

# Daya Anjali

MANJAKKUDI & BEYOND

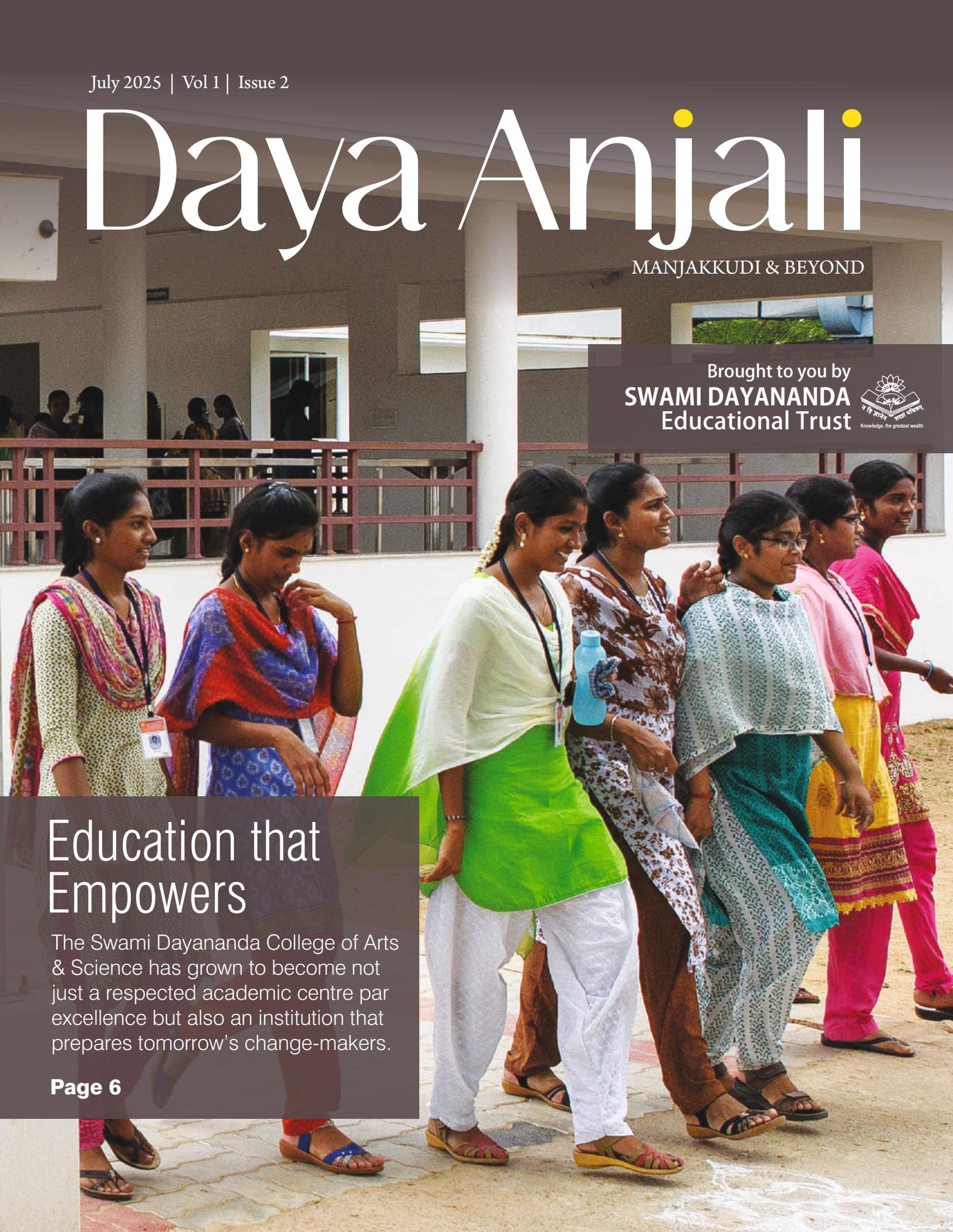
Brought to you by  
**SWAMI DAYANANDA**  
Educational Trust

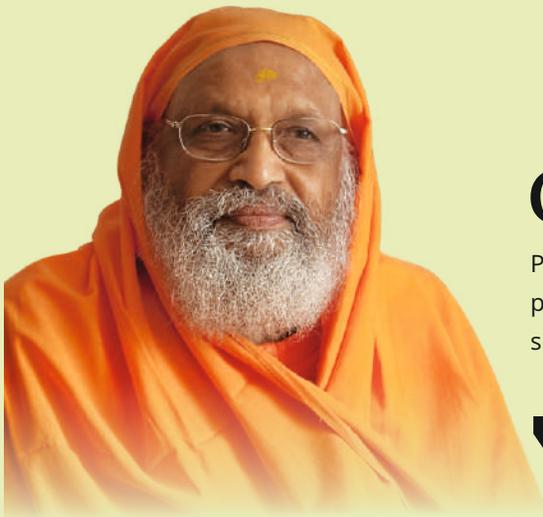


## Education that Empowers

The Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science has grown to become not just a respected academic centre par excellence but also an institution that prepares tomorrow's change-makers.

