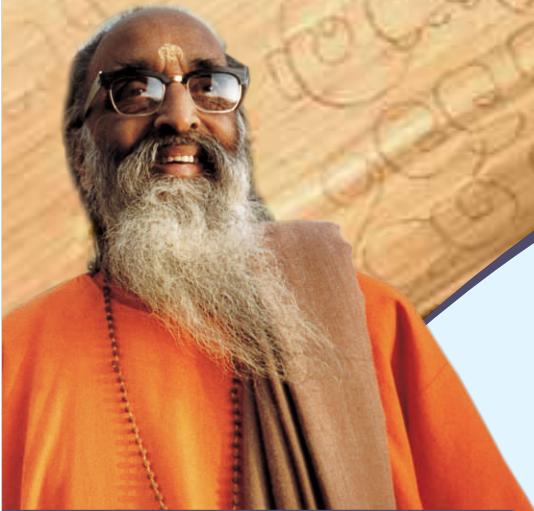


Newsletter

Adi Sankara Nilayam, Veliyanad, Ernakulam District - 682319, Kerala, India.



**Chinmaya International Foundation
is a bridge between
East and West, past and present,
science and spirituality, and pundit and public.**
— *Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda*

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editorial

It has been a busy year – busy with a variety. The usual camps and workshops and seminars have been a plenty. But there have also been many 'firsts' like the Management Empowerment Programme, the numerous websites that were launched, the Lakṣmīnārāyaṇa Pūjā and Yajña, the audio library which is yet in progress.... there has not been a quiet moment. In fact 2009-10 has been a year of many firsts and many ongoing events that will culminate over the years.

A very significant event that was set in motion this year was Project CIF, the Centenary Celebrations that will culminate in 2015-2016 to celebrate Pūjya Gurudev's centenary birthday. This is a very important event in the life of CIF – now and hereafter as well, for it will see the shaping up and fine tuning of Pūjya Gurudev's dreams, envisioned way back in 1988-89.

Then Gurudev had clearly enunciated what CIF was going to do, who it would impact and how that process was to be had. What he had begun, is now left to his devotees to structure them, execute them, including fulfil them. The essential 'What' vision that Gurudev spelt out, was for CIF to be the hub of Philosophical Research, a Temple that would nourish and nurture Indic studies and culture, Vedānta and Sanskrit language propagation. The 'How' vision was expressed by Gurudev in his by now classic statement: '.... a bridge between past and present, East and West, science and spirituality, pundit and public.'

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Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Samsthan (CIFSS)

Chinmaya International Foundation is affiliated to the Rashtriya Sanskrit Samsthan as Shodha Samsthan (Centre for Excellence in Sanskrit Research). A department has thus been set up under the auspices of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Samsthan which focuses exclusively on Sanskrit Publications and research.



Dedication

This 3rd volume of the CIF Newsletter is dedicated unto Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji whose blessings have made it possible for CIF to keep the lamp of knowledge burning bright and the vision of Pūjya Gurudev fulfilled. We are grateful to Bhagawan and Gurudev for restoring Pūjya Guruji's health and pray for his continued grace and guidance.

The 'When' vision is of course eternal and the very existence of CIF is a continuous fulfilment of that. Project CIF in particular will see the fructification of the bridge through the installation of infrastructural facilities and the construction of amenities which together will make collaborative study and research between the East and West a lot more easier and effective.

But, for this vision to take shape, CIF has been knocking on doors for funds and financial support. Construction work has commenced and must be completed but for that, the inflow of funds too has to be continuous. Towards this CIF is in the process of commencing projects that will help raise some revenue but continues to place its appeal to all members and devotees to help actualise Gurudev's dream.

The Sanskrit Online Course was another first and has taken off to a good start. But the endorsement by IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) by adopting CIF's Easy Sanskrit Course as its Certificate Course, has been encouraging. Soon, our Vedānta Course too will be offered as a Diploma Course. IGNOU is the largest Open University in the world and India's largest distance learning option.

The activities of the Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Samsthān (CIFSS) has also gained intensity with many new academic ventures and publications in the pipeline.

We wish to draw your attention to CIF's Worship website. Ādi Śaṅkara Nilayam is the abode of some of the most holy and sacred temples where Śrī Ādi Śaṅkara worshipped at, along with his mother, the holy Āryambā. As students of Vedānta and practitioners, in nourishing these temples, we verily nourish ourselves. Do be alert to the flyers that are sent out twice a month announcing various worships, or log in to <http://worship.chinfo.org/> and take part in the worship in the best manner that suits you.

We have also placed alerts on our main website www.chinfo.org where you can register for the newsletter. By doing this you also enter our data bank through which we will continue to notify you of our new events.

The Discussion Forum on our site <http://forum.chinfo.org/> will take you to a host of vibrant posts and discussions on Vedānta and other texts. Students from various centers in India and Overseas as well as Ācāryas have contributed. Our Mission is strengthening our Vedānta roots, learning and orientation. We urge students and Vedānta study groups in our mission centers to avail of the opportunity to share and learn.

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KK Rajan (Publisher)
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Feedbacks/letters/queries can be sent to
cifnewsletter@chinfo.org



ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

First Sanskrit Seminar at IGNOU

As an ongoing dedication to Sanskrit language programmes, CIF and IGNOU – India's largest distant learning university – jointly organized a one-day seminar in November 2009. The impetus was provided by CIF's Easy Sanskrit Course which was adopted as certificate course by IGNOU, in March 2009. Ever since 111 students have enrolled for this six-month course with IGNOU.

For CIF, IGNOU's work with our Sanskrit course will be seen as a valuable onward movement in our journey with Sanskrit. Representing CIF at this event were Shri. K.K. Rajan (Chief Sevak) and Ms. Shibani Khorana (Project Manager, Anusaaraka). The seminar attended by close to 150 people, presented lectures by various professors on 'Veda and Vedānta' and 'Concept of Education as reflected in ancient Sanskrit texts'.

An important take away from this event was the sense of joy that officials at IGNOU expressed over the fact that this was the first time in 25 years since IGNOU's establishment, that a seminar had been organized in enhancement of the Sanskrit programme. CIF hopes to continue impacting the language world with its efforts with Sanskrit.



Noted Buddhist Scholar Acharya Bhadant Gayan Jagat, Dr. Rajashekaran Pillai (Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU) and other dignitaries.



Dr. P.C. Muraleemadhavan, Dr. N.P. Unni and Swami Advyananda at the Tattvabodha Lecture.

Manuscript Tradition of Kerala : A Tattvabodha Lecture

'Tattvabodha', the monthly lecture series of the National Manuscripts Mission (NMM) has established itself as a forum for intellectual debate and discussion in the traditional śāstras, where eminent scholars representing different aspects of Indian knowledge systems have contributed. The NMM publishes a compilation of these lectures under the same name.

The NMM was set up to locate, document, conserve, preserve and disseminate to public and scholars the knowledge and heritage of India written in manuscripts. Kerala abounds with manuscripts on palm-leaves where the traditions of medicine, architecture, arts, philosophy and mathematics, are documented. Many manuscripts have been discovered and many are still lying unknown and un-catalogued in the personal collections of Illoms, royal patronized families and private medical practitioners.

It was under the aegis of Tattvabodha of the NMM, that CIFSS conducted a one day lecture programme, on: 'Manuscript Tradition of Kerala', with the financial assistance of National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM).

CIF remains grateful to Prof. N.P. Unni, former Vice-Chancellor of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady for delivering the Tattvabodha lecture on 'Manuscript Tradition of Kerala'.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Philosophy of Oneness Camp – Bridging East and West

CIF Shodha Samsthan (CIFSS) organized an Eight-Day Residential Textual Workshop on “Philosophy of Oneness – Bridging East and West”.

