

# NEWSLETTER

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

## editorial

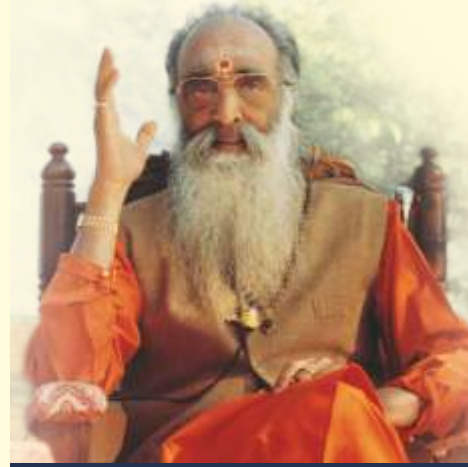
Hari Om Blessed Self!

This past year has been a culmination of dreams and aspirations of Pūjya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda. When CIF was formed way back in 1989, Gurudev had envisioned it to bloom into a University for Sanskrit. Gurudev had wanted that to happen in 5 years, and we got there, slowly but surely. Today, the Ministry for HRD, Government of India has accepted our application for the launch of Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth, University for Sanskrit and Indic traditions, to become a deemed university. Rightfully, HIS SAṆKALPA MANIFESTS, and that too in His Birth Centenary year!

Please do read about the launch of the website in the ensuing pages.

The month of November 2015 saw a congregation of distinguished academicians, researchers, writers, social scientists, philosophers, public policy specialists, representatives of corporate and civil society organizations and spiritual leaders along with eminent scholars of Advaita-vedānta converged at Chinmaya Vibhooti, Kolwan, to expound on various texts and topics on 'Contribution of Advaita Vedānta to Humanity'. The purpose of this conference was to review the core elements of Advaita-vedānta philosophy, identify its influence on humanity, recognize various discourses in the modern context, and bridge our understanding on its implications for comprehensive sustainable unity.

The event also saw the launch of some spectacular publications of CIF and its Shodha Sansthan, the first among them being the



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

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flagship publication of the CBCC celebrations, the Brahmasūtra-catuḥsūtrī-śāṅkarabhāṣyam, authored by Dr. S. Sankaranarayanan and Dr. Kanshi Ram.

The Brahma-sūtra, authored by Śrī Veda-vyāsa, forms one of the principal texts of Advaita-vedānta. It strings together the major thoughts presented in the Upaniṣads and the detailed commentary by Śrī Ādi Śaṅkarācārya is invaluable for our understanding of this magnificent text.

Written for the modern student of Advaita-vedānta, this text is structured like a scaffold to help both – those with a modicum of understanding of philosophy as well as advanced readers – reach the conceptual heights of Advaita-vedānta. The text carries a detailed, analytical and lucid commentary in English. The profound teachings of Śrī Śaṅkarācārya on the Brahmasūtra-catuḥsūtrī have now been made accessible.

The original text is substantiated with copious citations from 10 sub-commentaries on the Śaṅkara-bhāṣyam. Variant readings of the original have been compiled from 16 texts. This is the most comprehensive treatment on the Brahmasūtra- catuḥsūtrī currently available.

This event was a part of the centenary celebrations of Pūjya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda to pay tribute to his inspiring work and draw lessons for the future.

Pantheerayiram Pūja is a traditional ritual of Kerala that is celebrated once every 12 years. What a divine blessing that it should coincide with Gurudev's 100th Nakshatra birthday in May 2016. The Ādi Śaṅkara Mahotsava, held to celebrate the Jayanti of Lord Ayyappa and Gurudev's nakṣatra birthday witnessed the Pantheerayiram pūja. Read about this most charming festival elsewhere in this newsletter, as well as other events, seminars, workshops and launches that happened through the year.

Welcome to the 9th edition of CIF's annual newsletter!

You may write to us at [cifnewsletter@chinfo.org](mailto:cifnewsletter@chinfo.org) with your feedback.

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**JULY**  
**13-25**  
**2015**

## The Word and The World – A Philosophical Inquiry

**Faculty:** Professor Ashok Aklujkar, Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia, Canada; Professor Shrinivasa Varakhedi, Registrar, Karnataka Sanskrit University, Bengaluru; Swami Advayananda, Ācārya, Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF).

**Resource Persons:** Prof. Prabal Kumar Sen, Kolkata University, Kolkata; Prof. David Lawrence, Professor of Philosophy and Religion, University of North Dakota, USA; Dr. M. A. Alwar, Karnataka Sanskrit University, Mysuru.

Manipal University (MU) and Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF) jointly organised a two-week International Summer School on *The Word and the World – a Philosophical Inquiry*. This Summer School, led by Prof. Ashok Aklujkar and Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi as the Course Directors, hosted 36 participants from different parts of the country and the world.

The Summer School introduced the fundamental concepts of the philosophy of language and the theories various Indian schools of thought with a comparative

outlook of western schools. It explained the concept of verbal testimony and unfolded the dialogues for a fresh beginning of understanding their worldviews. Many Indian philosophical schools like Nyāya-vaiśeṣika, Sāṅkhya-yoga, Bauddha, Jaina, Mīmāṃsā, Vedānta and Navya schools were engaged in this inquiry. Starting from Yāska to Bhartṛhari in the grammar tradition, from Gautama to Gadādhara in Nyāya tradition, a great range of interesting discussions were held.

The 2015 Summer School sought to explore the many ways in which 'the word and the world' have been brought to bear upon each other by the Sanskrit philosophers of ancient and early medieval India. The School unraveled the various strands of the 'word and object' relationship that appeared in the Indian intellectual tradition.

The scholars engaged participants in rigorous interactive seminars and discussions, six hours a day, through the two weeks. This intensive programme also comprised workshops and presentations on various concepts of the philosophy of language with the focus on the discursive, logical and analytic side of the long and rich Indian philosophical tradition.



The Summer School brought students, research scholars and the faculty members under a common umbrella. This led to enriched discussions and new perspectives on contemporary philosophy. The diversity of the participants from across disciplines and different age groups provided multi-dimensional outlook to the philosophical dialogues.

Traditional art forms, cultural events, and visits to significant places were organised to enhance experiences of traditional learning methods through interactions with cultures and customs. Yoga, meditation and Sanskrit classes were conducted during the morning and evening sessions. This was lauded by international participants as well.

The Summer School was appreciated well and commended by scholars and the participants.

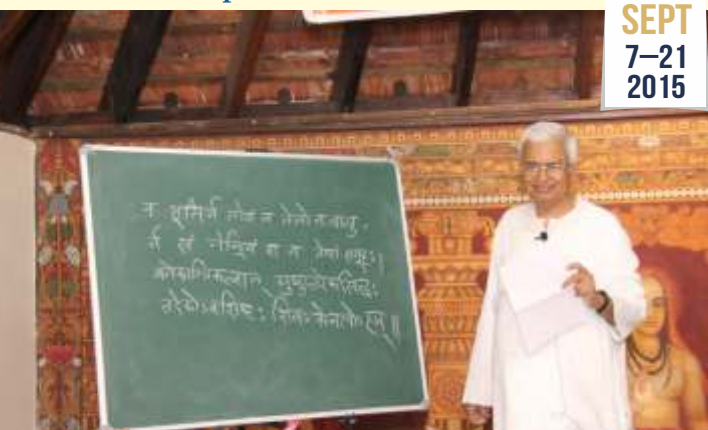
## Learning Sanskrit Language Structure - Level III

**Faculty:** Prof. V. N. Jha, Former Director of the Centre of Advanced Study in Sanskrit, University of Pune and Prof. Ujjwala Jha, Professor in Mīmāṃsā, Centre of Advanced Study in Sanskrit, University of Pune.

**Participants:** 30

Swamini Niranjanananda and Prof. Ujjwala Jha inaugurated the level 3 of the *Learning Sanskrit Language Structure* residential course by lighting the traditional lamp. Dr. Dilipkumar Rana welcomed the gathering and Prof. Ujjwala Jha presided over the function. In his inaugural address, Prof. Jha mentioned that the main purpose of learning the Sanskrit language was to understand the treasures hidden in it. He stated that he had framed the course in a manner that the student would be able to master the structure of the language upon completion of all the five levels of *Learning Sanskrit Language Structure* course. Prof. Ujjwala Jha stressed upon the importance of learning Sanskrit, citing the example of some Universities in London that had made Sanskrit a compulsory language. She emphasized that we should grab the earliest opportunity to learn Sanskrit directly from an eminent teacher like Prof. Jha or else we would have to learn the language from foreigners.

Swamini Niranjanananda considered the students attending the course blessed to learn Sanskrit directly from a scholar like Prof. Jha who is an authority not only in Sanskrit but also in Navya Nyāya and other branches of Philosophy.