**Page 6**





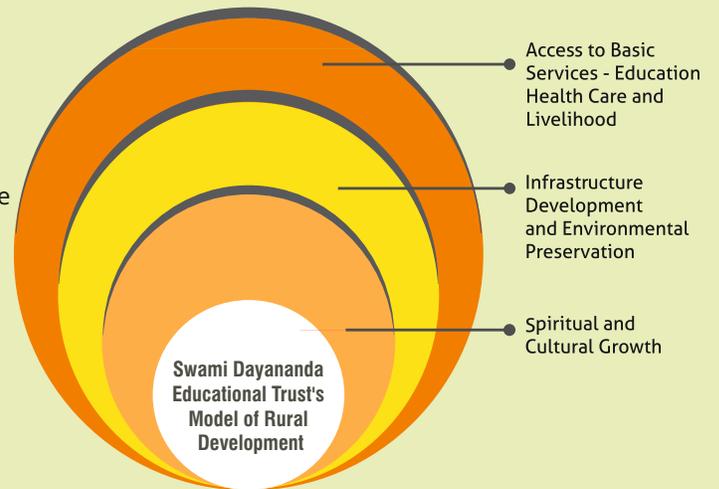
# Our Founder

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

# Contents

5 A Message from  
the Chairperson &  
Managing Trustee

4 Words of Inspiration  
from Our Founder  
and Guru

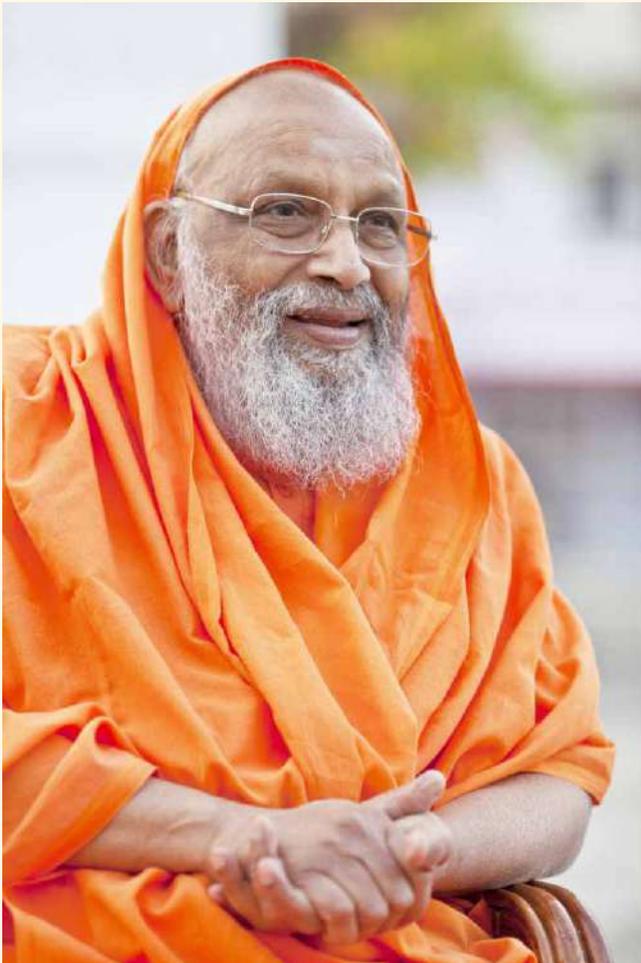
6 Cover Story  
Education that  
Empowers

10 Updates from  
Swami Dayananda  
College of Arts &  
Science

14 Updates from  
Semmangudi  
Government-Aided  
Higher Secondary School  
and Swami Dayananda  
Vidyalaya

20 Seeking the Divine:  
Vedanta Retreats

# Words of Inspiration from Our Founder and Guru



Just as we see nature without prejudices, we can also see the world that is available for public perception without subjectivity. When you look at a mountain, it does not demand or threaten you. You can be as you are, at home with yourself. You accept yourself in the appreciation of the beauty of the mountain. You do not want the mountain to be different, the animals to be different, the location to be different, or the mountain peak to be different. You take the mountain as it is. It seems to resolve all the demands of the demanding person in you for the time being. You come to appreciate yourself, which you had not done earlier.

