

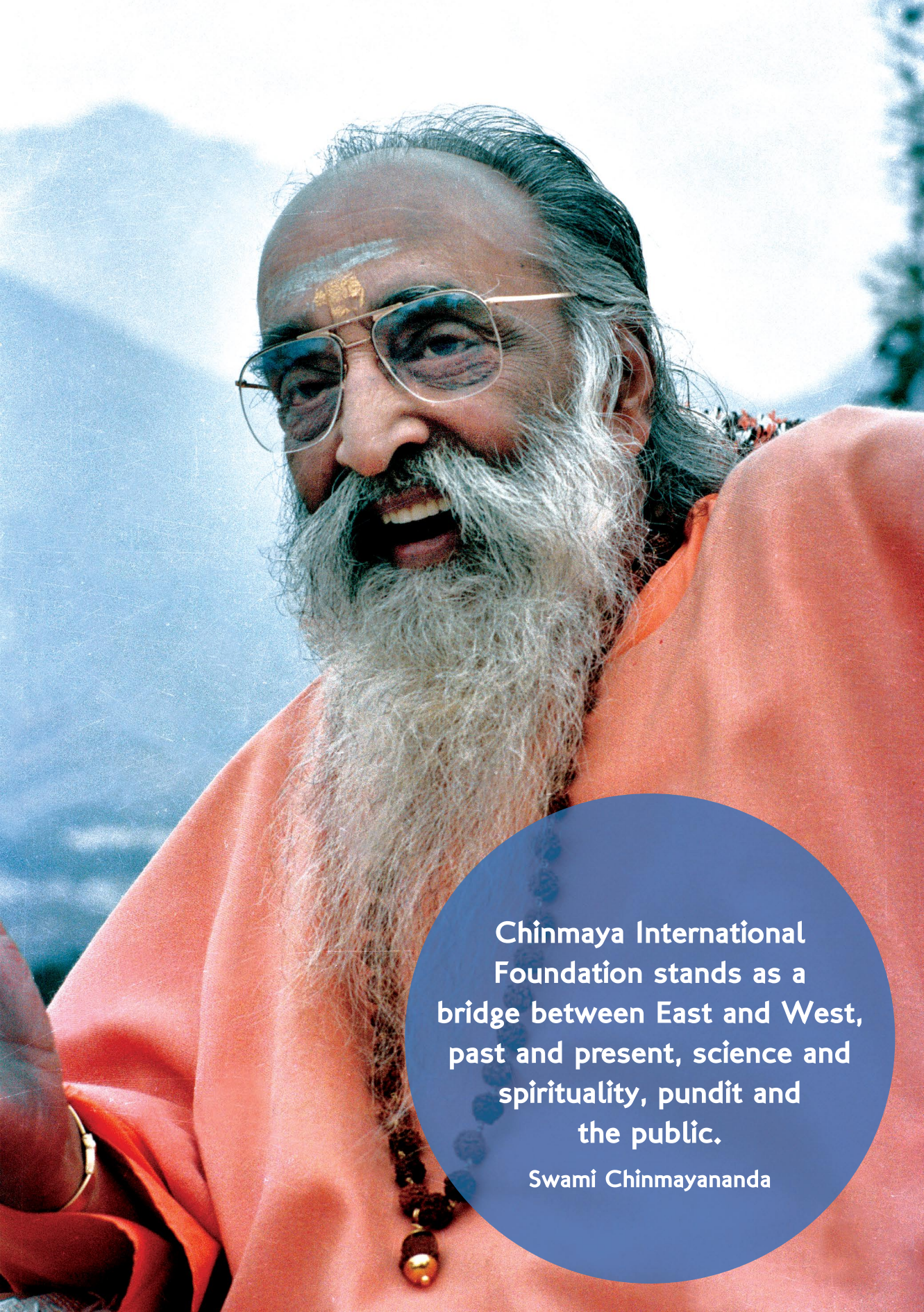


ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

VOL. 10, AUGUST 3, 2017

CHINMAYA
INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION

ACADEMIA OF SANSKRIT RESEARCH
AND INDIC STUDIES



**Chinmaya International
Foundation stands as a
bridge between East and West,
past and present, science and
spirituality, pundit and
the public.**

Swami Chinmayananda



EDITORIAL

GREETINGS FROM CIF!

We bring to you the 10th volume of CIF's Annual Newsletter, on Pūjya Gurudev's Ārādhana Day! In each of these acts we sense his presence and grace so intensely and you too will, as you read the buzz of great research and academic work that has come to grip CIF.

This year's Academic Events focussed on Sanskrit and Indology. Chief under this umbrella was the Kalāyoga, an unusual medley of theatre, art and literature presented under versatile Śatāvadhānī Dr. R. Ganesh's Summer School 2016 ~ Kalāyoga – the Heart of Indian Art, a workshop on Indian art and aesthetics. Professor V. N. Jha's 5-Level course on Learning Sanskrit Language Structure concluded this year with a promise of another richer course to come soon. Hence watch the website for news. The academic workshop: Yogo Bhavati Duḥkhaḥ – [BG 6:17] focussed on using Yoga as a means for moderation in everything and thus elimination of sorrow. All three key texts on Yoga were addressed – so that texts like Śiva Saṁhitā, Darśanopaniṣad and Patañjali's Yoga Sūtras were centre-stage. That was followed by theatre – Kīcakavadham using an ancient dance form of Odisha, and finally a demonstration of āsanās and prāṇāyāma. Truly a rich, all-comprehensive, complete meaningful treat on Yoga. It pleases us that CIF has been able to attract scholars and practitioners of such repute and intensity to fulfil Gurudev's vision.

Among the publications released this year, Śrī Rāmānuja: The Great Integrator is especially dear to us for various reasons, chief among them being that this great sannyāsī was also a great scholar, social reformer, and fosterer of bhakti—an aspect equally close to jñāna that Vedānta enjoins. The book was released on his 1000th birthday which makes it even more celebratory for us. And what is more, the author of this book is Ms. Prema Nandakumar who had earlier produced another tome, Ādi Śaṅkara – Finite to Infinite.

Our Svādhyāya and Sāadhanā Camps, are a rich tapestry of teachings on the Śrīmad Bhāgavatam, Bhagavad-gītā, Mukundamālā by a variety of teachers from the Mission and the flow of audiences has been wonderful.

Seekers and their Guides (Ācāryas) from various Centres of Chinmaya Mission made CIF their home for a few days while they reveled in the serenity of Adi Sankara Nilayam, a practice that is gaining every year.



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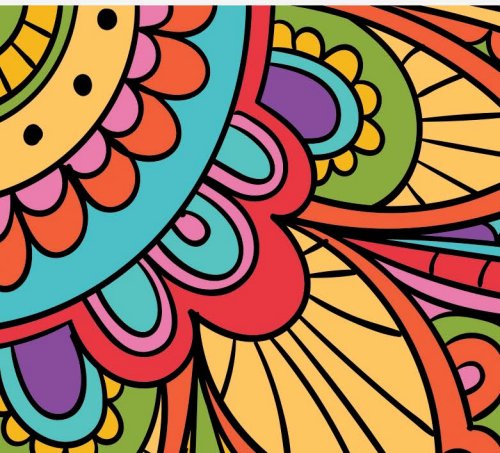
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The divine environment is very enabling of study and concentration and thence the practice of Śravanam, Mananam, Nididhyāsanam. Read about all the events and celebrations at CIF in the section titled 'CM @ CIF'.

