued his discourse on Vedanta, emphasizing the mental strength and capabilities of students, as well as the importance of nurturing the Atma (soul) for holistic development.

The afternoon session featured a melodic Carnatic music concert by Sri. Saketharaman, which also included Tamil devotional songs. His performance was an enchanting experience for all present.



## Day 5: 31st January, 2025

Dr. Chithra Madhavan presented an in-depth exploration of 'Chola Temple Architecture', shedding light on the grandeur of Sri Gangaikonda Cholapuram and the Thanjavur Periyakoil Sri Peruvudaiyar Temple. Her insightful presentation took the audience on a visual tour of these architectural marvels.

In the afternoon session, Dr. Sri U.Ve. Venkatesh delivered a thought-provoking speech on 'The Essence of Sanatana Dharma'. He elaborated on Sanatana Dharma as a universal code of ethics for humanity. Students engaged actively, posing questions that helped deepen their understanding of this timeless tradition.



## Day 6: 1st February, 2025

On the final day of the convention, Swami Sakshatkrtananda Saraswati ji addressed the students on 'How to Shape One's Life as a Student', offering practical advice for academic and personal growth. His session was both inspiring and enlightening.

The evening concluded with a stunning Bharatanatyam performance based on the 'Sundara Kandam' of the Ramayana, by Smt. Anita Guha's troupe. The graceful and expressive performance was a fitting finale to the convention.

# School Updates

## 17th Annual Sports Day

The 17th Annual Sports Day was held on 10th January 2025. Dr. Prasanna Balaji, Vice Principal, National College, Trichy, served as the Chief Guest and inaugurated the event by lighting the Olympic torch, leading the oath ceremony, and declaring the meet open. The programme featured an impressive march past by four houses, NCC cadets, Pre-KG students, teachers, alumni, and more.

Students showcased various displays including aerobics, yoga, silambam, saree drill, Indian tableau, and other cultural performances. On-the-spot events like 4x100 relay, luck corner, and fun games for parents (lemon & spoon, book balancing) added excitement. Prizes, medals, and certificates were distributed to winners, including teaching and non-teaching staff. The Chief Guest appreciated the students' performances, especially yoga, saree drill, and tableau. The event ended with a vote of thanks by the Assistant School Pupil Leader.

Students of Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya also participated in inter-school and zonal sports competitions this academic year, with over 45 schools competing in the Kodavasal zone meet, taking part in team games like handball, basketball, throwball, shuttlecock, tennikoit, carrom, chess, and table tennis. In athletics, students from under-14, under-17, and under-19 categories showcased commendable performances in events like long jump, high jump, javelin throw, and shot-put. Beyond zonal events, students also participated in district and state-level competitions in sports such as basketball, shuttlecock, handball, archery, chess, and karate. The school conducted vibrant intramural competitions across all levels—from sub-juniors to super seniors—with 781 students participating. Out of them, 220 students secured first place, 230 students shared second, and 75 students earned third place.





## Career Guidance & Group Counselling

A career guidance session was conducted on 15 March 2025 for Grade X students and their parents to help them make informed career choices. Ms. Sujatha Boovaragan, a Chennai-based expert in career counselling, explained the importance of career planning, upcoming job opportunities, and how parents play a vital role in guiding their children.

After the session, group selection for Grade XI took place. Parents met class teachers to register their preferences for the next academic year. Mr. Kulothungan from KICS Academy gave insights on NEET preparation and clarified parents' doubts. Our Principal, Ms. R. Rukmani, shared details about entrance exams like JEE and C.A., including the exam patterns and preparation tips.

Feedback was collected at the end of the session. The programme was informative and helped both students and parents get better clarity on career options.

## Hayagreevar Homam

On 27th February 2025, SDET organized a Hayagreevar Homam at the Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Temple, Manjakkudi, for board exam students. The event, attended by around 400 students and teachers, sought blessings from Lord Hayagreeva for academic success. The homam aimed to calm exam-related anxieties and boost student confidence. After the ceremony, prasadam was distributed to all participants.



# Kids Fiesta & Graduation Day

The much-awaited Kids Fiesta & Graduation Day was held on Friday, 7th February 2025 at the Sri. G.R. Auditorium. The event began at 9:30 a.m. with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp in the presence of our esteemed trustees Sri. M.G. Srinivasan, Sri. G. Dharmarajan, and Sri. S. Natarajan. Our Principal, Ms. Rukmani Srinivasan, warmly welcomed the gathering, followed by a special address by Sri. M.G. Srinivasan.

