From the Editor's desk

In accordance with Pūjya Guru Dev Swami Chinnayavananda’s clarion call for bridging the glorious Spiritual Wisdom of our Past with the Present, Science with Spirituality, Tradition with Modernity, we at Chinmayananda International Foundation (CIF) march on unabated to serve the magnificent Vision of our Great Master, of making the timeless Wisdom of our Rṣis, Scriptures and our Knowledge traditions accessible and comprehensive to every seeker through jñāna Yagnās and Sādhanā Camps. We at CIF are pleased to bring to you the 18th edition of our annual newsletter, which serves as your portal to see the myriad ways in which we have tried to spread Spiritual Awareness through our activities at CIF and elsewhere over the past year.

Spiritual Knowledge is not a refuge for the coward who wishes to escape the world of action. Instead, it is a method to shape the mind-intellect, to achieve diligence and perfection in action. This year, we did a thorough scrutiny and verification of the applicability of the epic knowledge in the Mahābhārata in our unique workshop ‘Lessons from the Mahābhārata for Modern Bharat’. Covering in depth the knowledge in the Mahābhārata with a special focus on Statecraft and Astronomy, the purpose of nurturing Confidence, Enthusiasm and Dharma or the conviction for Truth was achieved through five days of churning and diving into the timeless epic.

Sanskrit can be seen as the mother of all major languages of our land, if not the world. And a knowledge of and mastery over Sanskrit is imperative to unlock the treasures of our ancient knowledge traditions. It is the misfortune of our land that the most scientific language known to man is suffering a state of disuse in modern Indian society. Leading from the front in the effort to revive and restore the glory of the Devabhāsā Sanskrit, the CIF Shodha Sansthan (CIFSS) conducted its annual Sanskrit festival, an advanced level workshop on ‘Manuscriptology & Palaæography’ and a five-day workshop on ‘Preventive Conservation of Manuscripts’.

We also hosted camps for Sādhanā and Svādhyāya, meant for basic and advanced study of Vedāntic concepts. Prominent among them were Pūjya Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji’s Diwali camp on Bhāgavata Stuti Mālā, which is one of Pūjya Guruji’s compositions on select verses from Śrimad Bhāgavatam; Advaita Vedānta Immersive Camp by Swami Advayananda based on Śūtra 1 of the Brahma Sūtra, ‘Athāto Brahma jijñāsa’, and a camp on the third caricam of Devī Mahātmyam.

This year also marked the commencement of CIF’s flagship venture for reaching out to all global seekers of spiritual knowledge through a unique programme meant for enriching lives by expounding the sacred and practical knowledge of the Bhagavad-gītā in a well-structured exhaustive and lucid manner through our ‘Master Gita Master Life’ course.

Please go through our newsletter for snapshots of all our attempts to fill the life of every seeker with the divine knowledge of our scriptures and their practical applications. We also invite you to CIF and look forward to hosting you at the serene and peaceful environs of Adi Sankara Nilayam for our upcoming camps and events that we trust you will attend.

Please do not hesitate to provide feedback. We value it, for it will be instrumental in helping us improve upcoming volumes of the CIF newsletter.

With Prem and Om
Vijay K Nair, Editor, CIF Newsletter

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

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The Mahābhārata is an intrinsic part of Indian life. Its influence on current politics and society and on astronomy and the applications of its teachings in a modern context are worth research and discussion. Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF) and Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth (CVV) jointly organized a five-day workshop on ‘Lessons from Mahābhārata for Modern Bharat’ with a focus on Astronomy and Statecraft. The aim of this workshop was to study a critical edition of the original text from the viewpoint of social, physical and political sciences. Notable scholar Prof. Nagaraj Paturi, an expert in Sanskrit literature, led a three-day discussion on the many socio-political issues related to statecraft. Prof. Nilesh Oak, who has been doing research for the past 15 years on dating the Mahābhārata through its astronomical references, presented some of his findings.

The inaugural ceremony was conducted at Śaṅkaram under the auspices of the Chief Guest Prof. Gangadhara Nair. Dr. Sushree Sasmita Pati welcomed all the delegates and participants. Prof. Gauri Mahulikar, Swami Sharadananda and Prof. Nilesh Oak inaugurated the ceremony by lighting the lamp. Prof. Nair, who was awarded the title of Mahāmahaṇḍaḥya for his lifelong contribution to Sanskrit education, cited many verses from the Mahābhārata to point out its relevance in today’s society.

The five-day technical sessions began with Prof. Nilesh Oak’s astronomy structure and evidences for the dating the Mahābhārata and refutation of other dates. On the first two days, Prof. Oak had 12 sessions discussing and analysing references, such as the Arundhati-Vasiṣṭha theory and Bhīṣma Nirvāṇa, and dispelling the confusion regarding eclipses during the eight days of the war. Corroborating it with cross-disciplinary evidence like the disappearance of the River Sarasvatī and so on, he further explained his conclusion, and presented the date 5561 BCE for the Mahābhārata war. Although it has not been accepted by all, that Indian civilisation is of a far earlier date is being increasingly corroborated using current advances in science. This also led to a sāstraic style of debate to understand astronomy facts.