## International Conference on Contribution of Advaita Vedānta to Humanity

NOV  
18-21  
2015

**Dignitaries:** Swami Tejomayananda, Head of Chinmaya Mission worldwide; Prof. P. Narayana Shastry, Vice Chancellor of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan; Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh, Vice Chancellor of Mumbai University.

**Speakers and Chairpersons:** Swami Advaitananda, Chinmaya Mission; Dr. V. Kutumba Sastry, Hyderabad; Dr. Adarasupaly Nataraju, Silchar; Dr. K. Sadananda, USA; Swami Atmapriyananda, Ramakrishna Mission; Dr. K. Aravinda Rao, Hyderabad; Dr. B. Sambasiva Prasad, Visakhapatnam; Dr. Anita Raina Thapan, New Delhi; Dr. D. R. Kaarthikeyan, New Delhi; Dr. Geetha Mohan, Mumbai; Dr. Dharm Bhawuk, Hawaii; Dr. Annette Wilke, Germany; Dr. Shashiprabha Kumar, Sanchi; Dr. V. Swaminathan, Tirupati; Dr. V. N. Jha, Pune; Swamini Vimalananda, Chinmaya Mission; Swami Mitrananda, Chinmaya Mission; Dr. B. Mahadevan, Bengaluru; Dr. Ashok Aklujkar, Canada; Sri Alexander Jacob, Kerala; Swami Nikhilananda, Chinmaya Mission; Dr. S. Abdul Sattar, Tirupati; Dr. P. Venkat Rangan, Coimbatore; Dr. K. Ramasubramanian, Mumbai; Swami Padmanabhananda, The Divine Life Society,

Rishikesh; Dr. Srinivasan Krishnamurthy, Chennai; Swami Haribrahmendrananda, Adi Shankara Brahmapradyapeeth, Uttarkashi; Dr. Godabarisha Mishra, Chennai; Sri Ram Madhav, New Delhi; Swami Swaroopananda, Chinmaya Mission

**Participants:** Over 400 delegates

*The International Conference on Contribution of Advaita Vedānta to Humanity* began with an uplifting and inspiring inauguration by Pujya Swami Tejomayananda, Prof. P. Narayana Shastry and Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh.

The key-note addresses by Pujya Swami Tejomayananda on “Jīva”, Swami Advaitananda on “Jagad-Īsvara” and Dr. Mani Dravid Sastrigal, Chennai, in Sanskrit on “Jīva-brahma-aikya” laid a scholarly, yet strong foundation for the whole conference.

The diverse sessions too added rich insights to the role of Advaita-vedānta in today's world and concluded with a moving address by Swami Swaroopananda on “*Swami Chinmayananda: The Sage of Advaita and his Contribution to Humanity*”.

One highlight of the conference was the presentation of a “Mānapatra” to Prof. P. Geervani, Ācārya (Dr.) Vineet Chaitanya, Prof. (Dr.) R. Balasubramanian, and Dr. V. N. Jha as recognition of their



contributions to sustaining, supporting and growing the work of the CIF. It was widely recognised that the mingling of academics and traditional scholars and Ācāryas was crucial to the rich experience at the Conference.

#### List of sessions:

- “The Excellence of the Advaita-vedānta World-view”, by Dr. V. Swaminathan. Session chaired by Dr. Sashiprabha Kumar.
- “Reorienting Education through Advaita-vedānta” by Swamini Vimalananda. Session Chaired by Dr. V.N. Jha.
- “Nation Building and Nourishing Leaders through Advaita-vedānta” by Dr. B. Mahadevan. Session chaired by Swami Mitrananda.
- Panel discussion on “Vasudhaiva Kuṭumbakam – The Entire World as One Family” by Swami Nikhilananda, Dr. Alexander Jacob and chaired by Dr. Ashok Aklujkar.
- “Advaita-vedānta and the Philosophy of Science” by Dr. K. Ramasubramanian. Session chaired by Dr. P. Venkat Rangan.
- “Nirguṇa- and Saguṇa-brahman in Advaita” by Dr. K. Srinivasan. Chaired by Swami Padmanabhananda.
- “Concept of Jīva-brahmaikya” by Dr. Godabarisha Mishra. Chaired by Swami Haribrahmendra. **JAN 11-31 2016**
- Valedictory Function, Puja Swami Tejomayananda. Guest of Honour – Shri Ram Madhav.

## Yogo Bhavati Duḥkhahā

### Faculty

**Theory:** Dr. Madhusudhan Penna, Department of Philosophy, Kavikulaguru Kalidasa Sanskrit University, Nagpur

Dr. B. R. Sharma, Kaivalyadham, Lonavala  
Dr. Bandita Satapathy, Kaivalyadham, Lonavala

**Practical:** Shri Santhosh More, Karnataka Sanskrit University, Bengaluru

Dr. Vijaya Raghavan, Yogacharya Satyananda Yoga Research Centre, Calicut

Dr. E. M. Gopalakrishnan, Patanjali Pranayama Yoga Vidyapeeth, Kottayam

Dr. Harilal Karanath, Arsha Yoga, Trissur,

Dr. Johnson K. J., Soham Holistic Yoga School, Trissur

**Dignitaries:** Dr. Gangadharan Nair, Chairman, Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan (CIFSS), Swami Advayananda and Dr. Ramakant Pandey, Director, Mukta Svadhyaya Peetham (Distance Education), Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi

### Participants: 40

In January, the CIF Shodha Sansthan organised a 3-week workshop titled “Yogo Bhavati Duḥkhahā”.





Dr. Madhusudan Penna, the faculty for sessions on Patañjali's Yogasūtra, excelled, as he delivered a rich dissertation the position of Yoga with reference to the other darśanas or philosophies of India such as Sāṅkhya, Nyāya, Vaiśeṣikā, Pūrva Mīmāṃsa and Uttara Mīmāṃsa (Vedānta). Dr. Penna's sessions on Samādhipāda, the first chapter of the Patañjali Yoga Sūtra, that followed, provided masterful, insights into the true nature of Yoga and the similarities and differences between Patañjali's Yoga and the other forms that we encounter in the Bhagavad-gītā, for instance.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Gangadharan Nair, Dr. Ramakant Pandey and Swami Advayananda.

In the second and third week of the workshop, Dr. B. R. Sharma and Dr. Bandita Satapathy, of Kaivalyadham, Lonavala taught participants the Gheraṇḍa-saṁhitā and the Haṭhayoga-pradīpikā respectively.

Participants benefited from different teaching styles through practical yoga sessions conducted by Shri Santhosh More, Dr. Vijaya Raghavan, Dr. E. M. Gopalakrishnan, Dr. Harilal Karanath and Dr. Johnson K. J.

## Learning Sanskrit Language Structure – Level 4 Theory and Application

APRIL  
18-30  
2016

**Participants:** 20

**Faculty:** Prof. V. N. Jha and Prof. Ujjwala Jha

In the inauguration of the workshop, our chief guest Prof. G. Gangadharan Nair stressed upon the need of learning Sanskrit language which formed the core of Indian

Culture. Dr. Dilipkumar Rana welcomed the gathering and Deputy Director Dr. V. R. Manoj delivered the vote of thanks.

The course director, Prof. V.N. Jha's introduction focussed on the Structure of a Sanskrit Sentence. He drew everyone to the idea that Sanskrit is not merely a language, but a timeless medium through which a treasure trove of the ancient knowledge and wisdom of India has been elucidated. One interested in acquiring this knowledge, therefore, cannot afford to ignore Sanskrit.

During his sessions in the morning, Prof. Jha taught the structure of a Sanskrit sentence and explained about the Verbal Inflexion-Formation of verbal forms, Tenses, Moods etc. His detailed explanation of the structure of Sanskrit language applying the Pāṇinian rule in a systematic way was very helpful to understand Sanskrit grammar in an easy way.

The practical sessions by Prof. Ujjwala Jha included texts such as Chāndogyaopaniṣad, Taittirīyopaniṣad, a poem Parāpūjā and basic texts such as Sanskrit Reader II and others with special emphasis on the verbal forms, tenses and moods.

The event also saw the launch of the CD of the Yogo Bhavati Duḥkhaḥ – Level 1 recorded during the workshop held in January 2016.



## Brahmasūtra-catuḥsūtrī- śāṅkarabhāṣyam

Author:

**Dr. S. Sankaranarayanan  
and Dr. Kanshi Ram**

A detailed, analytical and lucid commentary in English based on the profound teachings of Śrī Śāṅkarācārya on the Brahmasūtra-catuḥsūtrī.



Written for the modern student of Advaita-vedānta, this text is structured like a scaffold to help both – those with a modicum of understanding of philosophy as well as advanced readers – reach the conceptual heights of Advaita-vedānta. The text carries a detailed, analytical and lucid commentary in English. The profound teachings of Śrī Śāṅkarācārya on the Brahmasūtra-catuḥsūtrī have now been made accessible.