The young UKG graduates were proudly awarded certificates by the Chief Guest. The cultural programme that followed was filled with energy and joy, featuring 100% participation from students of Grades I to V. Parents were thrilled to see their children take the stage with confidence and enthusiasm. The Presidential Address was delivered by our Chief Guest, Smt. Janaki Sabesh, Fun Officer, GOLPO Tales. Her insightful speech emphasized the importance of connecting with children through the art of storytelling and encouraged parents to engage with their children creatively. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Ms. P. Deepika from the Department of Science, marking the end of a memorable and inspiring celebration.



# NCC Combined Annual Training Camp



A group of 37 Grade 9 students proudly represented our school at the NCC Combined Annual Training Camp held at Mannai Rajagopalaswamy Arts & Science College from 2nd to 11th January 2025.

During the 10-day camp, cadets were trained in military discipline, drill practice, and map reading. They also enthusiastically participated in various competitions such as solo dance, solo song, yoga, silambam, and sports. We are delighted to announce that our students brought home multiple awards in different events, reflecting their discipline, talent, and team spirit.

## Highlights of Achievements:

- Bhama V. – 1st Prize in Solo Song & Dance, Runner in Drill, Winner in Throwball
- Dheksna S., Gopikasri R., Harsha R., Maslangti Molshoy, Rubashree V., Sahana E., Varshini S. – Winners in Throwball
- Hmarzikpuii Chorkhy, Varshini S., Atshath P. – Runners-up in Drill Competition
- Rubashree V. – Runner in Firing Competition
- Atshath P., Varshini S. – Winners in Solo Dance
- Sridhasan P. – Runner-up in Silambam
- Sriganesh S. – 2nd Prize in Solo Song

We applaud all the cadets for their active participation and for bringing honor to our school!

## Parents–Teachers Meet



Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya, Manjakkudi, conducted a successful Parents–Teachers Meet on Saturday, 15th February 2025, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the school campus. The meeting saw the active participation of parents from Kindergarten to Class XII. The primary objective was to distribute the Half-Yearly Examination, Revision Examination, and Unit Test progress reports. Class teachers had productive discussions with parents, and a few parents also met the Principal to address academic concerns. Parents were advised to pay attention to their children's physical well-being and motivate them to perform better. NEET and JEE aspirants were encouraged to register for their respective entrance examinations. Parents were also invited to engage in future school events and activities to strengthen the home-school partnership. The meet received positive feedback, with suggestions for more detailed academic updates and increased parent-teacher interaction. Compartment-wise feedback along with attendance sheets were submitted to the Principal. With an impressive turnout of 681 parents, accounting for 89% attendance, the meeting was a valuable step toward collaborative academic growth.

## Prize Distribution

At Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya, we celebrated the achievements of our students through a series of exciting internal competitions held throughout the year. From the Vanmahotsav Day on 15th July 2024 to the Independence Day Selfie Competition on 15th August 2024, students participated with great enthusiasm. Other notable events included the Grandparents' Storytelling Competition, Constitution Day Handwriting Competition on 2nd December 2024, and the Thirukural Recitation Competition on 11th December 2024, which showcased their cultural and intellectual talents.

On 29th January 2025, we gathered for the prize distribution ceremony, where Principal Ms. R. Rukmani and Academic Director Ms. Judy Nagarajan congratulated the winners. They applauded the students for their hard work and dedication, motivating them to keep striving for excellence.



## Republic Day Celebration



Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya proudly celebrated India's 76th Republic Day in collaboration with Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science. The celebration began with the honoring of the Chief Guest, Smt. Sheela Balaji, Chairperson and Managing Trustee of Swami Dayananda Educational Trust. She hoisted the national flag, accompanied by a melodious flag song by the school and college choir.

Dr. V. Hema, Principal of Swami Dayananda College, welcomed the gathering, followed by a presidential address by Sri M.G. Srinivasan, Correspondent of the college and Trustee of the Trust. The chief guest delivered an inspiring speech, encouraging students to actively contribute to nation-building.

The cultural segment featured patriotic songs, dances, and speeches from both school and college students. Notably, achievements of NCC cadets were recognized for their success at the CATC camp in Mannargudi. A special honor was given to Darshan Raj, a student of Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya, who won a bronze medal in an international gun shooting competition.