The camp aimed at acquainting the 30 participants with the fundamentals of Advaita-vedānta and its complex nuances. Additionally it sought to compare and contrast the idealism of East and West with special reference to the contribution of western philosophers.

The seminar was inaugurated by Prof.R. Balasubramanian, former Chairman of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), an erudite scholar in Vedānta and also one of the faculties of the seminar.

The course was based on the following topics: “Idealism – East and West” by Prof.R. Balasubramanian; ‘Advaita-makaranda” by Dr.Godabarisha Mishra, Member Secretary, ICPR. Dr. S. Revathi, Professor of the Department of Sanskrit from Madras University delivered a series of lectures on Vedānta-paribhāṣā.

Workshop on Indian Logic and Epistemology : A Foundation Course

The CIF Shodha Samsthan organized a workshop on Indian Logic and Epistemology at Ādi Śaṅkara Nilayam. The 14 days programme was inaugurated by Dr. J. Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady.

The camp was based on Tarkaśaṅgra, a basic text in Nyāya-śāstra. The eminent Prof. V. N. Jha, former Director, Centre for Advanced Sanskrit Research, University of Pune, was the faculty for this camp. There were 42 participants from all over India comprising monks, professors, and research students. The study of the Tarkaśaṅgra text applied word by word explanation, group discussions, dictionary making and many such interesting activities.



Dr. V.N. Jha conducting the session

Participants of the Philosophy of Oneness Workshop



'The Research Approach and Publications in Present Scenario' - by Prof. Saroja Bhate

Prof. Saroja Bhate is a well known scholar and her contribution to the field of Sanskrit and Indology, especially in Vyākaraṇa is remarkable. A retired Professor and Head of the Department of Sanskrit and Prākṛit Languages, Pune University, Prof. Bhate has many published books and research papers to her credit.

Bhate's lecture emphasised the vast contribution of Sanskrit to the field of knowledge. She focussed on the methodology of subject selection followed by style of presentation in Research. She emphasized that efforts in publication must channel into in-depth study of the subject before drawing out conclusions.

Vākyapadīyam – Brahmakāṇḍa by Dr. George Cardona

Dr. George Cardona is a grammarian well versed in Sanskrit Grammar and since 1960 he has taught at the University of Pennsylvania where he is a professor of linguistics. He is the author of numerous articles and books. Cardona's lecture was based on Vākyapadīyam – Brahmakāṇḍa. Explaining the first verse of the Vākyapadīya Dr. Cardona explained how Bhartrhari establishes that the entire universe is nothing but the appearance of the primordial sound – sphoṭa. He quoted: "brahma śabdrūpena vivartate na pariṇamate."

The session was chaired by Dr. Ratna Basu, Professor of Sanskrit Department, University of Calcutta.



Dr. George Cardona expounding the Vākyapadiyam

Sanskrit Day Celebrations

Sanskrit language is a core part of CIF and for Shodha Samsthān celebrating Sanskrit Day is an endorsement and emphasis of the glorious 'language of the gods'.

A two-day Sanskrit Day celebration was thus held in August 2009.

The event which was blessed by Swamini Niranjanananda, presented a collage of events surrounding and applying Sanskrit language, including: Competitions such as Gītāpārāyaṇam, Kathākathanam, Recitation, Elocution, etc. Around 150 students from different schools and colleges of Kerala participated in the programme. Various speakers on this occasion highlighted different aspects of Sanskrit language as it arose in our culture, thereby entreating an ongoing emphasis be given to the language.

Dr. D. K. Rana, Director CIFSS, presented some important suggestions for throwing the spotlight on Sanskrit in the future, such as: Celebrating Sanskrit Week, holding a World Sanskrit Conference every four years, changes in the methodology of research for unpublished sanskrit manuscripts, incorporate the new prayogaśāstras (practical subjects) like Āyurveda, Yoga, Vāstu, Architecture, Artha-śāstra, etc. in the University curriculum, so that students will be encouraged to read and research in Sanskrit. The Sanskrit mood was taken to its logical conclusion when Dr. P. C. Muraleemadhavan, Chairman, CIFSS gave his presidential address in Sanskrit and in verse form! All kudos to the staff of CIFSS who gave this event the right importance and attention with their efficient coordination effort.



Swamini Niranjanananda inaugurating the programme. Dr. K.T. Madhavan, Dr. P.C. Muraleemadhavan, Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana, Dr. Ratnam look on.

ANUSAARAKA

Anusaaraka Website launch by Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda

On the auspicious day of Guru Pūrnimā, Pūjya Guruji launched Anusaaraka's 'Language Resource Development' website, in Austin, Texas. On this doubly happy occasion, Guruji's message was,

"Anusaaraka is a software inspired by Pāṇinian Grammar. Through this software one can access English text in Hindi. Indeed a wonderful application of Pāṇini's grammar in the modern technological age that will be useful for millions. Using this Anusaaraka model, software can be developed for translating other languages also.

I congratulate the Anusaaraka Team on the launch of this website, which will allow the participation of people across the world, in the Language Resource Development aspect of the Anusaaraka project.

Wishing everyone involved in the Anusaaraka project at present and in the future all success, I invoke Pūjya Gurudev's and the Lord's blessing on all."

This website gives a basic introduction of the Anusaaraka project while also sharing resources and publications on machine translation and Natural Language Processing (NLP). You can register online to contribute to Anusaaraka.

The language resource development aspect attempts to map English and Hindi grammar after translation of simple English sentences into Hindi; and thereafter writing the observations in logical statements. An enjoyable task for anyone with a flair for languages!

The Word Sense Disambiguation (WSD) Rule Form is a user-friendly form which collates contributor observations which are then converted into software code. The WSD Rule Form which is an integral part of this site has been designed by a team of young software engineers from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Innovation Labs, Hyderabad.

The TCS team's dedicated efforts to study the complex information flow at the back-end, led to this simple interface in a little over six months.



Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji launching the website

This site is only a basic version; improved features shall be added to this site over a period of time.

Please do visit:

<http://anusaaraka.iiit.ac.in/anusaaraka/> or

<http://sanskrit.uohyd.ernet.in/anusaaraka>

to know more about the Anusaaraka project.

Pāduka Pūjā & Lunch Bhikṣā – Anusaaraka gives Thanks

The publishing of the Language Resource Development book was no mean task. Researching the resource needs and then compiling it in a deliverable format especially in a setting where all this is sevā, is a sādhanā in itself.

It was thus that Swami Chidrupananda, Ācārya - Chinmaya Mission, Noida suggested that the Anusaaraka Team get together to invoke the blessings of the Lord on the project and celebrate the release of the book, which the team had contributed to.

As a sincere offering of love and gratitude, the team led by Swamiji, performed Pāduka Pūjā for Pūjya Gurudev. Leading the pūjā-saṅkalpa, Swamiji invoked blessings of the Guru-paramparā on all involved in this project. Special prayers were done for the physical well-being, intellectual clarity of contributors and financial health of the project!



Presentation on 'Computational Linguistics for Indic Languages'

(A curriculum with significant inputs from Anusaaraka)

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is the world's largest open university. It has a School of Inter-disciplinary studies and Trans-disciplinary studies (SOITS). Anusaaraka made a presentation to IGNOU with the two-fold objective of one, sharing information about Anusaaraka as a Machine Translation and Language Accessing software and two, exploring the possibility of using Anusaaraka as project work for its students of the Masters programme in Translation studies.