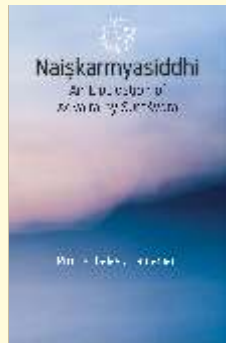
## Naiṣkarmyasiddhi

Author: **Prof. R. Balasubramanian**

'RB' Sir as this renowned author is fondly known at CIF has written this book through very difficult health conditions which makes this book even more precious.

Naiṣkarmyasiddhi was originally written by Sureshwara, a Vartikakara and foremost direct disciple of Śrī Ādi Śāṅkara. It was Śrī Śāṅkara's desire that a Vartikam be composed on his bhashyas and he assigned this task to Sureshwaracharya, whose Naiṣkarmyasiddhi greatly pleased the Spritual General.

In this rich treatise, Prof. R. Balasubramanian's commentary brings out the glory of Advaita Vedānta in his characteristic style and elegance.

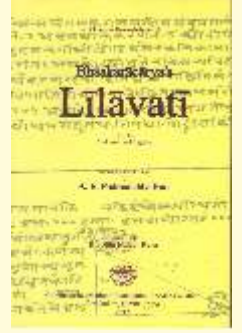


## Bhāskarācārya's Lilāvati – Vol 1

Author:

**Dr. A. B. Padmanabha Rao**

Bhaskaracharya belonged to the early 12th century. He wrote many texts on astronomy and mathematics. Renowned among these are Lilāvati, Shiromani and Bija Ganita.



Legend has it that Lilāvati was his daughter after whom the book bears this name. When despite all his plan and precision an accident upset his calculation and she remained unmarried, Bhaskara decided to write a book in her name. A book on arithmetic, in which all problems are addressed to her!

Lilāvati presents a profound system of arithmetic for its time and is a text that astronomers and astrologers study first.

As early as the 12th century Bhaskaracharya had given the value of pi as 3927/1250 for use in astronomical calculations. This corresponds to the widely accepted value of 3.1416.

Emperor Akbar had the text translated into Persian in 1587 - enthusiastic as he was to promote literature and science.

Such is the text that Bhaskaracharya wrote addressing the problems to Lilāvati his intelligent daughter. An example: "Oh Lilāvati, intelligent girl, if you understand addition and subtraction, tell me the sum of the amounts 2, 5, 32, 193, 18, 10, and 100, as well as [the remainder of] those when subtracted from 10000."

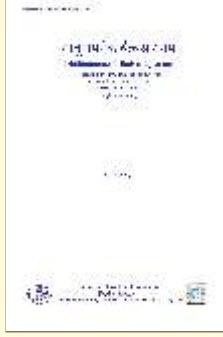
## Dhātūnāmanekārthatvasādhnam

Author: **Dr. V. R. Manoj**

This small book of 70 pages is a major contribution to establishing meaning for understanding and translation of Sanskrit



verbs. The research is based on the Mahābhāṣyam from the time of Patañjali to the Vākyapādiyam from the time of Bhāṭṭarāhari and several other texts and commentaries. This book would be very valuable to overcome the problem of ambiguity of Sanskrit verbs.



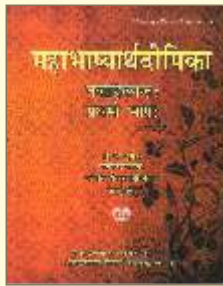
Invaluable to all who are involved in study of Sanskrit texts and translations, the English summary of the Sanskrit discussion makes this book valuable to a wider pool of scholars.

Dr. V. R. Manoj is currently Deputy Director, Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan. Formerly, the Head of the Sanskrit Department at IIT Kanpur, Dr. Manoj has worked extensively on Sanskrit grammar having written commentary on Akhyātacandrikā and several contributions to online database of Sanskrit Research and Sanskrit Dictionaries.

## Mahābhāṣyārthadīpikā

Author: **Prof. Krishna Kumar**

Patañjali has written extensively on Sanskrit grammar based on Pāṇini's Ashtadhyayi, which is available to us even today as the Mahābhāṣya. Scholars continue to explore this great treatise even today.



Sri Krishna Kumar has dedicated his entire life to the study of Sanskrit grammar. His study began at a very early age gaining knowledge from his Guru, his father. Himself a great Sanskrit Scholar, he continues his work beyond his retirement as the Head of the Department of Vyākaraṇa Study at the Govt Sanskrit College,

Tripunithura. He has been recognised for his contribution to Sanskrit by the Śaṅkarācārya of Shringeri and also Kanchi and awarded the 'suvarṇa-mālā'.

## Śrīdhara's Triśatikā or Pāṭiṅaṇitasāra

Author: **Dr. D. Venugopal Heroor**

The book is the English translation of Triśatikā or Pāṭiṅaṇitasāra of Śrīdhar, a Bengali mathematician who lived over a thousand years ago. This book is a translation of an excerpt of important arithmetic rules and examples from the Triśatikā or 'the book of 300 shlokas'.



The mathematical insights would still be applicable to students with section dedicated to businessmen. A must-buy for all those interested in ancient Indian mathematics.

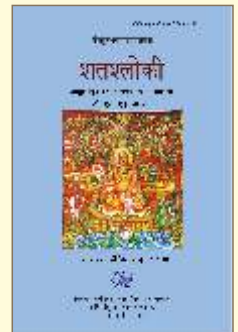
Sri Venugopal Heroor, an engineer by profession, has had a keen interest in Indian mathematicians. He has translated several mathematical works of Bhāskarācārya, Brahmagupta, Nārāyaṇa Paṇḍita, and Chitrabhānu into both, Kannada and English.

## Śataslokī of Ādi Śaṅkarācārya

Translation & Commentary:

**Late Sri S. N. Shastri**

Satasloki is one of the Prakarna Granthas and consists of 101 verses beginning with glorifying the Guru and ending with prostrations to the Supreme Being, Vasedeva.



The beauty of this text is the teachings pan both the Upanishads and the Karma kaanda of the Vedas. It is Sri Sankara's firm teaching that both jnana kaanda and the karma kaanda are valuable on the seeker's journey, unlike others who emphasise one or the other.

An excellent guide for beginners to understand Advaita Vedanta, it is also a valuable refresher for advanced students t to reflect on the core teachings of the various Upanishads.

His lyrical English translation of the Nārāyaṇīyam was published by CCMT.

## Advaitāmṛtam

Editors: **Smt. Sandhya Sundar**

Author: **Prof. B. R. Sharma and Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana**

Advaitāmṛtam is a commemorative volume released on the occasion of the International Conference on Contribution of Advaita Vedānta to Humanity held in Nov 2015 at Chinmaya Vibhooti, near Pune, India.



The articles span a vast variety of subjects ranging from the uniqueness of the Holy Gītā to individual transformation, from nourishing leadership to nirguṇa and saguṇa Brahman. These collection of articles contributed by eminent speakers and scholars at the Conference would be a valuable addition to any philosophical or spiritual library.

## Proceedings of International Conference on Contribution of Advaita Vedānta to Humanity

This set of 6 DVDs is a recording of the proceedings of the three-day conference,

addressed by distinguished scholars, academicians, social scientists, representatives of corporate and civil society, and spiritual leaders on various topics related to Advaita-vedānta.



The keynote addresses by Swami Tejomayananda, Swami Advayananda, and eminent scholar Shri Kutumba Shastri on the essence of Advaita make this an invaluable source of knowledge.

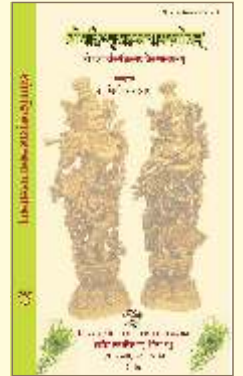
Additionally, the unique outlook, implications, and solutions to life offered by Advaita-vedānta have been addressed. This collection will enrich the study of Vedānta for all seekers.

## Śrīmadviṣṇusahasranāmastotram – Laghuvivaraṇavyākhyāsametaṁ

Author: **Nīlakaṇṭha Kūṭallūrdvija**

Editor: **Dr. D. K. Rana**

The commentary is based mostly on Grammar especially of Prakriyāsarvasva of Melputtūr Nārāyaṇa Bhaṭṭa. The work gives the derivation of words following to the bhāṣya of Śaṅkara, providing the etymology and derivations of sūtras of the Aṣṭādhyayī and the Prakriyāsarvasva and with the support of Smṛti and Upaniṣads where it is needed.