The year has been very upbeat for webinars and our ācāryas have been very forthcoming with accepting this mode of teaching. With travel becoming difficult and tedious for many, technology has enabled corroborate Gurudev's vision-pillar: Science meets Spirituality. Or Technology meets Tradition.

We have been greatly enthused by the successful launch of our Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth, founded on the credo – Knowledge protects Culture. The academic courses were launched on Guru Pūrṇimā this year. Year one will offer the following courses: BBA, Bcom, BA and MA in Sanskrit, Integrated Masters Courses at the Chinmaya Eswar Gurukula for Indic Wisdom at Kochi and Integrated Masters in Music and PG Diploma in Bharatanāṭyam at Chinmaya Naada Bindu Gurukula for Performing Arts at Pune. This University is indeed the greatest step in reviving and restoring the Indian Knowledge Traditions where they deserve to be: at the top. The University is already abuzz with interviews, articles, Education Fairs, new event announcement and blogs. We urge you to visit this most robust and active website at <http://chinmayauniversity.ac.in/> and share in our joy.

The Newsletter Team welcomes your views, reviews and suggestions at cifnewsletter@chinfo.org.



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ACADEMIC CAMPS

KALĀYOGA – THE HEART OF INDIAN ART

THE PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE OF INDIAN ART

JULY 2016



Kalāyoga

Academic Director: Śatāvadhānī Dr. R. Ganesh

Programme Director: Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi.

Kalāyoga, a workshop on Indian art and aesthetics was jointly organized by Chinmaya International Foundation, Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth and Karnataka Samskrit University (KSU). Indian Performing Arts is a core subject offered by the Vishwavidyapeeth and this workshop was a precursor offering insight into the richness of Sanskrit that the University promises to unravel to the world, thereby bringing back the hoary knowledge tradition of India that was pervasive once.

Theme

The focus of the workshop was the philosophy of Rasa, aesthetic experience, which is the undercurrent of all classical art-forms. The art-forms ranged from classical versification, dance, music, theatre, sculpture, painting to Indian and Hollywood movies. The transformation of the specific emotional states, i.e., the bhāvas, which are portrayed by the artists into universal aesthetic experience, i.e., the Rasa, which is a manifestation of Bliss – was the underlying theme that was elaborated upon.



‘Vakrokti’, or oblique expression, which an erudite and a talented artist employs, both in structure and substance of the art, make the art more suggestive and subtler in nature. The artist needs to give a detailing of basic human emotions and nature through different art media, for the art to be recognized ‘classical’, thereby making it eternal and universal.

These are perceived by an equally erudite connoisseur (a ‘heartist’), which give him the aesthetic experience. Thus, the artist and the ‘heartist’ are seen as two facets of the same fundamental principle of the sublime experience of Bliss.

Resource Faculty

Smt. Nirupama Rajendra and Shri T. D. Rajendra, the exponents of the Kathak, Bharatanāṭyam and the classical ‘mārga’ tradition of the Nāṭyaśāstra, gave a lecture demonstration on the curvilinear movements of the body for aesthetic communication (Abhinaya). They shared their experience in choreography of solo pieces and group productions and the creative process behind the same.

Dr. T. S. Satyavathi, a Carnatic musician and a musicologist gave a demonstration of the employment of lyrics, the importance of rhythm and melody in music and on elaborating a ‘rāga’ without monotony.

Smt. Ramaa Bharadvaj, an exponent of Bharatanāṭyam, gave an insight into interpretation of lyrics for abhinaya in dance and the creative usage of music for dance.

Dr. R Shankar, a Sanskrit poet and a scholar, demonstrated how the Sanskrit language, in its very form, can bring out beauty through ‘Citrakavitā’ and alliterations. ‘Bhojaprabandha’, a collection of anecdotes and legends related to many poets of the past was also dealt with.

Dr. S. R. Leela delivered talks on Sanskrit theatre, along with the screening of plays performed in the classical theatrical style. The workshop also had presentations on classical Greco-Roman and renaissance sculptures, painting, mosaics and architecture.

Sanskrit Learning Opportunity

The days began with sessions on Yoga-Samskṛtam (Dr. Vinayak Rajat), which covered āsanās & prāṇāyāma and Kāvya-Samskṛtam (Dr. Shivani, Asst Prof, KSU & Shri Arjun Bharadvaj, Independent Scholar), which gave basics of appreciating and speaking the classical Sanskrit language.

Artist Workshops & Performances

Dr. Ganesh's talks on the theory of art creation and art appreciation, was embellished with performances of different Kathak and Bharatanāṭyam pieces by Smt. Nirupama and Sri. Rajendra, a full length 'bānika' on the theme of Sudāma and Kṛṣṇa, called "Mitra" by Smt. Ramaa Bharadvaj, Sanskrit plays like Karpūra-mañjarī by the students of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Sringeri, to name some of the rich events. A documentary by Prof. S R Leela on 'aṣṭāvadhānam', a literary sport involving spontaneous versification performed by Śatāvadhānī Dr. R Ganesh, was also screened. There also followed a demonstration of 'pratimālā' in Sanskrit poetry with some spontaneous compositions by Dr. R. Ganesh and Dr. Shankar Rajaraman.

Visits to Art Villages and Centres of Dance Forms

Participants visited Kalamandalam, to witness the training that students of different art forms such as Mohiniyāṭṭam, Kūḍiyāṭṭam and Kathakalī undergo as well as the traditional manner of teacher-student living in Gurukula conditions that added great value to both the teacher and the taught.

The programme was assisted by a grant from The Indian Council of Philosophical Research and Dr. S. R. Bhatt, the Chairman, was the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Function to give his presidential address. The DVDs of the Lectures and Lecture-demonstrations by the Faculty and the Resource faculty of Artists is available at chinfo.org/publications.



YOGO BHAVATI DUḤKHAHĀ LEVEL II

AUGUST 2016

Host: Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan (CIFSS)

Faculty: Dr. Madhusudan Penna, Dr. Arun Ranjan Mishra

Dignitaries: Swami Advayananda – Ācārya CIF, Dr. G. Gangadharan Nair – Chairman CIFSS, Dr. D. K. Rana – Director CIFSS, Dr. Bholanath Dash – Dy. Director CIFSS

No. of participants: 40

The 12-day residential workshop consisted of both theoretical and practical sessions. Texts taught at this workshop included:

