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

Swami Chinmayananda
EDITORIAL

GREETINGS FROM CIF!

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

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

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

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

Seekers and their Guides (Ācāryas) from various Centres of Chinmaya Mission made CIF their home for a few days while they reveled in the serenity of Adi Sankara Nilayam, a practice that is gaining every year.
The divine environment is very enabling of study and concentration and thence the practice of Śravanam, Mananam, Nididhyāsanam. Read about all the events and celebrations at CIF in the section titled ‘CM @ CIF’.

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

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

The Newsletter Team welcomes your views, reviews and suggestions at cifnewsletter@chinfo.org.
Kalāyoga – The Heart of Indian Art
The Philosophy and Practice of Indian Art
July 2016

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

Theme
The focus of the workshop was the philosophy of Rasa, aesthetic experience, which is the undercurrent of all classical art-forms. The art-forms ranged from classical versification, dance, music, theatre, sculpture, painting to Indian and Hollywood movies. The transformation of the specific emotional states, i.e., the bhāvas, which are portrayed by the artists into universal aesthetic experience, i.e., the Rasa, which is a manifestation of Bliss – was the underlying theme that was elaborated upon.
‘Vakrokti’, or oblique expression, which an erudite and a talented artist employs, both in structure and substance of the art, make the art more suggestive and subtler in nature. The artist needs to give a detailing of basic human emotions and nature through different art media, for the art to be recognized ‘classical’, thereby making it eternal and universal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Visits to Art Villages and Centres of Dance Forms

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

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

YOGO BHAVATI DUḤKHHAHĀ LEVEL II
AUGUST 2016

Host: Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan (CIFSS)
Faculty: Dr. Madhusudan Penna, Dr. Arun Ranjan Mishra
Dignitaries: Swami Advayananda – Ācārya CIF, Dr. G. Gangadharan Nair – Chairman CIFSS, Dr. D. K. Rana – Director CIFSS, Dr. Bholanath Dash – Dy. Director CIFSS
No. of participants: 40

The 12-day residential workshop consisted of both theoretical and practical sessions. Texts taught at this workshop included:
★ Patañjali Yogasūtra Sādhanāpāda with Vyāsabhāṣya – Dr. Madhusudan Penna
Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, Nagpur
★ Śiva Sarṁhitā – Dr. B. R. Sharma, Principal, Kaivalyadhama Yoga Research Institute, Lonavala, Pune
★ Darśanopaniṣad – Dr. Arun Ranjan Mishra, Professor and Head of the Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Visva-Bharati Central University, Shanti Niketan
★ Practical sessions of Āsana, Prāṇāyāma and Dhyāna – Anukool Deval, Philosophic Literary Research Department, Kaivalyadhama Yoga Research Institute, Lonavala
★ Kicakavadham, from the Mahābhārata (The killing of Kicaka) – adopting an eastern Indian dance form by Pandit Gadadhar Dash, (Sanskrit Teacher, Humma Govt. High School, Odisha) and his troop.
★ Demonstration of śuddhihriyā and āsanas – by Shri Jayant Bhumkar, of the Ambika Yoga Kutir, Mumbai.

LEARNING SANSKRIT LANGUAGE STRUCTURE: THEORY AND APPLICATION
NOVEMBER 2016

Host: Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan (CIFSS)
Faculty: Prof. V. N. Jha - former Director, Centre for Advance Study in Sanskrit, Pune, Prof. Ujjwala Jha – Director, Centre for Advance Study in Sanskrit, Pune
No. of participants: 25

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

During this workshop, Meghasandesah of Kālidāsa, with twelve different
commentaries, compiled by Prof. N. P Unni, former Vice-chancellor of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, was released.

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

**YUKTIDĪPIKĀ – A 10-DAY RESIDENTIAL COURSE**
**MARCH 2017**

Jointly organised by Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan and Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth

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

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

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

**No. of participants:** 35
Sāṅkhya is a very important limb of Indian philosophy and is known to have influenced Indian thought significantly. Among the surviving works on Sāṅkhya (founded by Kapila), the Sāṅkhya-kārikā is one.

