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VOLUME 5, ISSUE 10

(CSCS NEWSLETTER)



JANUARY 2012

## New Year Wishes

**Canada Sabha of Chitrapur Saraswats,  
Executive Committee extends their Wishes for  
a Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New  
Year to all our members !!!**



## Upcoming Satsang

The next Satsang , first of 2012 will be held on Sunday January 15th at Chetan and Aparna Kumta's residence 1309 Cartmer Way, Milton, ON, L9T 6J9. Please contact Maya Kulkarni at 905-566-7908 (email:kulkarni77@rogers.com) or Aparna Kumta at 905-876-2641 to participate in the Satsang please RSVP by January 10, 2012.

## Important Dates in January and February

Jan 14	Makara Sankramana/Tilgula
Jan 25	Punyatithi at Mallapur-H.H. Shrimat Shankarashram Swamiji II
Feb 1	Vardhanti of Shri Bhuvaneshwari Devi Sannidhi, Mahaganapati Sannidhi, Shri Shankaracharya Sannidhi and HH Shrimat Parijananshram Swamiji III Paduka Sannidhi at Shirali
Feb 10	Vardhanti of Shri Venugopal Sannidhi at Mangalore

## Stamp and First Day Covers

A commemorative stamp and first day cover has been issued by Philatelic Bureau of India. We have requested a small number of stamps and first day covers.

To View the recently release stamp please visit the following website  
<http://www.indiapost.gov.in/Netscape/Stamps2011.html#2>

## Annual Math Vantiga

Our regular Vantiga payers, please consider to mail your contributions for 2011-2012 by the end of January 2012 to Sabha Treasurer Shri Vinayak Shanbhag at 5372 Floral Hill Crescent, Mississauga, ON L5V 1V3.(Tel.905-286-1896 e-mail:vvshanbhag@yahoo.com). You can make cheque payable to CSCS in C\$ or if you are paying in Rupees through a bank account in India, please make cheque payable to Shri Chitrapur Math. However if you are sending your Vantiga contributions directly (in Rupees or C\$) to Shri Chitrapur Math, we would appreciate if you would let us know the amount you have sent. This is because we can total up all contributions from Canada Sabha members/math devotees by the end of March 2012 (fiscal end period for Shri Chitrapur Math for 2011-2012) and we can track the progress of Vantiga contributions on a year to year basis.

### FUTURE SATSGANGS

Those who wish to sponsor future satsangs are requested to contact Maya Kulkarni.

We thank those who have already paid Vantiga dues.

## Published Articles

**Following are list of articles that were published in Sweekar volume 4, Issues 1-12 April 2010 to Mar 2011**

**May 2010 :** 2009 Tercentenary Scholarships Award presentation

**August 2010:** Age of Saraswat Community by Dr, Kanak Raval; Guru Purnima in Karla by Vanita Kumta

**September 2010:** H.H. Anandashram Swamiji

**October 2010 :** H.H. Parijnanashram Swamiji II; H.H. Shankarashram Swamiji I;

Chaturmas 2010”A beautiful description of Seemollangan” by Vanita Kumta

**December 2010 :** H.H. Keshavashram Swamiji; H.H. Krishnashram Swamiji; H.H. Vamanashram Swamiji

**March 2011 :** H.H. Parijnanashram Swamiji III; NRI Sanskriti Prachar Shibir 2010 report by Chirag Amembal,Advait Amembal et al;

## Swamiji's Itinerary

**Following is the itinerary of H.H. Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji's till Mar 3, 2012.**

### **January 2012**

Dec.28-Jan.8 Pune

Jan.9-15 Hyderabad

Jan 17-Feb 2 Shirali

### **February 2012**

Feb 5—Feb 7 Mt. Abu

Feb 10— Feb 13 Bengaluru

Feb 15—Feb 21 Hubli

Feb 23—Feb 26 Nasik

Feb 26—Mar 3 Karla

## Adi Shankaracharya (788-820)

Shri Adi Shankaracharya or the first Shankara with his remarkable reinterpretations of Hindu scriptures, especially on Upanishads or Vedanta, had a profound influence on the growth of Hinduism at a time when chaos, superstition and bigotry was rampant. Shankara advocated the greatness of the Vedas and was the most famous Advaita philosopher who restored the Vedic Dharma and Advaita Vedanta to its pristine purity and glory.

Shri Adi Shankaracharya, known as Bhagavatpada Acharya (the guru at the feet of Lord), apart from refurbishing the scriptures, cleansed the Vedic religious practices of ritualistic excesses and ushered in the core teaching of Vedanta, which is Advaita or non-dualism for the mankind. Shankara restructured various forms of desultory religious practices into acceptable norms and stressed on the ways of worship as laid down in the Vedas.