The celebration concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Ms. Rukmani, Principal of the school, followed by the national anthem. The event was a true reflection of patriotism, unity, and pride.

## Storytelling Session



A vibrant and inspiring Storytelling Session was conducted on 6th February 2025, featuring Ms. Janaki Sabesh (renowned storyteller, actor, and author) as the chief guest. The event began with the traditional lighting of the lamp, followed by a prayer and a warm welcome by the Principal, Ms. R. Rukmani, who also felicitated the guest. A total of 80 participants took part in this enriching session.

*Session 1:* Karadi Tales included interactive and fun-filled activities such as rhymes and storytelling (like Gajapathy Kulapathy), voice modulation techniques, tongue drills, gestures, auto-story rhymes, a drawing activity, and creative exercises like "Same Story, Different Opinions" and "Teachers Are Heroes (Loud, Louder, Loudest)."

*Session 2:* Inspiring Stories featured an advertisement video promoting home bonding, a graphical story titled "Ting" from China, and three timeless stories—Lion and Mouse, Monkey vs. Crocodile, and Tortoise vs. Rabbit. The session also included book recommendations such as "The Boy Who Wore Bangles" and "Sadiq Wants to Stitch a Pair of Twins."

The session concluded with Ms. Janaki Sabesh highlighting the power of storytelling, encouraging teachers to read more and create their own stories. The event wrapped up with the distribution of certificates to all participating teachers and a group photo with the chief guest, leaving everyone inspired to embrace the joy of storytelling.

# Swami Dayananda Farms

## Empowering Farmers Through Training on Traditional Paddy Varieties

**T**raditional paddy varieties have been cultivated and preserved by farmers for generations. Through informal seed selection, purification, and distribution, these varieties have survived and evolved to suit local needs. However, climate change—manifesting as increased soil salinity, unexpected floods, and severe droughts—has posed significant challenges to paddy cultivation. Additionally, the rising incidence of lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and cancer has sparked renewed interest in the health benefits of traditional rice varieties.

Today, across Tamil Nadu, more and more farmers are turning to traditional paddy cultivation. Yet, they face key challenges including identifying specific varieties, dealing with impure seed stocks (a mix of two or more varieties), and poor germination rates. Recognizing these issues, farmers expressed the need for comprehensive training in the documentation of traditional paddy varieties, their agronomic characteristics, and seed production techniques.

### Partners in Conservation and Training

**CREATE Madurai** has been actively involved in promoting traditional paddy varieties for the past 15 years, notably through Nel Thiruvizha—a vibrant festival aimed at sharing knowledge and seeds across Tamil Nadu.

Since 2014, SDET Farm has emerged as a pioneer in traditional paddy conservation, maintaining a living repository of 289 traditional varieties from 18 Indian states. Beyond conservation, SDET Farm conducts annual awareness and training programmes on cultivation techniques and the significance of traditional rice. In 2022–2023 alone, nearly 400 farmers from Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, and Mayiladuthurai districts benefited from these initiatives.



## Two-Day Training Programme at SDET Farm

In a joint effort, CREATE and SDET organized a two-day training programme on December 21–22, 2024 at SDET Farm, focusing on documentation and seed production of traditional paddy varieties. Thirty farmers from 10 districts participated.

The inauguration was led by Mr. Suresh Kanna, who set the context for the programme, followed by a welcome address by Sri. M.G. Srinivasan of SDET.



### Topics Covered

Participants engaged in both theory and practical sessions covering a range of topics:

- **Significance of Traditional Paddy Varieties**
- **DUS Characteristics:** Definition, importance, and documentation methods
- **Identification of Key Agronomic Traits:** 22 parameters assessed using standard charts
- **Trait-Specific Varieties:** Tolerant to waterlogging, salinity, pests, and diseases
- **True Types vs Off Types:** Definitions and identification
- **Rouging Techniques:** Methods, timing, and documentation for removing off types
- **Pure Line Selection Using Honeycomb Design**
- **Seed Production:** From land preparation to post-harvest practices
- **Seed Quality Assessment:** Moisture levels and germination testing
- **Seed Storage Techniques**
- **Organic Certification:** Overview of NPOP standards, required records, and field-level procedures

Participants also received a handout on seed production techniques, and conducted group assessments of three traditional paddy varieties under expert guidance.