On the final three days, Prof. Nagaraj Paturi had 15 rigorous sessions on statecraft where he explained the rightful claim of the Mahābhārata as the fifth Veda. His discourses covered a vast field, from the duties of a government, the art of governing a state, Kṛṣṇa and Yudhiṣṭhira in the Sabhā parva demonstrating the art of negotiation, to justice and human rights, women’s issues, art of war and so on. It opened up the possibility of drawing wisdom from an Indian cultural ethos that could be used in modern diplomacy and in social dialogue. Countering the perception of the Mahābhārata as myth or fiction, Prof Paturi presented it as one of the best texts on which to build our nation, society or even the basic unit of a family. During the last session, an open-book quiz was conducted to recollect and sharpen the understanding gained during the sessions both in Astronomy as well as Statecraft.

Prof. Paturi and Prof. Oak were presented mementos, and the participants were given certificates by Prof. Gauri Mahulikar. Much of the success of the Workshop was due to the diversity of the participants. Prof. Paturi expressed his satisfaction that although small in number, the participants reflected the diversity of modern India. Ranging in age from 18 to 62, arriving from Kerala, TN, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarati, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Delhi; studying UG and PG in Sanskrit, Commerce, Business Administration, Engineering and Physics; doctoral researchers in the Humanities, Professors and Educators; Professionals from the IT sector; and Authors in the Arts and Humanities – the diversity of the participants led to animated discussion and active participation. A formal report was read out by Dr. Sushree Sasmita Pati and Dr. Arundhati Sundar concluded with a vote of thanks.

The five days of the workshop led to the conviction that a deeper exploration of the Mahābhārata narrative is essential. It is an eye-opener for modern Indians living and competing in the globalised world, oftentimes without connection to their cultural roots. As Prof. Gauri Mahulikar said, “The treasure of knowledge is sometimes expressed, at times suggested through riddles and enigmatic language. People like Nilesh Oak, Nagaraj Paturi and others have worked on the difficult parts and made the knowledge accessible to the common people.”

The purpose of an Ārṣa-kāvyā – to nurture confidence, enthusiasm and dharma – was achieved through five days of churning and diving deep into the Mahābhārata.
The Sanskrit Festival is an annual programme of the CIF Shodha Sansthan (CIFSS) conducted on World Sanskrit Day. This year’s Sanskrit Festival was celebrated in a festive mood in association with CVV.

The inaugural ceremony began with the welcome speech of Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana in the presence of Swami Adyavandana, who exhorted students to learn Sanskrit to nurture India’s intellectual prowess and spiritual glory.

Prof. Gangadharam Nair presided. It was an opportunity to felicitate him after the recent national recognition that he received from the President of India for his commendable work in spreading Sanskrit internationally. Prof. Gangadharam Nair detailed the humble but definite beginnings he made in the early days of his life, which expanded gradually, resulting in the creation of Sanskrit-speaking communities across the globe.

Prof. Kumar Chandra Mishra, the chief guest, gave a detailed account of the activities undertaken under his stewardship since the beginning of his endeavour to spread the message enshrined in Vedic literature.

Braving the devastating flood and other natural calamities that affected the state of Kerala, about 250 students from 19 schools and colleges participated in a variety of events such as Bhagavad-gitā recitation, poetry recitation, story-telling, story-writing, essay-writing, elocution, making extempore speeches, painting, singing, chanting and acting.

The students of Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tripunithura, were the overall champions and the students of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthā’s Guruval Jupiter campus were the runners-up. Prizes were distributed at the valedictory function attended by Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana; Prof. Kumar Chandra Mishra, Chief Guest; Dr. C. T. Francis, retired professor of Sanskrit from St. Thomas College, Pala; Prof. Gauri Mahulkar, Dean & Vice-Chancellor in charge of CVV; and Dr. Rajeshker Reddy, Dy. Director, CIFSS. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Anantha Vasudeva Nanda, Curator, CIFSS.

**Advanced level Workshop on Manuscriptology and Palaeography**

**Date:** 13 November – 12 December 2018

**Dignitaries:** Prof. Dharmarajan, Vice-Chancellor, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady; Prof. Gangadharam Nair, Chairman, CIFSS; Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana, Director, CIFSS; Prof. Gauri Mahulkar, Dean & Vice-Chancellor in charge, CVV; Dr. V. R. Manoj, Dy. Director, CIFSS

**No. of Participants:** 25

An advanced level workshop on Manuscriptology & Palaeography was organised by CIFSS in collaboration with the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), IGNCA, New Delhi.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Dharmarajan in the presence of Prof. Gangadharam Nair, Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana and Prof. Gauri Mahulkar.

A lamp was lit amidst the chants of Vedic mantras.

Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana welcomed all the guests and participants and gave a brief introduction about the workshop, to CIFSS and the NMM. Prof. Dharmarajan delivered the inaugural address, hailing the work of CIFSS and the support rendered by NMM. Prof. Gangadharam Nair delivered the Presidential Address, detailing the benefit of preserving manuscripts for the future. Prof. Gauri Mahulkar delivered the keynote address on manuscriptology. The inaugural session was anchored by Dr. V. R. Manoj.

In the workshop, participants were given training in calligraphic study, manuscript cataloguing, collation methods, critical editing, history of manuscriptology, studies in various scripts, manuscript repositories, preservation and conservation methods and other related topics.