Present at this event were: Dr. Nandini Sinha Kapur, Director in charge – SOITS, Dr. Dipti Misra Sharma, Language Technologies Research Centre (LTRC), IIIT, Hyderabad, Dr. Deo Shankar Naveen, Director – School of Translation Studies & Training, Prof. Vijay Kapur, Advisor to IGNOU's Vice-Chancellor.

Dipti Misra discussed Anusaaraka's operational challenges and the social need for a project like Anusaaraka especially in the context of India with its rich heritage, 29 languages and innumerable dialects and a passion for knowledge and the Anusaaraka Workbench which requires collaborative effort to ensure that the benefits of this Information Revolution reaches the masses.

An important outcome of the event was a meeting of minds that jointly felt that Anusaaraka must be supported because it moved with technological innovation for the purpose of preserving tradition. In fact it was felt by Prof. Kapur that collaborating with Anusaaraka would help IGNOU's Research base grow. Consequent to this, a course in '**Computational Linguistics for Indic Languages'** has been proposed as a collaborative, and is to be offered at IGNOU from July 2011. Steps are being taken to actualize this plan.

Book Release

'Language Resource Development Guidelines for Anusaaraka'



Pujya Guruji launches 'Guidelines for Anusaaraka'

It was also the holy occasion of Mahāśivarātri. A huge śāṅka-pūjā was also being conducted under Pūjya Guruji's watch. So the release of Anusaaraka's 'Language Resources Development Guidelines for Anusaaraka' at Sandeepany Kailas, Hyderabad, by Pūjya Guruji in such auspicious settings was very pleasing.

The Development Guideline Book – a ready reference and initiating manual – is aimed at language enthusiasts to plot for them the path by which they can first translate from English to Hindi and then classify the process into logical statements and finally machine readable language. These guidelines are already being used by volunteers, many of whom have helped evolve the guidelines with their inputs.

Speaking on the occasion Pūjya Guruji lauded the effort of the Anusaaraka team with specific congratulations to Br. Vineet Chaitanya who pioneered this project and aims to demonstrate the application of traditional Indian knowledge in the contemporary world. The book priced at INR 150 is available at CIF. To order the book please write to: anusaaraka@chinfo.org



ANUSAARAKA

Anusaaraka workshop on Framing of Rules

The procedure for translating from English to Hindi has been so much fun for most that it was important to carve out rules so that those taking a shot at translation are not misled.

There is in fact a method to it: first a simple translation from English into Hindi; then break these into logical statements which are then converted into machine language. These are what the workshop sought to formalize into 'rules'.

In session one, Prof. Dipti Misra Sharma (Research Associate Professor, Language Technologies Research Centre at International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad) familiarized 14 participants with the contents of the recently launched Anusaaraka website. Elementary as it may sound, but participants began to see how the seemingly simple steps of creating a user ID and filling forms online too can be fraught with errors which the machine fails to comprehend.

Once this was appreciated, the other sessions were enriched with more questions and more discussions by the participants, thus clarifying the process of framing rules.

Prof. Dipti Misra Sharma addressing the participants



Anusaaraka Workbench Workshop

The Anusaaraka Workbench concept, organized by International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad, is an attempt to design a structured curriculum for those who wish to study Machine Translation & Computational Linguistics formally or informally. It is also meant to provide a means for diagnosis and debugging the current software in use at Anusaaraka, thereby involving users themselves in continuous improvements.

The envisaged curriculum is expected to empower people to make valuable contributions in the field of Machine Translation (MT) and Natural Language Processing (NLP). With basic knowledge of MT & NLP they will be able to develop systems for other languages, if they so desire, as well as discover talent for contributing to the Language industry.

Towards this end the Anusaaraka Workbench was conceived and it sowed the seed for an effective curriculum in 'Computational Linguistics for Indic Languages' that IGNOU and other collaborating institutes wish to introduce.

A two-day workshop saw the coming together of faculty from three large Universities from Hyderabad: The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) and University of Hyderabad with the Anusaaraka team from IIIT. The collaboration has resulted in the sharing of ideas for the content and design of the curriculum and the documentation effort is underway.





Management Empowerment Programme (MEP)

CIF and Chinmaya Institute of Technology, Kannur, in joint collaboration organised a three-day Management Empowerment Programme at Adi Sankara Nilayam, in February. The event was conducted by Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji and other expert management faculties from reputed institutions like IIM, ISB and IIIT. The entire event was held across 3 days, each of which dedicated itself to a specific organisation sector.

Day One: Knowing is Empowering

The first day targeted Principals and Senior Faculty of schools and the theme was 'Knowing is Empowering'. The critical role of teachers in empowering students and how good teachers can influence them and instill values.

Underscoring the power of knowledge and its ability to empowers us, Prof. Rajeev Sangal, Director, International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad spoke on knowledge dissemination and how technology will accelerate the process.

This was followed by Prof. Debashish Chatterjee, Director, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calicut, who spoke on the changing needs of today's students against the backdrop of changing aspirations, changing technology, with internet emerging at the centre stage of knowledge dissemination.

Day Two: Empowering is Your Business

The participants on this day were faculty from business schools and colleges. Pūjya Guruji in his key note address urged the B-School faculty to walk the talk on values, for, today's students were tomorrow's managers who need to see values applied more than values in print. Guruji also emphasized that empowering students must necessarily include performance standards based on human values; anything less than that will not bring in sustainable results, though they may show short term profits, he said.

The speakers were Prof. Debashish Chatterjee (IIM-Calicut) who spoke on the changing role of Business schools and the need for B-school teachers to transform into learning models, Dr. Ramnarayan (Professor, Indian School of Business, Hyderabad), and Dr. Anil Gupta, Professor IIM Ahmedabad.

Addressing the business school faculty, Pūjya Guruji made them aware of their role in empowering the managers of tomorrow. Only teachers who are repositories of knowledge can empower the students, he said. In any profession, if passion to excel is not there, then it can only produce mediocrity while also not winning the trust of others, he added. Therefore, the need for instilling a commitment to performance that upholds values and ethics, among today's students who are verily tomorrow's managers.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

Day Three: Doing is Empowering

The participants of day three were CEOs and Senior Executives from the corporate world. Addressing them, Pūjya Guruji declared that the crucial role of empowerment was to transform limitations into empowered alternatives. Therefore achieving excellence in the workplace went beyond academic capabilities to harnessing energy in a meaningful manner through avoiding its dissipation and loss through distractions and lack of focus.

Speakers this day were: Sunil Sachdev, Director, Capital Advertising, who showed how he could empower his team and achieve excellence by sheer commitment to a noble cause and how people responded to its message; Dr. Ramnarayan (ISB) who shared the turnaround story of how Indian Railways – India's largest employer – changed from inward looking to customer-centric, responsive mode; Dr. Prabhakaran Paleri, Director, School of Management Studies, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Calicut, elucidated how security threats impact a company's bottom line, and how attitude of organisation can reduce risks, and lead to empowerment.

In his address, Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji gathered everyone towards lessons from Rāmāyaṇa, Bhagavad-gītā and Viṣṇu-sahasranāma. Pointing to the scriptures he showed how beneath stories there lay cardinal principles which begged application in daily conduct – be it home or the workplace. The success traits of managers, pointed Guruji, were decipherable in the small incidents dotting their lives. As for desirable attributes and qualities in a manager, he pointed to the names in praise of Lord Viṣṇu in the Viṣṇu-sahasranāma which must be cultivated if success is to be had. Through these three days, presentations were made by Swami Advayananda, Ācārya, CIF, to the delegates on the multifaceted activities of CIF in the realm of higher learning and spreading the light of knowledge.

This ME Programme was conceived when Pūjya Guruji expressed the urgent need to empower people from different walks of life, so that the work they pursued was more meaningful and rewarding.