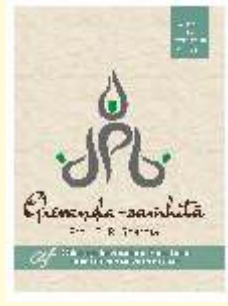


## Gheraṇḍa-saṁhitā

Author: **Prof. B. R. Sharma**

Gheraṇḍa-saṁhitā is a "User guide" manual of "Yoga" taught by Ācārya Gheraṇḍa, a great practitioner of Yoga, to Chaṇḍa Kapālī. This treatise is considered one of the three

essentials of the Yoga-vedānta-mārga. Gheraṇḍa-saṁhitā deals in detail with the āsanas, prāṇāyāmas, neti, dhauti and mudrās of Haṭha-yoga practice with the goal being to strengthen and purify the body and mind.

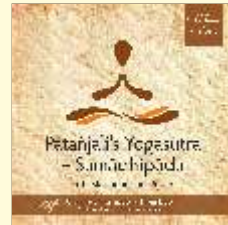


The lectures by Prof. B. R. Sharma, Principal, Kaivalyadham, Lonavala, Pune, on Gheraṇḍa-saṁhitā with detailed reading and explanation of the original Sanskrit text over a period of 2 weeks, were recorded at Chinmaya International Foundation during the Yogo Bhavati Duḥkhaḥā workshop in January 2016. These DVDs are presented with a view to enhance learning through study of the original texts with well known experts.

## Patañjali's Yogasūtra – Samādhīpāda

**Author:** Prof. Madhusudan Penna

In 195 crisp sūtras, Sage Patañjali, in his famous Yogasūtra, lays down the principles of Yoga. 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.



The Samādhī-pāda consists of 51 sūtras that describe the nature of the mind and the means to dive deep into samādhī. The very definition, "Yogaścitta-vṛitti-nirodhaḥ" sets the highest goal. In seventeen lectures, the eminent academician and author, Prof. Madhusudan Penna, provides an elaborate introduction with explanation of every sūtra, through the reading of Vyāsa-bhāṣya.

Workshops on the remaining three pādas, the Sādhana-pāda, Vibhūti-pada and Kaivalya-pāda of Patañjali's Yogasūtra will be held subsequently and recorded DVDs will be made available.

Prof. Madhusudan Penna is Dean, Faculty of Indian Religion, Philosophy and Culture, at the Kavikulaguru Kalidasa Samskrit University, Nagpur, India.

## Learning Sanskrit Language Structure – III

**Lecture Series:**

**Prof. V. N. Jha and Prof. Ujjwala Jha**

Two brilliant scholars, Prof. V. N. Jha & Prof. Ujjwala Jha have partnered with CIF for several years in the area of Sanskrit education, focused on keeping the study relevant. Prof. Jha



retired as director of The Centre for Advanced Study in Sanskrit, University of Pune. His wife, Prof. Ujjwala Jha, currently a Professor of Sanskrit at Pune University, was a former director of the Centre of Advanced Study in Sanskrit. Together they have conducted numerous courses on Navya Nyāya, Purva-mīmāṃsa for CIF at Adi Sankara Nilayam.

The Learning Sanskrit Language is a 5-level course devised by them to teach the basic structure of Sanskrit that unfolds the syntactic structure of Sanskrit. For the last three years they have conducted three-week Gurukula-style programmes at CIF with a view to teach the language. The Level-III 13-DVD set focuses on the structure of the Sanskrit word: vibhakti, nāma pāda, avyaya pāda and related grammar.







## Śakti Upāsanā Camp

Ācārya: **Swami Sharadananda, CIF**

**OCT**  
**13-23**  
**2015**

The Supreme Goddess manifests herself as Icchāśakti, Jñānaśakti and Kriyāśakti - power of will, knowledge & action. She is not only the power of Brahman, but She is Supreme Brahman in a female form. She is the Divine Mother, who creates the Universe, sustains it and dissolves all negativities. She is the one who grants Bhoga and Mokṣa - worldly enjoyments and spiritual enlightenment.

Adi Sankara Nilayam celebrated Navarātrī offering divine worship unto Jagat-Janānī – the Universal Mother. Every day the Goddess was dressed in new and beautiful garments to glorify Her various forms as Sarasvatī, Lakṣmī, Durgā and Rājārājeśvarī.

All these breathtaking adornments and decorations (alaṅkāram) were done by Swami Saradananda himself, with the help of the temple priests.

The day began with the first pūjā at 5:45, waking up the Devi (utthāpanam) followed by Maṅgala Āratī, Suprabhātam and Dhyānam (meditation)

7am: Navadurgā-pūjā, Gaṇeśa-pūjā, Pañcāyatana-pūjā, Sarasvatī-pūjā.

10 am: Devī Māhātmya Pārāyaṇam and Pravacanam by Swami Sharadananda

12: Śrī Mahālakṣmī-pūjā

4pm: Lalitā Sahasranāma-japa

5:30: Śrī Durgā-pūjā

6:30: Āratī

7:15: Śrī Lalitā-pūjā

9:30: Śayana-āratī - when the Mother Goddess retires for the night.

All these pūjās were performed by Swami Sharadananda whose manner of performing worship has always been a source of bhakti and delight.

## Adi Sankara Mahotsavam

Ācāryas: **Swami Advayananda**  
and **Swami Sharadananda**

**MAY**  
**7-13**  
**2016**

Dignitary: **Swamini Niranjanananda**

The Ādi Śaṅkara Mahotsavam was indeed a Mahā-Utsavam as it was a camp with rare combination of Bhakti and Jñāna texts coupled with grand celebrations of Adi Sankara Jayanti, Pujya Gurudev's Nakṣatra Jayanti (according to Indian Calendar).

This camp came with the chance of discovering the true nature through Amṛtabindu Upaniṣad - sessions conducted by Swami Advayananda; Swami Sharadananda expounded on Adi Sankaracharya's Mīnākṣi-pañcaratnam. It was indeed a blessed opportunity to learn the text at the author's maternal birth home. Campers were introduced to the nature of

Sanātana Dharma through 'Sanātana Dharma Parichayam' and also had satsangs with Br. Siddhu, Ācārya CIF.

The highlight of the camp was a rare pūjā – 'The Pantheerayaram Pūjā' – to celebrate the Nakṣatra birthday of Pūjya Gurudev. The Pantheerayaram pūjā is a traditional Kerala ritual which is conducted only once in 12 years. As a tradition, the artists drew beautiful and majestic maṇḍalam or raṅgoli of Lord Śiva as Vettakkorumakan, using traditional natural coloured powders. Various musical instruments of Kerala were played to invoke and please the Lord in various rhythms and styles. The Oracle (a

medium between the God and the worshipper) performed a mystic dance and 20,000 coconuts were broken by him in as an offering to Vettakkorumakan – the kula-devatā or family God of Ādi Śaṅkarācārya's maternal home.

The camp concluded with a valedictory function wherein the campers shared their valuable feedback and certificates were distributed by Swami Advayananda to all the participants. Swami Niranjanananda, Ācārya CIF gave the benedictory address, thus blessing all of devotees who came from all over India to join in the celebration of our Great Master.







Starting 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016, we begin the 4th and last phase of this centenary year when we will offer nam arachana to Pujya Gurudev. Various Swamiji, Pujyas and Devotees will delve deep into their memories of Gurudev and how he inspired by Him.

In a manner of offering an archana the Acharya will flow from Sri Ajaaya Pithel gently over the next 308 days with soulful glorification of our dearest Gurudev.

Come join us as we chant His name every day -



[www.chinfo.org/cbcc](http://www.chinfo.org/cbcc)



On 8th May 2015, thousands of people flocked to Ernakulam to feel the great moment of Gurudev's 100th year being flagged off, while world-over, all Mission Centres launched a variety of events, projects, programs and celebrations to share the divine presence of Gurudev with everyone.

But there were many more thousands of people – devotees and followers – who could not travel to celebrate. For them CIF began a virtual celebration in the form of recounting a bouquet of anecdotes for everyone to read and ponder.

Called “CELEBRATING GURUDEV - A Flavour Unforgettable”, this section of the CIF website told a story every day. Stories narrated by devotees, children of devotees, children who were so young when they sat on his lap and smiled toothlessly into his most adorable eyes.... Young students who 'hung out' with him, while he recuperated at Jaslok, watching old videos of matches played by Sampras, Navratilova, Agassi and

McEnroe, because Gurudev was an avid Tennis fan. Or grown-ups who served him and watched him live Vedānta for their learning!

The entire 367 days were presented in four distinct sections.

The first 90 stories were personal experiences of devotees, in Gurudev's presence, as they saw him, touched his feet, caught the fruit he threw to them as benediction, heard his roaring laughter, smelled the burst of jasmine and vibhūti as he entered any hall....Gurudev, glory-filled Gurudev! It was 90 days of non-stop glory as they narrated and CIF reproduced those recollections.

For the next 90 days devotees wrote about their experiences, while learning from Gurudev the Gita, the Upanishads, the Vivekachūḍāmaṇi, the Nārada Bhakti Sūtra, the Aṣṭavakra Gītā....how it transformed them, enabled them, clarified concepts for them, brought the scriptures into their home



and lives and became a part of their everyday living.