Among the major topics covered in the workshop were introduction to manuscriptology and palaeography, cataloguing and manuscripts record, introduction to ancient scripts, origin and development of the Brahmi script, variations in the Brahmi script in different periods, teaching of the Grantha script, use of chandas and grammar for editing Sanskrit manuscripts, conservation and preservation of manuscripts, and traditional methods and standards of digitization of manuscripts and rare books.

The sessions concluded with a panel discussion and a final exam. In the concluding session, remarks and feedback were sought from the participants and resource persons. This was followed by the valedictory address, the presidential address, the distribution of certificates and a vote of thanks.
Five-day workshop on Preventive Conservation of Manuscripts (Special workshop for flood-affected areas of Kerala)

Date: 10–14 December 2018

Dignitaries: Dr. V Venugopal, Director, Intangible Heritage, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady; Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana, Director, CIFSS; Shri Pratik Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Director General, National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi

Resource Persons: Dr. V. R. Shaji, Heritage Study Centre, Hill Palace, Tripunithura; Smt. Kirti Shrivastava, National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), New Delhi; Smt. Parul Gosh, NMM, New Delhi; Shri Vibhas Kumar, INTACH, Patna

No. of Participants: 27

A five-day workshop on Preventive Conservation of Manuscripts was conducted by CIFSS in collaboration with the NMM, New Delhi. The workshop focused on the flood-affected areas of Kerala. An advertisement was published in Mathrubhumi and Malayala Manorama newspapers for the information of manuscript custodians and stakeholders of Kerala. The schedule included a three-day training programme at CIFSS and two days of field work.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. V Venugopal. Dr. Dilip Kumar Rana welcomed the scholars and participants and Shri Pratik Srivastava delivered a lecture on digitisation of manuscripts.

Lectures were delivered on preventive conservation, storage of manuscripts, handling of manuscripts, documentation of conservation and recognition of deterioration, indigenous method of preventive conservation, storage, disaster management, encapsulation and folder-making, preventive conservation in the field and so on.

Field work conservation work
There was no response to our advertisement in the local newspapers. No stakeholder or custodian of manuscripts or any authority contacted us for conservation. We contacted several institutions ourselves and three of them agreed that we could have a session to conserve their manuscripts: These were the personal collection of Dr. K. V. Vasudevan, Chalakudy; Rashtiya Sanskrit Sansthan - Guruvayur Campus in Thrissur District; and Vaidya Matham in Palakkad District.

The participants were divided into two groups. Each group had two resource persons, one person from CIFSS and 14 participants. One team conserved around 40 of 100 manuscripts belonging to Dr. K. V. Vasudevan, dusting, separating the folios, oiling, threading, wrapping paper and cloth. The rest of manuscripts will be preserved by CIFSS Manuscript Conservation Centre (MCC). The same team worked from 4 PM to 8 PM repairing about 60 manuscripts of 240. The participants documented their activities and handed them over to the coordinator, NMM. The remaining manuscripts will be conserved by CIFSS, MCC.

A second group went to Palakkad. After a five-hour journey from CIFSS, they began their work by 11:30 AM. The manuscripts were in very poor condition. The group documented and completed the preventive conservation of about 70 manuscripts of 300. The remaining manuscripts will be conserved by CIFSS MCC. Participants also learnt how to make the acid-free mounting boxes in different sizes, disaster management, and other topics related to conservation. At the valedictory function, the participants provided feedback, and certificates were distributed.

CIFSS is grateful to NMM for the financial and moral support provided for this critically important workshop.

Siddhāntaḥlesasāṅgraha III

Date: 15–31 January 2019

Camp Facilitator: Prof. Vempaty Kutumba Sastry

Dignitaries: Swami Advayananda, In charge, CIF; Dr. Dileep Kumar Rana, Director, CIFSS

No. of Participants: 15

CIFSS conducted a 13-day textual study of Appayya Dikṣita’s Siddhāntaḥlesasāṅgraha, a celebrated 15th-century text on Vedānta, by Prof. Vempaty Kutumba Sastry, a highly acclaimed scholar in Sanskrit literature and language, who has decades of experience in teaching Sanskrit to students in several Indian universities.

At a time when Vedānta literature had become too vast, with hundreds of texts presenting different views and interpretations, Appayya Dikṣita compiled several texts from Vedāntic literature into the book, Siddhāntaḥlesasāṅgraha. He composed the text in an age of extreme bigotry and vigorous proselytisation, fighting in the name of the God and the conception of salvation. He attempted to reconcile creeds and philosophies and unified the warring sects by an unquestioned allegiance to the śrutis and the śamsītā.

Siddhāntaḥlesasāṅgraha collects the opinions of Vācaspati Miśra, Vivaraṇa-caarya, Ananda-bodha-haarya, Citsukha-caarya, Swami Viśyāraṇya, Suresvara-caarya, Nrsinha Bhatāpadiāya, Kaumudi-kāra, Vedānta-siddhāntamukttāvallākara and others in such a way so as to be brief but complete, and these are presented in the order in which these texts advance further from the previous view.