All Kerala Ācārya Śāstra Sadas (3rd and 4th Sessions)

The Ācārya Śāstra-sadas is an ongoing annual event held in three sessions across the year, where all Ācāryas from Kerala convene for two days (every four months) for a discussion study at CIF. The Śāstra-sadas of 2009-10 took up for study the Śāṅkara-bhāṣya of the Brahma-sūtras under the guidance of Swami Viviktananda, Regional Head, Chinmaya Mission Kerala.

A typical Śāstra-sadas meet sees the coming together of all the Ācāryas in Kerala, who study the Brahma-sūtra together, once again. The intention is to revisit the Śāstras as a group, go deeper into its purports and re-assimilate its lessons once again. A kind of refresher course for our Kerala Ācāryas but in fact, this verily strengthens the foundation for all of us Mission students, devotees and members!

Dr. Ramnarayanan receiving the Holy Gita from Swami Tejomayanandaji
Sunil Sachdev, K.K. Rajan and Swami Advayananda looking by.



Swami Adhyatmananda's Upaniṣad Camp

Swami Adhyatmananda's selection for his camp was the Īśāvāsy-upaniṣad with Śaṅkara-bhāṣya. Shri. Prabhakaran from Guruvayur was the upācārya (assisting Ācārya/teacher) for the camp and the text he chose for his sessions was the Nārāyaṇīyam. The camp was attended by 36 people.



Swamini Niranjanananda's Upaniṣad Laharī Camp

Swamini Niranjanananda is a senior monk of the Chinmaya Mission and a very experienced teacher of Vedānta. An erstwhile Principal of Chinmaya Vidyalayas (Chennai and Bangalore), Editor of Tapovan Prasad for over a decade, she has many Jñāna-yajñas and sādhanā camps to her credit.

Currently an Ācārya at CIF, Swamini Amma began a series on the Upaniṣads called 'Upaniṣad Laharī' three years ago and has completed five Upaniṣads since her series of residential camps in English began.

In this, her third session, Swamini Amma took Taittirīya, Aitareya and Praśna Upaniṣads. 20 delegates participated. Swamini Amma's camps are for anyone who has studied the fundamentals of Vedānta, some amount of the Gītā and acquainted with the Prakaraṇa-granthas.



Br. Sanatan Chaitanya's Camp

A group of 75 people from Sangli arrived for a one week camp under the guidance of Br. Sanathan Chaitanya, Ācārya of Chinmaya Mission Sangli.

Interestingly CIF is a campsite for the many acharyas of the Mission worldwide, for not only is it a great starting point of learning, given it is the birthplace of our hallowed guruparamparā pioneer Śrī Ādi Śaṅkara, but also because for both the Ācārya and the students it resonates with the guru-siṣya relationship. So apart from paying a visit to Ādi Śaṅkara's home, it is in many ways an establishment of one's prayer and respects to the Master at whose feet we remain in abidance always.

In similar spirit came the group from Sangli and Sanatanji taught his group the Taittirīya-upaniṣad, while Brni. Shraddha Chaitanya taught Dakṣiṇāmūrti-stotram.

Sādhanā Shibir

2010 began on an auspicious note with a five day camp on Maniṣā-pañcakam and Dhanyaṣṭakam held under the guidance and lectureship of Br. Jaganmitraji of Chinmaya Mission Bhopal and Brni. Sucheta Chaitanyaji of Chinmaya Mission Bokaro. The camp was well attended by 45 people from the Chinmaya Missions of Bokaro and Bhopal.

Upaniṣad Laharī Camp, Śvetāśvatara-upaniṣad

The fourth camp by Swamini Niranjananandaji in the Upaniṣad Laharī series was conducted in Adi Saṅkara Nilayam. Swami Advayananda inaugurated the event and a Pāduka Pūjā was performed to herald the commencement of the camp. Since most of the participants were quite advanced in Vedāntic studies, the interactive sessions were lively and fruitful. This really exemplifies the spirit of CIF and our devotion to Vedānta, sitting on the premises of Ādi Saṅkara's birth home.

Fr. Massimo d' Orlando's Vedānta Camp

Fr. Massimo d' Orlando, from Satchidananda Mission, Italy conducted a spiritual camp for 12 delegates from Italy. As in the last year Fr. Orlando brought his student delegates to Adi Sankara Nilayam in whose holy precincts the study of Vedānta was made auspicious and engaging.

Last year, Fr. Massimo conducted the Vivekacūḍāmaṇi camp for the participants who came with him from Italy. This year the theme was Vedānta and Swami Advayananda held the Q&A session on 'Nature of Consciousness'.

Pūjya Guruji's Chinmaya Dhām Yātra

A much coveted, much looked forward to event in the Chinmaya Mission every year! This year Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda, led a group of 58 devotees from all over the world on the Chinmaya Dhām Yātra and they visited some very sacred spots across the length and breadth of the country. One of the milestones of their Yātra was CIF, where the yātris performed Pāduka Pūjā at Gurudev's shrine and had satsaṅg with Guruji. A succinct presentation on CIF and Adi Sankara Nilayam was made by Swami Advayananda (Ācārya, CIF). Swami Ramakrishnanda, Ms. Shibani and Ms. Manisha also gave presentations on Easy Sanskrit Course, Anusaaraka and CIF Home Study Courses respectively.



Brni. Namita Chaitanya's Pilgrimage

Brni. Namita Chaitanya, Ācārya of Chinmaya Mission Trivandrum has a unique method of leading into Vedānta with her students. Every year she takes them on a small pilgrimage to a set of temples or a holy place in history and from there she leads into a discussion that teaches and ingrains her teaching deeper.

This year Namitaji brought 30 Vedānta students to CIF. Although she had intended for them to know and feel the birthplace of Śrī Ādi Śaṅkara closely, she also took them to the neighbouring Chottanikkara Bhagavatī temple and Pazhoor Śiva temple. Visiting these two temples is a given for anyone who visits CIF, as these temples are very famous and very ancient as well.

Thereafter she took them around CIF, around the birth home of Śrī Ādi Śaṅkara and examined in detail the history of the place alongside exploring the circumstances of Śrī Śaṅkara's birth in Melpazhur Mana, the life of Mā Āryambā and naturally the flowering of Vedānta itself in the hallowed place.

Br. Prahlad Chaitanya's Pilgrimage

Br. Prahlad Chaitanya Ācārya, Chinmaya Mission, Margao, Goa, visited CIF with a group of 25 delegates as a part of their pilgrimage. Visiting CIF is a pilgrimage anyway for anyone who chooses to go there and for Prahladji even more for he brought with him 35 members of the Chinmaya Mission from Goa. The highlight of this event was that it coincided with Pūjya Guruji's Empowerment Programme so that the delegates had the added blessings of a satsaṅg with Guruji. As always, CIF feels blessed to be able to host such meetings which enable the bringing together of Guru and devotee.

Vedaputras Visit CIF

Chinmaya Mission's vedaputras who are students of the Purohit course, visited Adi Sankara Nilayam. Br. Samvit Chaitanyaji, under whose tutelage they are taught the purohit course, performed the pāduka-pūjā in its full glory and resplendence to the echo of the vedaputras' chanting of various vedic stotras – truly a heartmelting offering at the feet of Pūjya Gurudev in his shrine. It may be noted that our vedaputras study the Purohit course at Chinmaya Vaidika Vidyapeeth, Coimbatore.



Manuscriptology

Here a brief understanding of manuscriptology work undertaken by CIFSS and its efforts over ancient manuscripts is worth mentioning. Many manuscripts received at CIF are old and rare and CIF invests in digitalizing, deciphering and preserving the manuscripts.

