

NEWSLETTER

Adi Sankara Nilayam, Adi Sankara Marg, Veliyanad, Ernakulam District - 682313, Kerala, India.



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

— Pūjya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda

editorial

As the years roll on, the academic workshops and seminars grow in numbers, in demand, in attendance and in fact, in their robust appeal to students and seekers of Indian philosophy.

2013-14 has been rich with academic work. Rich academic work. CIF's Shodha Sansthan (CIFSS), has unleashed seminar after workshop after camp after publication this year. What is heartening is that at each of these, the message that goes out either during invocation or during the valedictory speech, is an urgent one to the young and parents of the young to 'preserve this invaluable language and its treasure trove of perennial wisdom'. (Prof. V. N. Jha)

It is indeed a great blessing for today's young that the voice of wisdom continues to speak to them through these events and its scholastic skills and expertise continues to fill the reservoirs of Sanskrit literature.

For CIF, the pot of culture and knowledge brimmeth over exactly as Pūjya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda had visualised and wanted it to! So while its Ācāryas – both resident and visiting – deliver Vedānta in textual camps and retreats, just a wall away is Shodha Sansthan and its intense scholars researching topics like '*Śaṅkara's Ethics in Upaniṣads*' (Dr. L. Sudharminy) and '*Glimpses of Philosophy and Ethics in Vivekacūḍāmaṇi*' (Sudha E. K.), topics that challenge the mind to raise itself to the heights of reason and logic. Therefore consider the esoteric paper by Dr. V. Sheeba our deputy director, '*Contribution of an Advaita Family of Kerala to Dvaita Philosophy*' or Tarique Hussain's '*Environmentalism in Advaita: Thinking with Śaṅkara*'.

The heart lurches wondering how delighted Gurudev would be! His joy, as they say, would know no bounds!

There was occasion for pain and disappointment this year. CIF lost one of its most stellar scholars of Advaita-vedānta and Nyāya Philosophy, Dr. S. Revathy, Professor of Sanskrit with the University of Madras (Marina Campus), in February this year. Not only CIF,

In This Issue

Academic Camps	03
Publications	09
Textual Camps	12
Tamaso Mā Jyotirgamaya	16
Home Study Courses	18
CIF Celebrates	23
CM Events @ CIF	25
CIF Hosts	26
Eulogy – A Remarkable Teacher	27
CIF Welcomes	28

India too has lost a splendid resource in her, for her passion, commitment, dedication and agility with Indian philosophy is rare to come by. CIF deeply regrets the loss for she was a teacher who loved her students as much as she loved her subject. This very young and passionate teacher leaves behind a student community most saddened and the world of scholars, very shocked.

But for this one very sad event, it has been an indeed most fascinating time for CIF. Even visiting groups who choose Adi Sankara Nilayam for its 'sylvan surroundings', a much used phrase when describing the place, have increased in number. And this includes exclusive workshops by advocates for children of advocates, a retreat for the body of Company Secretaries and so on.

The texts being researched or taught are also extremely enriching. *Līlāvati*, a most celebrated text of Bhāskarācārya II, written in 1150 CE, was the subject of a 7-day residential workshop held by CIFSS, where 18 participants from ages 16 to 83 engaged in most thrilling debate and discussion! Add to this Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda, deciding to teach the *Brahma-sūtras* at Adi Sankara Nilayam, a text that many teachers hesitate to teach and most students struggle to understand. But amazingly, it was a cakewalk for both teacher and the class of 300 students! While the teacher had no doubt he would teach, the students would not believe that they had so simply grasped the subject. There is clearly a terrific critical mass of enabling energy building at Adi Sankara Nilayam!

Swami Ramakrishnananda, who had in his youth read Sanskrit śloka in Tamil and was suitably shocked when his teacher chided him for that and told him that the Devanāgarī version which he bypassed, was not Hindi but in fact Sanskrit, was fuelled by this very moment of embarrassment so that he determined he would master the language. But he overshot, for his Sanskrit

Home Study Course is today the anchor for innumerable new students, and his Sanskrit language camps are growing in frequency and numbers. Swamiji did his Guru Swami Tejomayananda proud, when he took CIF's Easy Sanskrit across the oceans to the USA. In a six-month long whirlwind tour, he set up camp in 17 centres bringing the glory of Sanskrit to 850 participants, 5000 Balvihar children and 6000 parents. Swamiji was also the Sanskrit Ācārya for two months, for America's first Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP) batch. He taught these 31 Yuvaveers (who had never set sight on Devanāgarī), to read and write Sanskrit as well as Vedic chanting. Much more in the detailed report elsewhere here.

Vedic Maths, launched a couple of years back under the leadership of the dynamic Vinay Nair, is on a roll. Almost every month it has been commissioned by schools and professional institutions to hold workshops and study courses. And away from home too, far away in Mumbai, CIF's home study Foundation Vedanta Course has donned a new avatar in the form of classroom study, under the tutelage of Brni. Nidhi Chaitanya.

All this and more in this issue. Come, let's feast...

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Workshop on 'Navya-nyāya Language and Methodology: Level-III'

5-11 August, 2013



Dignitaries in attendance: Prof. P. S. Radhakrishnan, Prof. V. N. Jha, Prof. Ujjwala Jha

The level-III workshop on 'Navya-nyāya – Language and Methodology' was held in August 2013. In the inaugural address, Prof. P. S. Radhakrishnan spoke about the history of Prācīna-nyāya from Gautama till Udayana. Invoking India's past glories, Prof. V. N. Jha put forth the need to understand the language of academic discourse and develop a proper methodology for meaningful dialogue. Envisaged by the Navya-naiyāyikas long ago, this had resulted in the Navya-nyāya language and methodology. Prof. Ujjwala Jha presented the genesis and historical journey of this course since 2000 at Śaṅkarācārya Sanskrit University, Kerala. Blessing the gathering on this occasion, Swamini Niranjanananda, Ācārya, CIF, quoted Ramakrishna Paramahansa, 'Blessing is all around, you only got to be ready to receive it.'

The course had two parts. The first part, spread over three days, comprised reading Raghunātha Śiromaṇi's text *Nānāvāda* which was discussed then explained by Prof. Ujjwala Jha. Thereafter, Prof. Jha took the participants through the process of translating ordinary language sentences into Navya-nyāya language. Prof. V. N. Jha then discussed a few passages from 'Abhāvavāda'

of *Tattvacintāmaṇi* by Gaṅgeśa Upādhyāya.

The second part of the workshop, conducted by Prof. V. N. Jha, dealt with basic concepts and metaphysical underpinnings of Navya-Nyāya, with some references to Advaita, Bauddha, Vaiyākaraṇa and Mīmāṃsā schools of philosophy.

Nyāya firmly believes that all verbal usages, spoken or written, are preceded by knowledge. The problem is, therefore, how to encode the elements of knowledge into morphemes, express them through meaningful sentences and later decode them to reach the encapsulated knowledge. In this regard Prof. V. N. Jha touched upon Bhartṛhari's rectangular model of phonetics, in contrast to Nyāya's linear model. Navya-nyāya champions the process of encoding and decoding in the context of verbal communication, thus rendering it widely usable in different systems of Indian philosophy. The series of lectures delivered by Prof. Jha incorporated aspects of Nyāya epistemology, metaphysics, and language.

Highly content intensive, the workshop culminated with a certificate examination for all participants.

SEMINAR: Contribution of Kerala to Indian Philosophy

23-24 August, 2013



Dignitaries in attendance: Dr. D. K. Rana, Director, CIFSS; Dr. N. P. Unni, Chairman, CIFSS; Dr. P. C. Muraleemadhavan, former Chairman, CIFSS; and Dr. C. M. Neelakanthan, Dr. P. V. Ramankutty, Dr. T. P. Sankarankutty Nair and Dr. C. P. Ambika

As part of the Sanskrit Day Celebrations, Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan (CIFSS) conducted a two-day national seminar on 'Contribution of Kerala to Indian Philosophy'.