The programme commenced with the lighting of the lamp by Swami Advyananda, Prof. Vempaty Kutumba Sastry, and Dr. Dileep Kumar Rana.
CIF Publications
NEW RELEASES

What is Vedanta?
Kanakadarastotram
Jivanmuktiviveka
  of Swami Vidyaramya
  Chapter 3 - Mano Nasa Prakaraṇa
  (Dissolution of the Mind)
The Gordian Knot
  of Self Effort and Destiny
Vedantamuktavali
  of Ananadvata Ramakrishna
Nasadiya-suktam
Pancaadasi
  Chapter 5
  (Mahavakyam Vivekah)

CIF Publications
+91-92077-11138
cifpublications@chinfo.org
Vedānta for Yuva

Date: 14-16 September 2018
Camp Facilitators: Swami Advayananda, Br. Ved Chaitanya and Br. Sudheer Chaitanya
No. of Participants: 50

Sixty youths aged between 18 and 35 gathered at Adi Sankara Nilayam for a 3-day residential camp – Vedānta for Yuva with Swami Advayananda. Swamiji was assisted by Br. Ved Chaitanya and Br. Sudheer Chaitanya. Swamiji discussed and clarified the various questions raised by the campers. Besides the classes, Br. Ved Chaitanya and Br. Sudheer Chaitanya conducted group discussions, Q&A sessions and guided meditation. The outdoor activities sessions were developed and conducted so as to help the campers learn and understand what they were taught in the class.

Informal post-dinner sessions with Swamiji made for a deeper learning in a relaxed atmosphere. The campers and the CIF family came together one evening and lit the lamps all around the temple complex of Chinmaya Swayambhu Ayyappa Temple.

Bhakti Immersive Camp 2018: Bhagavata Stuti Māla

Date: 28 October-7 November 2018
Camp Facilitators: Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda, Swami Sharadanananda Sarasvati, Swami Sridhananda, Swami Aradhana, Br. Anupama Chaitanya
Dignitaries: Dr. R. N. Sreenathan, Academic Director, CIF; Prof. Gauri Mahulikar, Dean and Vice-Chancellor in charge of CVV; Shri N. M. Sundar, Executive Secretary, CVV Trust Board
No. of Participants: 150 | Text: Bhāgavata Stuti Māla

Pujya Guruji's Diwali camp started off with a session by Swami Sharadanananda Sarasvati. The text expounded by Pujya Guruji was Bhāgavata Stuti Māla, a compilation of select verses from the Śrīmad Bhāgavatam. Along with the sessions on Bhāgavata Stuti Māla by Pujya Guruji, classes were also taken by Swami Sridhananda, Swamini Aradhana and Br. Anupama Chaitanya on various topics. Every day Guru-pādulā puja was performed by the devotees. During the camp, Pujya Guruji also released CIF publications – DVDs – What is Vedānta?, Nāsadiya-sūkta, Lessons from the Mahābhārata for Modern Bharat – Focus on Astronomy, Vyāsa Vālmiki Kālidāsa, Sampūrṇa Śrīmad Bhāgavata Pārāyana. Two books – The Gordian Knot of Self Effort and Destiny, and Vedāntammukāvali were also released.

Dr. R. N. Sreenathan gave a presentation on the various activities of CIF. Presentations were also made on Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth (CVV) by Prof. Gauri Mahulikar and Shri N. M. Sundar.

Diwali was celebrated by the campers together with the CIF family by lighting lamps all around Chinmaya Swayambhu Ayyappa Temple and also around the campus.

Advaita Vedānta Immersive

Date: 25-31 December 2018
Camp Facilitators: Swami Advayananda, Br. Subhumi Chaitanya, Br. Bharati Chaitanya, Br. Ved Chaitanya, Shri Rahul Maini
Dignitaries: Prof. Gauri Mahulikar, Dean and Vice-Chancellor in charge of CVV; Swami Sharadanananda Sarasvati, Acharya, Kerala Sandeepany Vedānta Course
No. of Participants: 55
Text: Sūtra 1 of the Brahmasūtra, 'Athāto Brah마juṇāśā'

CIF's second edition of the year-end week-long camp, Advaita Vedānta Immersive, was held at Adi Sankara Nilayam and the text was Sūtra 1 of the Brahmasūtra, 'Athāto Brahμjuṇāśā'.
Admission to the camp was based on a qualifying test for delegates, unless they had attended the first Advaita Vedanta Immersive programme in 2017. The course was an intense experience and group discussions, doubt clarification sessions, self-study time and written summation of the text expounded by Swami Advayananda were undertaken. The delegates had informal satsang, bhajans and also presentations on CIF and CVV.

The Chief Guest for the valedictory programme on 31 December was Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati, Acharya of Kerala Sandeepany Vedanta Course in Malayalam. A few CIF publications were released during the programme.

These included the recordings of Narayaniyam, verses compiled by Sri Melpathur Narayana Bhattathiri in praise of the Lord of Guruvar, chanting by Brni. Devaki Chaitanya; Jivan Mukti Viveka Chapter 3, talks by Swami Advayananda, and recordings of the Advaita Vedanta Immersive 2018 in a pen drive.

The campers joined the CIF family to welcome the New Year with an elaborate Viguṇa Sahasaranāma Puja led by Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati.

