



Chinmaya International Foundation

# THE CONTRIBUTION OF ADVAITA VEDANTA TO HUMANITY

International Conference to Commemorate the Birth Centenary Year (2015-2016)  
of Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda



**18-21 NOVEMBER, 2015**

at **Chinmaya Vibhooti**

Post Kolwan, Taluka Mulshi,

District Pune, Maharashtra - 412108, India

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



## PRELUDE

Advaita Vedanta, as enshrined in Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads and Brahmasutras, has been propagated through the ages around the world. From time to time, mankind has reached into the treasure troves of Advaita Vedanta to find sustenance, peace and idioms for harmonious coexistence. For Advaita Vedanta has neatly specified the only three principles that compose all relative experiences of life: Jiva, Jagat and Ishwara. The problems and solutions of life lie in their interdependence and interaction.

**The Contribution of Advaita Vedanta to Humanity** is an International Conference being hosted by the Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF) and its wing the CIF Shodha Sansthan to commemorate two memorable occasions: Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda's Centenary year and CIF's 25th year since inception. Swami Chinmayananda is the founder of the Chinmaya Mission – an international organisation that has been sharing the knowledge of Advaita Vedanta for over six decades.

The Conference will examine the above mentioned three principles of Jiva, Jagat and Ishwara found within Advaita, in the context of the world today and create new paradigms to bolster our application of Advaita to modern times as well as bridge the current interpretations for sustainable unity and harmony.

The three-day Conference will devote a day each to the three principles while also table and detail the life-long work and contributions of Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda, and thereby pay him the richest tributes for his contributions to Advaita Vedanta.

This event is the initiative of Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF), the research arm of the Chinmaya Mission. CIF, it may be told, is the brainchild of Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda whose desire it was to set up a serious Sanskrit research institution that would bring Vedanta and Sanskrit into center stage and also build bridges between the past and present, East and West, science and spirituality, the pundit and the public.

Distinguished academicians, researchers, writers, social scientists, philosophers, representatives of corporate and civil society, and spiritual leaders will deliberate on various topics related to Advaita. Many international speakers and resource persons are being specially invited. Swami Tejomayananda, Head of the Chinmaya Mission worldwide, and senior Acharyas of Chinmaya Mission will also participate as speakers and discussants.

We welcome you and your constituents to take part and be present at this Conference.



## His Holiness SWAMI CHINMAYANANDA

Swami Chinmayananda, is the disciple of Swami Tapovanam of Uttarkashi and a world-renowned teacher of Advaita Vedanta. Seeing the widespread spiritual and social degradation in India, Swamiji decided to come down from the hills and plant the knowledge of Advaita among the people in the cities and towns, for it was Advaita that had brought fulfilment in his own life.

This dissemination of knowledge was done through the medium of 'Jnana Yajna' - a series of discourses on the sacred texts ranging across the Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita and other texts from the knowledge tradition to which Advaita belongs. The first such Yajna was held in December 1951, at a small temple in Pune, Maharashtra. Swamiji's teachings were based on the authority of the Vedas and his direct experience. But he delivered them in the English language – a near taboo for those times, and packaged in wit. This went down extremely well with the people.

Over the next 42 years, Swamiji conducted 576 such Jnana Yajnas and innumerable spiritual camps, reaching millions of people all over the world. And to reach those he could not, he authored ninety-seven books in his lifetime. The Bhagavad Gita was the spine of his yagnas from which emanated all other camps and lectures. His commentary on the Bhagavad Gita in English created a revolution of sorts worldwide, resonating with the need of the times. The Holy Gita as he titled it, is spoken of as one of history's best in English. Saints, sages, intellectuals and critics of the 20th century have not yet found enough superlatives to describe his work.

## CHINMAYA MISSION

If Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda chose to leave the hills and come down to the plains he also developed a plan via which to achieve this. And neither was this going to be a one off, but an ongoing feature. Swami Chinmayananda had a vision to begin with and he developed a mission through which to achieve it.

*Vision Statement:* The inner transformation of individual's through knowledge of Vedanta, spiritual practices and service to society, resulting in a happy world around them. *Mission Statement:* To provide to individuals from any background, the wisdom of Vedanta and the practical means for spiritual growth and happiness, enabling them to become positive contributors to society.

The Chinmaya Mission® was established in India by the devotees of Swami Chinmayananda in 1953. Today, the Mission stands strong with over 300 centres encompassing a wide range of spiritual, educational, cultural, rural development and charitable activities ([www.chinmayamission.com](http://www.chinmayamission.com)). The worldwide head is Swami Tejomayananda, a direct disciple of Swami Chinmayananda. The Chinmaya Mission follows the Vedic teacher-student tradition (Guru-shishya Parampara) and makes accessible the ageless wisdom of Advaita Vedanta, the knowledge of universal oneness, through various grass-root activities that include the very young, the youth, the householder, the executive and the elder. The number of people who have benefitted from this vision and mission cannot be estimated.