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

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

Dr. Venugopalan Nair, Head of the department of Dance and Music from Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, Kalady, along with his troupe performed a Gaṅapatī Vandanaṁ, two plays, Annamācārya Saṅkīrtanam, Bharatanātyam, Mohiniātattam, Gajendra-mōkṣa. The coming alive of Samśkṛtam in its expression of music, art and drama, heralds the shape of the future events from the Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth.

SYMPOSIUM ON MAHĀMAHOPĀDHYĀYA
T GANAPATI SASTRI
MAY 2017

Host: Sahitya Academy, New Delhi and Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan (CIFSS)
Dignitaries: Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana, Sri K. P. Radhakrishnan, Prof. Prafulla Kumar Misra, Prof. G. Gangadharan Nair and Prof. N. P. Unni

The one day symposium on M. M. T. Ganapati Sastri was organized jointly by the Sahitya Academy, New Delhi and Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan.
The programme which began with Vedic invocation presented a detailed description of the life and academic pursuits of Ganapati Sastri beginning with the historic discovery of the 13 plays of the pre-Kalidasa dramatist Bhasa and their publication, under the impressive caption ‘Bhasanatbakacakra’.

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

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

DVDs

BRHADARANYAKA UPA NIŚAD – MAITREYĪ BRAHMAṆA

SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS

TALKS IN ENGLISH BY SWAMI ADVAYANANDA, RECORDED DURING THE ‘SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS’ CAMP HELD AT CHINMAYA VIBHOOṬI IN FEBRUARY 2017.

PRODUCED BY CIF.

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

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

DEVĪ MĀḤĀṬMYAM – PRATHAMA CARITAM (PART-I):

GLORY OF THE MOTHER

TALKS IN ENGLISH BY SWAMI SHARADANANDA SARASVATI, RECORDED DURING THE CAMP ‘DEVĪ MĀḤĀṬMYAM’ HELD AT CIF.

PRODUCED BY CIF.

Devī Māḥāṭmyam, a part of Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa, glorifies the feminine aspect of God, venerating both the sāguna and the nirguna aspects of God.
The saguṇa aspects, represented by Mahāsarasvatī (creator and sattva), Mahālakṣmī (sustainer and rajas) and Mahākālī (destroyer and tamas) endorses the guṇa theory that is core to the Upaniṣads and the Bhagavad-gītā.

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

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

**MANĪṢĀ PAṆCAKAM**

**PENTAD OF CONVICTION**

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

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

CHAPTER I TATTVAVIVEKA-PRAKARĀṆA: ON THE DISCRIMINATION OF REALITY

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

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

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

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

This volume contains the detailed lectures on the first chapter of Pañcadaśi, the Tattvaviveka-prakarāṇa. A sincere study of these lectures will bring to the student immense clarity on the foundational principles of Advaita-vedānta. Vol II and III of the Pañcadaśi will be made available in due course.
PATAŅJALI’S YOGASŪTRA – SAMĀDHIPĀDA
CHAPTER I: ENLIGHTENMENT, THE GOAL
LECTURES IN ENGLISH BY PROF. MADHUSUDHAN PENNA
RECORDED DURING A RESIDENTIAL CAMP YOGO BHAVATI DUḤKHAHĀ IN JANUARY 2016. PRODUCED BY CIFSS.

In 195 crisp sūtras, Sage Patañjali, in his famous Yogasūtra, lays down the principles of the philosophy of Yoga – the unity of our whole being expressing in thought, word and action. This wonderful text encompasses the principles of yogic science, psychology and spiritualism. The rich tradition of Patañjali’s Yoga has been kept alive through millennia by the scholarly commentary of Vyāsa. In the first chapter of his famed Yogasūtra, Sage Patañjali details the art of Concentration. Titled, Samādhi-pāda it consists of 51 sūtras that describe the nature of the mind and the means to dive deep into samādhi. Hence a concerted study of witnessing thoughts, stages of concentration, effort, obstacles and solutions. In seventeen lectures Prof. Penna provides an elaborate introduction with explanation of every sūtra, through the reading of Vyāsa-bhāṣya.