**Devi Māhātmyam - Caritam 3**

**Date:** 16-21 March 2019  
**Camp Facilitators:** Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati  
**Dignitaries:** Swamini Keshikannada, Chinmay Mission, Kasaragod; Shri K. K. Rajan, Chief Sevak, CIF Trust; Shri Rajesh Patel, Treasurer, CIF Trust  
**Participants:** 44  
**Text:** Devi Māhātmyam, Uttar Caritam

The third Caritam of Devi Māhātmyam camp was organised following the two camps held in the past two years. Pujya Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati inaugurated the six-day spiritual retreat. Swamiji was welcomed with a Pūrṇa kumbha. The camp was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by Pujya Swamiji and Swamini Kashikananda.

**Prathama Caritam and Madhyama Caritam** had been covered in the previous two camps. This year Uttar Caritam was the text, which is the final part of the Devi Māhātmyam. Everyday there was Laññā Sahasranāma chanting led by Girija Amma. The final three days of the camp coincided with the Uttaram festival at Chinmay Swayambhu Ayyappa Temple. On the first day of the festival, cultural programmes were presented by Bāla Vidhār śāhī pdf and Dev groups; on the second day there was a cultural programme by the students of CVV.

The camp concluded on March 21 and was followed by a Devi-puja and the valedictory function. Shri K. K. Rajan and Shri. Rajesh offered Gurudaksinā to Swamiji on behalf of CIF. After the valedictory ceremony, Swamiji distributed the recorded audio of the camp to everyone as Yajña prasād.

**Vedānta Sadhanā Camp 2019**

**Date:** 6-11 May 2019  
**Camp Facilitators:** Swami Advayananda and Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati  
**Dignitaries:** Prof. Gauri Mahulikar, Br. Ved Chaitanya  
**No. of Participants:** 50  
**Text:** Vākya Vrūti, Lakṣmī Narasirīha Karuṇārasa Stotram

Pujya Swamijis were welcomed with a Pūrṇa kumbha. The camp began with the lighting of the lamp by Pujya Swamijis, Prof. Gauri Mahulikar and Br. Ved Chaitanya.

Vākya Vṛtti was expounded on by Swami Advayananda and Swami Sharadananda explained the Lakṣmī Narasirīha Karuṇārasa Stotram.

The famous temple art form of Chakyar Koothu was performed by Dr. Edanad Rajan Nambiar during the camp, based on the life story of great scholar Bhagavān Ādi Saṅkarācārya. The camp coincided with Ādi Saṅkara Jayanti and Pujya Gurudev’s Naksatra Jayanti. Pujya Swami Sharadananda performed the Pūjā.

Kalaś-pūjā was performed in the Chinmay Swayambhu Ayyappa temple on the occasion. On Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda’s Naksatra Jayanti on 11 May, Swami Sharadananda performed a special Pādukā-pūjā at Chidvilas auditorium.
Master Gita Master Life Inauguration

Date: 12 January 2019–13 August
Camp Facilitators: Swami Advayananda, Br. Ved Chaitanya
Dignitaries: Dr. Apparao Mukkamala, Managing Trustee, CVV; Dr. R N Seenatham, Academic Director, GIF; Shri N. M. Sundar, Trustee, CIF; Shri Rajesh Patel, Trustee, GIF

CIF launched a unique 20-month course on the study of the Bhagavad-gita, covering all 18 chapters. Live discourses are conducted on the second Saturday and Sunday of every month, covering one chapter, and the recorded videos are available soon after the live sessions for online viewers. The course includes discourses by Swami Advayananda, chanting sessions, meditation sessions and question and answer sessions.

Pujya Swami Advayananda and Swami Sharadananda were welcomed with the Pūrṇa kumbha at the inauguration. The first session of Master Gita Master Life (MGML) started on 12 January. Nearly 80 people were present and more than a hundred people watched online. The programme concluded on 13 January with a Gītā-ārati.

Vedic Maths 2018 @ Chinmaya Vibhooti ~ Simpli5

Date: 3–7 June 2018
Camp Facilitators: Shri Vinay Nair
No. of participants: 65

Sixty high school students and five teachers from different parts of the country gathered at Chinmaya Vibhooti for a 5-day residential camp ‘Simpli5’ jointly organised by CIF and School of Vedic Math. The faculty and author of CIF’s Vedic Mathematics Home Study Course, Shri Vinay Nair, shared the inspiring history and development of mathematics in India. Amongst the various topics, the highlight of the camp were Brahma Gupta’s geometry that focused on triplets, tetrads and cyclic quadrilaterals, and the geometric aspects of yantras. The interactive sessions inspired the participants to make observations and claims, also proving and disproving them. This style of learning which involved critical thinking, questioning, doubting, reasoning and inquiry was much appreciated. The campers also enjoyed a session that focused on making clocks which were not circular. The idea was to bring out the creativity through mathematics, as mathematics is often looked upon as a subject that develops only logical reasoning and not creativity.

The scenic beauty of Chinmaya Vibhooti had the campers enthralled. The visit to Chinmaya Jeevan Darshan was enriching for the campers. The visit to the new addition to Chinmaya Vibhooti, Swanubhooti Vatika, was one of the most inspiring memories that the campers took back. In their feedback, the campers said that they all loved not just the mathematics but also the overall experience at Chinmaya Vibhooti. They all looked forward to the camp next year.