There were four academic sessions each day, devoted to Nyāya, Vaiśeṣika, Sāṅkhya, Yoga, Bauddha, Modern Philosophy and Mīmāṃsā chaired by a few of the aforementioned dignitaries as well as by Prof. K. G. Paulose and Dr. Vasantakumari.

For a detailed list of papers presented, kindly see CIF website at: www.chinfo.org

Participants ranged from veteran philosophers, professors and students from different universities and colleges. Open discussions were held at the end of all sessions and the consensus was: except for Nyāya philosophy, which somehow was confined more to teaching than textual expositions, all other philosophies were well patronized in Kerala. Among all, Advaita was put on the pinnacle. The philosophies were the tools and weapon for social reformers, thinkers, educationists and philanthropists. Contributions of Sree Narayanaguru and Chattampi Swamikal, which were discussed at length, gained popularity not only among the class they fought for but also among the people at large. The association of Swami

Vivekananda and other prominent monks of Ramakrishana order and national poets were also discussed in detail.

Easy Sanskrit – From CIF to USA with Swami Ramakrishnananda

August – December 2013

When Gurudev established CIF in 1989, he envisioned it to be a bridge between past and present, East and West, science and spirituality and pundit and public. He visited 18 universities in the US to speak on and create awareness about CIF. Swami Siddhananda, former Ācārya of CIF and presently Ācārya at Philadelphia often quoted Gurudev saying, "Ādi Śaṅkara should look West". In 2013, with the grace and blessings of the Lord and the Guru, CIF took its first fledgling steps in that direction with Swami Ramakrishnananda visiting USA to teach Easy Sanskrit. Under the guidance of Swami Shantananda, and co-ordinated by Manisha Makhecha, Project Coordinator, CIF and Shankar Edamadakka, CIF Sevak of New Jersey, Swamiji visited the US for a 6-month tour beginning June 2013.

Swami Ramakrishnananda is the author of CIF's Easy Sanskrit Home Study Course and is synonymous with fun-learning. While on his trip to promote Easy Sanskrit, Swamiji visited 17 Chinmaya Mission centres (Boston, Piercy, Portland, San Jose, Austin, Dallas, LA, Chicago, Ann Arbor, Buffalo, New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Miami, and Trinidad) across the length and breadth of America. Each centre received Swamiji with great respect, love and enthusiasm and as Swamiji departed from each centre, he left behind people eagerly awaiting his next visit. Apart from Sanskrit, Swamiji also conducted lectures on *Bhaja-govindam*, *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Rāma – An Ideal Man*. He reached out to more than 850 participants with Easy Sanskrit, 5000 Balvihar children and 6000 parents during the trip.



Swamiji was the Sanskrit Ācārya at the 1st ever Youth Empowerment Programme in America, initiated by the Chinmaya Mission West and headed by Swami Sarveshananda, held in Piercy, California. During his 2-month long stint with the students of Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP), Swamiji taught them Sanskrit in a youth-friendly manner. The 31 Yuvaveers, without any prior background of the Devanāgarī script, learnt how to read and write Sanskrit and enjoyed it thoroughly. Swamiji also introduced them to Vedic Chanting.

To add to it, the 16 Brahmacharis at Sandeepany Trinidad also got the opportunity to learn how to teach Sanskrit the easy way. Swamiji addressed 150 students in the only Chinmaya Vidyalaya outside India, at Trinidad. He spent an interactive and fun evening entitled 'World Perfection: 10 Life Skills' with 25 Chinmaya Yuva Kendra members.

In their feedback, one of the students said, "The Sanskrit course was very well received by everyone. Swamiji has a great teaching style. I was very much impressed

by Swamiji's teaching style and ability to inspire people to continue to study Sanskrit. He was artistic in linking everyone's cooking experiences with the study materials and subtly blending in Vedāntic philosophy. Everyone was happy and thankful that they took the course. This was one of the best events we have had in many years. Thanks to CIF for bringing this opportunity to our door." Another parent wrote, "The Sanskrit classes the past couple of days has been awesome. I am learning so much without realizing or trying".

Gurudev chooses his instruments to spread his vision far-and-wide. CIF is grateful to all the Centres in the USA for their warm welcome to Swami Ramakrishnananda. Our heartfelt gratitude to all the members who made the Easy Sanskrit camps a huge success. The success lies not only in the numbers of attendees, but also in the exchange of knowledge that takes place.

At the time of going to press, Swamiji is already on this 2nd tour in the USA with his workshops at various centres.

Education in All Inclusive Universal Spirituality

14-19 November, 2013



The dignitaries: Dr. D. K. Rana, Director CIFSS; Dr. Binod Kr Singh, Prof. N. P. Unni, Prof. V. N. Jha, Dr. Shiv Talwar and Swami Advayananda, Ācārya, CIF.

A six-day International Seminar on 'Education in All Inclusive Universal Spirituality' in collaboration with Spiritual Heritage Education Network, Canada was held in CIF in November. The sessions began with prayers by representatives from all major religions. In the backdrop of fading values, decreasing standards of higher education, ever-increasing violence and immoral conduct that hurt the conscience of the society, this seminar proposed to examine the responsibilities and role of institutions of higher education and research.

Around hundred papers were presented at this 6-day seminar conducted at two venues simultaneously, on the following broad areas:

- Spiritual humanism as the basis of education, discipline and attainment of the truth
- Rethinking on the role of spirituality in the present situation
- Heightening the personality through spirituality
- Universal spirituality and the world society
- Nurturing India's greatest contribution to human thought
- Belief in the supreme space beyond mind – the final clue to universal spirituality
- The principle of inseparability
- Theorizing ethics of care: prospects and challenges
- Dharmaśāstra vis-a-vis universal human values
- Education as the eternal process of developing man's innate powers
- Logic and spirituality through education
- A new paradigm of holistic education
- Exploring the role of rituals in spiritual education
- Women and spiritual education
- Righteous education taught in the Upaniṣads and its influence on society

There were several papers on philosophy based on Vedic lore with emphasis on education or spirituality. Besides papers on comparative philosophies, there were specific topics on Christianity, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism and Islam. Some of the papers concentrated on various literary masterpieces, and some on, seers and social reformers. The presentation given

by Swami Anukoolananda, Ācārya at Chinmaya International Residential School (CIRS) on the Chinmaya Vision Programme (CVP) – the philosophy of education in the Chinmaya Vidyalayas was well-appreciated by the august audience.

The seminar engaged educationists, philanthropists, exponents of different religions and philosophies from around the world. The objective was to enquire into possible addition of value-oriented content from different religions and philosophies in the curricula. The seminar engaged educationists, philanthropists and scholars from different backgrounds, to discuss the adding to the curriculum, value-oriented content from other religions and philosophies. A resolution to this effect, was tabled.

The seminar received overwhelming response from various strata of the academia.

National Conference on the Spiritual Heritage of India

20-22 February, 2014

The three-day 49th annual conference of the Institute of Historical Studies (IHS) on the Spiritual Heritage of India was inaugurated by Dr. M. M. Jacob, former Governor of Meghalaya who pointed out the peculiar

social situation where indecisiveness over, virtues and vices had permeated every aspect of human life and lauded the bold attempts of CIF in facilitating scientific academic study like these conferences. Based on 'Ādi Śaṅkara: His period and his impact and the Spiritual Heritage of India', the conference had about 25 delegates from all over India.