Learning is never a momentary or a quarterly effort. It is an ongoing process and once we commit to the process we see the process take over. That is how Gurudev taught.

In the third phase, CIF celebrated Gurudev's writings – books he wrote, rare articles he left here and there, letters he wrote often tucking a potent mahāvākya in the margins, but each one celebrating the amazing writer that he was. Some unknown devotees shared gems of letters and marginal thoughts that Gurudev wrote on their books or letters.

And when the writer of the words is the Teacher, the centre of your being, His words take His place in our minds and hearts. But being limited beings, we are often unable to hold on to that feeling, and lose it. This is why we read the Master's words again and again and again and....

This is why we preserve the Teacher's writings, even if it is a seemingly random scribble; for it also conveys His presence, especially when He is not physically near.

Gurudev wrote Vedānta as much as He spoke it. His articles were definitely and obviously Vedānta lessons. But His letters? While some were overtly teachings, many had an important message tucked in for us to unravel and keep....

The last phase which began on 21st Jan 2016 was the Nāma-arcanā where everyday 4-5 devotees, ācāryas, students sent their reflections on the nāma of the day, while Swami Mitrananda and Shri N. Kalidas's reflections were seen regularly too. Pujya Swami Nikhilananda and Shri Hemachandru sent their reflections every day. Beginning with OM AJAAYA NAMAHA, the phase concluded on 8th May

2016 with an extra special note on OM NITYA SHUDDHA BUDDHA MUKTA SWAROOPAAYA NAMAHA by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda.

These have now come to be a collection of first hand anecdotes, memories, learnings and narratives, directly experienced with Gurudev which have a way of connecting the dots for those who came later. Capturing these for posterity is a gift from CIF for our children and theirs.

## His Saṅkalpa Manifests

### The Launch of the Chinmaya University Website

On June 14, when Pūjya Guruji, Swami Tejomayananda, launched the website of the Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth, University for Sanskrit and Indic Traditions, the vision and sacred saṅkalpa that Gurudev had made 25 years ago, was palpable among all present.

The Vision was first celebrated with an invocation by Smt. Pramodini Rao, (Campus Director of Chinmaya Naada Bindu Gurukula). Śrī Suresh Subramanian, the Registrar, then described the event as a Guru-dakṣiṇa to Pujya Gurudev, whose love and blessings, and guidance, above all, had enabled CIF to fulfil his saṅkalpa or vision.

Śrī Suresh announced the key management of the Vishwavidyapeeth:

- Chancellor of Chinmaya University: **Pujya Guruji**
- Chairman of CIF, the sponsoring institution: **Swami Brahmananda**
- President of the Executive Council: **Swami Advayananda**
- Trustee of the Chinmaya University: **Swami Mitrananda**
- Vice Chancellor: **Prof. B. Mahadevan**

- Dean of Faculty at the Chinmaya Eswar Gurukula to be located at CIF:  
**Prof. Srinivasa Varakhedi**

In his inaugural address, Pūjya Guruji said that several years ago Swami Advayananda asked for permission to accept a donation for Chinmaya University saying that Pūjya Gurudev had spoken about it at the time of establishment of the Chinmaya International Foundation. "I told him, 'since that was Pūjya Gurudev's saṅkalpa, it will happen. Accept the donation.' Today is the fructification of that saṅkalpa!" Guruji then blessed the credo or dhyeya vākya of the University, and explained it as well:

विद्यया संस्कृतिः रक्षिता सर्वदा ।

संस्कृतेर्मानवाः संस्कृता भूरिदाः ॥

*Vidyāyā saṁskṛtiḥ rakshitā sarvadā ।*

*saṁskṛtermānavāḥ saṁskṛtā bhūridāḥ ॥*

Explaining the vision verse that he composed, Guruji said that

"A culture is protected by Vidyā, true Knowledge. Because of this Vidyā, a person is called cultured. The sign of the cultured is that they become bhūridāḥ, that is they become givers. Like we say in the Mission Pledge, 'giving more than what we take, producing more than what we consume.' The sign of culture is the magnanimity, large-heartedness, and the generosity to share with others."

Guruji said that the vision of the Chinmaya University would be marked by:

- A spiritual vision
- Purity – in the sense that when we teach classical music, the purity must be maintained. (Likewise, in teaching any subject we must ensure it is taught in its purest form.)



- Applicability – the teaching at the Chinmaya University should benefit people; "otherwise," said Guruji, "it will reinforce the commonly held idea that Sanskrit is a dead language. I think this only means that people are dead to Sanskrit."

Pūjya Guruji lauded the hard work put in by Swami Advayananda and Śrī Suresh Subramanian and Smt. Prarthana Saran, Chinmaya Mission, Delhi.

Swami Advayananda, in his address, presented the genesis of the University going back to the time when Pūjya Gurudev expressed his vision for a Sanskrit University at the time when CIF was established. At the end he reiterated that the purpose of the University is to *"Go into the depths of Indian Knowledge Traditions, bring out the best of what our great ṛṣis, mahātmās and vidvāns have given for centuries and amalgamate this wisdom with present day knowledge fields, so that we benefit not only the Indian Knowledge Traditions but also the world pool of knowledge."* Swamiji recalled the

tremendous contributions of Śrī G. V. Eswar in enabling CIF to collect the initial required corpus of Rs. 25 crores and the magnanimous and spontaneous contributions from the overseas Chinmaya Mission Centres, especially from USA, when Pujya Guruji made his appeal for the Chinmaya University.

Swami Mitrananda narrated a couple of fascinating stories about how Koundinya, from Tamil Nadu, went by sea to what is modern-day Cambodia and was probably responsible for the creation of the Angkor Wat temple complex, the largest Hindu temple complex outside India. He declared that "It's time that we teach our own students to understand both aspects, para and apara Vidyā (higher/transcendental Knowledge and lower knowledge) of this glorious tradition in India."

Prof. Mahadevan, the Vice Chancellor, appropriately began his address in Sanskrit and went to make significant commitments on behalf of the University. He thanked Pūjya Guruji for giving him the opportunity to be involved in this sacred initiative. "There will be a single-pointed focus to open up the vast treasure of Indian Knowledge

traditions to the modern world. The Chinmaya University will do meaningful and serious research on Sanskrit, on Ancient Indian Knowledge Traditions, modern and synthesize all of them for creating new ideas for the emerging world." After describing the first set of proposed courses, Prof. Mahadevan went on to say, "The Sanskrit fraternity in this country can look up to Chinmaya University when it comes to innovation in pedagogical aspects of running a Sanskrit Programme. We will create a wonderful environment for cross disciplinary research, riding on the platform of applied Indic Knowledge Traditions. Lastly, we will create a very compelling academic environment."

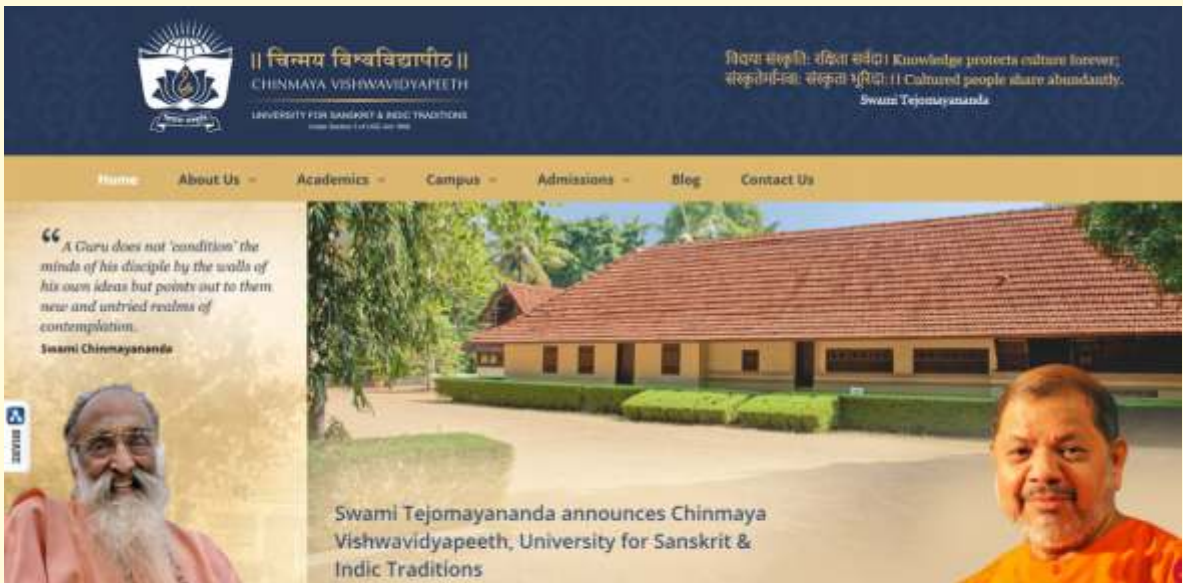
Pūjya Guruji clicked on Chinmaya University link and launched the website to loud applause. Śrī N M Sundar, the Campus Director for Chinmaya Eswar Gurukula, went on to describe the salient features of the website and invited everyone to explore the website