You say that the mountain is beautiful and visit the mountain again and again. However, it is not the mountain that you love as much as you love yourself when you see the mountain. In the experience of the mountain, you see yourself, relatively at least, a pleased person whose demands are silenced and whose self-judgement is resolved for the time being. The beauty is so captivating that there is no time for you to be judgemental; the mountain does not let you have your smallness for the time being. It is able to capture your imagination and you find yourself letting go of all your notions; you see yourself as beautiful.

When you see yourself as beautiful, you say the mountain is beautiful. When you say the mountain is beautiful it is non-Vedanta. Vedanta says, "When you say that the mountain is beautiful, it means that you are beautiful." That is Vedanta. When you express that the mountain is beautiful then you become a poet. You can write a poem about the mountain. Vedanta is not poetry. In poetry there are some facts, but you need Vedanta to understand those facts.

In any captivating situation you see yourself as a non-judgemental person. It means that you are capable of being non-judgemental. You neither judge the object of captivation nor yourself. If you judge the object, you also judge yourself. Every judgement leads to self-judgement. When you are not judging the mountain, when you let the mountain be as it is, then you are not judging yourself also, at least for the moment.

When you see yourself as a non-judgemental person, you are in harmony with what you face. It is something that is experientially known to you, but not recognised immediately. When you can relate to the mountain, you can also relate to any other person or situation. If it is possible in one situation, it is also possible in any other situation. We have a basis now to understand ourselves.

**- Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati**

# A Message from the Chairperson & Managing Trustee



**Dear Readers,**

**Namaste**

The Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science was, in a way, the starting point of SDET's journey of seva in Manjakkudi. It was instituted in 2001 by Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati to help students who wished to pursue higher studies, but who were unable to do so because of the lack of credible colleges in Manjakkudi or vicinity (the closest college was in Kumbakonam—a 23km bus ride away). With families being unwilling to send their children to faraway cities or towns (particularly girls) establishing a college in Manjakkudi itself was the only way to help these aspiring students to pursue their desired course of study.

Over two-and-a-half decades, the college has grown to become one of the best-known names in the region for several reasons: Excellence in pedagogy, state-of-the-art

infrastructure, a holistic approach to curriculum (with emphasis on value-based and cultural education) and—more importantly—emphasis on preparing our students for not just getting jobs, but also growing and establishing themselves in their chosen careers. To this end, we run several training programmes, conferences, bridge courses and workshops to help them build their skills and enhance their readiness for the workplace.

The fruit of our efforts is evidenced by the growing number of students who attend our placement interviews each year, and the number who are placed in well known companies and organisations from different sectors. Since 2014-15, we have seen close to 2,500 students getting placements right at our college—and they have since gone on to carry forth the legacy of their alma mater in the best way possible.

Every year, we have more and more companies coming to our placement event, with those who return sharing how our students have displayed innate discipline, eagerness for learning and readiness for hard work. A case in point in a student named Jailani, from Tiruvarur, who joined Deloitte after graduation and went on to join Deloitte. The company was so impressed with her that they came to Manjakkudi to know more about the influences that shaped her.

Each year, we make a renewed commitment to help provide the best possible in every way to make our students' learning journey one that is comprehensive and complete—and beneficial for life. This way, we continue our seva of creating the 'next gen' of conscious contributors of tomorrow.

**Ms. Sheela Balaji**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheela Balaji', written in a cursive style.

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

# Education that Empowers

Through a thoughtful balance of modern education, cultural grounding, technological exposure, and genuine human care, the Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science at Manjakkudi is shaping not just graduates, but confident, capable, value-driven individuals ready to uplift their communities. Dr. V. Hema, the Principal of the college, tells us more about how the institution has transformed the lives of students from rural and tribal backgrounds.



For more than two decades, the Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudii, has been a beacon of opportunity for rural youth—offering world-class infrastructure, modern technology, compassionate mentorship, and value-based education. In this interview, Dr. V. Hema, the Principal of the college, tells us more about how the institution has transformed the lives of students from rural and tribal backgrounds, and how this educational institution empowers, transforms, and creates lifelong impact.

**As someone deeply involved in this institution, how do you feel the college has impacted rural students?**

Let me start by talking about the biggest change we see each year, when we see the students who graduate. They exhibit immense confidence—something that is not seen in great measure when they first join the college.

