



VOICE OF KANCHI MATH

Vol. 14 No. 1

April 2007

(For Private Circulation Only)

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE KANCHI MATH



उद्यद्भानुसहस्रकोटिसदृशां केयूरहारोज्ज्वलां
विम्बोष्ठीं स्मितदन्तपङ्क्तिरुचिरां पीताम्बरालङ्कृताम् ।
विष्णुब्रह्मसुरेन्द्रसेवितपदां तत्त्वस्वरूपां शिवां
मीनाक्षीं प्रणतोऽस्मि सन्ततमहं कारुण्यवारानिधिम् ॥

I remain ever bowing to that (goddess) Minakshi, an ocean of compassion, who is radiant like the multitudes of rising Suns, and is resplendent with the bracelet and necklace and is having reddish lips (like the bimba fruit), with shining rows of smiling teeth, and decorated with silk garments, and is having the feet worshipped by the gods Vishnu, Brahma and Indra and is of the form of the reality and is auspicious.

- Sri Minakshi Pancharatnam

The Adi Sankara Advaita Research Centre in association with SRI Visishtadvaita Research Centre and SRIMAN Madhwa Siddhantonnahini Sabha, Tiruchanur (A.P.) has organised for the Seventh year in succession, lectures on The Three Schools of Vedanta at 4.00 PM on 25.4.2007 at the Mini Hall of the Music Academy, Chennai. Dr. S. Ramaratnam, former Principal, Vivekananda College, Chennai, Sri U.Ve.V.S. Karunakaran, Visishtadvaita Scholar, New Delhi and Dr. A.V. Nagasampige, Director, Samshodhana Mandiram, Purna Prajna Vidya Peetha, Bangalore will deliver lectures on Advaita, Visistadvaita and Dvaita respectively. The lectures will be preceded by a programme of devotional music by Smt. Mala Ramadorai & Party, Mumbai.

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ஸ்ரீ காஞ்சி காமகோடி பீடாதிபதி ஜகத்குரு ஸ்ரீ ஜயேந்திர ஸரஸ்வதி ஸ்வாமிகள் அருளிய தமிழ்ப்புத்தாண்டு வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி.

பெள்ளமி முதல் அமாவாசை வரை 15 திநிகள். அஸ்வினி முதல் ரேவதி வரை 27 நக்ஷத்ராங்கள். ஞாயிறு முதல் சனி வரை 7 நாட்கள். 27 யோகங்கள். திதிக்கு 2 கரணங்கள். திதிகளை ஒட்டி சூ, கரணங்கள் மாறும். அமாவாசை போன்ற நாட்களில் சூ, கரணங்கள் இருக்கும். அமாவாசை முதல் பெள்ளமி வரை வளர்பிறை, சித்திரை, விளகம், ஜேஷ்டம், ஆஷாடம், ஸ்ராவணம், பாத்ரபதம், ஆஸ்விஜம், காத்திகம், மார்கசிஷ்டம், பெளஷம், மாசம், பால்நுணம் - ஆகிய 12 மாதங்கள், 12 நக்ஷத்ரங்களின் பெயரைக் கொண்டவை. 60 வருஷங்கள் பெயர்களுடன் கூடியவை. இவ்வருஷத்தின் பெயர் 'ஸர்வஜித்'. ஒவ்வொரு வருஷமும் மகர சங்கராந்தி பலனை அனுசரித்துத்தான் அந்த வருஷத்தின் பலனைத் தீர்மானிக்க முடியும். இவ்வருஷத்துக்கு ஸர்வஜித் என்று பெயர் இருந்தாலும், இவ்வருஷத்தில் ஜன பீட பகநாசம், அரசபயம், சர்வநாசம், பீட, அனாவ்ருஷ்டி, எத்தீ பீட, மந்திரிகளுக்கும் கெடுதல், யாதவர்களுக்கு பீட, கள்ளர் பீட பூமியில் சூழப்படும், சமுத்ர கொந்தளிப்பு அயல்நாட்டில் ககமின்மை போன்ற பல கெட்ட பலன்கள் நிறைய உள்ளன. நல்ல பலன்கள் குறைவு. ஆகவே பொது ஜனங்கள் நலக்ரஹ ஆராதனையும் நிறைய செய்ய வேண்டும். வரும் கெடுதலை யாரும் தவிர்க்க முடியாது ஆனால் கெடுதிகளை குறைக்கலாம். மழை வெயிலிருந்து காத்துக் கொள்ள மழை அங்கி, குடை, செருப்பு ஆகியவற்றை வைத்துக் கொள்வதுபோல நலக்ரஹ சாந்தியும், கடவுள் பிரார்த்தனையும் செய்வதன் மூலம் நமக்குத் துன்பம் அதிகம் வராமல் காத்துக் கொள்ளலாம். வருஷப்பிறப்பன்று அனைவரும் பஞ்சாங்கப் படனம் செய்து, பஞ்ச அங்க தேவதைகளின் ஆசிகளைப் பெற ஆசீர்வதிக்கிறோம்.