## CHINMAYA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

In 1989, Swami Chinmayananda expressed a vision to establish a Sanskrit research institution, that would be the bridge between the past and present, East and West, science and spirituality and pundit and public. Thus came Chinmaya International Foundation, or CIF. Uniquely, Gurudev had also said that it would take 20 years for an institute with the kind of vision he had vested it with, to gain the right infrastructure, faculty and speed. He was absolutely precise!

The amount of labour and planning that has gone into CIF since inception reaped for it a number of recognitions that propelled greater and greater research and rewards. Prime among these is the recognition as Centre for Doctoral Studies by Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala and Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi. It has also been accorded recognition as a Centre for Excellence in Sanskrit Research (Shodha Sansthan) by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan under the aegis of the Ministry of HRD, Government of India.

Research apart, CIF has taken Sanskrit studies to a new level by developing Home Study in the key areas of Sanskrit, Vedanta, Bhagavad Gita and Vedic Mathematics, which are available to students via post as well as online.

Exactly as Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda wanted, the institution has evolved into a committed and dedicated institute for research, knowledge sharing and dissemination via numerous workshops and Conferences. These have resulted in a robust team of scholars whose work is also being published in English and Sanskrit. Research has led to a search for rare manuscripts, which CIF also cleans, transcribes, digitizes, preserves, critically edits and bring out acclaimed Research Publications. Today CIF also has a team that has studied the science of manuscripts and who have devoted their lives to restoring the past's efforts at communicating with the future. A few years ago, the Government of India, AYUSH, awarded to CIF the research of manuscripts on Ayurveda in just the Kerala Region. CIF also collaborates with University of Hyderabad (UoH) and International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad on a Natural Language Processing Project, titled 'ANUSARAKA'.

## CONFERENCE VENUE

**Chinmaya Vibhooti** is the celebration of the life of Swami Chinmayananda, whose extraordinary vision took him on a journey that transformed and inspired lives, societies and cultures all around the world. Situated between Mumbai and Pune, in India's Kolwan Village, Chinmaya Vibhooti is an expression of awe and appreciation by his disciples, devotees and beneficiaries, of the monumental offering that he made to mankind.

Flanked by the Sahyadri mountains, this ode to Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda stands on a 70 acre stretch of poetic landscaped expanse. This is also a centre that has, since inception, inspired the subtlest thoughts, art, music and creativity to flourish.

The vision of Chinmaya Vibhooti is to promote the inner transformation of spiritual seekers and a garden where inspiration is nurtured, towards creating of a harmonious and holistic world.

18.11.2015

**Inauguration** (4.30 pm - 6.00 pm)

Cultural programme: **Smt. Pramodini Rao**, Resident Director, Chinmaya Naada Bindu

19.11.2015

**Jiva**

Session 1

**Jiva** (Keynote Address by Swami Tejomayananda)

Session 2

**The Ideal Individual According to Advaita Vedanta**

- ◆ Jiva (individual soul)
- ◆ Bandha and Moksha (bondage and Liberation)
- ◆ Jivan Mukti (Liberation here and now)

Session 3

**Individual Transformation and Self-unfoldment**

- ◆ Concept of Dharma
- ◆ Sadachara
- ◆ Sadhana (Spiritual practices & Preparation for higher life)

Session 4

**Advaita Vedanta for a Fulfilling life**

- ◆ Concept of Ashramas (stages of life)
- ◆ Purusharthas (human-goals)
- ◆ Values, traditions and relationships

Session 5

**Role of Vedanta in Sustaining Social Harmony and Human Relationships (Panel discussion)**

- ◆ Varna-ashrama Dharma
- ◆ Social solidarity and responsibility
- ◆ Raja-dharma

Session 6

**Exponents of Advaita Vedanta and their contribution-East and West**

- ◆ Pre- and Post-Shankara Period
- ◆ Advaita Vedanta – A global perspective – Saints (19<sup>th</sup> century onwards)
- ◆ Western models of Advaita Vedanta

Cultural programme: **Kudiyattam** by **Dr. Venu** and group



20.11.15 **Jagat**

Session 1 **Jagat** (Keynote Address by Swami Tejomayananda)

Session 2 **The Excellence of the Advaita World-view (Jagat)**

- ◆ Paramarthika and Vyavaharika (Reality and Appearance; and the vision of Non-duality in duality)
- ◆ Maya-vada
- ◆ From Empirical Realism to Transcendental Monism

Session 3 **Reorienting Education**

- ◆ Integrating Advaita Vedanta concepts in the Education System
- ◆ Orienting the stake-holders of Education in Advaita
- ◆ Ancient Indian Education

Session 4 **Nation Building & Nourishing Leaders through Advaita**

- ◆ Management Principles enshrined in Advaita Vedanta
- ◆ Empowering leaders (youth, women etc.) & uplifting the common man
- ◆ Role of Karma yoga in Nation Building

Session 5 **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - The entire world as one family (Panel Discussion)**

- ◆ Human Unity for World Peace
- ◆ Universal outlook
- ◆ Unity in Diversity

Session 6 **Advaita Vedanta and the Philosophy of Science**

- ◆ Advaita Metaphysics in Quantum Physics
- ◆ Contribution to contemporary cognitive science
- ◆ Contribution to scientific knowledge & heritage