Our students study in an environment that matches—and in some cases, exceeds—city colleges. From smart classrooms and well-equipped labs to advanced technology and modern teaching tools, everything here is on par with urban institutions. This gives them pride and motivation.

Beyond infrastructure, it's our teachers who make the real difference. Students come from very diverse schooling backgrounds—government schools, matriculation, CBSE—and not all of them have had an encouraging academic environment at home. Our teachers understand this, meet them at their level, and mentor them with patience and compassion. Students often tell us how friendly and approachable their professors are. They feel respected, cared for, and personally guided, a feeling that is rare in many rural institutions.



**You mentioned that the college's technology and facilities are on par with city colleges. Could you tell us more?**

I would say that, in some areas, we may even be ahead! We conduct international conferences, offer IIT courses, and connect students with experts virtually. We were the first among 125 colleges in the region to introduce the B.Sc. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning program in 2022—even before the university had formally added it to its course list. We also have a strong partnership with Prag Robotics in Bengaluru, through which students undergo hands-on training.

**Do students understand the value of the opportunities and exposure they're receiving here?**

Absolutely. Many of them realise it fully once they immerse themselves in the system. They feel grateful for the combination of advanced learning, strong values, and personal mentorship. Scholarships—both from the management and private donors—further relieve financial pressure, and students often express immense gratitude for the provision of such a benefit.

**And how do parents perceive the college and its offerings?**

Parents, especially those who come from villages in interior rural parts, are astonished at the exposure their children

receive—internships, certification courses, technology-enabled learning, and access to opportunities they never imagined. We also provide transport via 23 buses, making education accessible even for those living deep within rural pockets. Parents are very appreciative of this. More than the admission to the college, they are keen on registering for the bus service! Many of them even tell us that they are okay if their children have to stand throughout the bus journey, so long as we assure them that their children will get safe passage to and from the college.

**Do rural students show the same interest in higher studies as their urban counterparts?**

Their interest is definitely obvious, I would even say strong. What they lack is awareness—about fields of study, career paths, and long-term planning. Around 60% to 70% of students are open to exploring opportunities beyond their hometowns, but some prefer staying here due to family dependencies or limited exposure. We keep working to expand their horizons through counselling, workshops, and constant encouragement. Interestingly, many of our alumni who are now settled elsewhere are returning to start businesses in their native towns and are asking us for interns. This is a beautiful cycle of giving back.



**The college is also known for its rich cultural ecosystem — clubs, the Annual Convention, and value-based activities. What impact do these activities have on the students?**

Our co-curricular environment is extremely vibrant. We identify talent early on in students—music, dance, poetry, sports—and encourage students to participate at every level. The management even covers participation fees for competitions. It is a matter of pride for us to see our students, across all years, participate enthusiastically and bring back awards. Our students are also very active in sports. Be it sports or other co-curricular activities, they participate regularly in district, state and national-level competitions, and bring home several awards and laurels. In fact, we are running out of room to display all the trophies and awards, and might need to build a separate room to showcase them! I believe our students have become so well known in these competitions that students from other colleges often say, “Oh, the SDC students are here. Now, they are going to sweep up the awards!”

The Annual Convention is a completely new experience for many of them. Students are exposed to talks and performances by experts on Indian culture, temple architecture, heritage, and classical arts—topics they've never encountered before. They enjoy it so much that many begin sharing what they learned on social media—especially photos and videos from temple visits. It deepens their cultural identity and makes them feel proud about their roots.

**How would you describe the “character building” aspect of the institution?**

Values are at the core of everything here. Thanks to our management, we consistently reinforce Pujya Swamiji's

teachings—dignity, ethics, respect for parents and teachers, and putting the nation first. Students absorb these values through daily practice, guided discussions, and celebrations like Guru Purnima and Navaratri. We also celebrate diversity. All our students participate in cultural events with unity and enthusiasm, regardless of their community or religion.

This environment shapes not just academically strong students, but also individuals with sincerity, humility, and integrity — qualities employers highly appreciate.

**Speaking of employers, how do recruiters react to your students?**

They consistently praise our students' sincerity, attitude, and commitment. One standout story is that of Jailani, a student from Tiruvarur, who joined us on a full scholarship. She excelled academically, and went on to join Deloitte. The company was so impressed with her that they came here and filmed her journey, interviewed her family, and showcased her as a success story. Cases like hers reflect the transformation that happens here.