- நாராயண ஸ்ம்ருதி :

THUS SPAKE THE MAHASWAMIGAL:

In my view no religion prospers only on the strength of its philosophy. The common people really do not care for the philosophy. They repose faith in the noble person who has a character without blemish, whose habits are good, who is compassionate and calm. The people would believe strongly that whatever such person preaches must be good and would join in his religion. On the contrary, howsoever a religion's precept may explain the broad contour of its philosophy, if its exponents falter in their conduct, then that religion starts to fade away. If you examine the reasons for the downfall of a religion in any country, it would be because of lack of discipline amongst the institutions entrusted with the responsibility to spread the religion and their prominent leaders.



BALA PERIYAVA'S ANUGRAHABHASHANAM

The gurukula system of teaching is an ancient one. Lord Krishna learnt from Sage Sandeepani. Arjuna learnt from Dronacharya. Brihaspati was the guru of Devas while Sukracharya was the guru of Asuras. Children learn first from their parents and later from their teachers. While large strides have been made in scientific discoveries

in Western countries, one has to come to India to study as to how to get inner peace. Side by side with scientific knowledge, human qualities like truthfulness, service mindedness should be inculcated in students. Teachers are next only to parents. A great responsibility rests with them to mould the pupils imbibing our ancient culture and absorbing modern scientific thought.

- Pujyashri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswati Swamigal

Prof. N. Veezhinathan, former Professor and Head of the Dept. of Sanskrit, Madras University and Member of the Board of Management of the ADI SANKARA ADVAITA RESEARCH CENTRE has been conferred the title "VACHASPATI" by the Kendriya Samskrita Vidya Peetha, Tirupati.

Dr. S. Ramaratnam, former Principal and Head of the PG and Research Department of Sanskrit, Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College, Chennai has taken over as the new Editor of the half-yearly journal, THE VOICE OF SANKARA being published by the Adi Sankara Advaita Research Centre, Chennai.

NARAYANA THEERTHAM

Our Sastras have ordained that a son should redeem himself from his indebtedness to his parents by performing the obsequies and connected rituals properly for his parents and incidentally saving his parents from the hell by name 'Puth'. Proper performance of these rites ensures for the welfare and prosperity of the progeny of the Karta. The religious rites lasting for 12 days from the day of demise go by the name of 'Paitrumedhikam'. At the behest of Pujyashri Mahaswamigal of Kanchi Math, Dr. T.N. Krishnaswamy & Smt. Janaki Ammal Charitable Trust has developed a complex in a centrally located area next to the Apollo Speciality Hospital, Teynampet, Chennai - 600 018 called NARAYANA THEERTHAM for performing the post-funeral religious rites in a calm and serene atmosphere. Six independent units with all conveniences have been constructed. For further details, contact: Phone No.24335008.

SRI SITA RAMA MAHA SAMRAJYA PATTABHISHEKA MAHOTSAVA

For mitigating the effects of natural calamities and for the welfare and prosperity of mankind, the aforesaid Pattabhisheka Mahotsava is proposed to be performed for 15 days in May, 2008 at Palakkad, Kerala under the auspices of GGB Dharma Kendra (Plot No.7, Ramakrishna Nagar 6th St., Chitlapakkam, Chennai - 600 064) and the Bhajanotsava Committee, Palakkad under the guidance of 'Abhinava Sukabrahmam' B'sri Guru Dr. Ravi Sharmaji. The yajna involves the reading of the Valmiki Ramayana by 124 eminent scholars, chanting of all the four Vedas by a minimum of 8 scholars for each Veda, daily continuous chanting of Vishnu Sahasranama, Bhagavad Gita, Ramashadakshari mantra, Rama nama and performing homas with Ramashadakshari mantra, Rudra Ekadasini, Sri Sukta, Purusha Sukta, Sri Vidya, Navagraha homas and other ancillary rituals. There will be annadanam on all the days. Devotees are requested to participate and donate their mite. Contact: Siva. Mobile: 99400 27091.