Dr. Sankarankutty Nair, the General President of this 49th session, Former Professor and Head of the Department of History, University College delivered the Presidential Address on the 'Spiritual Heritage of India'. It is was an attempt to assess the spiritual heritage of India, beginning with the Mohenjodaro-Harappa culture and the Vedic tradition, to the spiritual legacy to the days of Shirdi Sai Baba, Satya Sai Baba, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Swami Vivekananda, Swami Chinmayananda and Amritanandamayi Devi.

The conference felicitated four Indologists – Dr. M. M. Jacob, Padmabhushan, Dr. M. V. Pylee, Ex. Vice Chancellor Cochin University of Science and Technology, Dr. M. G. S. Narayanan, Director General, Heritage Studies Centre, Tripunithura and Dr. N. P. Unni, Ex. Vice-Chancellor, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady – with the honour of 'Bharat Sri'. The



Inauguration of National Conference on the Spiritual Heritage of India

‘Bharat Sri’ is a title awarded by Institute of Kerala Studies every year for excellence in Indological studies and contributions to Indian knowledge culture in the last 50 years, based on the recommendations of a joint committee constituted by the Institute of HSK and CIFSS.

Historian Dr. M. G. S. Narayanan pointed out the need to teach the present generation, facts based on scientific investigation, rather than relying merely on mythical expression which were figurative in certain aspects. He exemplified several such myths and superstitious beliefs in matters of spirituality, religion and even geographic aspects, the demolition of which was essential for a healthy society.

Dr. Ashok Chakraborty, Registrar of the IHS submitted the annual report and expressed concern over the then Central Government’s delays and certain policies regarding the issuing of grants due to which the institute was facing difficulties.

Swami Advayananda, President, CIF blessed the conference and shed light on the factual background of CIF, the association of Adi Sankara Nilayam with Ādi Saṅkarācārya as being the ancestral maternal birth home of Ādi Saṅkarācārya, its acquisition by the Chinmaya Mission and the goals of CIF as envisaged by the Founder Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda.

Bhāskarācārya’s ‘Līlāvati’

16-22 April, 2014

CIFSS organized a 7-day residential workshop on Bhāskarācārya II’s most celebrated text *Līlāvati*, written in 1150 CE and widely used in courses where Sanskrit is the medium of instruction. The session was inaugurated by Swami Sharadananda, Ācārya, CIF with the presidential address by the Director, Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana. The sessions were mainly conducted by Er. Venugopal Heroor, a great scholar and author of more than 15 multi-lingual books in the field of ancient mathematics. He was assisted by Vinay Nair, who explained the concepts of *Līlāvati* in comparison with the modern ways of computation in mathematics. The diverse mix of 18 participants ranging from 16 to 83 years, ensconced richness in discussions and abundant opportunities for peer learning.

Apart from sharing modern day applications of ancient math concepts in science and engineering, Shri Venugopal also explained these concepts through a comparative study done by different mathematicians in different times. He emphasized how Indian mathematicians had discovered many of these theories centuries before their European counterparts. He elucidated each of the 270 verses of the text through examples and references.

Campers of the Lilavati Camp



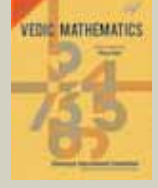
Publications – New Releases

Vedic Mathematics – DVD

Lecture Lessons - Vinay Nair | Language - English

Released by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda during the Brahmasutra Camp in Nov 2013

Vedic Mathematics DVD set is a lecture series by Vinay Nair, author of CIF's Vedic Mathematics Home Study Course, recorded during 'Vedic Mathrix' – a residential camp held at CIF in 2011.

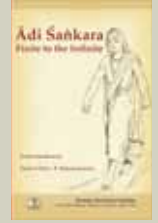


Ādi Śaṅkara - Finite to the Infinite

Author – Prema Nandakumar | Language - English

Released by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda during the Brahmasutra Camp in Nov 2013

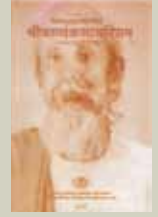
This book deals, in a coherent and cogent manner, with the life and achievements of Ādi Śaṅkara, the great Advaita philosopher, saint, constructive religious reformer. The presentation is lucid, very often poetical and gives us a vivid picture of the young sannyāsin moving from place to place, teaching the goodness of Advaita. Swami Tejomayananda, Head of the Chinmaya Mission recommends it with the words, "This is truly a splendid book for every Vedānta Student, seeker and scholar to treasure".



Śrī Kāvyaṇṭhacaritam

Author – Dr. Penna Madhusudan | Language – Sanskrit

Sri Kavyakantha Ganapatimuni was born in Andhra Pradesh in 1878, endowed with a rare poetic talent. He composed many poems and won the most coveted title Kavyakantha and came to be known as 'Kāvyaṇṭha Gaṇapatimuni'. Apart from sūtras and bhāṣyas, he composed about a hundred books in metric style. Kāvyaṇṭhacaritam is an epic poem complete in 21 cantos in about 1000 verses. The description begins with a eulogy on the state of Andhra, its culture and people and goes on to narrate Sri Ganapatimuni's early life, his marriage, his intense patriotism and his spiritual journey with Sri Ramana Maharshi, whose grace he had sought to know the nature of tapas.



Vedic Etymology and Semantics – A Linguistic Approach

Author – Dr. Parvathy K. P. | Language – English

Language instills the power of creativity in human beings. Now-a-days, linguistic studies are carried out with an interdisciplinary approach comprising sociological, anthropological and historical features. The Nirukta of Yāska, a unique treatise in etymological study is rich in the analytical observation of Vedic words. The study based on the Nirukta, more or less reveals the divergent areas of ancient Indian linguistic thoughts. This work is laid out across six chapters, discussing etymologies and the ancient linguistic attempts of Indian scholars.



Satakoṭiḥ

Author – Mamahopadhyaya Killimangalam Narayanan Namputiripadu

Editor – O. Vatsala | Language – Sanskrit

This work is a vādagrantha explaining the Pāṇini-sūtra and "Arthavadadhāturapratyayaḥprātipādikam" from about hundred different angles. All the four constituent words of the sūtra are taken for detailed study. While



this book contains the essential discussions on this sūtra as discussed in Mahābhāṣya, Śabdenduśekhara, Prauḍamanora and other classical texts of grammar, the book also contains many views and thoughts that are not found in these texts and are original to it.

Cinmayānandacaritam

Author – K. Ramakishna Warriar | *Language* – Sanskrit

This complete portrayal of the life of Pūjya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda, the Founder of the Chinmaya Mission, who has rendered yeomen service in the spiritual, educational, cultural and social fields, has been presented here in a unique poetic format. It begins with Pūjya Gurudev's birth and ends with his Mahāsamādhi. The poem is an original rendition of the whole life of Swami Chinmayananda in eighteen chapters in simple and lucid Sanskrit verses.



Vedāntasaṅgraha

Editor – Prof. R. Balasubramanian and the late Dr. S. Revathi

Series – Chinmaya Rāmarāyakavi Series – 1 | *Language* – Sanskrit and English

Rāmarāya Kavi's Vedāntasaṅgraha is one of the fundamental and important texts on Advaita Philosophy, describing the basic theories and concepts of Vedānta. It is also significant to note that while establishing his own doctrines, Rāmarāya Kavi has explained in detail the different technical terminologies of Vedānta used by the philosophers of that period. The text is set in fifteen chapters and deals with different topics starting from avidyā to advaita-siddhi. The commentaries on different aspects of Vedānta closely follow Śrī Śaṅkara, and are helpful for beginners and scholars alike.



Kṛīḍanīyakam

Author – Dr. N. K. Geetha | *Language* – English

On finding celestial beings deviating from righteousness in the Tretāyuga, Lord Brahmā, the creator, tried to bring them back to moral life but in vain. As a last resort, the Lord took four different elements from the four Vedas and created Kṛīḍanīyakam, a toy, which can be seen and heard, named Nāṭyaveda. This story is detailed in sage Bharata's Nāṭyaśāstra, the ancient Indian dramaturgy. Nāṭya which reflects the light and darkness of life has the prowess to guide the human society from vices to virtues. In the traditional Sanskrit theatre, Bhagavadjjukam and Maṭṭavilāsam are farces impregnated with philosophical anguish. This book is an analysis of these two plays culminating into the terrain of Kṛīḍanīyakam,.