**As a final question, I would like to touch on how language fluency is often seen as a barrier. How do you support students in this area?**

We recognised this challenge and set up a Language Lab in 2021. With dedicated trainers, audio-assisted learning, and structured modules, students have shown remarkable improvement. Employers also note this progress — many of our students now actively try to converse in English, showing confidence and willingness to grow.



# Awareness, Accolades and Advancement



## Anti-Drug Awareness Programme

The Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi, organised a two-day Anti-Drug Awareness Programme on 25 and 26 June 2025 to educate students on the dangers of drug use and promote healthy, responsible lifestyles. On the first day, students participated in sports events aimed at fostering wellness and teamwork, with prizes awarded to encourage active engagement. The second day featured a special lecture by Mr. P. Rajagopal, Inspector of Police, Kodavasal, who spoke about the harmful effects of drug consumption. He also inaugurated a rally by waving the flag, during which students carried placards highlighting anti-drug messages while parading through and around Manjakkudi village. The event was presided over by the Correspondent, Principal, and NSS officers, and successfully reinforced the importance of drug-free living among students.



## Visitors from Russia

On 25 June 2025, the Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi, welcomed visitors from Russia for an engaging campus interaction. During the session, students had the opportunity to discuss various topics, including career opportunities, yogic science, and cultural perspectives. The visitors shared insights into the richness and uniqueness of global cultural heritage and offered reflections on spirituality. This exchange provided students with a valuable and eye-opening experience, enhancing their understanding of cultural and moral values. The session was presided over by Dr. V. Hema, Principal of the institution, and proved to be both enlightening and inspiring for all participants.

## Honouring Selfless Service – World Blood Donor Day 2025



In recognition of their remarkable commitment to humanity, Dr. K. Sathish, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Physics, and Mr. M. Vinoth Raja, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, were honoured during the World Blood Donor Day Celebration held on 18 June 2025 at Omandurar Multi-Speciality Hospital, Chennai. Both faculty members received awards from the Minister of Health and Family Care for their extraordinary act of voluntarily donating blood nearly 50 times each. Their continued dedication stands as a true example of compassion, social responsibility, and the spirit of service that uplifts our community.



## International Day of Yoga

The Swami Dayananda College of Arts and Science, Manjakkudi, observed International Day of Yoga with great enthusiasm on 21 June 2025. The session was graced by Dr. S. Santhamani, BNYS, Narpavi Naturopathy Yoga & Herbal Wellness Centre, Govindakkudi, who emphasised the transformative power of yoga in nurturing both physical health and mental well-being. The event featured guided sessions on asanas, pranayama, and meditation, highlighting the year's theme — “Yoga for Self and Society.” Students actively participated in the session, experiencing yoga's holistic benefits and understanding its role in building inner balance and self-awareness. With over 60 students in attendance, the celebration reinforced the importance of adopting yoga as a daily practice for a healthy, harmonious life.





## ZOHO – Young Creators Programme

The Placement Cell of Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi, organised the Zoho Young Creators Programme (YCP) on 26 and 27 June 2025, a two-day training designed to enhance students' aptitude, communication, and application development skills. The program focused on low-code app development using Zoho Creator, Zoho's innovative platform. During the workshop, students gained practical experience in building and deploying business applications, earning hands-on skills that prepare them for real-world challenges. At the conclusion of the program, participants received Zoho Creator certification and one-year free access to the platform, enabling them to continue developing applications independently.

## A Vision to the Next Level

The Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi, organised a workshop on strategic planning on 18 June 2025, featuring insights from academia-industry experts Dr. Ramadass and Dr. Kishore. The session focused on outlining an organization's long-term goals, strategies, and actionable plans to achieve them effectively. The workshop emphasized translating vision and mission statements into concrete steps for success, covering essential aspects such as goals and objectives, strategic initiatives, implementation plans, performance metrics, and risk assessment. Participants gained a clear understanding of how to allocate resources, manage risks, and track progress, providing a roadmap for sustainable growth and organisational excellence.

# Learning in Full Swing!



## KG Reopening Day Celebration and Aksharabhyasam Pooja

Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya's Learning Center joyfully reopened its Kindergarten section on 09 June 2025 with a vibrant celebration and Aksharabhyasam Pooja. The event was attended by 55 students and their parents. Classrooms were festively decorated with balloons, and a selfie corner added to the excitement.

The day began with a traditional pooja, while teddy and lion mascots welcomed the young learners. Mrs. R. Rukmani, Principal, addressed the parents about the Montessori system, and Shri M.G. Srinivasan, Trustee of SDET and Correspondent of SDC, delivered the presidential address, highlighting the institution's mission and vision.