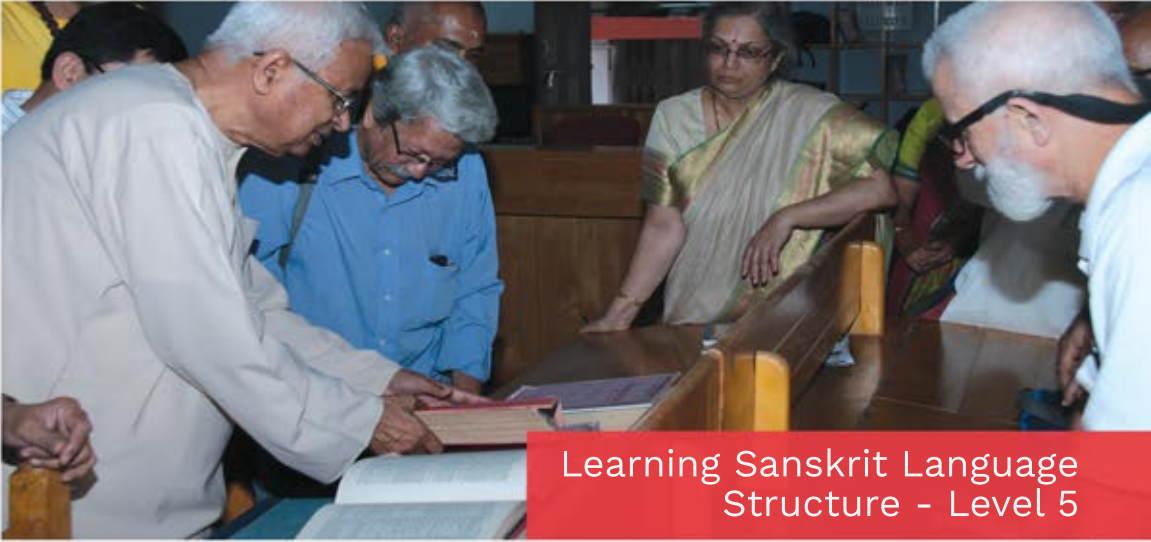
★ Patañjali Yogasūtra Sādhanaṣṭāṅga with Vyāsabhāṣya – Dr. Madhusudan Penna
Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, Nagpur



- ★ Śiva Samhitā – Dr. B. R. Sharma, Principal, Kaivalyadhama Yoga Research Institute, Lonavala, Pune
- ★ Darśanopaniṣad – Dr. Arun Ranjan Mishra, Professor and Head of the Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Visva-Bharati Central University, Shanti Niketan
- ★ Practical sessions of Āsana, Prāṇāyāma and Dhyāna – Anukool Deval, Philosophic Literary Research Department, Kaivalyadhama Yoga Research Institute, Lonavala
- ★ Kīcakavadham, from the Mahābhārata (The killing of Kīcaka) – adopting an eastern Indian dance form by Pandit Gadadhar Dash, (Sanskrit Teacher, Humma Govt. High School, Odisha) and his troop.
- ★ Demonstration of śuddhikriyā and āsanās – by Shri Jayant Bhumkar, of the Ambika Yoga Kutir, Mumbai.



LEVEL 5 OF LEARNING SANSKRIT LANGUAGE STRUCTURE: THEORY AND APPLICATION NOVEMBER 2016



Host: Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan (CIFSS)

Faculty: Prof. V. N. Jha – former Director, Centre for Advance Study in Sanskrit, Pune, Prof. Ujjwala Jha – Director, Centre for Advance Study in Sanskrit, Pune

No. of participants: 25

In continuation of its course on Learning Sanskrit Language Structure: Theory and Application, the fifth and final level was conducted by Professor V. N. Jha, and Prof. Mrs. Ujjwala Jha.

During this workshop, Meghasandēśaḥ of Kālidāsa, with twelve different

commentaries, compiled by Prof. N. P Unni, former Vice-chancellor of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, was released.

Prof. Jha will be introducing another Sanskrit language course, using gnostic and didactic passages, collected from different genre of Sanskrit literature, the commencement of which will be announced in due course. Students and adepts of Sanskrit language should look forward to this.



YUKTIDĪPIKĀ – A 10-DAY RESIDENTIAL COURSE MARCH 2017



Jointly organised by Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan and Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth

Faculty: Dr. Madhusudan Penna, Kavikulaguru Kalidasa Sanskrit University, Head of the Department of Indian Philosophy and Culture, Nagpur; Dr. Ramesh Kumar Sharma retired professor and Head of the Department of Delhi University.

Assisted by: Dr. Gopal Desikan and Dr. Tulasi Kumar Joshi, Assistant professors at Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth

Dignitaries: Swami Advayananda, Ācārya, Chinmaya International Foundation, Prof. B. Mahadevan, Vice-chancellor, Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth, Prof. G. Gangadharan Nair, Chairman CIFSS

No. of participants: 35



Sāṅkhya is a very important limb of Indian philosophy and is known to have influenced Indian thought significantly. Among the surviving works on Sāṅkhya (founded by Kapila), the Sāṅkhyakārikā is one.

The Sāṅkhyakārikā consists of 70 or 72 ślokas and the earliest commentary on it was written by Gauḍapāda. There have been a couple of others too, of which Yuktidīpikā is the only surviving commentary on the Sāṅkhyakārikā authored by Īśvarakṛṣṇa. The date of composition is not established but its completion date was established through its Chinese translation found in 569CE.

The Yuktidīpikā excels over all other commentaries in many respects. It contains all the excellences of a complete philosophical text such as aphorisms, means of knowledge, components, completeness, statement of uncertainty and decisiveness, brief enunciation, detailed statement, succession, naming the objects and advice. It illustrates all these elements of Sāṅkhyakārikā and its approach to the wording of the Kārikās is quite critical and analytical. The author also gives the etymological meaning of the technical terms to justify their use by Īśvarakṛṣṇa. The Yuktidīpikā justifies not only the reading of the Sāṅkhyakārikā but also the contents of the Sāṅkhya System. It is the only text which saves the system of Sāṅkhya from the intellectual onslaught at the hands of other systems.

Dr. Venugopalan Nair, Head of the department of Dance and Music from Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, Kalady, along with his troupe performed a Gaṇapati Vandanam, two plays, Annamācārya Saṅkīrtanam, Bharatanāṭyam, Mohiniāttam, Gajendra-mokṣa. The coming alive of Samskṛtam in its expression of music, art and drama, heralds the shape of the future events from the Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth.



SYMPOSIUM ON MAHĀMAHOPĀDHYĀYA T GANAPATI SASTRI MAY 2017

Host: Sahitya Academy, New Delhi and Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan (CIFSS)

Dignitaries: Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana, Sri K. P. Radhakrishnan, Prof. Prafulla Kumar Misra, Prof. G. Gangadharan Nair and Prof. N. P. Unni

The one day symposium on M. M. T. Ganapati Sastri was organized jointly by the Sahitya Academy, New Delhi and Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan.

The programme which began with Vedic invocation presented a detailed description of the life and academic pursuits of Ganapati Sastri beginning with the historic discovery of the 13 plays of the pre-Kālidāsa dramatist Bhāsa and their publication, under the impressive caption ‘Bhāsanāṭhakacakra’.



Symposium Inauguration

Ganapati Sastri, who was the first Curator in charge of the publication of ancient manuscripts under the Government of Travancore, is also credited with numerous other works that he edited and published. Prof. Gangadharan Nair, Chairman of CIFSS who presided at this function, explained most of the celebrated works of Ganapati Sastri including the Arthaśāstra of Kauṭilya with Sastriji's commentary, his creative writings, ancestry, and association with scholars from world around.