### **Shankara's Childhood**

Shankara was born in a Brahmin family circa 788 AD in a village named Kaladi on the banks of the river Purna (now Periyar) in the Southern Indian coastal state Kerala. His parents, Sivaguru and Aryamba, had been childless for a long time and the birth of Shankara was a joyous and blessed occasion for the couple. Legend has it that Aryamba had a vision of Lord Shiva and promised her that he would incarnate in the form of her first-born child.

Shankara was a prodigious child and was hailed as 'Eka-Sruti-Dara', one who can retain anything that has been read just once. Shankara mastered all the Vedas and the six Vedangas from the local gurukul and recited extensively from the epics and Puranas. Shankara also studied the philosophies of diverse sects and was a storehouse of philosophical knowledge.

### **Philosophy of Adi Shankara**

Shankara spread the tenets of Advaita Vedanta, the supreme philosophy of monism to the four corners of India with his 'digvijaya' (the conquest of the quarters). The quintessence of Advaita Vedanta (non-dualism) is to reiterate the truth of reality of one's essential divine identity and to reject one's thought of being a finite human being with a name and form subject to earthly changes.

According to the Advaita maxim, the True Self is Brahman (Divine Creator). Brahman is the 'I' of 'Who Am I?' The Advaita doctrine propagated by Shankara views that the bodies are manifold but the separate bodies have the one Divine in them.

The phenomenal world of beings and non-beings is not apart from the Brahman but ultimately become one with Brahman. The crux of Advaita is that Brahman alone is real, and the phenomenal world is unreal or an illusion. Through intense practice of the concept of Advaita, ego and ideas of duality can be removed from the mind of man.

The comprehensive philosophy of Shankara is inimitable for the fact that the doctrine of Advaita includes both worldly and transcendental experience.

Shankara while stressing the sole reality of Brahman, did not undermine the phenomenal world or the multiplicity of Gods in the scriptures.

Shankara's philosophy is based on three levels of reality, viz., paramarthika satta (Brahman), vyavaharika satta (empirical world of beings and non-beings) and pratibhashika satta (reality).

Shankara's theology maintains that seeing the self where there is no self causes spiritual ignorance or avidya. One should learn to distinguish knowledge (jnana) from avidya to realize the True Self or Brahman. He taught the rules of bhakti, yoga and karma to enlighten the intellect and purify the heart as Advaita is the awareness of the 'Divine'.

Shankara developed his philosophy through commentaries on the various scriptures. It is believed that the revered saint completed these works before the age of sixteen. His major works fall into three distinct categories - commentaries on the Upanishads, the Brahmasutras and the Bhagavad Gita.

### **Shankaracharya's Seminal Works**

The most important of Shankaracharya's works are his commentaries on the Brahmasutras - *Brahmasutrabhashya* - considered the core of Shankara's perspective on Advaita, and *Bhaja Govindam* written in praise of Govinda or Lord Krishna - a Sanskrit devotional poem that forms the center of the Bhakti movement and also epitomizes his Advaita Vedanta philosophy.

### **Shankaracharya's Monastic Centers**

Shri Shankaracharya established four 'mutts' or monastic centers in four corners of India and put his four main disciples to head them and serve the spiritual needs of the ascetic community within the Vedantic tradition. He classified the wandering mendicants into 10 main groups to consolidate their spiritual strength.

Each mutt was assigned one Veda. The mutts are Jyothir Mutt at Badrinath in northern India with Atharva Veda; Sarada Mutt at Sringeri in southern India with Yajur Veda; Govardhan Mutt at Jagannath Puri in eastern India with Rig Veda and Kalika Mutt at Dwarka in western India with Sama Veda.

It is believed that Shankara attained heavenly abode in Kedarnath and was only 32 years old when he died.

## Webcast

Webcasting of H.H. Shrimat Iswaranand Giriji Maharaj Swamiji's visit to Shri Chitrapur Math, Shirali from December 21 to 25, 2011. (see [www.chitrapurmath.net/web\\_casting.asp](http://www.chitrapurmath.net/web_casting.asp))

## Sunbeam

### FUTURE SATSANGS

Those who wish to sponsor future satsangs are requested to contact Maya Kulkarni.

**The Chitrapur Sunbeam (Chitrapur Ravikiran)** was started with the Blessings of H.H. Shrimat Anandashram Swamiji in January 1954 as a quarterly. Earlier, i.e. from 1933 to 1953, the "Math News and Notes" were circulated as a supplement to the monthly Kanara Saraswat Magazine. The objective of the Sunbeam was clearly highlighted in the Editorial for the Inaugural issue:

1. Propagation of Dharma
2. Publication of Math accounts, news, and notes, and
3. A means of periodical contact between the Math and the 'little community which created the Math'.