Main website:

[www.chinmayauniversity.ac.in](http://www.chinmayauniversity.ac.in)

For information:

[info@chinmayauniversity.ac.in](mailto:info@chinmayauniversity.ac.in)





## VEDIC MATHEMATICS WORKSHOPS

Date	Venue	Participants	Topics	Special Topics
July 6 – 10, 2015	Pushpalata Vidyamandir Tirunelveli	376	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic Mathematics</li> <li>Algebra, Geometry</li> <li>Generating Pythagorean triplets using the technique given by Brahmagupta</li> <li>Derivation of Sine table using elementary geometry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bhuja-koṭi-karṇa-Nyāya from Bhāskarācārya's Līlāvati</li> <li>Meru-prastāra from Chandas Śāstra</li> </ul>
August 10 – 14, 2015	Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tarapur	161	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Logic in language and numbers</li> <li>Syllogism</li> <li>Venn diagrams</li> <li>Direction-sense</li> </ul>	
April 25 – 29, 2016	Vedic Mathrix 2016 @ CIF	34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evolution of numbers in different civilizations</li> <li>Evolution of zero</li> <li>Rational triangles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kaṭapayādi number system</li> <li>Yantras (mystical diagrams)</li> </ul>
May 9 – 13, 2016	Chinmaya Maauli, Pune	37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subtraction</li> <li>Multiplication</li> <li>Digital Roots</li> <li>Squaring</li> <li>Square roots</li> </ul>	
May 17 – 22, 2016	Simpli5 – Vedic Maths @ Chinmaya Vibhooti	67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Magic Squares</li> <li>Number theory (with special focus on Prime numbers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cryptography</li> </ul>



## Bhakti in Gītā – A Refresher Course and Winter Camp

DEC  
14–21  
2015

Ācārya: **Swami Sharadananda, CIF**

This Home Study Course refresher camp and winter camp embarked upon a deep analytical study of how Bhakti has been expounded by Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa in the Bhagavad-gītā.

The Camp Ācārya, Swami Sharadananda, is an authority on traditions and philosophy of Indian heritage.

The sessions were interlaced with quiz, presentations, discussions and chanting exercises that gave the participants an opportunity to reinforce the bhakti traditions of the Gītā that they had discussed at this camp.

## Convocation on Gītā Jayanti

DEC  
21  
2015

Dignitaries: **Swami Shivakantananda, Ramakrishna Advaita Ashram, Kalady, Swamini Niranjanananda and Swami Sharadananda, Ācāryas CIF**

The fourth convocation for the students of CIF's Home Study Courses was held on the auspicious day of Gītā Jayanti and was presided over by Swami Shivakantananda. Thirteen students worldwide chose to come to CIF and receive their Certificate of Completion at the function. The participants

of the just concluded week-long Winter Camp “Bhakti in Gītā” also attended the function, as did Swamini Niranjanananda and Swami Sharadananda.

In his address, Swami Shivakantananda, spoke about the relevance and genesis of Bhagavad-gītā. He also touched upon how day-to-day activity and spirituality are connected as outlined in Bhagavad-gītā.

In her address, Swamini Niranjanananda, emphasised that Vedānta and life actually go hand-in-hand thereby making it a peaceful life, loving life and finally useful life.

Swami Sharadananda, in his anugraha bhāṣaṇam, thank you speech, explained how incompleteness in spite of possessing material comforts drives one towards this path of Self Knowledge. The fruit of this journey can be had only if we first assimilate the words of the Guru and scriptures, understand them correctly and internalise them, practice those injunctions diligently and finally experience the Supreme Truth directly as one's own abidance in that truth.

Śiṣya Anuśāsanam, the traditional convocation oath was led by Swami Sharadananda and all students joined in the chanting. The oath was followed by the distribution of certificates by Swami Shivakantananda.



A few students shared their experiences and impressions on the various courses. The feedback included an overwhelming appreciation for the support and service of CIF Home Study Courses department as well as had narratives of how the students were drawn to CIF's home study courses.

The programme concluded with Śānti mantra.

### Launch of Home Study Courses Webinar Course

Chinmaya International Foundation launched its most popular courses, Vedānta and Bhagavad Gītā courses on Webinars on 21st December 2015. Students can now learn directly from experts who will guide them and enable a greater understanding of the course material.

Webinars will revolutionize the way knowledge is imparted and assimilated. With 25 students to a session, the student-acharya interaction, involvement and the clarity of understanding will all be enhanced. Each session is tailored for an hour factoring in global clocks to maximise the convenience of students everywhere in the world. The additional joy is in the Q&A sessions at the end of the class.



### Webinar Satsang with Ācārya

CIF launched its Webinar Satsang Series with Ācārya last year. Through these novel Webinar Satsangs, students connect with the Ācāryas via video conferencing and thus benefit Webinar satsangs enable students revel in direct teaching - a function of Gurudev's prophetic vision of science meeting spirituality.

The texts taken up at these Webinar satsangs range from Prakaraṇa Granthas to advanced texts on Advaita-vedānta.

Presently, there are 114 students benefitting from Swami Advayananda's teachings on Pañcadaśī. These sessions began in Oct 2015.

Swami ji is also conducting another webinar on Jīvanmukti-viveka of Swami Vidyaranya. Forty satsaṅgis enrolled for the classes which began on May 28th 2015.

To enrol for the Webinar Satsang with Acharya, please contact our Administrator on [homestudycourses@chinfo.org](mailto:homestudycourses@chinfo.org).



## International Yoga Day

JUNE  
21  
2015

June 21 was declared as the International Day of Yoga by the United Nation's General Assembly, as a result of the proposition made by the Indian Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi during his address to UN General Assembly on September 27, 2014.

We at CIF joined hands to support the celebration of the International Day of Yoga. While Swami Sharadananda explained the importance of yoga. Br. Sarthak Chaitanya, Ācārya CIF, walked us through a few āsanās. The session took place at the Illom and each member of the CIF family came forward to participate.

## Pūjya Guruji's Birthday

JUNE  
30  
2015



CIF celebrated Pūjya Guruji, Swami Tejomayananda's birthday in an auspicious manner with an early morning Gaṇapati Homam, followed by a Mr̥tyuñjaya Homam at the Chinmaya Swayambhu Ayyappa Temple.

In the presence of the devotees, Gurudev's Pādukā Pūjā was performed by Swami Sharadananda at Gurudev's Shrine, followed by a speech by Swamini Niranjanananda.

The evening satsaṅga was delivered by CHYKs' and Yuvaveers, who spoke for 5-7 minutes each on various topics related to Guru, such as:

1. Who is a Guru?
2. Importance of a Guru
3. How do we find a Guru?
4. Guru Paramparā
5. Guru-śiṣya Relationship
6. Why do we worship the Guru's Pādukās?

The satsaṅga was attended by senior members at CIF and other devotees who blessed the young generously.

## Chinmaya Ārādhana Day

AUG  
3  
2015



At CIF, Gurudev's Samadhi Day is occasion for deeper study, introspection and meditation. Swami Sharadananda performed Guru Pādukā Pūjā at Gurudev's shrine, after explaining the significance of Pādukā-pūjā as an important manner of worship of the Guru. Smt. Lakshmi Harigovindan was the Yajmān, with all the participants of Gurupūrṇimā camp and Sādhana camp, Trichy attending the pūjā.

The naam arcana was performed by Ācārya Vibhuti Shah and Br. Kutastha Chaitanya.

Swamini Niranjanananda, who has known Gurudev closely, spoke about Gurudev. The pūjā concluded with āratī to Gurudev.

### Gurupūrṇimā



Gurupūrṇimā day celebrations began with Guru Pādukā-pūjā conducted by Swami Sharadananda at Gurudev's Shrine. Around 100 people, including the campers of the Gurupūrṇimā Camp, staff of CIF and CIFSS, and local devotees attended the pūjā. Thereafter, Gurupūrṇimā Sammelan was held.

In her address, Swamini Niranjanananda explained the importance of a Guru. Sri K. R. Nambiar, a long time devotee of Pūjya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda, narrated how he got inspired by Pūjya Gurudev's teachings. Swami Sharadananda spoke about Bhagavān Veda Vyāsa, who was born on this day while also being a symbol of the guru-shishya tradition. Glorifying Veda Vyāsa, Swamiji said Sanātana Dharma would not have existed, had Vyāsa Bhagavān not incarnated.