Vyākaraṇamahābhāṣyam

Author – Prof. O. Vatsala | *Language* – Sanskrit and Malayalam

This work is the only available commentary on Patañjali's Vyākaraṇamahābhāṣyam in Malayalam. The present edition consists of the first five ahnikas of Vyākaraṇamahābhāṣyam. The commentary, aptly titled 'Punarṇava' by the author, bears a freshness as opposed to the terseness experienced in earlier works on the topic, owing to the utter complexity of ideas conveyed. The Malayalam commentary is a guide to students who follow Malayalam language for not only studying grammar but also for students of different branches of Sanskrit learning.



Tattvopaplavasimha

Author – Jayarāśi Bhaṭṭa | *Translator* – Prof. V. N. Jha

Gen. Editor – Dr. D. K. Rana | *Language* – Sanskrit and English

The Tattvopaplavasimha, is a work on the Cārvāka philosophy of Indian Materialism.

The author with the aid of epistemology – perception, inference and testimony – proves that none of them are sufficient for establishing knowledge. He challenges the āstika establishment's belief in supernatural beings by attacking their epistemology with different arguments in Vaitanḍikā style. The present book consists of an introduction, detailed analysis, edition and English translation with extensive notes of the complete text and index of all technical words used, all of which are sure to be very useful to readers.



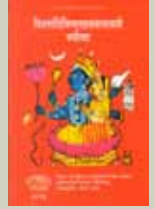
Vivarnādivishnusahasranama of Ramarayakavindra

Author – Rāmarāya Kavi | *Editor* – Dr. D. K. Rana

Series – Chinmaya Rāmarāyakavi Series - 2 | *Language* – Sanskrit and English

Released by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda during the Brahmasutra Camp in Nov 2013

‘Vivarnādivishnusahasranamavali’ means ‘a garland of 1000 names on Lord Viṣṇu beginning with the letter ‘vi’. Authored by Rāmarāya Kavi, this text is also a beautiful garland of the thoughts of Vedānta, Sāhitya, Vyākaraṇa, Mīmāṃsā, Nyāya and many other knowledge fields. This work is also embellished with a commentary by the author on each of the names.



Knowledge Representation: Navya-nyāya and Conceptual Graphs

Author – Prof. Srinivasa Varakhedi and Dr. Sheeba

Series – Chinmaya Research Series – 8 | *Language* – Sanskrit

Released by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda during the Brahmasutra Camp in Nov 2013

This path-breaking book uniquely serves as a bridge between Knowledge Representation Methodologies of the Indian Navya-nyāya and the Western Symbolic and Mathematical language. First of its kind, this book is sure to serve as a window for all Sanskrit lovers to get acquainted with Western Logic. A special feature of the book is the ‘concept graphs’ to clarify difficult concepts. This book is an outcome of the Workshop on Knowledge Representation held at CIFSS.



Daily Inspiration – Words of Wisdom Heard From the Master

Released by Swami Sharadananda at CIF on Gurudev Jayanti Day.

31 pearls of wisdom culled from the teachings of Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda, head of Chinmaya Mission worldwide for daily inspiration. With the Guru by our side every day of every month – Remain inspired, Remain anchored.



Easy Sanskrit – Mastering the Devanāgarī Script

Author – Swami Ramakrishnananda | *Language* – English/Devanagari

Released by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda at Sidhbari on Gurudev Jayanti Day.

A series of four workbooks devoted to Devanāgarī, the script in which Sanskrit is usually written. Mastery of the alphabet is a very important aspect in the learning of any language. These books are sure to be of immense help to all beginners, regardless of their age. Part I deals with Vowels; Part II with Consonants, Part III is on Consonants with Vowels and Part IV with Conjunct Consonants.



Kaivalya Navanītam Camp

5-11 May, 2013

A camp on *Kaivalya Navanītam*, a Tamil Vedāntic text was conducted by Swami Ramakrishnananda, Ācārya, Chinmaya Mission, Nagapattinam. Seventy five people from different parts of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Karnataka participated in the camp.



Written by Sri Thāndavarāyaswāmigal, *Kaivalya Navanītam* contains two parts, Tattva Vilakkam Padalam (The Exposition of the Truth) and Sandeham Telithal Padalam (Doubts Cleared). The focus of this camp was on the first part, which contains 101 verses on Sādhana-catuṣṭhaya, Srṣṭi-krama, Mahāvākya-vicāra, Pañcikaraṇa, to name some. Swamiji expounded each word of the text, citing various examples and references from the Upaniṣads.

Coinciding with the camp, Gurudev's Jayanti was celebrated on May 8 with a Pāduka Pūjā.

Brahmasūtra Camp with Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda

1-7 November, 2013

The week-long 'Brahmasūtra Camp' by Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda was inaugurated with a providential shower of heavy rains. Thereafter Guruji and Swamini Vimalananda, the Upācārya of the Camp were received with pūrṇakumbha. Some highlights of the camp are presented below, while the camp itself is presented in the centre spread of this newsletter.



During the inaugural session, Pūjya Guruji released the book *Ādi Sankara – Finite to the Infinite* authored by Dr. Prema Nandakumar.

In her speech, Dr. Prema Nandakumar spoke about her longstanding connection with Chinmaya Mission, while also showering her praises and adoration upon the multifaceted Bhagawān Śrī Ādi Śaṅkara who she portrayed and described as "intrepid scholar, an illustrious teacher, a visionary administrator and a superb poet".

The six days saw the launch or release of a variety of books and DVDs by Pūjya Guruji, Swami Tejomayananda. Here is a chronological list:

November 1: CIF Home Study Course students awarded their course completion certificates by Pūjya Guruji.

November 2: Pūjya Guruji unveiled the foundation stone of CIF's Convention Centre, seeking the blessing of Pūjya Gurudev release of the 6th edition (2012-2013) of CIF's annual newsletter.





November 3: Pūjya Guruji released the “Living In Meditation” DVD containing his lectures at a camp held at CIF in November 2012.

November 4: Official release of two of CIFSS’ Sanskrit publications at the hands of Pūjya Guruji.

(1) *Vivarnādi Viṣṇusahasranāma*, a garland of names of Lord Viṣṇu. This compilation and its commentary is authored by Sri Ramaraya Kavi, edited by Dr. D. K. Rana, and is the second release in the Chinmaya Ramaraya Kavi series.

(2) *Knowledge Representation: Navya-nyāya and Conceptual Graphs*, authored by Prof. Srinivasa Varakhedi, Acting Vice Chancellor, Karnataka Sanskrit University and Dr. V. Sheeba, Deputy Director of CIFSS. This book, deals with the contrast and synergy between Navya-nyāya and knowledge representation methodologies of Indian Traditional Systems and the mathematical language of western philosophy with an added emphasis on graphical representation.

November 5: Pūjya Swami Tejomayananda released the DVDs of the Vedic Mathematics camp held at CIF in April 2011, by Vinay Nair, Founder, School of Vedic Maths.

Daily Pāduka Pūjā were led by Br. Samvid Chaitanya (now Swami Sharadananda) with an elaborate Pūjā on the Deepawali day. On the last day of the camp Guruji Swami Tejomayananda handed the first set of lessons to the campers who registered for the various home study courses offered by CIF. Various delegates then shared their experiences and take-aways from the camp.



Since the camp had concluded well, having achieved all that it set out to do, camp Pūjya Swami Tejomayananda said that, by fulfilling the purpose of a project one undertakes, one is also fulfilled. Grace of Guru and the Lord is that extra factor that makes any endeavour a success.