Some of the manuscripts like Śrī Rāmajātakam have already been published. Some of them like Mumukṣu-sarvasva-sāra-saṅgraha – an hitherto unpublished work and a delight for the keen researcher are in the pipeline for publication.

There are some publications that are classified as Critical Editions – here not just one manuscript is used, but often three to four manuscripts are used. To understand the import of this, we must examine how knowledge was transmitted and transferred in the old days. Knowledge was passed through palm leaves, and different regions copied these for their regions through the use of expert manuscript writers. In this manner the same manuscript is found in different regions. So some differences due to the writing of the scribes or some interpolation are natural but for us today bringing these together is a work of finesse and labour and only a critical edition will highlight the differences in interpretation.

Books Published

Śrī Rāmakṛṣṇacaritam (Sanskrit): A work on Sri. Ramakrishna Paramahansa in anuṣṭup composed by Sri. K. Ramakrishna Warrier. It includes anecdotes surrounding Sharadadevi, his teachings and his students. This book is in very simple Sanskrit so that beginners also can read.

Synthesis of Yoga (English): This book is written by Prof. R Balasubramanian, former Chairman, Indian Council for Philosophical Research, New Delhi. This book with its study of Bhakti-yoga, Jñāna-yoga and Karma-yoga is sure to provide good clarity on the theory as well as the practice of the Yogas. This short work offers an excellent bird's eye view of the yogas and their synthesis.

Upcoming Publications

Vedānta Unveiled: Swami Advayananda, Ācārya in charge of CIF, has written a series of 45 articles on Vedānta, that were serialised by Tapovan Prasad. These provide an overview of Vedānta. The articles are in the process of being edited and compiled into a book.

Bhagavad-gītā Course: CIF is in the process of giving the finishing touches to its next mega blockbuster study course. After Vedānta and Sanskrit, this detailed course on the Bhagavad-gītā is being authored by Pūjya Gurुji Swami Tejomayanandaji. Editing is in process. Swamini Vimalanandaji and a team of Ācāryas are working on it. It is expected to be made available to students in a year.

CIF Overview: Chinmaya West has a publication wing that produces a stellar compilation of articles on Vedānta in a thematic format, called the Mananam series <http://www.chinmaya-chicago.org/mananam/>. The Mananam books reflect on one topic intensely by studying the thoughts of 8-10 serious writers/Masters on the chosen topic. Mananam has chosen to dedicate a whole book to the conception and development of CIF, as a part of the Chinmaya Centenary Celebrations. The book is expected to be completed in six months and is being compiled by Ms. Meera Seth and Br. Kutastha Chaitanya.

Books in Progress

Sūktisudhā (Sanskrit and English): A compendium of proverbs from Sanskrit literature with English translation and the tracking out the proverb sources. A valuable book for those interested in the history of Sanskrit as well as in the Sanskrit language.

Viṣṇu-sahasranāmabhāṣya with Commentary (Sanskrit): The text (based on grammar and nirukta-etymology) is in final stage of editing. The text a collation of three manuscripts of 18th Century deposited by a Brahmin family of Kerala.

Śrī Padmapādacaritam by Durgāprasādayati (Sanskrit): The 13th century text, based on one manuscript composed in Kerala and edited by Dr. K. V. Vasudevan, Reader in Sanskrit, Sri Krishna College, Guruvayur, is of both historical and poetic value.

Smārtaprāyaścittam by Nīlakanṭhayogīśvara (Sanskrit): This is a collection of all prāyaścittas (expiatory rituals) found in various smṛitis; prayaschitta is the penance or atonement recommended by various texts in the Hindu order. The text is based on Keraliya Dharmaśāstra tradition of rituals composed by Nīlakanṭhayogīśvara in 16th Century A.D. The text has nine chapters which describe the rituals following to Āpastambasūtra, specially established customs of Kerala. The author also explains the views of Āśvalāyana, Kauśītaka, Baudhāyana, Vādhūlaka and Jaimini. The text has been edited by Dr. K. V. Vasudevan, Reader in Sanskrit, Sri Krishna College, Guruvayur based on three manuscripts collected from Namboothiri families of Kerala.

Laghukarṇāmṛtam (Sanskrit): A concise version of Śrī Krishna's bāla-līlās from a hitherto unpublished manuscript authored by Śrī Govindakavi. Considered very rare as it is not even mentioned in the works of Kunjunniraja, Vadakkumkoor etc. Belonging to Kerala, Govindkavi was not a well known writer, but this work shows his brilliance. Dr. K. V. Vasudevan, Reader in Sanskrit, Srikrishna College, Guruvayur, has edited this text.

Logic of Parāmarṣa (English): An exposition on 'parāmarṣa', the very basis of the 5-stepped Nyāya syllogism by Prof. V. N. Jha, former Director, Centre of Advanced Study in Sanskrit, University of Pune.

Dhīmahī: A yearly research journal of Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Samsthān with valuable articles on various aspects of Indology like Sanskrit literature, grammar, Vedānta, Mīmāṃsā, Śādbha-bodha and Manuscripts.

Ākhyāta-candrikā: This is a unique dictionary of Sanskrit verbs, quite like the dictionary of nouns that is common to the study of many foreign languages. The difference is that (but quite similar to the Amarakośa or dictionary of Sanskrit nouns), this one is a series of verses where the verbs are so arranged with meter and rhyme so that the eager student can memorise them as stanzas and yet also know all the verbs! The book is being researched at CIF by Dr. Manoj, Deputy Director, CIFSS.

HOME STUDY COURSES

CIF has been dedicated to spreading the wisdom of Vedānta and the Sanskrit language. This derives from Gurudev's original vision for CIF as the hub of Hindu Culture dissemination and a Temple of Study and Research that will spread the knowledge of Vedānta, Sanskrit study and build a life giving bridge between science and spirituality.

CIF thus offers both the Foundation level and the Advanced level courses in Vedānta. Likewise there is a composite course in Sanskrit that is offered online. Uniquely, the Sanskrit course has been found to be attractive and efficient enough by IGNOU, the world's largest open university and India's most reputed distant learning university, which has collaborated to offer the CIF Online Sanskrit Course as a Certificate Course. More recently IGNOU has also expressed deep interest in our Vedānta courses and is considering offering that as well as a diploma program.

In the last three years 2034 students have registered for various courses.

Vedānta

Our various Centers are enthused by their student members' dedication to Vedānta and to enable more deep learning they are adopting teaching methods and class room models that are interactive . CIF is looking to appoint CIF sevaks across all centers worldwide to drive the Vedānta and Sanskrit courses and learning methods.

It may not be inappropriate to point out here to our Discussion Forum on the CIF website where informal groups of students across levels are discussing Vedānta in general and in some cases specific texts such as the Sādhanā-pañcakam and Bhagvad-gītā. Students may like to stop by at these discussions and take a deeper challenge or get together and start a new discussion. Likewise Mission Centers are encouraged to start their own discussion rooms here; privacy options can be discussed with Manisha Makhecha, the website coordinator at :manisha.makhecha@chinfo.org



Ms. Kalavathy, Administrator, Home Study Courses with Ms. Binu at work

HOME STUDY COURSES

Sanskrit

Propagating and enlivening Sanskrit language was a core part of Gurudev's dream when he envisioned CIF as the academic arm of the Chinmaya Mission. Towards this we have been working closely with the language – initially working with Sanskrit texts and manuscripts and publishing them and in the next stage we designed the Easy Sanskrit Study kit and study plan. More recently CIF decided to offer the Easy Sanskrit as a structured course online, although the course was available to study since Gurudev first introduced it two decades ago..