Following the formalities, students eagerly proceeded to their classrooms, marking a promising start to the new academic session. The celebration fostered community spirit, enthusiasm, and a positive learning environment for the year ahead.



## Guru Purnima Celebration 2025

Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya celebrated Guru Purnima on 10 July 2025 with devotion and reverence. The ceremony began with prayers and floral offerings to our Guru and Founder, Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati, and Sri Veda Vyasa, the renowned sage and author of the *Mahabharata*. Swami Rameshwarananda Saraswati delivered an inspiring talk on the values of a Guru, followed by addresses from Sri M.G. Srinivasan, Trustee of SDET and Correspondent of SDC, and Mr M.R. Rajagopal.

Principal Mrs. R. Rukmani highlighted the importance of Guru Purnima, linking it to the Panchamahayajna. The school choir presented devotional bhajans, and Mr. Krishnan, Sanskrit Master, led the Archanai and Naivedyam. Students and staff offered Pushpanjali (tribute of flowers) as a mark of respect.

The celebration beautifully reflected the school's values of gratitude, reverence, and the pursuit of knowledge, fostering a spiritual and reflective atmosphere for all.



## Happy Parenting Orientation Program 2025

Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya hosted the Happy Parenting Orientation Programme on 26 June 2025, at the GR Auditorium. The event began with the lighting of the lamp and a soulful prayer song by the school choir, setting a serene tone for the morning.

Principal Mrs. R. Rukmani welcomed the gathering and presented an insightful overview of the school's academic structure and activities. The session's highlight was the interactive talk by Mrs. Janaki Sabesh, renowned actor, storyteller, and author, who was warmly felicitated by Swami Rameshwarananda Saraswatiji.

Through engaging storytelling and real-life anecdotes, Mrs. Janaki encouraged parents to foster emotional connections with their children and emphasised the value of collaboration between home and school. Her interactive approach kept the audience deeply involved, inspiring reflection on the joys and responsibilities of parenting.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. S. Maruthivasan, Senior Coordinator, followed by the National Anthem. Parents later met class teachers for academic updates and shared their feedback, expressing appreciation for the meaningful and heartwarming session that strengthened the parent-school partnership.



## Fifth Investiture Ceremony 2025

The 5th Investiture Ceremony of Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya was held on Friday, 11 July 2025, at the Shri GR Auditorium. The event was graced by Chief Guest Lt. Colonel Shri Sashidharan, Administrative Officer, 8 TN BN NCC, Kumbakonam.

The ceremony commenced with the lighting of the lamp and a prayer led by the school choir. Principal Mrs. R. Rukmani delivered a warm welcome address, and Senior Coordinator Mr. Maruthivasan briefed the audience about the investiture

ceremony, election procedures, and the significance of the four houses named after prominent rivers.

The Chief Guest was honoured by Trustees Shri M.G. Srinivasan and Mr. Natarajan, along with Swami Rameshwarananda Saraswati ji and Mr. M.R. Rajagopal, Manager, Wipro. The names of the elected student council members were announced by Mr. Maruthivasan, followed by the badging ceremony conducted by the Chief Guest. Students then took a pledge, committing to their responsibilities.

In his address, Lt. Colonel Shri Sashidharan highlighted the importance of self-discipline, unity, service to the nation, respecting gurus, learning multiple languages, and responsible social media use. Portfolio speeches by the School Pupil Leader, Sports Secretary, and Cultural Secretary showcased their vision and commitment. The benediction was delivered by Shri M.G. Srinivasan, and the ceremony concluded with the National Anthem. The event was a grand success, inspiring students to embrace their leadership roles with enthusiasm and dedication.

## KG Students' Exploration Day 2025



On 20 June 2025, our KG students embarked on an exciting Exploration Day, discovering the many facets of Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya. Guided by the KG Coordinator and four dedicated environment staff, the young learners experienced a fun-filled and informative journey across the school.

Students visited key areas including the Admin Office, Library, Principal's Cabin, Composite Lab, Computer Lab, P.E.T. Room, Security Rooms, Classrooms, Learning Centre, NCC Room, Exam Room, Indoor Games Area, Play Area, Math Lab, and the Micro Forest. Each stop offered hands-on experiences, insights into school operations, technology, sports, leadership, assessments, and environmental conservation. The day fostered curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm, helping students appreciate the school's facilities and understand the diverse aspects of school life. The KG Exploration Day was a resounding success, setting a positive tone for the students' ongoing educational journey.