Swami Advayananda while acknowledging that “all noble endeavours are fraught with obstacles”, added that with the blessings of the Lord and Śrī Ādi Śaṅkara, this camp fulfilled Pūjya Gurudev’s vision of CIF as the bridge between ‘pundit and public’. That ‘bridge’, he said, was Pūjya Guruji, who uniquely unfolded this most complex text of *Brahmasūtras* in a very accessible and clear language.

Commenting further, he said that the delegates moved from the ‘pinnacles of Advaita Vedānta to the acme of Bhakti’ through Swamini Vimalananda’s talks on *Bhaktisudhā*, all made possible by the spirit of yajña in which everyone worked to make it a success.

Pūjya Swami Tejomayananda’s Brahmasūtra Camp came with the added gift of *Bhaktisudhā*, a composition by Pūjya Swami Tejomayananda, upon which Swamini Vimalananda delivered



lectures in the morning session of the camp. A natural choice, when you consider bhakti as the complement of Knowledge, the realms of *Brahmasūtra*.

Bhaktisudhā extols 'Bhakti' as being superior to the four human pursuits (puruṣārtha) - Dharma, Artha, Kāma and Mokṣa. Swamini Vimalananda, in describing it as unique did not accord it the position of a 5th Purushartha, but instead referred to it as that which pervades and encompasses all pursuits, hence all puruṣārthas.

Bhakti is a most exalted form of love which demands no pre-qualifications. Swaminiji said, "The Bhakti tradition allows the devotee to connect with the Lord through any relationship and emotions he chooses and Bhagawān reciprocates". Swaminiji also inspired everyone to be a giver of love and goodness throughout life. In the last session on *Bhaktisudhā*, she discussed the nine means of devotion as enumerated by Prahlāda in the *Bhāgavatam*. Satsanga, association with the noble, is seen as an easier means of devotion; and the singing and repetition of the name of the Lord is even easiest and equally effective. The Lord responds to the genuine devotee, and the culmination of devotion is in loving and serving all as the expression of the Divine.

International Malayalam Camp

18-24 December, 2013

As a part of the Chinmaya Birth Centenary Celebrations, Chinmaya Yuva Kendra, Kerala organized an International Malayalam Camp, for the first time, at CIF in December, 2013. Nine different Ācāryas from all over Kerala participated. Texts like *Harinama Kīrtanam*, *Jñānappāna*, *Gītāsāram* and *Daivasatakam* were addressed by Swamini Samhitānanda, Swami Viswananda, Swami Jitatmananda and Swami Tattvananda, respectively. Daily bhajan sessions by Swami Siddhananda, Ācārya, USA, left the audience enchanted with his melodious voice. He also shared many anecdotes of his memorable experiences with Pūjya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda.

The Guru Pāduka Pūjā was conducted by Br. Yogesh Chaitanya and Br. Mukund Chaitanya.

Tat Tvam Asi Camp

5-10 February, 2014

Swami Advaitananda, Ācārya, Chinmaya Vibhooti conducted a 6-day residential camp where 120 delegates studied the Rāmāyaṇa and chapter six of the Chāndogya Upaniṣad, where the famous mahāvākya Tat Tvam Asi is found.

Swamiji expounded many Vedāntic terminologies from *Tattvabodha*, *Ātmabodha*, *Vivekacūḍāmaṇi* and *Bhagavad-gītā*. This was followed by bhajans, sessions on ‘Śrī Rāma’s Abode’ based on the Rāmacaritamānasa. During the evening Satsang, after the Āratī in the Ayyappa temple, Swamiji dwelled upon the purpose and significance of human birth.

Śrī Ādi Śaṅkara Jayantī Shibiram

2-6 May, 2014

‘Ādi Sankara Jayanti Shibiram’ – a 5-day camp to expound on the famous texts of Śrī Ādi Śaṅkara was held to celebrate Ādi Śaṅkara Jayanti.

The camp was blessed with the presence and participations of Swamini Niranjanananda, Swamini Apoorvananda and Swami Sharadananda. The Ācāryas were received at the entrance of Satsang Hall with the traditional Pūrṇakumbha and the chanting of the Veda Mantras before the inauguration function.

The Ācāryas spoke on the following texts

Swamini Niranjanananda – *Maniṣāpañcakam*

Swami Sharadananda – *Dakṣināmūrtistotram*

Swami Vivktananda – *Nirvāṇaṣaṭakam*

Swamini Apoorvananda – *Yatipañcakam*

Swamini Samahitananda – *Dhyānaṣaṭakam*

Brni.. Devaki Chaitanya – chanting sessions

Campers also celebrated Pūjya Gurudev’s ‘Nakṣatra Jayanti’ on May 6, with a Kalaśapūjā at CIF’s Swayambhu Ayyappa Temple. Swami Sharadananda guided the campers in performing the Devīmānasahavana.

Aitreya Upaniṣad Camp

6-11 May, 2014

A spiritual camp on *Aitreya-upaniṣad* was held at Adi Sankara Nilayam by Ācārya Vibhuti Shah. The Upācārya Br. Kutastha Chaitanya expounded on the 13th chapter of the Bhagavad-gītā.

Swamini Niranjanananda, Ācārya, CIF inaugurated the camp and addressed the gathering. The Aarti and Pāduka Pūjā was performed by Swami Sharadananda, Ācārya, CIF. Pūjya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda’s Nakṣatra Jayantī was also celebrated on the same day.



Swami Sharadananda addressing the campers of the Aitreya Upaniṣad Camp during the pādukā-pujā on Gurudev Jayanti Day.

Tamaso Mā Jyotirgamaya



In 2013, Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda announced a weeklong camp at Adi Sankara Nilayam on the *Brahmasūtras*. Uniquely, it was a celebration of Deepavali, for, he lit the lamp of that knowledge which dispels darkness and ignorance.

Brahmasūtra is a text that reveals the nature of Brahman and all aspects related to the study of that knowledge. And only Guruji could have taken such an exalted knowledge to a heterogeneous audience with the simplicity of a primary school teacher.

In a most startling style, Guruji began by telling the campers the story of an old lady who was searching for her lost needle in a place that was not where she lost it, but a place which had some light. This lady represented all of mankind that sought happiness in life but looked for it where it was not: among objects and people. Driving this point deeper, Guruji said, “what you want is happiness, but what you work for is objects and relationships! There is darkness in your heart, but because your senses are illumining objects, you see only that”. And thus life after life after life, we mindlessly chase the ephemeral, whereas if we look to the Upaniṣads, they tell us clearly that what you are seeking is yourself...

Stated thus, it should have been very difficult for the audience to think about anything else.... even as Guruji hammers home one point: You are that happiness! Thereby making it clear that happiness is not even IN us. Happiness IS us. If this does not make grammatical sense, that is because grammarians and founders of the English language too had not realised this.

Therefore, since this happiness is myself, it is the subject itself; it cannot be objectified and known through any kind of perception. And to know myself, I need to use the means offered by the Upaniṣads. And reading even one of the innumerable Upaniṣads is enough to know oneself, just as man needs just one mirror to see himself, not many. But even if these Upaniṣads are in understandable language, they must be studied under a teacher. Why so?

Guruji answered his own question with great clarity. While the Upaniṣads are a means to knowing ourselves, we need to understand what they say, because the Upaniṣads use a variety of statements to define, explain and point out the Truth of ourself to us. How will we gather all these into a unified understanding of what we are seeking, and know with certainty that what they point to, is verily our own self? How may we sure?

Then again, since we *think* we know ourselves, will we recognise ourselves when the true Self is shown to us? Won't we likely doubt it or think it to be a falsity?