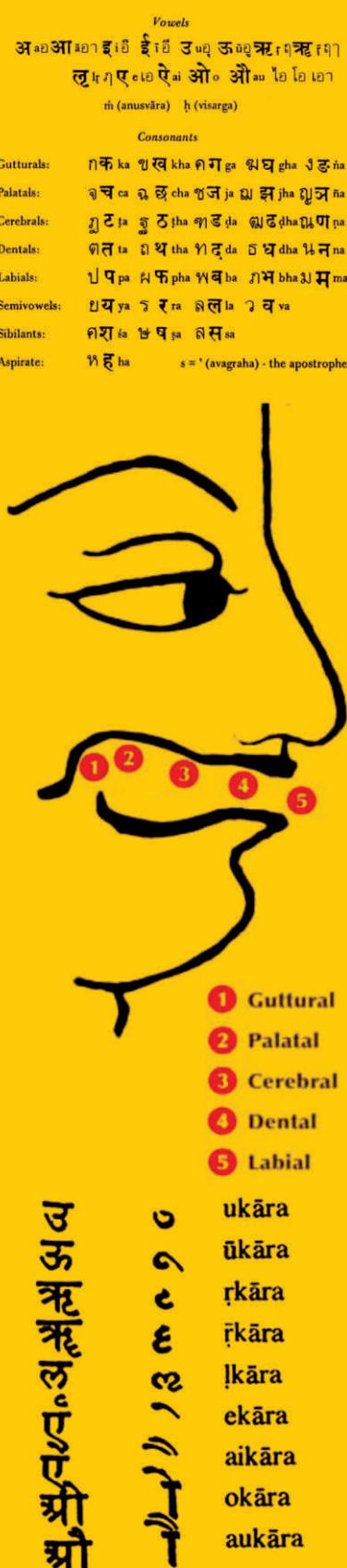
The Easy Sanskrit Online (ESO) course launched in 2009 had a good start and has been received well. 176 students enrolled, and 20 have completed the course. What is interesting is the profile of these 176: the students are from all over the world from countries such as Brazil, West Indies, Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Ireland apart from UK, USA, Australia and Russia.

One other option that CIF had offered was the study kit comprising a Textbook, Workbook and an interactive CD. Over 1500 students have opted and enrolled for this method.

The value and goodness of the course can be gauged from the fact that IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University), India's most reputed and the world's largest Open University, has adopted this course through a MoU signed in March 2009. That means IGNOU is offering this course as a SIX MONTH CERTIFICATE course on its portfolio of language studies. The first session started in September 2009. Forty nine students registered for the course – a very good response indeed, considering the course has barely begun. The second batch commenced in March 2010 and 62 students have registered.

Last month, Swami Ramakrishnanandaji (until recently Br.Gagan Chaitanya) conducted a 10 day workshop on Easy Sanskrit. Swamiji was the architect and brain behind the Easy Sanskrit Course including the Online course and naturally his workshops give much more than they promise.

The basic or foundation level Sanskrit lends itself well to being taught online and is in fact a great way to get started and overcome the initial inhibitions and apprehensiveness. Thereafter the language is better learnt at the desk and by writing it, unlike the foundation course which expects the student to practice but does not test his writing skills. CIF's Advanced Postal Sanskrit course has 30 students and we expect to see this climb higher as the online students begin to graduate.



CIF begins to communicate....

The homepage of the Chinmaya International Foundation website features a large central image of a sage in traditional Indian attire. Above the image, the text "THE RESEARCH FRONT OF CHINMAYA MISSION WORLDWIDE" is displayed. Below the image, there is a navigation menu with links to "HOME", "ABOUT CIF", "ADI SANKARA NILAYAM", "CHINMAYA MISSION", "DONATE", and "CONTACT US". The "CHINMAYA" logo is prominently displayed at the top left, with "INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION" written below it. The "cif" logo is also present. On the right side, there is a "RESET" button and a globe icon. The "News & Events" section on the right includes a "CALENDAR OF EVENTS" with a grid of dates and links to "Vedanta Camp", "Upanishad Camp in Malayalam", and "Upanishad Lahari".

The year 2009 saw the launch of five websites at Chinmaya International Foundation. These websites have given excellent expression for the spirit of CIF and what it stands for, while hugely enabling CIF's outreach to the world. Additionally and importantly what this has done is, showcased for the world our every activity, its depth and significance while also bridging the distances that separated us in the past.

Here is a brief look at each of them:

Chinfo.org: The main CIF website – the mother site, as it were – was completely revamped and upgraded in content and interactivity. Launched by Pūjya Guruji in November 2009, www.chinfo.org – the site uses the latest Joomla technology. From courses to worship to research to new publications to the Discussion Forum (see below), all these are covered by this new site. Very soon there is expected to be an audio library that will stock lectures of our Ācāryas. Likewise CIF is also in the process of uploading numerous articles, essays and papers written by a number of our scholars and Ācāryas. The key websites are elaborated below:

Easysanskrit.chinfo.org: This website, the only one of its kind, was launched by Pūjya Guruji in January 2009. This site conducts the online study of the Easy Sanskrit Online Course. The whole course content is provided in the website using Flash software.

This user friendly site encompasses the entire process from online registration, to study, to tutorial papers and final test paper too, as a one stop shop. The site provides a student discussion room, a 24 hour helpline and a facility to order the Easy Sanskrit Self Study Kit. Around 200 students have registered.

The screenshot shows the "EASYSANSKRIT ONLINE COURSE" page. It features a "WELCOME TO EASY SANSKRIT ONLINE COURSE" message and a "HARD DR" section. On the left, there are "COURSE DETAILS" like "Course Scheme", "Course Duration", "Course Eligibility", "Course Rewards", "Course Fee", "Examination Scheme", and "REGISTRATION" links for "Online Registration", "Offline Registration", and "Student Login". A "View Sample Lesson" button is also present. On the right, there is a "GENERAL" sidebar with links to "Benediction", "Illustrations", "Course Acharya Note", "For Queries", "Contact Details", "Visit CIF", "Sponsors", "Guest Book", "Download", "Download Flash Player 10", "Download Acrobat Reader 9", and "Get Our Executive In Call You". The footer includes "MultiByte 2009", "No of Users Online : 3", and "Page Last Updated : 2010-01-01 14:55:00".

Ignousanskrit.chinfo.org : CIF has collaborated with IGNOU to provide the Easy Sanskrit Online Course. This website is a mirror image of the Easy Sanskrit site. Two batches of students, totaling 111 have registered.

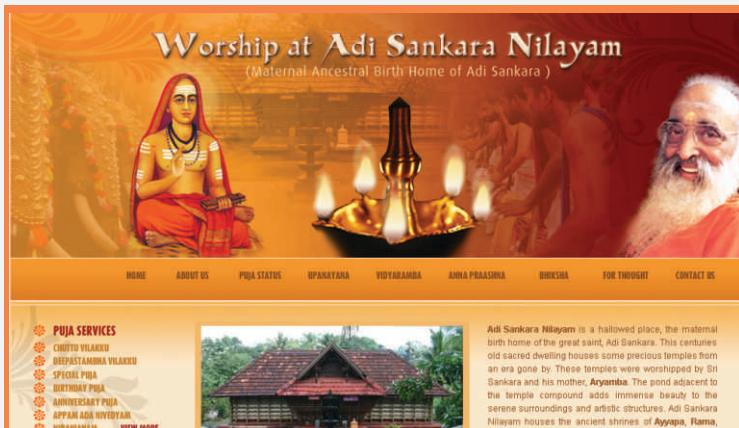
Projectcif.chinfo.org : Project CIF is a Rs 16 crore infrastructural development project undertaken to fulfill the vision of Pūjya Gurudev for CIF, which will mark the Centenary Year Celebrations in 2016. The home page of this website gives an overview of the project, along with a project monitor that clocks the funds required and collected till date.