PUJYASHRI MAHASWAMIGAL'S PEETHAROHANA SATABDI CELEBRATIONS AT CHENNAI

The year-long Peetharohana Satabdi Celebrations of Pujyashri Mahaswamigal concluded with a grand finale at the Madras University Centenary Auditorium on 11.2.2007. Thousands of devotees of the Kanchi Math had thronged the Hall in devout fervour to pay their homage to the Sage of Kanchi. A tastefully decorated portrait of Mahaswamigal adored the dais. The hall reverberated with vedic invocation and the prayer song was rendered by Bombay Sisters.



Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati Swamigal performed swarna pushpanjali to the padukas of Mahaswamigal. Shri V. Sankar, Secretary of Sri Kanchi Mahaswami Peetarohana Shatabdi Mahotsava Trust, Mumbai, welcoming the distinguished audience, described the Mahaswamigal as divinity in human form and dwelt at length on his ceaseless and indefatigable efforts for the resuscitation of sanatana dharma and the preservation of the Vedas. In his Anugrahabhashanam, Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati



Swamigal said that the Guru occupied an esteemed and exalted position in Hinduism. Pujyashri Mahaswamigal had done yeoman service for the renaissance of sanatana dharma and it was but proper that his Peetharohana Satabdi is commemorated in a befitting manner. Prasadam and honours from the Tirupati Temple were offered to the Acharya. He then personally honoured several scholars who had helped in bringing out Mahaswamigal's discourses "Deivathin Kural" in various Indian languages. He also honoured more than 1000 scholars in Vedas, Oduvars, Vaishnava scholars and Bhagavatas.

An exhibition of very rare photographs of Mahaswamigal attracted the attention of devotees. The Satabdi Celebrations had been organised by the Sri Kanchi Mahaswami Peetarohana Satabdi Mahotsava Trust, Mumbai in association with Chennapuri Sri Sankara Bhakta Jana Samajam. Smt. Sudha Seshayyan ably compered the proceedings.



PARAMACHARYA'S SATABDI PEETHAM INSTALLED



Sri Balavinayagar Seva Trust, Chennai has installed Paramacharya Sri Kanchi Mahaswamigal's Satabdi Peetham at the premises of Sri Balavinayagar temple in Bharani Colony, Saligramam. It was inaugurated by Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati Swamigal of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham on March 11, 2007. The Satabdi Peetham was installed to commemorate the centenary celebrations of Mahaswamigal's ascension to Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham. Sri. K. Subramanian, Managing Trustee, said "Paramacharya was a spiritual leader with social welfare at heart."

The trust feeds about 250 people under the Annadaanam scheme besides conducting dental and medical camps, providing medical and educational aid. Contact: 99400 53464 or 23652017.



SRI MANGALAMBIKA SAMETA SRI PRANANATHESWARA TEMPLE, TIRUMANGALAKKUDI, THANJAVUR DIST.

The presiding deity of the ancient temple at Tirumangalakkudi is Lord Pranathaneswara, a swayambhu. Legend has it that Navagrahas showered their blessings on Sage Kalava to ward off his affliction by leprosy. The Navagrahas were cursed by Brahma to be afflicted by the same disease for interfering with the course of destiny but were ordained to worship Lord Siva to expiate for the sin. The place where the Navagrahas worshipped is Tirumangalakkudi. Analavanan, one of the ministers of the Chola King Kulothunga I (11th Century) constructed the temple of Lord Pranathaneswara out of revenues of the Govt. without the permission of the King. For this grave mistake, Analavanan was beheaded but due to the intense prayers offered to Goddess Mangalambika by the minister's wife, he got back his life. True to their names, Lord Pranathaneswara and Goddess Mangalambika bestow longevity and all prosperity on the devotees and remove the malefic effect of the Navagrahas. Tirumangalakkudi having Mangala Vinayaka, Mangala Vimanam, Mangala Theertham and the benign Goddess Mangalambika in bridal dress with the mangala sutra in her hand is renowned as "Panchamangala Sthalam". Saints Appar, Sundarar and Ramalingaswamigal have sung in praise of this temple.