Next, the Upaniṣads use a variety of sentences and metaphors and if we are not clear about the standpoint from which they are being said, they can actually end up contradicting each other and in the process we will be worse off than we were.

Hence, they have to be studied under a teacher, for only a teacher can tell if we have assimilated, and only a teacher can stop the mind from drifting.

This is what the *Brahmasūtra* does, says Guruji. Explaining their role, Guruji showed how the ancients, having recognised the seeker's likelihood of getting confused, structured all the Vedānta thoughts emerging from the Upaniṣads into a system that would ensure better understanding. Hence one of the roles of the *Brahmasūtra* is to clarify the standpoint from which the seemingly contradictory statements of the Upaniṣads are made so that there is no contradiction after all.

Thus the Upaniṣads are the means for the knowledge of the Absolute Truth.

Plotting the coordinates of the great *Brahmasūtra*, Guruji said it is a text that investigates into the later part of the Vedas, the Vedānta. Thus it is called an *Uttara-mīmāṃsā-grantha* ('mīmāṃsā' means sacred deliberations or investigations). But the earlier part of the Vedas is the 'Karmakāṇḍa' whose essential theme is Dharma. Veda Vyāsa's own disciple Jaimini, did the reflection or critical investigation of this portion. This came to be called Pūrva-mīmāṃsā. Bhagawān Veda Vyāsa did the mīmāṃsa or the analysis of the Upaniṣads – and this came to be called *Brahmasūtras*. So completing this chain, Guruji says, "in the *Gītā*, Lord Kṛṣṇa guides us shows us how to live Vedānta, the tenets of the Upaniṣads, in daily life".

So when we see this whole clarity laid before us, we understand that the root is the Upaniṣads, *Brahmasūtra* is the analysis of that, and the essence of the Upaniṣads is given in the *Gītā*, and these three books together are what we have heard being referred to as Prasthānatraya, or the set of three books that tell us how to exit the state of deep ignorance, and enter the state of 'Light of Knowledge'. Hence *Tamaso ma jyotirgamaya!*





Chinmaya Mission Mumbai

welcomes you to

1-Year Certificate Course in Advanced Vedanta through Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF), Kerala

Facilitated by **Brni.Nidhi Chaitanya**

Concepts Covered will Include:

- qualifications for a student of Vedanta
- meaning and need of a Guru
- what exactly is Atman & what is Brahman
- what is Bondage & what is liberation
- how to make the mind pure
- what is the meaning of Tat Tvam Asi
- what is Meditation & what is Samadhi
- how a Liberated person lives
- how a Sadhak should live in the world
- various types and methods of Sadhana



From the Postbox to the Classroom

Foundation Vedānta Course in a new format – In conversation with Brni.. Nidhi Chaitanya

In the late 50s when Pūjya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda began travelling to other countries, spreading the wisdom of his teacher Swami Tapovanam and the śāstras, new students sprouted in every place. They sat around him and made notes, jotted questions and waited for the next time Gurudev would visit to ask him for the clarifications to those queries.

Some wrote to Gurudev and the CCMT archives have many such letters. Soon, some suggested that Gurudev start some form of postal study, as the gaps between his visits were too long and answers were needed faster. That was when Gurudev started a postal study plan. The Vedānta home study courses we have today are a lot like what they used to be, but those days, Gurudev himself answered the queries of the students

pertaining to their spiritual practices which he then sent back to them. These, if compiled, would form a terrific Upaniṣad of a different kind, but they also revealed that Gurudev wanted more and more students, more and more people taking to the study of Vedānta.

In 2003, the Home Study Courses were handed over to CIF to be managed as a worldwide study programme. CIF revised the course to improve their user friendliness, added more questions and references to the texts. But simultaneously, various ways were tried to make the home study courses enter homes. Some of these included having different centres make the structured lessons a part of their weekly activity.

Gurudev wanted Vedānta to enter homes in as many ways as he could imagine and creatively at that. From time to time, different Ācāryas serving different Mission centres have silently devised new ways to enhance the application of the Home Study Courses.

In this issue we present to you the efforts of Brni. Nidhi Chaitanya, Ācārya, Chinmaya Mission, Andheri Centre, Mumbai, with the Foundation Vedānta Course (FVC).

Brni. Nidhi Chaitanya began to conduct study classes for ladies using CIF's Foundation Vedānta Course as the text. But how did all this begin? The genesis was derived by her from another need that was fast growing in Mission circles. In her words, "We used to have lots of meetings and discussions where the need for more volunteers and committed members was felt again and again. We also realised that the only way to get sevaks was through Study Groups. Only when people are inspired by Vedānta and their life transforms, they feel the gratitude to serve the Mission.

"Therefore, we needed to start more Study Classes. We realised that we did not have many competent sevaks to start new classes. Now the issue was how to generate inspired sevaks –quickly. It struck me that we could do classroom courses based on the syllabus of the CIF Vedanta Course."

Both Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda and Swami Swatmananda gave her the go-ahead and Brn. Nidhi started 2 parallel batches, one in Chinmaya Sagar, Churchgate, Mumbai under Swami Swatmananda and second in Chinmaya Prakash, Andheri, Mumbai, where Brni. Nidhi is Ācārya. For both batches they received about 40 registrations and that was very inspiring.

The mix of students who enrolled when this teaching model began in 2011, were mainly in the age groups of 30 to 50 and a good number of them were in their 20s too.

What makes these classes more meaningful? The fact that there are 60 students to a class and the classes are held for an hour and a half every week, gives the students an anchoring point and continuity, not to mention the

group energy. Brni. Nidhi enhances the experience with group discussions, video screenings, 'just-a-minute' sessions, Q & A, and regular written evaluations which are greatly valued by students. No wonder then that her waitlist is a growing one!

Since she first began in 2010, Brni. Nidhi Chaitanya's classes have come a long way. With four completed batches to her credit (a batch is one year long) today, she has two in progress, and enrolments are on in full swing for the next 3 batches. The course is gaining in popularity but uniquely, the profile of her waitlist is nearly similar!

Nidhi's strategy paid off exactly as she planned. People who studied in these courses have become volunteers, committee members, study group sevaks and also CIF Vedānta Course Facilitators! This is the shortage she was facing, and her efforts bridged precisely that gap.

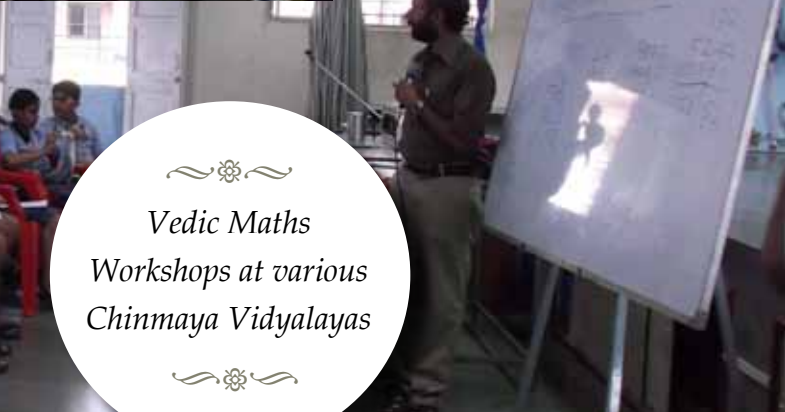
Brni. Nidhi is very delighted that her effort has borne fruit. But she places the credits elsewhere. She says, "Most who joined the (classroom) study course are people without any prior background of Vedānta or spirituality and hence it has been a very heartwarming and overwhelming experience. I especially want to thank Pūjya Guruji and Swami Swatmanandji for their encouragement without which I would have never gone ahead with the idea."

It is indeed a tribute to the foresight and vision of Pūjya Gurudev how he initiated the idea of a postal Vedanta course way back in the 60s and how almost 50 years later, Pūjya Guruji has provided the right impetus for the FVC to find success in the classroom format.