Vedie Maths @ Chinmaya Maauli

Date: 7–10 June 2018
Camp Facilitator: Shri Vinay Nair
No. of participants: 34

Chinmaya Maauli, Pune, facilitated its 3rd annual residential camp on Vedic Mathematics jointly organised by CIF and School of Vedic Math. About 34 participants in the age group 11 to 13 years went through four days of discovery with Shri Vinay Nair, learning techniques in multiplication, compound multiplication and tests of divisibility in primes. They enjoyed the sessions, which involved a lot of pattern observation and thinking. Almost all the techniques in multiplication were discovered by the students on their own by mere observation. The fact that they could learn on their own and make discoveries in mathematics made them keen to learn more.

After every session, the students were thrown a challenging puzzle by Shri Shankar Ramanathan, the workshop coordinator and a sevak from Chinmaya Maauli. Shankerji encouraged the winners with prizes. The children found the session on magic by Shankerji fascinating.

Swami Siddheshanandaji and Brni. Maitreyi Chaitanya took the children on a tour of Chinmaya Maauli where they closely observed more than 200 varieties of plants and trees. Evenings were spent joyfully playing games.

Interestingly, so engrossed were the children in their learning and discovery that none of them missed their families. Their feedback said it all. They looked forward to the camp next year.
**Vedic Mathematics at Chinmaya Maauli**

**Date:** 16 to 20 April 2019  
**Camp Facilitator:** Shri Vinay Nair  
**Dignitaries:** Swami Siddheshananda, Chinmaya Mission, Pune; Brni. Maitreyi Chaitanya  
**No. of participants:** 21

CIF, along with School of Vedic Maths, conducted the 4th annual residential camp on Vedic Mathematics at Chinmaya Maauli, Pune. About 21 students from different parts of India attended the camp.

The faculty, Shri Vinay Nair, discussed various computational techniques from Vedic Mathematics like multiplication, squaring, identifying perfect squares and their roots, digital roots, divisibility with primes, and so on. Based on these techniques, puzzles were given to the students to challenge their higher order thinking skills.

Every day they attended about six hours of interactive and spiritual sessions, and there was ample time for play in the beautiful 2-acre campus of Chinmaya Maauli.

The objective of the camp was not just learning faster calculation techniques but also trying to look for patterns and make new conjectures. Students enjoyed the puzzle solving part the most where they had to do a lot of computational thinking. It was really wonderful to see how students from different age groups learned topics in the same class through peer-group discussions and help sessions.

Apart from Mathematics, Swami Siddheshanandaji and Brni. Maitreyi Chaitanya took sessions on culture and Puja-vidhi for the campers. Morning sessions started at 6:30 am at the Vitthal Rukmini temple with chanting of Gayatri followed by sessions all the way up to 9:30 pm.

The camp was very successful and much learning happened in the four days of the camp.

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**Vedic Mathrix Camp 2019 at CIF**

**Date:** 22–26 April 2019  
**Camp Facilitators:** Shri Vinay Nair, Shri Ragavendra Bhat

CIF organised the 10th edition of its Vedic Mathrix camp, a five-day residential camp based on Vedic Mathrix by Shri Vinay Nair. The camp was inaugurated by Br. Ved Chaitanya. All the sessions were mentored by Shri Vinay Nair assisted by Shri Ragavendra Bhat from Karnataka. Some advanced topics like continued fractions, recursive functions and introduction to quadratic indeterminate equations were discussed. The students also had a webinar session with Shri R. Hariharan from Michigan State University on the topic ‘Chakravala’ which dealt with one of the hardest problems dealt with between the 12th and 16th centuries. The students were thrilled to learn from a faculty so passionate about his subject that session continued until 3:15 AM in the morning (US time). The students had interesting outdoor games aimed at improving their team building and problem-solving abilities.

The programme concluded on 26 April with the distribution of certificates.

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**10th Convocation of Home Study Courses**

**Date:** 9 May, 2019  
**Dignitaries:** Prof. Gauri Mahulikar, Dean & Vice-Chancellor in charge of CVV; Swami Advanandana, In Charge, CIF; Swami Sharadandana Sarasvati, Acharya, Kerala Sandeepany Vedanta Course

The 10th Home Study Courses (HSC) Convocation Ceremony was held at Adi Sankara Nilayam, CIF. Pujya Swami Advanandana gave the Presidential Address and Prof. Gauri Mahulikar, the Chief Guest, also addressed the gathering. HSC Students from India and abroad who had completed their courses participated in the function. The course completion certificates were handed over by the three dignitaries. Swami Sharadandana Sarasvati led the śīvānuśānam and all the students joined in the chanting.

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**Sadhana Camp with Swami Anantananda**

**Date:** 8–14 July 2018  
**Camp Facilitator:** Swami Anantananda  
**No. of participants:** 70  
**Text:** Amratabindu Upanishad and Ādi Sāṅkarācārya's Paśñottara Ratna Mālikā

Swami Anantananda from Chinmaya Mission, Visakhapatnam, and a group of around 70 devotees arrived at Adi Sankara Nilayam for a camp on Amratabindu Upanishad and Ādi Sāṅkarācārya's Paśñottara Ratna Mālikā. The discourses began soon after the inauguration and the lighting of the lamp by Swamiji. Swamiji also lead the campers through the Gurupādukā-puţā. The campers participated in group discussion on topics related to Bhaja Govindam, Bhaqavad Gītā, Kathopanisad, Vivekācūḍāmaṇi and other texts.
**Inauguration of Kerala Sandeepany’s 3rd Malayalam Vedanta course**