PATAŅJALI’S YOGASŪTRA - SĀDHANA-PĀDA
CHAPTER II
LECTURES IN ENGLISH BY PROF. MADHUSUDHAN PENNA
RECORDED DURING A RESIDENTIAL CAMP YOGO BHAVATI DUḤKHAHĀ IN AUGUST 2016.
PRODUCED BY CIFSS.

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

The second chapter, Sādhanā-pāda consists of 55 sūtras that address “Bahiraṅga” or the five outer limbs of āstāṅga-yoga. In his talks, Prof. Madhusudan Penna speaks of fundamental principles like karma
and saṃskāras, relating them to the root cause of Avidyā. Also, through the Vyāsa-bhāṣya, one finds the thorough exposition of the integrated practice of all the steps that leads to the attainment of the goal of Samādhi.

SANĀTANA DHARMA PARICAYAM
UNDERSTANDING SANĀTANA DHARMA FROM CLOSE-UP
LECTURES IN ENGLISH BY SWAMI SHARADANANDA SARASVATI
RECORDED DURING THE SANĀTANA DHARMA PARICAYAM
CAMP.
PRODUCED BY CIF.

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

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

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

The lectures detail extensively the scriptures and their origin, the Sanskrit language, the concept of God, Avatāras, Rṣis, the significance of Guru-paramparā, theories of creation, the five basic duties of man, social setup, Śoḍaśa Saṃskāras (16 Sacraments) and a traditional look at the cycle of birth and death as originally presented by Sanātana Dharma.
Śukāṣṭakam is a profound octet composed by the narrator of the Śrimad Bhāgavatam, Śuka Mahārṣi, son of Śrī Veda Vyāsa, verily describing the state of an Enlightened One.

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

MEGHASANDEŚĀḤ
EDITOR: SRI K. P. UNNI
ISBN : 978-93-80864-20-4
PAGES: 807
PRODUCED BY CIFSS

The Meghadūta is a small 120-stanza lyrical piece by Kālidāsa, composed in the Mandākrāntā meter (which is used to compose lyrics on love and separation). The present volume consists of the text, English translation and 12 Sanskrit commentaries on the poem. The book, ‘Meghasandeśāḥ’ was released during the Level 5 of Prof. V. N. Jha’s 5-level course on Learning Sanskrit Language Structure.
There was no aspect of life that was not touched by Śrī Rāmānuja. Towards achieving his ideals, he embraced sannyāsa, became a legendary teacher, a venerated scholar, an excellent management expert of temple culture and a path-breaking social reformer. Śrī Rāmānuja: The Great Integrator is an attempt to introduce this multi-faceted personality, a tireless traveller of India’s vast spaces, a fosterer of bhakti to bring people together, his only armour was surrender to the Divine; his sole weapon -- love for all creation, for, he held the belief that all is the Divine: Iśāvasyam idaṁ sarvam. The book, a 289-page treat on the life of Śrī Rāmānuja is a gift of love and worship by Prema Nandkumar that was released on Śrī Rāmānuja’s 1000th birth anniversary.

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SVĀDHYĀYA AND SĀDHĀNĀ CAMPS

ŚRĪMAD MŪLA BHĀGAVATA SAPTĀHĀM IN MALAYALAM
MARCH 2016

Ācārya: Br. Dhruva Chaitanya
As a part of the Utram Mahotsavam 2017, CIF organized Śrīmad Mūla Bhāgavata Saptāhām.
Swami Sharadananda, in his address mentioned that it is a unique opportunity to hear the Mūla Bhāgavata Saptāham in the abode of Bhagavān Śrī Ādi Śaṅkarācārya from a young Ācārya, Br. Dhruva Chaitanya. Dhruvaji began with the Bhāgavata Māhātmyam. Sri Manoj Namboothiri from Kaitapram, Payyanur delivered the pārāyaṇa (recitation) of the ‘Bhāgavata Māhātmyam’. Around 100 devotees attended the sessions.