Prof. Prafulla Kumar Misra has dealt with in detail several aspects of the Arthaśāstra of Kauṭilya. Shri Ganapati Sastri's commentary on Misra's work on Arthaśāstra, is now widely considered as authentic. For example, Sastriji in his commentary, has simplified and made accessible in detail, the mining practices prevalent in several parts of the country which could be easily systematised if there is a learned political front that can take re-course to the methods described by Kauṭilya in Arthaśāstra. Prof. P. Visalakshi, Professor Emeritus and former Director of the Oriental Manuscript Library, University of Kerala presented a paper on the contributions of M. M T. Ganapati Sastri to Sanskrit Literature. She listed by category and genre of literature, books that Shri Sastri had written, commented upon, edited and published. Her paper is verily a ready reference on Shri Ganapati Sastri's literary works. On this occasion, a book entitled Śrī Rāmānuja: The Great Integrator written by Dr. Prema Nandakumar was also released. (See special report elsewhere in this newsletter).

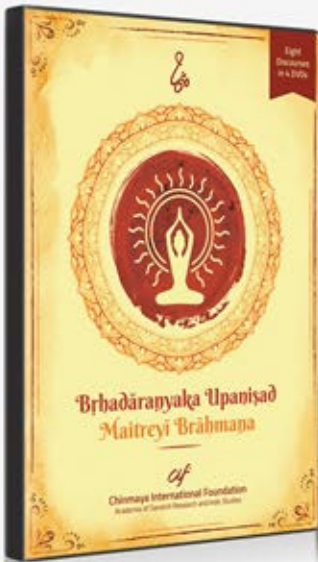


PUBLICATIONS

DVDs

BRHADARANYAKA UPANIṢAD – MAITREYĪ BRĀHMAṆA SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS

TALKS IN ENGLISH BY SWAMI ADVAYANANDA, RECORDED DURING THE 'SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS' CAMP HELD AT CHINMAYA VIBHOOTI IN FEBRUARY 2017.
PRODUCED BY CIF.



The 'Maitreyī Brāhmaṇa' section of the Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad, contains the teachings of the renowned sage Yājñavalkya to his wife Maitreyī. When the great sage decided to hand over his wealth and go away into the forest, his wife Maitreyī asked him if the wealth he was bequeathing her would make her immortal.

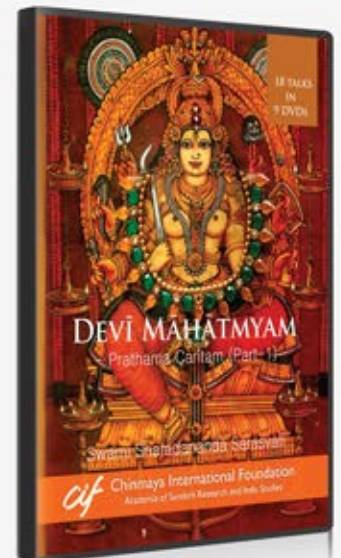
Thence begins an intense dialogue about the mystery beyond the world of phenomenon. This is the very quintessence of the popular Upaniṣad.



DEVĪ MĀHĀTMYAM – PRATHAMA CARITAM (PART-I): GLORY OF THE MOTHER

TALKS IN ENGLISH BY SWAMI SHARADANANDA SARASVATĪ RECORDED DURING THE CAMP 'DEVĪ MĀHĀTMYAM' HELD AT CIF.
PRODUCED BY CIF.

Devī Māhātmyam, a part of Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa, glorifies the feminine aspect of God, venerating both the saṁguṇa and the nirguṇa aspects of God.



The saṁguṇa aspects, represented by Mahāsarasvatī (creator and sattva), Mahālakṣmī (sustainer and rajas) and Mahākālī (destroyer and tamas) endorses the guṇa theory that is core to the Upaniṣads and the Bhagavad-gītā.

The text is found in 13 sequential chapters in the Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa, where Sage Mārkaṇḍeya narrates it to his students in three parts. Each part venerates a different aspect of Devī: part one as Śakti, part two as Durgā and part three as Kālī. These three depictions are verily depictions of man's inner and outer experiences and how the Goddess destroys them through her different aspects.

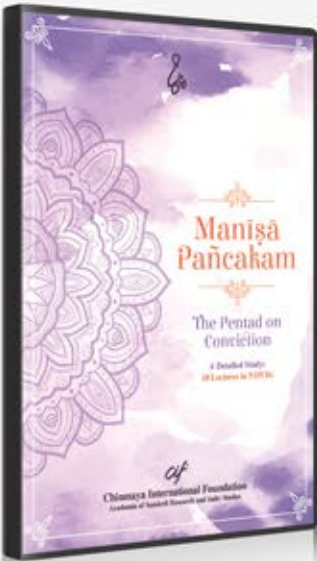
The study of this text leads a seeker to purify himself through an understanding of his experiences and thus understand the Truth (his identity) and firmly get established in it. This text expounds the hitherto hidden aspects of the Ādi Parāśakti. The study of this mystic text helps to embrace all aspects of spiritual life from chanting, to meditation and contemplation of the Supreme Mother. The rich symbolism of Indian tradition is unveiled through these talks. Swami Sharadananda explains Divine Mother's glories and inspires us with his devotional fervour. His deep insight into both Vedic and Tāntrik scriptures is unfolded as we delve into this truly sublime text, Devī Māhātmyam.



MANIṢĀ PAÑCAKAM

PENTAD OF CONVICTION

TALKS IN ENGLISH BY SWAMI ADVAYANANDA RECORDED
DURING THE WEEKLY WEBINAR SATSANGS CONDUCTED BY CIF.
PRODUCED BY CIF.



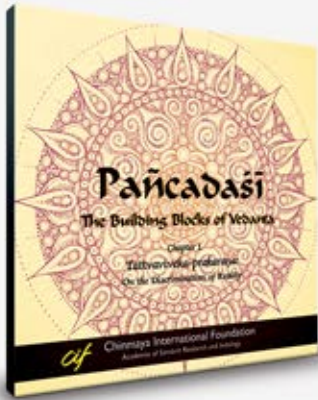
Maniṣā-pañcakam is a fine composition of Śrī Ādi Śaṅkarācārya, prompted by an encounter with an outcaste and his four dogs, on the banks of a river in Varanasi. A spontaneous flow of meter, Śrī Śaṅkara's response in five verses, to a provocative question by the outcaste, is considered an introductory treatise (prakaraṇa-grantha) on Vedānta. Also called the 'Pentad of Conviction', Śrī Śaṅkara elucidates the four Mahāvākyas in most lucid manner, making this text invaluable for any student of Advaita-vedānta.



PAÑCADAŚĪ, THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF VEDĀNTA

CHAPTER I TATTVAVIVEKA-PRAKARAṆA: ON THE DISCRIMINATION OF REALITY

TALKS IN ENGLISH BY SWAMI ADVAYANANDA RECORDED DURING THE WEEKLY WEBINAR SATSANGS CONDUCTED BY CIF. PRODUCED BY CIF.