*Date:* 2 October 2018  
*Camp Facilitators:* Swami Viviktananda, Regional Head of Chinmaya Mission Kerala, Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati 
*Dignitaries:* Pujya Swami Swaroopananda, the Global Head of Chinmaya Mission Worldwid, Shri Suresh Mohan, Chief Sevak of Chinmaya Seva Trust Kerala (CSTK), Shri Mukundan, Thrissur and Shri K. K. Rajan, Chief Sevak, CIF  

The 3rd Malayalam Vedanta course was inaugurated in the presence of Pujya Swami Swaroopananda, Swami Viviktananda, Shri Suresh Mohan, other senior Swamins and Brahmacarins, Shri Mukundan and Shri K. K. Rajan among others, at Adi Sankara Nilayam. After nearly two decades, the Kerala Sandeepany course was being conducted under the banner of CSTK, under the able guidance of Swami Viviktananda as the main Acarya and Swami Sharadananda as the resident Acarya of the course.

On the day of the inauguration, 12 students were initiated into the study of Vedanta with the blessings and guidance of the senior Swamins present. The students are required to follow the discipline of brahmacharya and study Vedanta texts in Malayalam. The course was possible with the timely support of the Chinmaya family and well-wishers from across the globe.

**Trichy Sadhanā Camp 2019**

*Date:* 28 April - 3 May 2019  
*Camp Facilitators:* Swami Shashvatana, Chinmaya Mission, Salem; Smt. Vibhuti Shah. Chinmaya Mission, Trichy  
*Dignitaries:* Swami Sharadananda Sarasvati, Acharya, Kerala Sandeepany Vedanta Course  
*Text:* Taittiriya Upanishad, Sri Visvusahasranama  

Chinmaya Mission Trichy organized a 6-day residential camp at CIF for the study of the Taittiriya Upanishad and Sri Visvusahasranama. Swami Sharadananda, the chief guest for the inauguration, was welcomed with the Purna kumbha. The devotees performed Pashupata puja during the camp.

The camp concluded on May 3 with the distribution of certificates and prasada pushthika after a cultural programme presented by the campers.
Swami Ramakrishnananda's US visit

Date: Aug 17th to Nov 14th 2018

For the 6th year in a row, Pujya Swami Ramakrishnananda has been creating waves in the US with his Yajnas on Vedanta and Sanskrit.

With an itinerary of three months, Swamiji travelled to 17 Chinmaya Mission centres across the length and breadth of US, with 4 centres being added to his itinerary for the first time.

In the discourses, Pujya Swamiji’s expounded on topics from basics of Advaita Vedanta, Bhagavad-gita to Adhyasa Bhasha of Brahmastra, Tattva Bodha. Swamiji also covered management topics like How to be Successful, Interpersonal Relations, Self Unfoldment, Krishna the CEO.

Swamiji had special programmes for Balvihars and Chyks along with the yajnas, talks and discourses in most centres. Swamiji’s sessions on Sanskrit, Glories of Sanskrit, easy ways to learn the language that takes one to our roots were well-attended and appreciated. Swamiji’s yajnas are synonymous with fun-learning and the participants were enthralled with Swamiji’s method of teaching.

The joyous occasions like Navaratri, Janmashami and Ganesha Caturthi were also celebrated with enthusiastic participation of the Mission members. During the tour of the US, Swamiji also got the opportunity to attend the World Hindu Conference in Chicago.

Enroute on his return journey, Swamiji stopped over at Chinmaya Mission London for a few days where he was welcomed with affection. Swamiji’s programmes in London focused on Sanskrit learning for all age groups – Balvihar, Chyks and all members.

The BBC Asia Network featured Swamiji in a video where even the Shishus got a share of Swamiji’s Sanskrit magic. The video is available to view on BBC Asia Network’s Facebook page.

The pictures of each centres are itself self explanatory of all the fun, laughter and joy that every single participant experienced along with Swamiji.

Overall the trip was a grand success and was a fulfilling trip. Swamiji is all set for the tour of 2019 and for the first time, Swamiji will be visiting Canada as well.
CIF Celebrates

On this auspicious day, Swami Advayananda initiated a child into the world of letters.


Uttaram Mahotsavam 2019

Uttaram Mahotsavam was celebrated at the Chinmaya Swayambhu Ayyappa temple. The first two days of the celebration began with Nirmalya darshanam and abhishekam for Swami Ayyappa, followed by Ganapati homam. In the evening, the lighting of the Chuttu Vilakku, 1008 oil-lamps around the Ayyappa temple, and Nirmalya and Diparadhadharanam were done. After that, a music and dance performance by the Balavihar children of the neighbourhood was followed by Annadaman.

On day 2, a ballet on Sri Ayyappa Caritam was performed by the students of CVV followed by Annadaman.