**VEDĀNTA UNVEILED WITH PUYA GURUJI**

**OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2016**

Vedānta Unveiled

Ācārya: Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda and Swami Advayanananda, Ācārya CIF

No. of participants: 200

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

Like every year, Guruji’s CIF camp coincided with Dīvālī, on which occasion Swami Sharadananda performed the traditional Lakṣmī pūjā.
On this very auspicious occasion, Pujya Guruji granted sannyāsa dikṣā to four Brahmacharis and one Brahmacharini.

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

**WINTER CAMP – SĀDHANA IN GĪṬĀ**
**DECEMBER 2016**

**Sādhanā in Gīṭā**

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

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

**No. of participants:** 16

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

Vedavati Chaitanya who taught Mukunda-mālā, a poem in Sanskrit written by Kulashekhara Alvar. In addition to the texts, select episodes (9, 10, 11, and 12) of Upaniṣad Gaṅgā were screened and explained by Priyaji. Swami Advayananda delivered the benedictory address as well as released the DVD of the talks on Śukāṣṭakam.
Gītā FOR YUVA
DECEMBER 2016

Gītā for Yuva

Ācārya: Br. Sudheer Chaitanya & Resident Yuvaveers
Number of Participants: 41

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

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

DEVI MĀHĀTMYAM
APRIL 2017

Ācārya: Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati, Ācārya CIF
No. of participants: 35

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

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

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

WEBINARS

BHAGAVAD GĪTĀ CHANTING WEBINAR
FEBRUARY 2017

Bhagavad Gītā Chanting Webinar
**M-POWER VEDIC MATHS WEBINAR**
**MARCH 2017**

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

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

**CELEBRATIONS**
**(TEMPLE REPORTS)**
THE FOLLOWING ARE A LIST OF CELEBRATIONS HELD AT CIF:

- Guru Pūrṇimā with Gaṇapati homam and Gurupādukapūjā, followed by Sampūrṇa Gitāpārāyaṇaṃ
- Sanskrit Sevā Śibiram by Ācārya Dr. Varun Khanna
- Gaṇeśa Caturthi
- Rāma Navamī Celebrations April, 2017
Global Celebrations

★ Visit by the Ānanda, Swami Jayendra Saraswati
April, 2017
His Holiness, the Ānanda Jayendra Saraswati of Kanchi visited Adi Sankara Nilayam in April. While at CIF, His Holiness spent most of his time in the birth room of Bhagavān Ādi Śaṅkarācārya. Campers present at the premises then and CIF staff, Ācāryas and Yuvaveers were filled with deep reverence to have been in the presence of the Seer. Jayendra Saraswati Śaṅkarācārya is the 69th Śaṅkarācārya Guru and head (Pīṭhādhipati) of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham.

★ Gurudev Jayanti Celebrations 2017
May 2017
Graced by: Swami Advayananda, Ācārya CIF; Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati, Ācārya CIF; Swami Advaitananda, Ācārya Chinmaya Vibhooti.

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

HOME STUDY COURSE

6TH CONVOCATION OF HSC
DECEMBER 2016

6th Convocation of HSC
**Dignitaries:** Dr. Lakshmi Kumari of Vivekananda Kendra, Br. Sudheer Chaitanya, Ācārya, Chinmaya Mission Kottayam, Sri N M Sundar, Resident Trustee CIF.