Pañcadaśī, the famous composition of Śrī Bhārati Tīrtha and Swamī Vidyāraṇya, is a compendium of 15 Foundational Texts or prakaraṇa-granthas. This epic text is a singular treatise on the philosophical teachings of Advaita-vedānta, composed with an intention to dispel the ignorance of seekers by bringing to them an overall and complete grasp of the essentials of Vedānta. Truly any study of Advaita-vedānta is incomplete without a thorough study of Pañcadaśī.

Deriving its name from the number of chapters in it, the Pañcadaśī is classified into three categories:

- (1) The first five chapters termed Viveka-pañcakam, deal with Existence or Sat, the discrimination of the real.
- (2) The second five chapters termed Dīpa-pañcakam, deal with Self as pure Consciousness or Cit.
- (3) The last five chapters termed Ānanda-pañcakam deal with the blissful nature of Brahman.

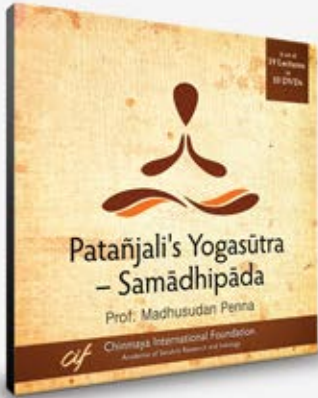
This volume contains the detailed lectures on the first chapter of Pañcadaśī, the Tattvaviveka-prakaraṇa. A sincere study of these lectures will bring to the student immense clarity on the foundational principles of Advaita-vedānta. Vol II and III of the Pañcadaśī will be made available in due course.



PATAÑJALI'S YOGASŪTRA – SAMĀDHIPĀDA

CHAPTER I: ENLIGHTENMENT, THE GOAL

LECTURES IN ENGLISH BY PROF. MADHUSUDHAN PENNA
RECORDED DURING A RESIDENTIAL CAMP YOGO BHAVATI
DUḤKHAHĀ IN JANUARY 2016. PRODUCED BY CIFSS.



In 195 crisp sūtras, Sage Patañjali, in his famous Yogasūtra, lays down the principles of the philosophy of Yoga – the unity of our whole being expressing in thought, word and action. This wonderful text encompasses the principles of yogic science, psychology and spiritualism. The rich tradition of Patañjali's Yoga has been kept alive through millennia by the scholarly commentary of Vyāsa. In the first chapter of his famed Yogasūtra, Sage Patañjali details the art of Concentration. Titled, Samādhi-pāda it consists of 51 sūtras that describe the nature of the

mind and the means to dive deep into samādhi. Hence a concerted study of witnessing thoughts, stages of concentration, effort, obstacles and solutions. In seventeen lectures Prof. Penna provides an elaborate introduction with explanation of every sūtra, through the reading of Vyāsa-bhāṣya.



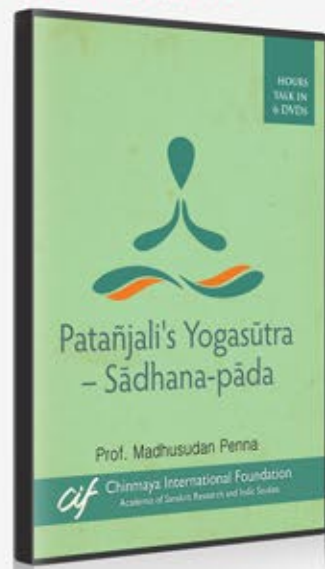
PATAÑJALI'S YOGASŪTRA - SĀDHANA-PĀDA

CHAPTER II

LECTURES IN ENGLISH BY PROF. MADHUSUDHAN PENNA
RECORDED DURING A RESIDENTIAL CAMP YOGO BHAVATI
DUḤKHAHĀ IN AUGUST 2016.
PRODUCED BY CIFSS

In 195 crisp sūtras, the Yogasūtras of Patañjali lay down the principles of yogic science, psychology and spiritualism. The rich tradition of Patañjali's Yoga has been enriched through the millennia by the scholarly commentary of Vyāsa.

The second chapter, Sādhana-pāda consists of 55 sūtras that address "Bahiraṅga" or the five outer limbs of aṣṭāṅga-yoga. In his talks, Prof. Madhusudan Penna speaks of fundamental principles like karma



and saṁskāras, relating them to the root cause of Avidyā. Also, through the Vyāsa-bhāṣya, one finds the thorough exposition of the integrated practice of all the steps that leads to the attainment of the goal of Samādhi.

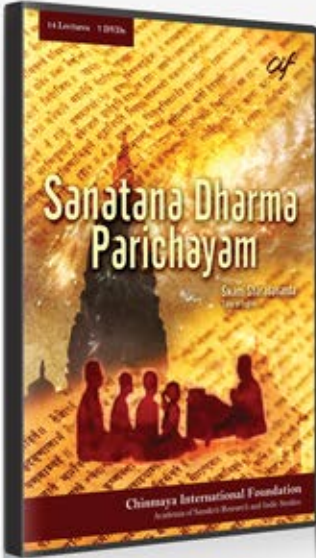


SANĀTANA DHARMA PARICAYAM

UNDERSTANDING SANĀTANA DHARMA FROM CLOSE-UP

LECTURES IN ENGLISH BY SWAMI SHARADANANDA SARASVATI
RECORDED DURING THE SANĀTANA DHARMA PARICAYAM
CAMP.

PRODUCED BY CIF.



Sanātana Dharma is the oldest and original code of conduct and living prescribed for all humans, regardless of any sectarian or ideological social labels. The only code of natural law, this code which presents the laws inherent to the Universe, simultaneously gives the most logical approach to knowing the Reality.

Hinduism as we know it today, is a word used by later day invaders to describe the societies and inhabitants around the river Indus, and does not gather to itself the precise purport of this eternal Sanātana dharma.

In his rich and extensive lectures, Swami Sharadananda gives a deeper understanding of Sanātana Dharma and tradition with historical perspective, and the symbolism, rituals and underlying philosophy as seen in prevailing practices.

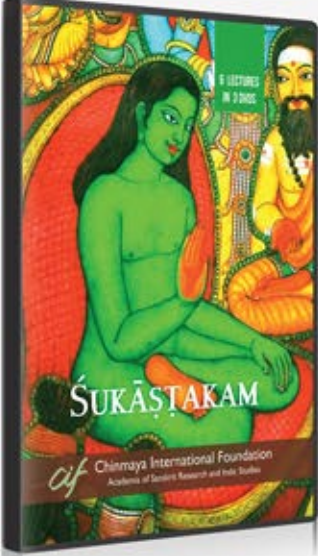
The lectures detail extensively the scriptures and their origin, the Sanskrit language, the concept of God, Avatāras, Ṛṣis, the significance of Guru-paramparā, theories of creation, the five basic duties of man, social setup, Śoḍaśa Saṁskāras (16 Sacraments) and a traditional look at the cycle of birth and death as originally presented by Sanātana Dharma.



ŚUKĀṢṬAKAM

AN ODÉ TO THE ENLIGHTENED ONE

TALKS IN ENGLISH BY SWAMI ADVAYANANDA RECORDED DURING THE WEEKLY WEBINAR SATSANGS CONDUCTED BY CIF. PRODUCED BY CIF.