Uttara Phalguni, the Janma nakshatra of Lord Ayyappa which fell on 19 March was the main day of the 3-day festival. The day began with the auspicious Nirmalya darshanam at 5:00 am and Aśṭādṛavya Gaṇapati homam at 6:30 am. Navaka abhishekam, Pañcagavya abhishekam and Kalaśa Pūjā were performed by the temple Thanthri Brahmasree Manayaththillathu Aryan Nambudripad. Vādyam melam, chenda and edayakkā during the Kalasha Pūjā was led by Shri Murali Marar and his sons from Thirumurayoor. A traditional Kerala sadhya (lunch served on a banana leaf) was prepared for all the devotees. After the Pūjā, Nelparamiraykkal, or paddy was offered to Swamy Ayyappa. Hundreds of people offered paddy to Bhagavān, and this process continued till 9:00 pm. In the evening, a grand procession was organised from the nearby Vezhathumal Bhagavathy temple.

Lord Ayyappa was taken on a chariot through the neighbourhood, with the accompaniment of pañcavādyam. The ladies of the village accompanied the Lord with Thãllappoli. When the procession reached the temple at 8:30 pm, Bhagavān was received with fireworks and ‘vaykkurava’ and a special ārati. Food was served for around 500 people on Uttaram evening. After the annadānam, Sree Bhuvaneeswari Kathakali Yogam, Trippunithura, performed the story ‘Kíratam’ which concluded around 10:30 pm.

Chinmaya Jayanti Celebration at CIF

The 103rd birth anniversary of Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda was celebrated at Adi Sankara Nilayam with much devotion and joy. Pujya Swami Sharanandanda performed a special Pādukā Pūjā at Chidvilas auditorium.

Kalasha Pūjā was performed in the Chinmaya Swayambhu Ayyappa temple on the occasion.

In addition to all members of CIF, the campers of the Vedantā Sādhana Camp 2019 were present for the pūjā. The ceremony concluded with an offering of ārati and a feast at the Anakṣētra for all. In the evening, the outside walls of the Chinmaya Swayambhu Ayyappa temple in the precincts of Adi Sankara Nilayam was lit up with ‘Chuttu Vilakku’, 1008 oil lamps.

Navarātrī Pūjā 2018

Navarātrī Pūjā at Chinmaya Swayambhu Ayyappa Temple commenced with a Sarasvatī Pūjā on 17 October, Durga-aśṭami day. The Brahmacharins and staff of CIF, students of CVV and school-going children from nearby houses brought their books for the pūjā. After installing Devī Sarasvatī, sadasopacāra pūjā was offered to Devī. On Mahānavami day, 18 October, trikālā pūjā was offered at 7:00 am, 12:00 noon and at 6:00 pm.

On Vijayadasami day, 19 October, after Medhāsūkta arcana, Vidyārambham was done. Children were seated in front of the nilavilakku as a part of the ritual and Acarya wrote ‘Harīḥ Śri Gaṇapatiye Namaḥ Avighnam Astu’. Later the children were made to write letters with their fingers in rice-filled brass platters.
It is a unique experience – it cannot be conceived as a mere physical experience that one encounters at tourist spots; it cannot be compared to the emotional experience at a music concert; it cannot be compared to the sense of satisfaction after a sumptuous meal at a five-star restaurant. All these pale when compared to the experience at CIF. This is the most unique and holistic experience with a combination of Intellectual, emotional and physical enrapture at the same time. For once we are in touch with that core being within us laid bare by a divine experience and we come to understand what true bliss is. The heart yearns for this experience to remain forever and one would be willing to give up everything else just to be there inside this transcendental contact with the supreme bliss. We are so used to accessing objects outside to give us joy, but for the first time when we are able to touch the source of bliss within us – it is as though an eternal fountain of joy has opened within us. We can bask in it and also share this with all around us.

1. The texts are carefully chosen for study during these camps after deep research into their depth.

2. Deep and hidden meaning of the texts is cogently presented.

3. The focus is on its practical aspects to be applied in day-to-day life as well as to enable significant progress in our spiritual path.

4. The content is presented in simple English or in the local languages so that people can easily understand it; they can carry the message forward, apply it to themselves and also share it with friends and family.

5. Guidance is given to seekers through off-session discussions; doubt clarification session, etc.

6. Meditation sessions form an integral part of all camps so that sādhus are allowed to rise themselves to receive this highest Knowledge.

7. Sādhus are pre-screened for camps on advanced studies to ensure that they are not over-burdened.

8. Easy online objective assessment is given for certain advanced camps to ensure that understanding is progressing in the right direction.

9. Participants can access the CIF library for follow-up review and studies related to subjects taken up in Camps.

10. Comfortable accommodation and boarding with healthy and tasty cuisine allows for uninterrupted studies.

11. The divine blessings of Bhagavân Ādi Śaṅkarācārya pervades through the Ashram which is set in a serene and tranquil atmosphere.

12. The friendly Staff, ever smiling and willing to serve, help meet all kinds of special needs.

Shri Rammohan Subramaniam
Chinmaya International Foundation
Upcoming Camps @ CIF

Advaita Vedanta Immersive 2019 on Brahmasutra-2 (Jnanaadhikarana) with Swami Advayananda
23rd to 31st December 2019

Vedanta Unveiled 2019 with Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda
20th to 30th October 2019

Vedanta for Yuva 2019
Open to all between the ages of 18-35
4th to 6th October 2019

Master Gita Master Life
Online Course
Available at your convenience
Others again offer wealth, austerity and yoga as sacrifice, while the ascetics of self-restraint and rigid vows offer study of scriptures and knowledge as sacrifice. (4.28)