The 8th edition of the Annual Newsletter of CIF was released on the occasion by Sri Nambiar and the first copy was presented to Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana.



### Gurudev Samādhi Camp and Nāgapañcamī

The Camp began with an offering of the Āvāhanti Homam led by Swami Sharadananda. All the members participated in chanting. Veda mantras and the Guru paduka puja thereafter.

In the evening sessions, Swamini Niranjanananda expounded on the Māṇḍūkya Upaniṣad and after the talks, Swami Sharadananda performed the Bhagavati Sevā and Lalitā Sahasranāma Arcanā. The daily schedule included the Āvāhanti Homam, Omkar Meditation and Bhāṣya Pārāyaṇam.

On 3rd August, Gurudev's Samādhi day pūjā was conducted by Swami Sharadananda at Gurudev's shrine. After the Pūjā, Swamini Niranjanananda fondly recalled her experiences with Pūjya Gurudev. She reminded those present that the greatest gift to Gurudev would be to spread his teachings and follow the path shown to us.

On the concluding day of the camp, Swamini Niranjanananda and Swami Sharadananda graced the Valedictory function. A few participants shared their feedback and appreciated the opportunity to study a great

Upaniṣad like Māṇḍūkya from an experienced Ācārya like Swamini Niranjanananda. They also mentioned about learning practical tips from Swamiji in the Omkar Meditation session. The Valedictory meeting concluded with Guru-dakṣiṇā offering and distribution of prasād pustikā.

To mark the occasion of Nāgapañcamī on August 4, a Sarpabali Pūjā was performed in the Swayambhū Ayyappa temple by Āmeḍa Tantri, the Chief Priest of the Āmeḍa Temple and his assistants. All the camp members and devotees from the local areas attended the function.

AUG  
4  
2015

## Sarpabali Pūjā



The Sarpabali Pūjā is an annual ritual held at CIF to mark the occasion of Nāgapañcamī. This year, the chief priest of Āmeḍa Temple and his assistants led the pūjā, with an offering of 'Noorum Pālum' (traditional offering which includes turmeric powder) to Nāgayakṣī, followed by an elaborate pūjā inside the Chinmaya Swayambhū Ayyappa Temple.

Hundreds of devotees, campers, members and staff of CIF thronged the temple to witness the pūjā which continued for more than 4 hours.

The pūjā concluded with the āratī and prasādam distribution. Swami Sharadananda offered dakṣiṇā to the priests of the Āmeḍa Temple and the Chinmaya Swayambhū Ayyappa Temple.

## India's Independence Day

AUG  
15  
2015



69th Independence Day of India – A great day and a proud moment for every Indian.

The CIF family celebrated this momentous occasion with much enthusiasm. The flag was hoisted by Swamini Niranjanananda and Swami Sharadananda.

Swami Sharadananda gave an appealing speech, explaining the striking difference between the word 'Independence' and the Sanskrit word 'Svatantra' and the function concluded with the national song 'Vande Mātaram'.

OCT  
5-7  
2015

## Sanskrit Day Celebrations

**Dignitaries:** Prof. P. C. Muraleemadhavan, Head Department of Sahitya, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan Guruvayur Campus, Puranattukara, Dr. Dilipkumar Rana, Director, CIFSS, Dr. G. Gangadharan Nair, Chairman, CIFSS.

**Participants:** 250 students from various schools of Kerala





CIFSS organised a three-day programme to celebrate Sanskrit Day. Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana welcomed the gathering. The function was inaugurated by Prof. P. C. Muraleemadhavan. In his address he highlighted the relevance of Sanskrit study and encouraged learning the Sanskrit language as it reflects our hoary heritage and culture. Dr. G. Gangadharan Nair stressed on the importance of learning Sanskrit and the necessity to preserve our tradition and culture.

The event saw various competitions being conducted such as: Gītāpārāyaṇam, Kathā-kathanam, recitation, elocution, essay writing, versification, quiz and drama.

### Uttaram Mahotsavam – 2016

The Annual Temple Festival of the Swayambhū Ayyappa Temple, the Uttaram Mahotsavam, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy.

The celebrations began with the worship of Lord Ayyappa with Aṣṭottara Arcanā led by Swami Sharadananda and heart melting bhajans rendered by Sri Satish Chandran and group.

The evening of the second day of the celebrations witnessed the lighting of the 'Chuttuvilakku' (1008 oil-lamps around the Ayyappa temple). The evening ended with a cultural programme by Balavihar students of the neighbourhood.

Uttara Phālgunī, the birth nakṣatra of Lord Ayyappa which fell on 23rd of March was the main day of the 3-day festival. The day began with the auspicious Gaṇapati-homam. Special pūjās were performed to remove all negative energies and fill the deity with special powers.

In a grand procession, Lord Ayyappa was taken on an elephant through the neighbourhood. This was indeed a grand event for it was for the first time in 50 years that the festival was being celebrated with such a procession! The ladies of village welcomed the Lord with Tālapoli - a traditional plate adorned with the symbols of auspiciousness: fresh paddy, flowers, rice, coconut and a lighted lamp. The procession ended with fireworks.

“Kucelavṛttam” (the story of Sudāmā) was staged as a Kathakali performance by Bhavaneswari Kathakali Yogam of Tripunithura. The story of eternal friendship





and love left the audience spell-bound, especially when conveyed through the traditional art form.

## Chinmaya Birth Centenary Celebration

MAY  
8  
2016

Pūjya Gurudev's Birth Centenary Celebrations started off with a rare video where he is narrating the familiar Bhasmāsura story, replete with characteristic Gurudev "vinoda" - his love of humour and inimitable story telling.

This was followed by a Pāduka-pūjā

performed by 17 Yajamāns led by Swami Sharadananda. The event was attended by local children and devotees as well as by over 150 campers who were attending other camps at CIF.

After the pūjā, everyone sang Pūjya Gurudev's Jayanti song followed by bhajans by Balavihar children and a dance performance by Anuradha from Chennai. Smt. Sreelekha Nair and Shri Keshavan shared touching stories of the impact Gurudev had on their lives. Devotees got an insight into the Karmayogī facet of Pūjya





AUG  
2-7  
2015

Gurudev when they saw His "Attitude to Work" YouTube video.

Swami Advayananda gave the benedictory address in which he mentioned that Lord takes up different avatāras such as Pūrṇa Avatāra, Amśa Avatāra, Āveśa Avatāra and Nitya Avatāra for the protection of Dharma. Swamiji referred to Pūjya Gurudev is one of the Nitya Avatāras who has touched our lives and shown us the path to transforming ourselves.

The celebrations concluded with a Sadyā (traditional Kerala feast).

In the evening, the Svayambhū Ayyappa Temple shone in the rich saffron glow of the 1008 'Chuttuvillaku', verily embodying the grace of Gurudev's presence at Adi Sankara Nilayam.

## Visit by CHYKs' from Coimbatore

JULY  
4  
2015

Ācārya: **Br. Vignesh Chaitanya**, Chinmaya Mission Coimbatore

Twenty members from Chinmaya Yuva Kendra, Coimbatore visited Adi Sankara Nilayam with Br. Vignesh Chaitanya.

The group had an informative session with the Ācārya on 'Attitude Towards Work – Striving for Efficiency at Work' followed by a yātra to the nearby spiritually charming tourist spots.

The trip concluded on a positive note with an inspiring satsang with Swami Advayananda and Swami Sharadananda.

## Sāadhanā Camp by Chinmaya Mission Trichy

Ācāryas: **Ācārya Vibhuti Shah**, Chinmaya Mission Trichy and **Br. Kutastha Chaitanya**, Ācārya CIF



Dignitaries: **Swami Sharadananda** and **Swamini Niranjanananda**

The Sāadhanā Camp was inaugurated by Swami Sharadananda and the Camp Ācāryas by lighting the traditional lamp and āśir-vacanam (benedictory address) by Swamiji.

Invoking Gurudev's blessings and grace, the camp commenced with Guru Pādukā Pūjā performed by the campers.

The elucidation of the 7th Chapter of the Chāndogya Upaniṣad by Ācārya Vibhuti Shah and a vibrant discourse by Br. Kutastha Chaitanya on the Bhagavad-gītā – Chapters 14 and 15. The deep concepts of these texts were well comprehended by the campers, and were brought out by them in various imaginative and artistic ways during their cultural programme.

The camp concluded with the participants placing oil lamps on a map signifying their Saṅkalpa to spread the knowledge they had gained. After distributing the participation certificates, with Swamini Niranjanananda





delivered the benedictory address and recited the Mission Pledge.

## State-Level Gītā Chanting Competition

OCT  
27  
2015

Participants: **125**

Srimad Bhagavad Gītā, the Diving Song of the Lord is one of the most comprehensive scriptural text scripture that imparts Vedāntic knowledge. It is a manual of self-unfoldment that teaches us how to live life. To disseminate the message of the Bhagavad Gītā, inculcate its values and bring its time tested and invaluable wisdom to people especially to the young tender and growing hearts, the Chinmaya Mission has been conducting Chinmaya Gītā Chanting Competitions for more than two decades.