# Two-Day Teachers' Workshop

Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya hosted a two-day workshop for Grade I-V teachers at the Learning Center on 27 and 28 June 2025, led by Dr. R.V. Giridhar, Dr. Vasundhara G., and Dr. Senthil Athilan. Twenty teachers from various subjects participated actively. The program focused on enhancing teaching strategies, inclusive education, and classroom engagement.

On **Day 1**, teachers reflected on classroom challenges, participated in creative collaborative activities, and discussed strategies for supporting slow learners. The afternoon emphasized resource room planning and lesson preparation.

**Day 2** involved practical applications, including organising resource rooms, improving parent communication, and presenting model lessons in Geography and Mathematics, followed by feedback and discussion. The workshop equipped teachers with practical tools, creative teaching methods, and inclusive strategies, boosting their confidence and effectiveness in the classroom.



# A Splash of Orange- Montessori's Colourful Celebration

Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya's Montessori department celebrated 'Orange Day' on 18 July 2025, with students and teachers dressed in orange and classrooms decorated festively. Pre-KG to UKG students engaged in coloring, painting, and craft activities, creating pumpkins, orange trees, and other themed projects.

The event promoted color recognition, fine motor skills, language development, and teamwork. Parents contributed with orange-themed snacks and items, while students from Grades I to XII joined in the celebrations. Principal Mrs. R. Rukmani participated in rhymes and storytelling, making the day interactive and enjoyable. The celebration successfully combined learning with fun, fostering creativity and exploration among the young learners.



## Vanmahatsov 2025

Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya celebrated Vanmahotsav on 04 and 05 July 2025, with a creative competition for students from Montessori to Grade XII, focusing on environmental awareness and tree conservation. Activities included colouring, painting, and poster-making across different grades with themes like Planting Trees, Nature's Beauty, and Stop Deforestation, Start Plantation. The event encouraged creativity while instilling a sense of responsibility toward nature.

## Eleventh International Day of Yoga Celebrations

Swami Dayananda Vidyalaya celebrated the 11th International Day of Yoga with great zeal on the school grounds. The event welcomed Mrs. Victoria Nair and her Vedanta team from Russia as chief guests, greeted by NCC cadets, Principal Mrs. R. Rukmani, and the school band.

The program began with lighting the lamp and a prayer, followed by addresses from Mrs. Rukmani and Mrs. Victoria Nair. The chief guest was felicitated with a shawl and a yoga mat by the Principal and Senior Coordinator Mr. S. Maruthivasan.

Around 300 students from Grades 5 to 8, trained by Mrs. Leelavathi, performed mass yoga demonstrations, including Suryanamaskar, Tadasana, Trikonasana, Warrior Pose, Vibhadrasana, Post Yoga, and Rope Yoga. The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks by Assistant Pupil Leader R. Kiruthiga (Grade XII) and the National Anthem, making the day a memorable tribute to physical and mental wellness.

# 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 here.*

# Manjakkudi Summer Camp 2025



Arsha Vijnana Gurukulam, Nagpur, conducted a summer camp at Manjakkudi from May 01 to June 15, 2025, for students of its three-year course. The camp was led by Chief Acharya Swamini Brahmaprakasananda Saraswati (Mataji), ably supported by Assistant Acharya Swamini Tattvamayananda Saraswati (Swaminiji).

The 45-days camp covered the 6th chapter of *Chandogya Upanishad* (along with bhashyam) as the main text, with a total of 71 classes held. This text encapsulated the key teachings from all texts covered so far during the course, summarised by “सदेव सोम्येदमग्र आसीत् एकमेवाद्वितीयम्” (in the beginning there was only Existence, one alone without a second), “वाचारम्भणं द्ववकारो नामधेयम्” (modification is a name (and form), having speech as its basis), and finally culminating in the mahavakya — “तत्त्वमसि” (Thou art That).

Additionally, more than 50 classes and satsangas were conducted by Mataji and Swaminiji, covering the 9th chapter of *Bhagavad Gita*, *Value of Values*, Paninian Sanskrit Grammar, and Stotrams. The camp gave the students an opportunity to experience the rich spiritual culture of Tamil Nadu, through visits to temples like Maha Saraswathi Amman Temple (Koothanur), Brihadeeswara Temple (Thanjavur), and Swaminatha Swamy Thirukoil (Swamimalai).