Śukāṣṭakam is a profound octet composed by the narrator of the Śrīmad Bhāgavatam, Śuka Maharṣi, son of Śrī Veda Vyāsa, verily describing the state of an Enlightened One.

The additional ninth verse gives the promise of Liberation to any seeker who makes a devoted perusal of this octet every day. An insight into this composition will enhance a seeker's spiritual pursuit and one's assimilation of the precepts of Advaita-vedānta.



BOOKS

MEGHASANDEŚAḤ

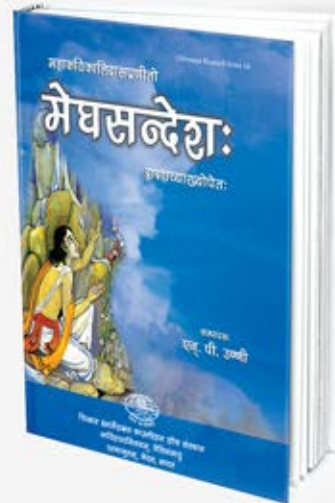
EDITOR: SRI K. P. UNNI

ISBN : 978-93-80864-20-4

PAGES: 807

PRODUCED BY CIFSS

The Meghadūta is a small 120-stanza lyrical piece by Kālidāsa, composed in the Mandākrāntā meter (which is used to compose lyrics on love and separation). The present volume consists of the text, English translation and 12 Sanskrit commentaries on the poem. The book, 'Meghasandeśaḥ' was released during the Level 5 of Prof. V. N. Jha's 5-level course on Learning Sanskrit Language Structure.



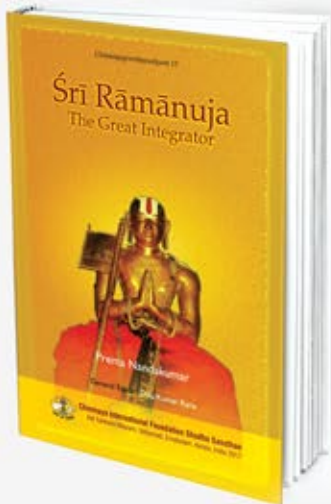
ŚRĪ RĀMĀNUJA: THE GREAT INTEGRATOR

AUTHOR: PREMA NANDAKUMAR

EDITOR: DR. DILIP KUMAR RANA

ISBN: 938086438-48 | PAGES: 289

PRODUCED BY CIFSS



There was no aspect of life that was not touched by Śrī Rāmānuja. Towards achieving his ideals, he embraced sannyāsa, became a legendary teacher, a venerated scholar, an excellent management expert of temple culture and a path-breaking social reformer. Śrī Rāmānuja: The Great Integrator is an attempt to introduce this multi-faceted personality, a tireless traveller of India's vast spaces, a fosterer of bhakti to bring people together, his only armour was surrender to the Divine; his sole weapon -- love for all creation, for, he held the belief that all is the Divine: *Īśāvāsyam idaṁ sarvam*. The book, a 289-page treat on the life of Śrī Rāmānuja is a gift of love and worship by Prema Nandkumar that was released on Śrī Rāmānuja's 1000th birth anniversary.

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to shop for CIF Publications online.

SVĀDHYĀYA AND SĀDHĀNĀ CAMPS

ŚRĪMAD MŪLA BHĀGAVATA SAPTĀHAM IN MALAYALAM

MARCH 2016

Ācārya: Br. Dhruva Chaitanya

Dignitaries: Swami Advayananda, Swamini Niranjanananda, Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati, Br. Dhruva Chaitanya, Brni. Devaki Chaitanya, Br. Kalyan Chaitanya and Swami Shabarishananda (erstwhile Br. Yogesh Chaitanya)

As a part of the Utram Mahotsavam 2017, CIF organized Śrīmad Mūla Bhāgavata Saptāham.

Swami Sharadananda, in his address mentioned that it is a unique opportunity to hear the Mūla Bhāgavata Saptāham in the abode of Bhagavān Śrī Ādi Śaṅkarācārya from a young Ācārya, Br. Dhruva Chaitanya. Dhruvaji began with the Bhāgavata Māhātmyam. Sri Manoj Namboothiri from Kaitapram, Payyanur delivered the pārayāṇa (recitation) of the 'Bhāgavata Māhātmyam'. Around 100 devotees attended the sessions.



VEDĀNTA UNVEILED WITH PUJYA GURUJI

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2016



Ācārya: Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda and Swami Advayananda, Ācārya CIF
No. of participants: 200

Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda's Vedānta Unveiled Camp at Adi Sankara Nilayam was a beautiful opportunity for a well-grounded induction to Vedāntic wisdom. Pujya Guruji unfolded the wisdom as revealed in the Dakṣiṇāmūrti Stotram, a sublime Vedāntic composition of Śrī Ādi Śaṅkarācārya, which is rich in philosophical depth and brims with poetic charm. Swami Advayananda expounded on the insights from Śukāṣṭakam -- an illuminating composition by Sage Śuka, the 'born wise' son of Śrī Veda Vyāsa -- on the Blissful State of the Self-Realised. There were also daily sessions on guided meditation by Swamini Amitananda.

Like every year, Guruji's CIF camp coincided with Dīvālī, on which occasion Swami Sharadananda performed the traditional Lakṣmī pūjā.



On this very auspicious occasion, Pujya Guruji granted sannnyāsa dikṣā to four Brahmacharis and one Brahmacharini.

Another key event for this occasion was the presentation of Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth, University for Sanskrit and Indic Traditions. Swami Advayananda along with Prof. B. Mahadevan, Vice Chancellor of Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth, and Shri Suresh Subramanian, Registrar, presented the vision of Chinmaya University. Pujya Guruji also performed the Bhūmi Pūjā of an Academic Block of Chinmaya University in Adi Sankara Nilayam.



WINTER CAMP – SĀDHANĀ IN GĪTĀ

DECEMBER 2016



Sāadhanā in Gītā

Camp Ācāryas: Ācārya Priya Arunachalam (Ācārya, Chinmaya Mission Tamaraipakkam) and Brni. Vedavati Chaitanya (Ācārya, Chinmaya Mission Sivakasi)

Graced by: Sri N. M. Sundar, Trustee, CIF; Swami Advayananda, Dr P. Geervani and Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana

No. of participants: 16

CIF Home Study Courses conducted a Winter camp - Sāadhanā in Gītā. A fitting theme since Ācārya Priya, guided by Swami Sharadananda, wanted to show how the Gītā can be made into a sāadhanā! Consequently, Priyaji focussed on the Sāadhanā ślokas from Bhagavad-gītā. The evening sessions were taken by Brni.

Vedavati Chaitanya who taught Mukunda-mālā, a poem in Sanskrit written by Kulashekhara Alvar. In addition to the texts, select episodes (9, 10, 11, and 12) of Upaniṣad Gaṅgā were screened and explained by Priyaji. Swami Advayananda delivered the benedictory address as well as released the DVD of the talks on Śukāṣṭakam.

GĪTĀ FOR YUVA

DECEMBER 2016



Ācārya: Br. Sudheer Chaitanya & Resident Yuvaveers

Number of Participants: 41

The All Kerala CHYK Camp 'Gītā for Yuva' organized by Chinmaya Yuva Kendra, Kerala, was an interactive session which made the experience and the learning valuable for the participants. The Yuvaveers conducted an interactive session on Chinmaya Mission Pledge, an unusual but much needed session.