Worship.chinfo.org: CIF is located at Adi Sankara Nilayam, the birth home of Ādi Śaṅkara. This place includes a temple complex with very ancient and hallowed temples, worshipped by Āryāmbā, Śaṅkara's mother and it is believed that Śaṅkara himself worshipped at these temples. These ancient temples house the deities Svambhū Ayyapā, Kṛṣṇa, Gaṇeśa, Bhagavatī, Nāgayakṣī, Rāma and Kirāta-śiva (the family deity of Śaṅkara).

The significance of these temples raises our devotion when we visualize Śaṅkara worshipping here. Therefore to provide an opportunity to devotees and members who may not be able to visit these powerful temples, and offer prayers and pūjas, CIF has launched a Worship site.

Inaugurated by Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji in August, 2009, this is the site where one can make offerings of pūjās and arcanās in the name of family, friends, country and world by simply sending the requests online! The standard menu of pūjās available are listed here. Special requests can be made. Arcanā on fixed days of the month or year are also easily managed through this site.



The site acknowledges by mail and prasād is also sent wherever requested. One can also check the status of one's pūjā on the site by giving the order number. Details of other facilities like offering Bhikṣā, conducting your child's Upanayanam, Vidyārambham are also available for booking online. The website also details the significance of each of the temples.

Centre for Sanskrit Research and Indology
Affiliated to Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi
Recognised by Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

THE RESEARCH FRONT OF CHINMAYA MISSION WORLDWIDE
HOME ABOUT CIF ADI SANKARA NILAYAM CHINMAYA MISSION DONATE CONTACT US



Discussion Forum (DF): One of the key features of the new CIF site is a Discussion Forum that was long overdue. Being a teaching organization, and with students lying far and wide, the discussion forum was needed to gather in all students in debates and discussions for honing their learning, challenging their interpretations and allowing other students to participate in the process.

The DF has separate forums for Vedānta (Foundation and Advanced), Sanskrit courses, Bhagavad-gītā Discussion, as well as options for any student to initiate a study of the texts online along with a group of his/her own. Many such discussions are in progress even as we write this report.

The DF has found great favor among our students and devotees and challenging discussions can be read online. The site is open to both the general public as well as to the registered students, although registration rules apply. Our Ācāryas have also been taking part in some discussions with a view to helping students fine tune their learning and understanding. So far two such discussions have been completed: (a) Alchemy of Prayer (b) A Mananam on Puruṣārtha. Ācarya Vivek has also posted a hypothesis on 'Is Vedānta Practical?' Ācāryas in various centers and Vedānta students are hereby encouraged to form groups and conduct their own group discussions.

We acknowledge our thanks to City Multimedia Solutions, Kannur for their efficient services. The management of these sites is ably and efficiently handled by Ms. Manisha Makhecha, Coordinator of CIF Websites and assisted by Sreejith, Yuvaveer of CIF.



An extension of this drive to communicate and reach out and make possible a communication line with us, is CIF's presence on Facebook. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chinmaya-International-Foundation-CIF/345895068318> This has helped connecting CIF to the young in far off places as well as providing a platform to talk about the work that CIF's youth are working on. CIF adopting social media methods for communication methods, is a valuable addition.

Open to Public

	Forum	Last post	Topics	Posts
	Bhagavad Gita Discussion Forum Bringing back the much enjoyed open discussion on the Gita, for general public. Proceeds chapter and verse wise. For the keen student seeking a deep understanding of Krishna's counsel. Registration necessary.	Re: Gita Study Group: Let's study Gita verse by verse Tue Jun 22, 2010 10:09 am Padmaja	5	432
	Vedanta and Spirituality Open Discussion Forum for general public to discuss and debate the fine nuances of Vedanta and its role in spirituality. Rules apply. Registration necessary.	Re: Sadhana Panchakam Study Group Mon Jun 21, 2010 9:14 pm Padmaja	11	150
	Foundation Vedanta Course For registered CIF Vedanta students only. Post your queries and doubts arising out of the Foundation lessons and debate with other students from the world over. May be periodically moderated by an Acharya.	Re: What is happiness.. Fri May 28, 2010 12:14 am mуруган	2	23
	Advanced Vedanta Course Discussion Board for registered CIF Advanced course students; seek interpretation of concepts, clarify concepts and hold discussions with fellow advanced vedanta students from the world over. May be periodically moderated by an Acharya.	Re: Sentient, Inert and God Sat Jun 19, 2010 10:40 am Padmaja	6	40
	Easy Sanskrit Online Course For registered Online Easy Sanskrit students only. Post your queries and doubts arising out of the lessons and debate with other students from the world over. May be periodically moderated by an Acharya.	Re: Difficulties.. Wed Mar 31, 2010 9:45 pm mali	1	11
	Certificate Programme in Sanskrit (IGNOU) For registered Online Ignou Sanskrit students only. Post your queries and doubts arising out of the lessons and debate with other students from the world over. May be periodically moderated by an Acharya.	No posts	0	0
	Mananam On Text Description will come soon	Re: Mananam on Hanuman Chalisa Tue Jun 22, 2010 9:31 am Padmaja	1	91
	Mananam On Emails Description will come soon	Re: Mananam on Purushartha with our acharyas Thu May 20, 2010 2:55 am meera	1	20

A sample from the CIF Discussions Forums for you to taste...



Gita Study Group: Let's Study Gita Verse by Verse....

Padmaja : Want to discuss question from Gita Ready Reference book that I posted in the end because I had missed it before.

What really strikes me in this answer is "we have to consider total viewpoint and have no right to cling to our individuality" and the expectation from a seeker is "to drown individuality in Totality". Only Arjuna's Egoism is pointed out here as a primary cause.

So re-evaluating my understanding, I think we really need to be focused only on "our duty at that moment in consideration with totality". NO other thoughts! There was a time when they were considering 'war is just or not' that time it was everybody's duty to bring out all arguments and think. Arjuna should have brought these out then. If elder brother Yudhishtir decides 'war is must', then Arjuna's duty is either to stand by elder brother's decision or separate himself from it for higher cause(if that's what Arjuna thought) like Vidura did. Vidura quit his job because he didn't want to champion his unjust brother king Dhritarashtra's cause. Here Arjuna convinced his elder brother that fight was just and was convinced himself and it was a just cause. Now he was on battlefield, only as a warrior and not as a decision maker. Son of Drupada Drushtadyumna was commander-in-chief and his elder brother Yudhishtir was the king. They were the decision makers on the field. Arjuna's right was to plan the fight properly, give strategic suggestions for winning and then focus on winning the war.

This also reminds me of somebody's earlier post(I think it was Muruganji's) where the importance of being in "present moment" was mentioned. We should just ask ourself 'what is my duty at this present moment?' and do only that whole heartedly. If we see all arguments of Arjuna, he was looking in the past or worrying about future. What is 'relationship' really? other than identifying with the 'past'? In "present moment" nobody is related to anybody. I think Ego is made up of 'past and future'. There are no 'past and future' in present. That is why Ego is illusion...

Even if say it is a crisis in life, all we are expected to think is 'what is my duty right now?' and do that, just that, nothing else is expected from us. This is so simple, so liberating and joyful. We unnecessarily complicate our life.



Mananam on Puruṣārtha with Ācāryas...

Brni Shruti Chaitanya: But what is my duty? What actions are ordained for me by the Lord?