### Resource Persons

The sessions were led by a distinguished team of experts:

- Dr. S. Thirumeni, Professor & Head, Dept. of Plant Breeding & Genetics, PAJANCOA&RI, Karaikal
- Dr. Premkumar, Assistant Professor, PAJANCOA&RI, Karaikal
- Mr. Karthik & Mr. Samuel Raj, Research Scholars, PAJANCOA&RI
- Mrs. Subhashini Sridhar & Mr. R. Manikandan, Senior Consultants, Sirkazhi
- Mr. Jaishankar, Farm Manager, SDET Farm
- Mr. S. Azhagar, Farm Supervisor, SDET Farm

### Participant Feedback

The feedback from farmers was overwhelmingly positive:

“Hands-on training on documentation was extremely useful and informative.”

“The technical explanation of DUS characteristics added great value.”

“Seed production techniques and the practical rouging exercise are key takeaways.”

This collaborative training initiative not only addressed pressing challenges in traditional paddy cultivation but also strengthened farmer capacity for sustainable agriculture and bio-diversity preservation.

## Basic Life Support Ambulance Service Launched



As part of India's 76th Republic Day celebrations, the SDET launched a Basic Life Support Ambulance Service for the residents of Manjakkudi. This critical healthcare initiative aims to enhance emergency medical response in the region.

The ambulance vehicle was generously donated by Lucas TVS Limited, reflecting the company's commitment to community welfare and social responsibility.

The inauguration ceremony took place on 26th January and was led by Smt. Sheela Balaji, Chairperson and Managing Trustee of SDET, who officially flagged off the ambulance. During the event, a representative from Lucas TVS handed over the vehicle key to Sri M. G. Srinivasan, Correspondent of SDET. This new service marks a significant step in improving healthcare accessibility for Manjakkudi's residents, and reiterates our commitment to strengthening the integrated rural development programme in all aspects.





# Rooted in Seva

*Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati was a profound thinker, philosopher, spiritual teacher and one of the greatest masters of Vedanta. Posthumously awarded the Padma Bhushan, he was the Founder of AIM for Seva, Swami Dayananda Educational Trust (SDET), Arsha Vidya Research & Publication Trust (AVRPT) and Arsha Vidya Gurukulams in India and USA. Swamiji's drive to found these organisations stemmed from his desire to bring positive change to everyone in the best ways possible.*



## AIM FOR SEVA

Founded in 2000, AIM for Seva is a registered non-profit organisation which aims to transform our society through a network of seva. AIM for Seva instituted its flagship project, Chatralayams (Free Student Hostels) with the aim of enabling children from impoverished rural and tribal areas to have the same opportunities as children of means. This was the start of a legacy of seva across India in the fields of education and social empowerment. Today, we are running 191 projects (covering a wide range of social issues) impacting over 20,000,000 people across India.

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## SWAMI DAYANANDA EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Founded as a registered non-profit organisation in 2003 in Manjakkudi, a village in Tiruvarur, the birthplace of Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Swami Dayananda Educational Trust (SDET) has transformed the village into a vibrant yet serene village by continuously and consistently working towards achieving sustainable development. SDET's projects, spread across education, employment, Vedic school, farming, gaushala and community healthcare have ensured education to thousands of children and livelihood to villagers from Manjakkudi and beyond.

### Contact Us

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Arsha Vidya Research  
& Publication Trust

## ARSHA VIDYA RESEARCH & PUBLICATION TRUST

Knowledge of Vedanta gives every individual the wisdom to pass through this life in peace and adhering to one's dharma. With a view to preserving and propagating this wisdom, Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati, a traditional teacher of Vedanta, founded the Arsha Vidya Research & Publication Trust (AVRPT), a registered non-profit charitable organisation in 2005. AVRPT is the single-source centre for editing and publishing Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati's wealth of teachings in all formats.

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SCAN TO DONATE



*At every step, SDET makes all efforts to bring in modernity and development while staying rooted in the village's essential rural ethos. This work is our seva to our beloved Guru, and his vision of each one of us becoming a contributor to the welfare of others. We place a humble request before you to join us on our journey, to enable a positive cycle of change, and bring Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati's vision to life.*

*To support us, please scan the QR code given, or visit <https://sdet.in/support-us/>*



## Swami Dayananda Educational Trust

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