The introduction to the Mahābhārata was provided by Camp Ācārya Br Sudheer Chaitanya. He also spoke about how Gītā can be relevant in the life of a young adult and how he may practice or apply the tenets of the Gītā in his everyday living. A movie workshop was conducted by Yuvaveers which presented the Varṇa System (present day Caste system) as explained in the Gītā and clarified the misconceptions which were built through the ages. Ācārya Priya from the US took them on another interactive dialogue on the joy of selfless work and team building through activities.



DEVĪ MĀHĀTMYAM

APRIL 2017



Ācārya: Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati, Ācārya CIF

No. of participants: 35

A 6-day camp on Devī Māhātmyam was held starting on the Caitra Navarātri Aṣṭamī. Swami Sharadananda's deep knowledge of the scriptures and eloquent speech kept campers mesmerized in Devī-tattva.



The camp started with understanding different aspects of Devī or the Divine Mother from religious, philosophical and spiritual perspectives. Navākṣarī Mantra was given to all the participants at the start of the course by Swamiji. Different aspects of all the nine akṣaras was beautifully covered. Division of the Devī Māhātmyam into different Caritam was explained. Participants were also explained how Devī Māhātmyam should be read with proper pūjā. Swamiji's talks covered Devī's spiritual, religious and philosophical aspects.

The six days were intensive with morning meditation session followed by 3-4 discourses during the day on Devī Māhātmyam that ended late evening. The campers celebrated Vasanta Navarātri, Rāma Navamī, Utram Mahotsavam and Lord Ayyappa's festival.

WEBINARS

BHAGAVAD GĪTĀ CHANTING WEBINAR FEBRUARY 2017



Bhagavad Gītā Chanting Webinar

Ācārya: Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati, Ācārya CIF

Learn... Chant... Teach... An exclusive Webinar series on chanting of Bhagavad-gītā Chapter 17 was conducted by Swami Sharadananda. This initiative was taken to equip the participants of this year's Chinmaya Gītā Chanting Competition. Interactive sessions with focus on correct method of break-up of words was given importance, as also the pronunciation, intonation and diction of words in each verse.



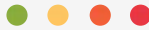
M-POWER VEDIC MATHS WEBINAR

MARCH 2017

Faculty: Shri Vinay Nair

Chinmaya International Foundation and School of Vedic Maths conducted the first webinar Vedic Mathematics – 'M Power'. The participants ranged from school students to working professionals. The faculty, Vinay Nair, took the participants through various techniques in Multiplication and Squaring. But the sessions were not restricted to faster calculation techniques that Vedic Mathematics offers. The participants were introduced to combinatorial puzzles using Vedic Mathematics and there were lot of engagement on proofs and reasoning.

The webinar was a great success in taking knowledge of Vedic Mathematics to participants from different parts of the world who could learn from their home. For those who could not attend the live sessions, the recordings were relayed to them. More such 'M Power' webinars will be coming up on various topics from ancient Indian Mathematics to empower more people across the world, in the art of mathematical problem solving.



CELEBRATIONS

(TEMPLE REPORTS)

THE FOLLOWING ARE A LIST OF CELEBRATIONS HELD AT CIF:

★ Guru Pūrṇimā with Gaṇapati homam and Gurupādukapūjā, followed by Sampūrṇa Gītāpārāyaṇam

★ Sanskrit Sevā Śibiram by Ācārya Dr. Varun Khanna
★ Gaṇeśa Caturthī
★ Rāma Navamī Celebrations April, 2017



- ★ Visit by the Śaṅkarācārya, Swami Jayendra Saraswati
April, 2017

His Holiness, the Śaṅkarācārya Jayendra Saraswati of Kanchi visited Adi Sankara Nilayam in April. While at CIF, His Holiness spent most of his time in the birth room of Bhagavān Ādi Śaṅkarācārya. Campers present at the premises then and CIF staff, Ācāryas and Yuvaveers were filled with deep reverence to have been in the presence of the Seer. Jayendra Saraswati Śaṅkarācārya is the 69th Śaṅkarācārya Guru and head (Pīṭhādhipati) of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham.

- ★ Gurudev Jayanti Celebrations 2017
May 2017

Graced by: Swami Advayananda, Ācārya CIF; Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati, Ācārya CIF; Swami Advaitananda, Ācārya Chinmaya Vibhooti.

Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda's 101st birthday was celebrated with reverence and gratitude at Adi Sankara Nilayam. The day began with chanting of Gurudev's Aṣṭottara (108 names) followed by meditation. In the noon, Swami Advayananda addressed the gathering on the importance of Guru in one's life. A Pādukapūjā was led by Swami Sharadananda. Ācārya Vibhuti Shah from Chinmaya Mission Trichy shared some of her experiences with Gurudev. In the evening, Swami Advaitananda sang His glory along with some narrations.



HOME STUDY COURSE

6TH CONVOCATION OF HSC
DECEMBER 2016



6th Convocation of HSC

Dignitaries: Dr. Lakshmi Kumari of Vivekananda Kendra, Br. Sudheer Chaitanya, Ācārya, Chinmaya Mission Kottayam, Sri N M Sundar, Resident Trustee CIF.

No. of participants: 28

The sixth convocation for the students of CIF's Home Study Courses was held on the auspicious occasion of Guruvayur Ekādaśī – Gītā Jayanti and also Swami Tapovan Maharaj's Jayanti. The ceremony was presided by Dr. Lakshmi Kumari of Vivekananda Kendra, KanyaKumari. 28 Students from different parts of the country, and also from Malaysia, Sri Lanka and US participated. These students had completed CIF's Foundation Vedānta, Advanced Vedānta, Bhagavad Gītā and the Easy Sanskrit Courses.

The traditional convocation oath in the form of Śiṣya-anuśāsanam was led by Ācārya Girija and all students joined in the chanting.



7TH CONVOCATION OF HSC

APRIL 2017



7th Convocation of HSC

Dignitaries : Swamini Niranjanananda, Swami Advayananda, Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati Ācāryas of CIF and Chief Guest Prof. B. Mahadevan Vice Chancellor, Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth

The 7th convocation of Home Study Course students was held at CIF on Ādi Śaṅkara Jayanti.

Swami Sharadananda set the tone for the occasion with a pūjā he conducted in the presence of students, visitors, well-wishers and campers.



Ācārya Shanthi Rammohan, Administrator HSC, highlighted the wider subscription in webinar based courses being offered by CIF and how, at any time, globally about 4700 active students are being guided by 15 tutors from various parts of the world. Swami Advayananda, in his presidential address, brought home how Bhagavān Ādi Śaṅkarācārya, in a short lifespan, mastered and excelled the scriptures and left behind teachings which would integrate and uplift the sādhakās of various levels, towards global unity across the diversity in religion, caste and creed.