**No. of participants:** 28

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

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

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**7TH CONVOCATION OF HSC**

**APRIL 2017**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### VEDIC MATHS WORKSHOPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Venue</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Special Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2016 Simplit – Chinmaya Vibhooti</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Magic Squares - Number theory (with special focus on Prime numbers) Cryptography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2016 Vedic Maths Workshop at Pushpala school, Tirunalveli</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>Vedic Mathematics Techniques - for faster calculation, Geometry &amp; Progressions</td>
<td>Number Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2017 Harihara Vidyalaya, Tamaraiakkam</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Faster and non-routine computation techniques discussed. Students’ understanding and lateral thinking were tested through puzzles.</td>
<td>Combinatorics (which is a branch of mathematics concerning the study of finite or countable discrete structures)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOME STUDY COURSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2017</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Cyclic Quadrilaterals Kuttaka process for solving linear indeterminate equations</td>
<td>History of Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya – II problems from Lilavati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2017</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Subtraction, Multiplication, Digital Root patterns in Squaring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CM@CIF

ALL KERALA CHINMAYA YUVA KENDRA SEVAK TRAINING PROGRAMME

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

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (YEP) KERALA (MALAYALAM)
JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2016

Faculty: Br. Dhruva Chaitanya, Ācārya Chinmaya Mission Alappuzha, Br. Mukunda Chaitanya, Ācārya Chinmaya Mission, Kozhikode and a member of All India Chinmaya Yuva Kendra (AICHYK), Br. Sudheer Chaitanya, Ācārya of Chinmaya Mission Kottayam and the State co-ordinator, CHYK
Dignitaries: Swami Viviktananda, Regional Head Chinmaya Mission, Kerala; Swami Advayananda; Sri M Mukundan, Chief Sevak, Chinmaya Seva Trust Kerala (CSTK)
No. of participants: 10
The course aim was to train the youth to face their life with the right understanding, imbibing the values of our culture. The course includes 75 days of intensive training followed by 10 months on-the-field service at various mission centres. Adi Sankara Nilayam is truly an inspiring venue for such courses that need great inspiration.

RETREAT CAMP FOR CHIMAYA SEVAKS FROM DUBAI
MARCH 2017

Ācārya: Swami Mitrananda, Resident Ācārya, Chennai & National Director, AICHYK
Dignitaries: Swami Advayananda
No. of participants: 30

BHARATA GAURAV CAMP
APRIL 2017

Faculty: CIF YuvaVeers and CHYKS
Dignitaries: Swami Advayananda, Resident Ācārya, CIF
No. of participants: 118
‘Bharata Gaurav - be a Proud Indian’, a 4 day Children’s Residential Camp was organized by CIF YuvaVeers and CHYKS.
The event was a collection of creativity and challenge, thinking and expression. A Gaṇapatī-making competition brought out the best in the young participants; there was next a movie workshop on 'Secrets of Furious Five' that made the young students understand the importance of converting their weaknesses into strengths. Dr. Varun Khanna taught the little Indians a patriotic song in Sanskrit.

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

**SADDARŚANAM CAMP**  
**MAY 2017**

Ācārya: Swami Advaitananda, Resident Ācārya Chinmaya Vibhooti and Director (West Zone), AICHYK  
No. of campers: 32 Campers  
Text covered: Saddarśanam of Śrī Ramaṇa Maharṣi

**SPIRITUAL CAMP IN TAMIL**  
**MAY 2017**

Ācārya: Vibhuti Shah, Ācārya, Chinmaya Mission Trichy and Swami Shashvatnanda, Ācārya, CIF.  
Dignitaries: Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati, Ācārya CIF  
No. of campers: 40  
Texts covered: Sādhana Pañcakam, Amṛṭa Bindu Upaniṣad.
SPIRITUAL CAMP IN TAMIL
MAY 2017

Camp Ācārya: Swami Ramakrishnananda
No. of campers: 59
Text studied: Īśāvāsyopaniṣad and Navayogi Prasaṅgam

YEP-10 SEMESTER ONE EVALUATIONS
MARCH- APRIL 2017

Ācārya: Swami Swatmananda
Texts studied: Adhyātma Lakṣaṇa with Swami Advayananda, 4 Māhāvākyas
through Maniśā Pañcakam, Pūjā vidhis taught: Gāyatri Homam

CIF HOSTS

YOGA CAMP BY SRI GEORGE VAZ
NOVEMBER 2016

Ācārya: Sri George Vaz
No. of participants: 26
UPCOMING EVENTS AT CIF

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

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

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

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

Grateful to our Sponsor

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

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