Shri H. Shankar Rau, the Founder Editor, further wrote "Hitherto, the Math and the line of Sadgurus were the great unifying influences. To these is now added the Sunbeam. Its light should be welcomed in every Chitrapur Saraswat Home. It will give us light without the heat. It will keep in view the light of all lights. The common source of all. It will not engage in any controversy of any kind....."

The Ravikiran was converted to a monthly journal from January 1976 as desired by H.H. Shrimat Parijananashram Swamiji. It contains Aashirvachans & Pravachans of our revered Swamijis, and so also teachings of other great saints. The Math Calendar, Festivals, H.H. Swamiji's schedules, forthcoming events, Report on Mahasabha & Standing Committee decisions and Math Accounts are regularly published.

The Sunbeam continues to be the mouthpiece of the Math and plays an important role in keeping the community in constant touch with the happenings at the Math, apart from regularly providing interesting, and enlightening reading. A children's section "My First Little Sunbeam" has been added, with interesting stories, quizzes etc. which will familiarize our children with our culture, traditions and values.

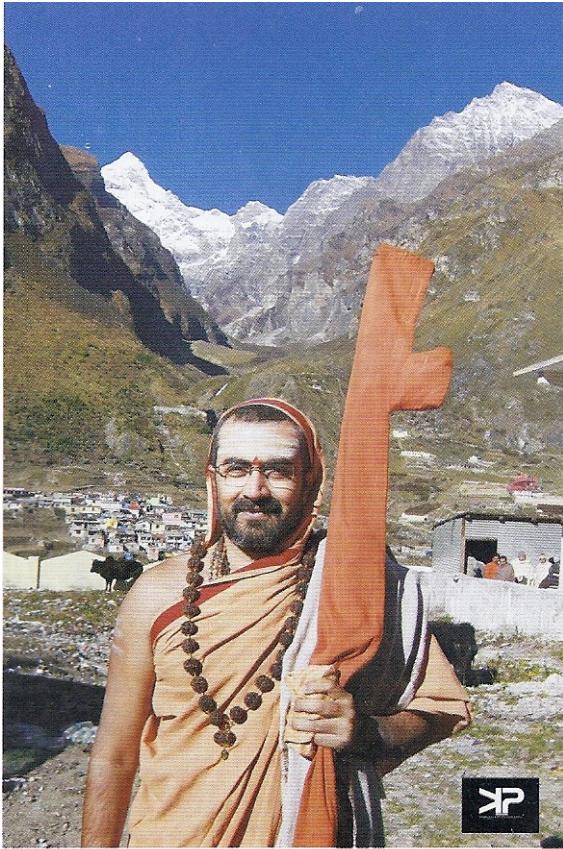
You can receive the Sunbeam every month through your life time for a nominal subscription (including postage) for Rs 4,500/- only, for those outside of India.

All correspondence regarding publishing material may be addressed to the **Editor, Shri V Rajgopal Bhat, C 8 Balkrishna CHS, Seven Bungalows, Andheri (W) Mumbai 400 053**

For prompt action regarding subscriptions, change of address etc., please contact **Shri V P Hattiangadi, 18/D Balgovindas Society, Taikal Wadi Road, Mumbai - 400 016.**

# Photo

by Kishan Kallianpur (courtesy of Chitrapur Sunbeam Nov. 2011 issue)

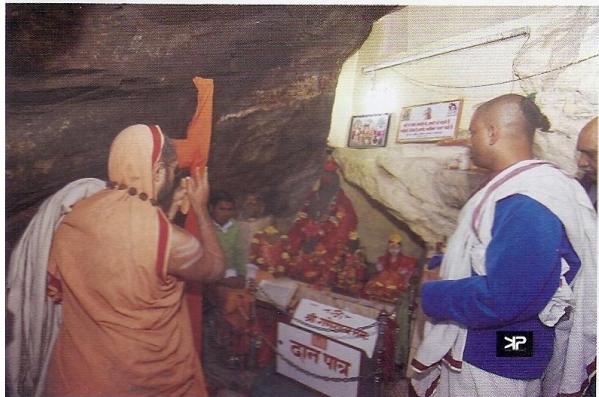


**PARAMA PUJYA SWAMIJI AT  
BADRI WITH MT. NEELKANTH  
IN THE BACKGROUND**



Shri Badrinath Shrine.

Photo by Shri Kishan Kallianpur



Swamiji at Vyasa Gupha in Badri.

Photo by Shri Kishan Kallianpur.

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