And the idea of developing a solid workforce at Chinmaya Mission, via Vedānta study is appropriate since the entire Chinmaya Mission is about sharing Vedānta in thought, word and deed.

Vedic Mathematics Workshops 2013-14

17 th Aug'13	Awareness Programme on Vedic Mathematics	The Sanskrit Department of University of Mumbai	80 students and teachers across departments	History of Vedic Mathematics Techniques of faster multiplication, squaring and subtraction The logic/ science behind the Sūtras in Vedic Mathematics QandA
16 th -23 rd July'13	Vedic Mathematics – Module I and II	Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Kalladathur	Students from grades VI to XII along with their teachers	Mod I – Faster Subtraction, many techniques in multiplication and squaring two -digit numbers Mod II – Squaring 3 and greater than 3-digit numbers, square root, more techniques in multiplication and using algebraic identities for numerical calculation
2 nd -5 th July'13	Vedic Maths – Module I	Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tarapur	160 students from grades VI to VIII along with their teachers	Mod I as above
Aug'13	Vedic Maths – Module II		174 students of grades VI to VIII	Mod II as above
14 th -15 th Dec'13	Awareness Program on Vedic Mathematics	Chinmaya Institute of Management, Chennai	30 participants from diverse backgrounds	Different techniques in multiplication, subtraction, squaring Use in percentages Multiplication involving base -12 and base-3 systems *Applications in varied areas like corporate finance, day -to-day calculations and academics
5 th -21 st Nov'13	Both the modules of Vedic Math	Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Nagapattinam	Mod I – Grade VI Mod II – 440 students from grades VII – X	Different techniques for finding square roots, multiple ways of squaring and multiplication, subtraction, etc.
13 th Sep'13	Law and Mathematics – Logic and Reasoning	Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai	100 first year LLB students	*Logical reasoning behind the techniques in Vedic Mathematics, Different proofing methods like induction, deduction, indirect proof, etc. *Significance of inference *Solving puzzles logically without using conventional methods
7 th -11 th Oct'13	Vedic Mathematics Module -1	Pushpalata Matriculation School and Pushpalata Vidyamandir, Tirunelveli	450 students from grades VI to IX along with their teachers	Mod I as above
27 th -29 th Dec'13	Vedic Maths	Chinmaya Mission, Kollam	97 high school and senior secondary school students	*Techniques of faster multiplication, squaring and subtraction *Orientation for parents



❧❧❧
Vedic Maths
Workshops at various
Chinmaya Vidyalyas
❧❧❧





Students of CIF's Home Study Courses with their Certificate of Completion during the Convocation.

Convocation

May 4, 2014.

The first-ever convocation of CIF's Home Study Courses was held on Śaṅkara Jayantī day.

Twenty students along with their family members and 7 teachers from Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Kottayam participated in the function and received their certificates from Swamini Niranjanananda, Ācārya, CIF.

Prof. Indu K. S., Syndicate Member, Mahatma Gandhi University gave the convocation address. Swamini Niranjanananda and Swami Sharadananda (Ācāryas, CIF) blessed the students with their benedictory addresses. Swamini Niranjanananda advised them to become seekers of Truth, and not remain mere scholars, by transforming their knowledge to wisdom.

Swami Sharadananda quoted a verse from Ādi Śaṅkara's *Sādhana Pañcakam*, saying that study of scriptures must be taken up every day and has been prescribed as one of the key duties of mankind.

The Ācāryas then chanted the 'śiśya anuśāsanam'. The whole atmosphere reverberated with the sacred vibrations of the chants.

The next convocation is scheduled to be held on Gītā Jayantī day in December 2014.

Ārāḍhanā Day

August 3, 2014

August 3 is revered in the Chinmaya Mission as Gurudev's Ārāḍhanā Day, the day Gurudev attained mahāsamādhi.

This day was spent at CIF in individual contemplation, study, sevā and prayer. Gurudev himself had taught everyone to remain physically clean, sāttvik in thought and intellectually alert and lead life with an eye upon conquering the guṇas.

Adi Sankara Nilayam, ever reverberating with the voice and love of Gurudev, who personally chose the home of Śrī Śaṅkara's birth – his maternal home erstwhile known as Melpazhur Mana - holds in its memory the day Gurudev persistently walked the shrub covered neglected property even as he raged with fever, for he had a dream – a dream to set up a centre for Sanskrit research. He had just found the place that was to fulfill the vision, when he said, 'Let my footprints be here....'

Those footprints we continue to revere, cherish and hold very close to our heart, cherishing the thousands of kilometers they walked to spread the message of Vedānta, world over. Om Śrutipāragāya Namaḥ!

Sarpabali Pūjā

August 11, 2013

'Sarpabali' is an annual worship conducted in the months of July-August, in keeping with local tradition and sentiments. The worship of snakes is an old tradition as respect to the king of snakes and a reminder to society to protect the environment.

Legend has it that Paraśurāma reclaimed the land which is Kerala today, from Varuṇa. But it was salt laden and not fertile. Tapasyā brought him Lord Śiva's advise to spread the venom of the Cobra snake to desalinate the soil, to achieve which, Paraśurāma had to seek the help of Nagarāja, King of Cobras. This done, the erstwhile barren land was suffused with fertility and greenery. In memory of this, many many homes devote a small corner for a *sarpa kaavu* and worship this fertility giver. Additionally, as society progresses, damage is caused to sarpa kaavus, the earth while digging and all this is seen as causing pain to Ādi Śesha who bears the earth. To remedy all this 'Sarpabali Pūjā' is performed as a local sentiment.

This year the Sarpabali pūjā was performed by Sri Ameda Sreedharan Nambudiri at CIF's Swayambhu Ayyappa Temple. Hundreds of devotees were present for the occasion and offered their obeisance to the serpent god.

Independence Day Celebration

August 15, 2013

Independence Day was celebrated in a befitting manner by Ācāryas, staff-members, and the visiting campers of Navya-nyāya.

Prof. V. N. Jha (Former Director, Centre of Advanced Study in Sanskrit, University of Pune) hoisted the national flag. Addressing the audience he made a poignant reference to bondage of a different kind. Though political freedom had been achieved, he said, we continue to be in the bondage of our thoughts and vrittis. He urged the young to be the torch bearers of the Navya-nyāya philosophy and to carry their education onward, so that more and more people attain mental clarity and freedom.

The messages that our revered scholars leave for our young, will be the guiding force for the generations to come.

Lakṣmī Nārayaṇa Yajña and Pūjā

January 14, 2014

The 5th Lakṣmī Nārayaṇa Yajña and Pūjā was conducted at CIF on the auspicious day of Makara-saṅkrānti. Purohit Parasuram Sharma, Chinmaya Mission Colombo, Sri Lanka, led the rituals, assisted by Br. Mukund Chaitanya, Chinmaya Mission Calicut, Kerala and Br. Narayan Chaitanya, Chinmaya Mission Vikarabad, Andhra Pradesh. The ceremony began in the morning with a Pūjā, followed by havan, chanting of Viṣṇusahasranāma and Kanakadhārā-stotra and concluded with Annadāna. Swami Advayananda and Swami Ramakrishnananda graced the occasion.

Apart from the CIF Family and the local guests, a group of devotees from Chinmaya Mission Australia with Brni. Nivedita Chaitanya were also present.

In the evening, the Chuttuvilakku (lighting of 1008 lamps on the outer walls of the Ayyappa Temple) lit up the temple complex, enhancing its divine ambience.

‘Project CIF’, set up to commemorate Gurudev’s birth centenary celebrations, stands on the strong foundation of Lord Nārayaṇa and Goddess Lakṣmī’s grace. These blessings come to CIF in the form of contributions, which help fulfill Gurudev’s vision. The Lakṣmī Nārayaṇa Yajña and Pūjā is conducted with dedication each year to thank the donors for their benevolence and to pray for continued grace upon the homes of our benefactors.