Chimaya Seva Trust, Kerala conducted a State Level Gītā Chanting Competition at Adi Sankara Nilayam to commemorate Gurudev's centenary year.



125 students across all age groups between 4 and 15, from all the centres in Kerala participated in the competition.

The winners of each age group were acknowledged, appreciated and encouraged by Swami Advayananda, Ācārya CIF.

## Spiritual Retreat by Chinmaya Mission Ernakulam

Ācārya: **Swami Satyananda**  
Chinmaya Mission, Ernakulam

NOV  
28,29  
2015



Mission members from Ernakulam had a spiritual retreat at the peaceful and sacred ambience of Adi Sankara Nilayam with Swami Satyananda, where Swamiji held a spiritual camp for them. A 2-day Malayalam spiritual camp was inaugurated on 28th November 2015 by Swami Satyananda by lighting the traditional lamp and were immensely benefited by Swamiji's sessions.

## Spiritual Retreat with Swami Nikhilananda

NOV 29  
- DEC 5  
2015

Ācāryas: **Swami Nikhilananda**, Chinmaya Mission Delhi; **Swamini Amritananda**, Chinmaya Mission New Zealand; **Acharya Siya**, Brazil; **Shri Anand Sharma**, Delhi

Br. Sundar Chaitanya, Acharya, CIF received Swami Nikhilanandaji and other Acharyas



with Pūrṇakumbha. Swami Nikhilanandaji inaugurated the camp by lighting the lamp with 46 delegates from Delhi, Noida, Bangalore, Kochi and Australia. Swamiji commenced his camp with Upadeśa Sāhaśrī of Ādi Śaṅkarācārya Chapter 1 – Śiṣya-pratibodha-vidhi-prakaraṇam – A Method of Enlightening the Disciple. This is in the form of a hypothetical dialogue between a teacher and student in prose format.

In this dialogue, through a series of questions and answers supported by scriptural quotations from the Upaniṣads and the Bhagavad Gītā (Śruti and Smṛti) – the teacher guides and clarifies the student's understanding from a gross objective identification with the body to a subjective knowledge of Oneness. This is precisely what Swamiji too achieved with his campers.

The day began early morning with meditation sessions with Swamini Amritananda in the illam. Upācāryas Anand Sharma and Siya guided everyone with Viṣṇusahasranāma chanting and reading of Śaṅkara Bhāṣya of Īśāvāsya Upaniṣad with Mithu Hira reading the Hindi translation. Anandji also expounded on the simple yet profound text of Bhaja Govindam in the evenings.

The campers thoroughly enjoyed the serene and peaceful environs of Adi Sankara Nilayam.

### 3rd International Spiritual Camp in Malayalam

DEC  
14-20  
2015



Chinmaya Yuva Kendra, Kerala, organised its third 'International Spiritual Camp' at Adi Sankara Nilayam.

Ācāryas from various Kerala centres expounded on various Malayalam Vedāntic and spiritual compositions like Adhyātma Rāmāyaṇa, Jñānapānā, works of Sri Narayana Guru, among others.

The camp saw participation by devotees from and all around the world.

MARCH  
16-23  
2016

### Bhāgavata Saptāham

Ācārya: **Br. Dhruva Chaitanya**, Chinmaya Mission Alleppey; Bhāgavata Pārāyaṇam by **Sri Manoj Nambootiri, Komalavalli amma, Madhavikutti amma**; Pūjās by **Br. Kalyan Chaitanya**, Chinmaya Mission Chathamangalam

**Dignitaries:** **Swami Advayananda, Swamini Niranjanananda, Swami Sharadananda**

Uttaram Mahotsavam was celebrated in a grand manner at Adi Sankara Nilayam with Bhāgavata Saptāham.

Swamini Niranjanananda, Swami Advayananda and Swami Sharadananda





lighted the traditional lamp and inaugurated the Saptāham. In his address, Swami Sharadananda mentioned that it was a unique opportunity to listen to the mūla Bhāgavata-saptāham in the abode of Bhagavān Ādi Śaṅkarācārya from a learned Ācārya, Br. Dhruva Chaitanya.

In his talks, Br. Dhruva Chaitanya spoke about the avatāras of Lord Viṣṇu and the greatness of Bhagavān, Bhaktas and the Bhāgavatam.

The camp also witnessed the 'Avatāra Mahotsava' of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and the episode of the marriage of Śrī Kṛṣṇa with Rukmini was also celebrated.

The Bhāgavata Saptāham concluded with Avabhṛta snānam (a holy dip at the end of a yajña) and Dakṣiṇā-samarpaṇam (offering to the Ācārya at the end of the yajña). The Saptāha vedi was vibrant with devotion and

the Ācārya helped the devotees, who were mainly the residents of the neighbourhood, peep into the greatness of this mahā-purāṇa.

## Bālamahotsavam – Balavihar Camp

APRIL  
6-10  
2016

Ācāryas: **Swami Viviktananda, Swami Vishvananda, Swami Tattvananda, Swamini Samhitananda, Br. Dhruva Chaitanya and Brni Devaki Chaitanya.**

Participants: **621**

As a part of the Birth Centenary Celebrations of Pujya Gurudev, All Kerala Chinmaya Balavihar camp was conducted at Adi Sankara Nilayam.

The highlights of the camp: Satsang with Ācāryas, Medhā Sūktam chanting (Śānti mantra), Chinmaya Mission Pledge, Bhajans, Yoga, Kalari, Games, Play and recreational activities, Cultural programmes





life story of Gurudev and Sri Adi Sankara through workshop and activity, festival celebration, Medhā-sūkta Havanam (performed by Br. Kalyan Chaitanya and Br. Yogesh Chaitanya) and camp fire.

The children also participated in a procession accompanied by singing and dancing. This was a unique experience for them.

### Sāadhanā Camp by Chinmaya Mission Trichy

Ācāryas: **Ācārya Vibhuti Shah**  
and **Br. Kutastha Chaitanya**

MAY  
7-13  
2016

Dignitaries: **Swami Advayananda**, Ācārya CIF

Participants: 50

Chinmaya Mission, Trichy organized a Spiritual Sāadhanā Camp where Ācārya Vibhuti Shah and Br. Kutastha Chaitanya

expounded on Māṇḍūkya Upaniṣad (Āgama Prakaraṇa) and Bhagavad Gītā (Chapter-18) respectively.

Swami Advayananda lit the traditional lamp to inaugurate the camp and briefly explained how Māṇḍūkya Upaniṣad was the essence of all the Upaniṣads and Bhagavad Gītā 18th chapter is the essence of the entire Gita. The Campers were delighted to celebrate three big events - Pūjya Gurudev's Jayanti, Bhagavān Ādī Śaṅkarā's Jayanti and Pantheerayiram pūjā in which 12,000 coconuts are offered to Kirāṭa Śiva, one of the forms in which the Lord Siva appeared to Arjuna. This is a traditional Kerala ritual conducted once in 12 years. The campers considered themselves blessed to be a part of these celebrations. The camp concluded with the spectacular cultural programme by the campers who showcased their learning from the subjects.





JULY  
12  
2015

## Upanayanam

Sri Partho Ghosh and Smt Jaisheela Guha, residents of USA, chose the sacred Adi Sankara Nilayam as the venue to conduct the Upanayanam of their children Shreya and Ronit. The ceremony was held at Gurudev's shrine. Swami Advayananda blessed the two children and advised them to chant the Gāyatrī mantra every day. Swamiji also explained the importance and the purpose of performing the Upanayanam ceremony. The family offered Pādukā-pūjā at Gurudev's shrine.

## Stress Management

Ācārya: **Br. Vignesh Chaitanya**

Dignitaries: **Sri George Paul**, Managing Director, Synthite Industries and **Swami Advayananda**, Ācārya, CIF

Participants: **18**

A two-day stress management camp was inaugurated by Sri George Paul, Swami Advayananda and Br. Vignesh Chaitanya by lighting the traditional lamp. Sharply pointing to man's poor prioritisation, Swamiji said, in his inaugural speech that stress can usually be traced to the wrong emphasis that man commonly gives to what is urgent rather than what is important.

Sri Paul congratulated the organisers for choosing a very sacred and holy place as Adi Sankara Nilayam for conducting the programme.

Apart from the classroom sessions there were sessions on yoga and meditation, group discussions, games and team building activities. The camp concluded with a valedictory function.







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on Ādi Śaṅkarācārya's Dakṣiṇāmūrti-stotram

28<sup>th</sup> Oct to 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2016  
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**Swami Chinmayananda**

*by*

मच्चित्ता मद्वत्प्राणाः बोध्यन्तः 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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