The camp coincided with the annual 10-day festival at Varadaraja Perumal Temple (Kudavasal) that culminated in the Kalyanotsava (marriage of Lord Vishnu with Bhudevi and Shridevi). During this function, we witnessed a rare and auspicious sight when two white owls (considered to be vahanas of the two deities) flew in and perched themselves on the vimana of the temple, and stayed there throughout the function. During the course of the camp, the students got an opportunity to participate in two homams, one of which was conducted by Nambudiri priests from Kerala. In addition, the students were inspired by listening to Ganapatha Vedic chanting by four young brahmins at a temple near Manjakkudi.

The students were blessed by meeting Swami Sakshatkritananda Saraswati, and Shrimati Sheela Balaji (Managing Trustee and Chair, AIM For Seva, Swami Dayananda Educational Trust, Arsha Vidya Research & Publications Trust) who visited Manjakkudi during this period.

Having completed the camp, everyone left Manjakkudi with hearts full of devotion and gratitude, charged with enthusiasm to complete the last year of the course at AVG Nagpur. Om Tat Sat.



## Upcoming Retreats at Jnana Pravaha

*Vedanta workshops, courses and retreats are held on a regular basis at Jnana Pravaha in Manjakkudi. 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 at [ramanathanv.avrandpt@gmail.com](mailto:ramanathanv.avrandpt@gmail.com). For more details, please visit <https://jnanapravaha.in/>*

**01 to 25 October, 2025**

Introduction to Vedanta

By Swami Sivasvarupananda Saraswati

**05 to 20 December, 2025**

Vedanta Retreat

Swamini Atmaprakashananda Saraswati

**11 to 25 February, 2026**

Vedanta Retreat

Brni. Medha (Japan)

**01 and 02 November, 2025**

Introduction to Vedanta, Tattvabodha

By Acarya Vasudevan

**22 to 31 December, 2025**

Vedanta Retreat

Brni. Mukti (Japan)

**07 to 15 March, 2026**

Vedanta Retreat

Swami Sakshatkrtananda Saraswati

**09 to 24 November, 2025**

Vedanta Retreat

Swamini Cidekarananda Saraswati

**2026 RETREATS**

**06 to 10 January, 2026**

Vedanta Retreat

Prof. Mahadevan (IIM, Bangalore)

**22 to 26 April, 2026**

Vedanta Retreat

Acarya Lavanyaji (Arshabodhini)

**27 November to**

**02 December, 2025**

Vedanta Retreat

Miguel Homem

**06 to 08 February, 2026**

Vedanta Retreat

Mrs. Rama Sivaraman



# 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.

### Contact Us

II Floor, 'Srinidhi' Apartments, No. 4, Desika Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004, Tamil Nadu  
Phone: +91 44 2498 7955 / 66 | Mobile: +91 95000 60153 | Email: [contact@aimforseva.in](mailto:contact@aimforseva.in)

[aimforseva.in](http://aimforseva.in) [f aimforseva](https://www.facebook.com/aimforseva) [X aim4seva](https://twitter.com/aim4seva) [ig aimforseva](https://www.instagram.com/aimforseva) [yt /c/AIMforSEVIndia](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)  
[in aimforseva](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aimforseva) [whatsapp AIM for Seva](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029...)



## 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

Swami Dayananda Campus, Manjakkudi, Tiruvarur District - 612 610, Tamil Nadu  
Tel: +91 4366 260 300 | Email: [swamidayanandaeducationaltrust@gmail.com](mailto:swamidayanandaeducationaltrust@gmail.com)

[www.sdet.in](http://www.sdet.in) [f sdetmanjakkudi](https://www.facebook.com/sdetmanjakkudi) [ig sdet\\_manjakkudi](https://www.instagram.com/sdet_manjakkudi)



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.

### Contact Us

III Floor, 'Srinidhi' Apartments, No. 4, Desika Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004, Tamil Nadu  
Phone: 044 24997131 / 7023 | Mobile: +91 98405 99620 | E-mail: [avrndpt@gmail.com](mailto:avrndpt@gmail.com)

[www.avrpt.com](http://www.avrpt.com) [f AVRPT](https://www.facebook.com/AVRPT) [X avrndpt](https://twitter.com/avrndpt) [ig avrndpt](https://www.instagram.com/avrndpt) [yt AVRPT](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



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 Puja 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

Manjakkudi, Tiruvarur District - 612 610, Tamil Nadu

+91 4366 260300 ✉ [swamidayanandaeducationaltrust@gmail.com](mailto:swamidayanandaeducationaltrust@gmail.com)

🌐 [www.sdet.in](http://www.sdet.in) 📺 [sdetmanjakkudi](https://www.facebook.com/sdetmanjakkudi) 📷 [sdet\\_manjakkudi](https://www.instagram.com/sdet_manjakkudi)