1. Duties that come to me un-asked according to my status in life are god sent and frees me from personal likes and dislikes

2. Commands of the scriptures, elders and teachers when acted upon liberates us from the negativities of the mind.

I am linked to both my prarabda and purushartha? This statement is explained in my previous post.

Ultimately there is neither prarabda nor purushartah?

This statement is made from the standpoint of our essential nature – a realized master.

In the ultimate analysis, i.e on gaining self knowledge, I come to know that I am neither the doer nor the enjoyer nor the servant of anyone. I am the Supreme Self that is ever free.

At this stage, if I say prarabda exists, question is for whom? Individuality is dead. Gurudev at one place makes a powerful statement 'If I exist, I exist in your imagination.'

Lakṣmīnārāyaṇa Pūjā and Yajña

This was a much awaited and planned event at CIF, conjoining as it does our ongoing sādhanā with respect to Gurudev's Birth Centenary Celebrations in 2016. Project CIF as it is being called, has been initiated by Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji for fulfilling the vision of Pūjya Gurudev for CIF.

On Makara-saṅkrānti day, CIF conducted the Lakṣmīnārāyaṇa Yajña and Pūjā in the sacred temple premises of Adi Sankara Nilayam. The Yajña, first of its kind at Adi Sankara Nilayam, was performed as a thanksgiving and a continuous prayer for the spiritual and material well being of the various donors of Project CIF.

The Pūjā and Yajña were conducted by Br. Samvid Chaitanya of Chinmaya Vaidika Vidyapeetha, Coimbatore, assisted by his 2 purohits. The function began with the Lakṣmīnārāyaṇa Pūjā and divine chanting of Viṣṇu-sahasranāma, Puruṣa-sūktam, Nārāyaṇa-sūktam, Kanakadhārā-stotram followed by Lakṣmīnārāyaṇa Havan. This was followed by Annadāna for all present. More than 25 Bhu Daana and Maha Daana donors of Project CIF from various parts of India and abroad participated in the programme. About 150 people from the surrounding villages of Veliyanad also participated in the grand Pūjā and Yajña. Smt and Sri. Sreenathan Rayapati from West Indies were the main Yajamān for the Havan. Br. Samvid Chaitanya's rendition of the Veda-mantras and the tejas he brought to the Pūjā and Yajña with his clarity and intonation was deeply experienced by every participant.

More reports on this can be found on our Temple Worship website (<http://worship.chinfo.org>)

We take this opportunity to also convey that this divine event – Lakṣmīnārāyaṇa Pūjā and Yajña including the glorious chanting of the Viṣṇu-sahasranāma – will be held every Makara-saṅkrānti, starting year 2010, going on until 2016, the birth centenary year of Pūjya Gurudev.

CIF expresses its heartfelt thanks to all the Bhu Daana and Maha Daana donors of Project CIF for the support they have provided the huge project and thereby the auspicious commencement of this huge dream fulfilment.



Upanayanam

Upanayanam a vedic ceremony, has two important aspects:

1. Investiture of the Yajñopavīta – sacred thread.
2. Bestowing the Gāyatrī-mantra.

This ceremony marks the beginning of the child's entry into the brahmacharya- āśrama. Adi Sankara Nilayam is the place where Ādi Śāṅkara's Upanayanam was performed. Consequently this place is seen as auspicious and a blessing, for Upanayanam ceremonies.

Every year some families come to CIF and have the upanayanam ceremonies performed for their children – CIF helps conduct these ceremonies in the appropriate manner at Adi Sankara Nilayam. This year two Upanayanam ceremonies were performed at Ādi Śāṅkara Nilayam. For details visit: <http://worship.chinfo.org/upanayana.html>. For enquiries, contact: Sri Sidhu, PRO of CIF at hariom.sidhu@chinfo.org



Hari with his father Sri. Sudhakar during the upanayanam



“Chinmaya International Foundation is a bridge between East and West, past and present, science and spirituality, and pundit and public.”

— Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayanandaji



The year 2016 marks the Birth Centenary Celebration of Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayanandaji and will be celebrated from May 8th 2015 to May 8th 2016. The celebrations will be launched on May 8th 2015 from Ernakulam, the birth place of Pujya Gurudev.

The Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF) was conceived by Gurudev as a Temple of Study & Research in Vedānta and Sanskrit and Gurudev had wanted that this dream be taken forth by his devotees and enhanced with time. It is now close to 20 years since CIF was established and Gurudev's enunciated dreams for Vedānta and Sanskrit research and study as well as Indic studies has been nourished and grown. Today CIF has grown in size and stature and needs to invest in infrastructural amenities so that the scholars and researchers and students can continue their work more effectively.

Thus, CIF has launched Project CIF, an extensive project for fulfilling Pujya Gurudev's vision.

The Chinmaya Mission worldwide is joining hands to concretize this vision of Pujya Gurudev for CIF and dedicate it unto Him during the Chinmaya Birth Centenary Celebrations. Pujya Gurudev's long cherished dream was to have a Sanskrit University at CIF – a university of international standard that would offer courses on all facets of Indology. This will be a hub for Sanskrit research, academic seminars, conferences, and workshops.

The present infrastructure at CIF is very limited and the efficient realisation of Pujya Gurudev's vision is possible only through accelerated investments on many fronts. The most important aspect now is to ensure that the infrastructural requirements of CIF are completed so that His vision can soon become a reality. The estimated infrastructure cost is 16 crores or approx USD 3.2 million. The construction work has commenced; the execution till date is commensurate with funds raised.

The proposed enhancements include:

- Residential Complex for 400 people
- A fully equipped international convention hall for 750 persons
- Upgraded Staff Quarters
- Additional kitchen and dining facilities
- Enhanced communication infrastructure
- Well laid out and classified book centre



There are two broad ways of participating in this project:

Bhu Daana or Gift of Land: The total construction cost of INR 16 Crores or USD 3.2 Million is over an area of 160,000 Sq.Ft.of land. You may donate the construction cost of one or more square feet of land at INR 1000/USD 20 per square feet.

Maha Daana or Block Donation: The total construction cost has been broken into 1600 'units' of INR 1,00,000/USD 2000 each. The donating family's name will be embossed on a specified wall as a fond reminder of their support to enable Pūjya Gurudev's vision.

Facilities for online donations have been made available on our website, www.projectcif.chinfo.org which is totally dedicated to this project and gives all the details of the project.

We are happy to inform you that around 400 people and institutions have contributed to Bhu Daana so far totaling to INR 24,65,475 and around 32 organisations, individuals and centres have contributed to Maha Daana of INR 11,415,683

Overall total contribution in the last one year has been INR 1,38,81,158 / USD 277623

We are thankful to all our donors who have supported this major cause and look forward to their continued support in taking us ahead towards Pūjya Gurudev's vision for CIF.

When we serve the cause of knowledge, we thank our teachers. When we serve our culture, we serve our posterity. It has been a year since we set forth to fulfill Gurudev's dream via Project CIF. A long road lies ahead and a lot needs to be done yet. Every contribution, effort and donation will help us onward.

Kindly give this your attention and help.

“ Temple of Knowledge, let's build;
A brick let's offer; hands let's join;
Together we shall.
We Can, We Must, We Will! ”

Grateful unto our Sponsor

मच्चिता मद्भूतप्राणाः वोधयन्तः परस्परम् ।

कथयन्तश्च मां नित्यं तुष्यन्ति च रमन्ति च ॥

With their minds wholly resting in Me,
with their senses absorbed in Me, enlightening each other,
and ever speaking of Me, they are satisfied and delighted.

— Bhagavad-gītā, 10.9

Dedicated unto
Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji
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