In her Anugraha Bhāṣaṇam, Swamini Niranjanananda emphasized the need to follow the path that the scriptural knowledge reveals. She explained how Ādi Śaṅkarācārya's teachings on Advaita Vedānta have become the backbone of the course content of every course that CIF offers. In his Ādi Śaṅkara Memorial Speech, Prof Mahadevan touched on various compositions of Ādi Śaṅkarācārya spanning Bhakti, Prakaraṇa and Vedānta texts, to bring out the depth, irrefutable logic and sheer simplicity adopted in presenting concepts using common place examples.

During the feedback session representative students outlined how HSC courses were transforming them, helping them understand concepts and how they enjoyed the learning paradigm. Special mention was made of how the Webinar Mode of teaching and study is proving to be really helpful in enriching their lives through Vedāntic knowledge. The Śiṣya-anuśāsanam – Students' Oath was guided by Swami Sharadananda and the 31 students participated.

The highlight this year was the participation of 20 teachers from Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Thrissur who completed the Bhagavad Gita Course as a part of the CIF-Chinmaya Vidyalaya Initiative.

VEDIC MATHS WORKSHOPS

Date & Venue	Participants	Topics	Special Topics
May 2016 SimpliS – Chinmaya Vibhooti	67	Magic Squares - Number theory (with special focus on Prime numbers) Cryptography	
July 2016 Vedic Maths Workshop at Pushpalata school, Tirunalveli	800	Vedic Mathematics Techniques - for faster calculation, Geometry & Progressions	Number Theory
January 2017 Harihara Vidyalaya, Tamarapakkam	80	Faster and non-routine computation techniques discussed. Students' understanding and lateral thinking were tested through puzzles.	Combinatorics (which is a branch of mathematics concerning the study of finite or countable discrete structures)

Date & Venue	Participants	Topics	Special Topics
April 2017 Vedic Mathrix 2017 @ CIF	34	Cyclic Quadrilaterals Kuttaka process for solving linear indeterminate equations	History of Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya – II problems from Lilavati
April 2017 Vedic Mathematics, Chinmaya Maauli, Pune	30	Subtraction, Multiplication, Digital Root patterns in Squaring	



CM@CIF

ALL KERALA CHINMAYA YUVA KENDRA SEVAK TRAINING PROGRAMME

A training programme conducted under the guidance of Swami Vivikatananda, Regional Head, Chinmaya Mission, Kerala for developing strategies to start CHYK classes in all Chinmaya Vidyalayas and Chinmaya Mission centres in Kerala and to train potential Sevaks for CHYK Classes to be held in all Chinmaya Vidyalayas and all Chinmaya Mission centres in Kerala.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (YEP) KERALA (MALAYALAM)

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2016

Faculty: Br. Dhruva Chaitanya, Ācārya Chinmaya Mission Alappuzha, Br. Mukunda Chaitanya, Ācārya Chinmaya Mission, Kozhikode and a member of All India Chinmaya Yuva Kendra (AICHYK), Br. Sudheer Chaitanya, Ācārya of Chinmaya Mission Kottayam and the State co-ordinator, CHYK



YEP KERALA



Dignitaries: Swami Viviktananda , Regional Head Chinmaya Mission, Kerala; Swami Advayananda; Sri M Mukundan, Chief Sevak, Chinmaya Seva Trust Kerala (CSTK)

No. of participants: 10

The course aim was to train the youth to face their life with the right understanding, imbibing the values of our culture. The course includes 75 days of intensive training followed by 10 months on-the-field service at various mission centres. Adi Sankara Nilayam is truly an inspiring venue for such courses that need great inspiration.



RETREAT CAMP FOR CHIMAYA SEVAKS FROM DUBAI

MARCH 2017

Ācārya: Swami Mitrananda, Resident Ācārya, Chennai & National Director, AICHYK

Dignitaries: Swami Advayananda

No. of participants: 30



BHARATA GAURAV CAMP

APRIL 2017

Faculty: CIF Yuvaveers and CHYKS

Dignitaries: Swami Advayananda, Resident Ācārya, CIF

No. of participants: 118

‘Bharata Gaurav - be a Proud Indian’, a 4 day Children’s Residential Camp was organized by CIF Yuvaveers and CHYKS.



Bharata Gaurav Camp

The event was a collection of creativity and challenge, thinking and expression. A Gaṇapati-making competition brought out the best in the young participants; there was next a movie workshop on 'Secrets of Furious Five' that made the young students understand the importance of converting their weaknesses into strengths. Dr. Varun Khanna taught the little Indians a patriotic song in Sanskrit.

On Hanumān Jayanti, Br Sudheer Chaitanya narrated Rāmāyaṇa in a nutshell and also showed them a movie on 'Rāmāyaṇa'. The children also voted for the most valuable values -- Discipline, Respect and Cheerfulness and they were asked to campaign for the values they stood for. It was thrilling to see their excitement when they got inked. The CIF staff and Chinmaya University staff supported this and came forward for voting too.



SADDARŚANAM CAMP

MAY 2017

Ācārya: Swami Advaitananda, Resident Ācārya Chinmaya Vibhooti and Director (West Zone), AICHYK

No. of campers: 32 Campers

Text covered: Saddarśanam of Śrī Ramaṇa Maharṣi



SPIRITUAL CAMP IN TAMIL

MAY 2017

Ācārya: Vibhuti Shah, Ācārya, Chinmaya Mission Trichy and Swami Shashvatananda, Ācārya, CIF.

Dignitaries: Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati, Ācārya CIF

No. of campers: 40

Texts covered: Sādhana Pañcakam, Amṛta Bindu Upaniṣad.



Spiritual Camp in Tamil

SPIRITUAL CAMP IN TAMIL

MAY 2017



Spiritual Camp in Tamil

Camp Ācārya: Swami Ramakrishnananda

No.of campers: 59

Text studied: Īśāvāsyopaniṣad and Navayogi Prasaṅgam



YEP-10 SEMESTER ONE EVALUATIONS

MARCH- APRIL 2017

Ācārya: Swami Swatmananda

Texts studied: Adhyātma Lakṣaṇa with Swami Advayananda, 4 Māhāvākyas through Manīśā Pañcakam, Pūjā vidhis taught: Gāyatrī Homam



CIF HOSTS

YOGA CAMP BY SRI GEORGE VAZ

NOVEMBER 2016

Ācārya: Sri George Vaz

No. of participants: 26



UPCOMING EVENTS AT CIF

**Vedānta Unveiled with Pūjya Guruji Swami
Tejomayananda**
OCT 12 – 21, 2017

**Sidhhāntaleśasangraha of Appayya Diksita
(in two parts)**
DEC 1 – 14, 2017 & JAN 20, 2018 – FEB 04, 2018

**Advaita Vedānta Immersive 2017 with Swami
Advayananda and Ācārya Rahul Maini**
DEC 25 – 31, 2017

**Path to Fulfilment – Gītā Jayanti Camp with Swami
Sharadananda Sarasvati, Acharya CIF**
NOV 30 – DEC 5, 2017

Grateful to our Sponsor

पत्रं पुष्पं फलं तोयं यो मे भक्त्या प्रयच्छति।
तदहं भक्त्युपहृतमश्नामि प्रयतात्मनः॥१९.२६॥

Whoever offers Me with devotion a leaf, a flower, a fruit or a little
water that, so offered devotedly by the pure-minded, I accept. (9.26)
Dedicated unto Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda by

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