Uthram Festival

11-13 April, 2014

This year’s Uthram Festival was celebrated across 3 days with traditional chuttuvillaku, pūjās and also a discourse by Swami Sharadananda on ‘Ayyappa-māhātmyam’.

On the final day of Uthram Festival, there was Nirmalya-darśanam during Brahma-muhūrtam, Gaṇapati Homa and Special Pūjā on account of ‘Painkuni Uthram. During the late morning, there was Kalaśa-pūjā followed by Ayyappa Sahsranāma Archanā.

Ādi Śaṅkara Jayanti Celebrations

May 4, 2014

Celebrating Śrī Ādi Śaṅkara’s birthday is most auspicious for CIF.

Celebrations on May 4th began with Śaṅkara-sodaśopacāra-pūjā and Rudra-abhiṣekam performed by Swami Sharadananda, Ācārya, CIF, in Śrī Śaṅkarācārya’s birth room, which is also a shrine and a temple for meditation.

Devotees, visiting campers, students of the Home Study Courses who had arrived for their Convocation and all the staff-members of CIF chanted the ‘Śaṅkara-aṣṭottara-śatanāmāvalī’ and Stotras along with Swami Viviktananda, Swamini Apurvananda and Swamini Niranjanananda.

A ‘sammelan’ was held by Prof. Dr. Muralivallabhan (Principal, SVRNSS College, Vazhoor, Kottayam), on the ‘Relevance of Advaita-vedānta and Śaṅkara in the Modern World’. All the Ācāryas spoke in turn, on Sri Śaṅkara’s texts.



All Kerala Chinmaya Mission Sevak Meet

September 6, 2013

The All Kerala Chinmaya Mission Sevak meet was held at CIF in the presence of Swami Viviktananda, Ācārya, Chinmaya Mission Kerala.

Transforming Indians to Transform India – A Teacher Training Workshop

8-9 February, 2014

All Kerala Chinmaya Yuva Kendra, with the support of Chinmaya Seva Trust of Kerala, organised a 2-day residential training workshop for around 60 teachers and Sevaks from Southern Kerala.

Teachers from various schools across districts participated in this programme to understand the concept of TITI and become facilitators in the upcoming seminar series on the subject.

COOL 2 DOOL – A Children's Camp

16-22 April, 2014

Chinmaya Yuva Kendra, Adi Sankara Nilayam organised a residential summer camp for 94 youngsters in the age group of 7 to 17.

The camp was inaugurated by Swamini Niranjanananda and Swami Sharadananda, Ācāryas, CIF.

Teachers Orientation Camp

26-29 May, 2014

Chinmaya Mission Educational and Cultural Trust, Palakkad, organised a 4-day residential camp for 115 teachers from Chinmaya Vidyalayas – Kollengode, Tattamangalam, Pallavur and Chinmaya Mission, Palakkad.

Chinmaya Vidyalaya Tripunithura – Teacher's Retreat

May 30, 2014

Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tripunithura organised a day long retreat programme for 90 teachers at Adi Sankara Nilayam on May 30, 2014.

Yoga Retreat with Sylvia

December 27, 2013 to January 5, 2014

Sylvia, a yoga teacher from Italy, conducted a 9-day yoga retreat for a group of 11 Italians at CIF. They used this opportunity to enjoy the cultural and heritage offerings of India in Kerala.



Yoga Camp with Ācārya Saji

February 11 to March 10, 2014

Ācārya Saji from Vasishtha Yoga Centre, Calicut organised a month-long yoga camp at CIF for 20 delegates from 7 countries. Ācārya Saji has held such camps in the past as well.

Srishti

8-9 March, 2014

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), Cochin organised 'SRISHTI' - a 2-day residential camp for students. Around 80 students from across Kerala participated in the workshop.

Unarvu

21-25 April, 2014



'Unarvu', a five day residential camp for teenagers was conducted in CIF by advocates of the Kerala High Court, exclusively for the advocates' children. The camp was inaugurated by Honourable Justice Mr. Abdul Rahim, High Court of Kerala and blessed with the gracious presence of Swami Sharadananda, Ācārya, CIF. The objective of the program was to help every child identify his potential and bring it forth in action and behaviour.

CIF Up-Coming Events

1. Workshop on Learning Sanskrit Language Structure: Theory and Application

Level 2 - November 13th - 26th, 2014

2. Management Programme – Make It Happen – January 2015

3. A National Seminar on Ancient Indian Mathematics – January 14th - 20th, 2015

4. A Comparative Study of the Systems of Vedānta – February 2nd - 11th, 2015

Eulogy – A Remarkable Teacher



Prof. Dr. S. Revathy

(1959 -2014)

A SCHOLAR PAR EXCELLENCE

There are some people who come into our life without an agenda, and then they quietly build an edifice of new learning around us, learning such as we never imagined. Dr. S. Revathy was one such. She was one of the most significant faculty of CIF's workshops and academic studies.

A professor of Sanskrit with the University of Madras (Marina Campus), she was followed by a string of qualifications, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Siromani...but the grand lady's demeanour belied all that. She was simpler than simplicity, an exquisite exponent of Nyāya and Advaita-vedānta and so eloquent in her delivery that it was impossible for anyone to not understand the subject. Add to this, warmth and empathy and you have an amazing teacher.

Revathy's passion for Nyāya and Advaita was unmatched. What she brought to our Shodha Sansthan's treasure with her workshops and camps is remarkable. Be it Nyāya or Vedānta, when she spoke, her thoughts gushed out of her like poetry and it was this passion that glued her students to her. CIF is deeply indebted to her for partnering our efforts in Sanskrit research and education. She along with Dr. R. Balasubramanian and Dr. Goda Venkateshwara Shastri formed the triad of scholars that enriched the many CIF workshops and seminars.

A keen scholar, she was a well published research writer, author and teacher with numerous awards for her contributions to the world of Sanskrit research. It is a tribute to her that she excelled effortlessly in an area that has been a male bastion for long.

Such a fine teacher and scholar par excellence left for her heavenly abode in February 2014. CIF is bereft of a very fine scholar.

Rest in peace, Revathy ji.

Swami Sharadananda (erstwhile Br. Samvid Chaitanya) has joined CIF as Ācārya since March this year. Swamiji studied the Vedānta course (batch of 2004) under Swami Iswarananda at the Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Mumbai. He assisted Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda in the 13th Vedānta Course Batch at Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, as the Sanskrit Ācārya. A year after this batch, Swamiji was the Ācārya of the Purohit Course (batch of 2010) at Chinmaya Gardens, Coimbatore. This very erudite, eloquent, and versatile ācārya was again appointed Upācārya for the 15th Sandeepany Vedānta Course (Batch of 2013), where he mesmerised his students with his evening classes on the Śrīmad Bhāgavatam and also gave them an excellent grounding in Sanskrit.



Swamiji received Sannyāsa-dīkshā from Pūjya Guruji on Śivarātri, 2014. CIF is blessed to have him in their midst.

Brni. Devaki Chaitanya was posted to CIF after she completed her Vedānta Course at the Sandeepany Sadhanalaya in September 2013. Devakiji has been vested with the responsibility of spearheading grass root activities of the Mission (Balavihar, CHYK classes, Devi group, Study group, Yajñas on Bhāgavatam and the Bhagavad-gītā) in the villages and hamlets neighbouring Veliyanad, the ancestral land of Śrī Ādi Śaṅkara.



Hari Om!

Grateful to our Sponsor

Dedicated unto
Pūjya Gurudev
Swami Chinmayananda
by

मच्चित्ता मद्गतप्राणाः बोधयन्तः 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

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