Cultural programme: **Smt. Ramaa Bharadvaj**, Director-Dance, Chinmaya Naada Bindu

## ADVISORY & ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Swami Tejomayananda, Worldwide Head, Chinmaya Mission

Swami Shantananda, President Chinmaya Mission West

Swami Advayananda, Acharya, CIF

Swami Ramakrishnananda, Acharya, CIF

Swami Sharadananda, Acharya, CIF

Dr. N. P. Unni, Former VC, Sri Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala

Dr. V. Kutumba Sastry, Vice Chancellor, Shree Somnath Sanskrit University, Gujarat

Prof. Arindam Chakrabarti, Professor of Comparative Philosophy, University of Hawaii

Shri K. K. Rajan, Chief Sevak, CIF

*Convenor* Dr. P. Geervani, Former VC, Padmavati University, Tirupati

*Co-Convenor* Dr. Dilip K. Rana, Director, CIF Shodha Sansthan

## 21.11.15 Ishwara

Session 1 **Ishwara** (Keynote Address by Swami Tejomayananda)

### Session 2 **Saguna and Nirguna Brahma**

- ◆ Concept of Saguna and Nirguna Brahma
- ◆ Advaita is trans-theistic and not anti-theistic
- ◆ Enlightened Polytheism vs. degenerate Polytheism

### Session 3 **Concept of Jiva-Brahmaikya (Supreme Oneness)**

- ◆ Uniqueness of the Advaitic concept of absolute oneness as compared with the other schools of Vedanta
- ◆ Mahavakya Vichara (vachyartha, lakshyartha and akhandartha)

Session 4 **Swami Chinmayananda, the sage of Advaita and his contribution to humanity**

Session 5 **Reserved Session**

Session 6 **Valedictory** (7.00 pm – 8.00 pm)



## SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

Last date for submission of papers (in Unicode Font with diacritical marks) is March 31, 2015.

The original file and file in pdf format is to be sent via email.

## SPONSORSHIP & EXHIBITION

The Conference would bring together Advaita Vedanta followers, speakers, academicians and seekers from across the globe. Educational institutions, Publishers of Indological books, philanthropic organisations and individuals have ample opportunities to get associated with and contribute to this Conference.

**Exhibition:** Publishers of Indological books are welcome to put up a stall during the period of the Conference. They will be provided adequate space for storage, display and sale of their publications.

## CIF TOUR (Optional)

At the conclusion of the Conference, interested participants may avail of the opportunity to visit the maternal birth home of the world renowned Vedantin Shri Adi Shankaracharya – now the premises of Chinmaya International Foundation. Assistance shall be provided for this tour, however it shall be on a payable basis. Thereafter, participants could make onward bookings on or after November 24, 2015 (post-lunch) to their destination from Cochin (the nearest airport) or take a train from Ernakulam (the nearest Railway station).

Please fill the section in the Registration Form if you wish to have a tour of CIF.

## CONFERENCE FEES

• Students	₹500
• Research Scholars	₹1500
• University and Institutional Faculty	₹3500
• Other Participants	₹4000
• Overseas Participants	US\$ 100



### CONTACT DETAILS

Conference Convenor  
Chinmaya International Foundation  
Adi Sankara Nilayam, Adi Sankara Marg  
Veliyanad P.O., Ernakulam District, Kerala – 682313  
☎: +91-484-2747104/ +91-484-2747307  
✉: [advaitaconference@chinfo.org](mailto:advaitaconference@chinfo.org)

### IMPORTANT LINKS

Conference website: [www.chinfo.org/advaitaconference](http://www.chinfo.org/advaitaconference)  
Chinmaya International Foundation: [www.chinfo.org](http://www.chinfo.org)  
Chinmaya Mission: [www.chinmayamission.com](http://www.chinmayamission.com)  
Chinmaya Vibhooti: <http://www.chinmayamission.com/chinmaya-vibhooti>



# REGISTRATION FORM

For Online registration: [www.chinfo.org/advaitaconference](http://www.chinfo.org/advaitaconference)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/School/College/University: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Tele/Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile No.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Field of Specialisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick (✓) whichever is applicable:

Students ₹500

Research Scholars ₹1500

University and Institutional Faculty ₹3500

Other Participants ₹4000

Overseas Participants US\$ 100

## Arrival & Departure

**Reporting date:** 18th November, 2015 - between 10 AM and 2 PM (the Conference starts at 4.30 PM on 18th November)

**Departure date:** 22nd November, 2015 (the Conference concludes at 8 PM on 21st November)

Please inform us of your arrival and departure plans when your travel bookings are made, or latest by 1st November, 2015. Contact details are given below. Please also let us know if you need assistance with transport from Mumbai or Pune.

Expected Date and Time of Arrival:

Expected Date and Time of Departure:

## CIF Tour (Optional)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name), wish to be part of the CIF tour at the end of the Conference. I understand that actual travel cost of the tour is to be borne by me; and that details of the costs shall be shared with me at a later date.

Date:

Signature:

## Registration Details

Category under which fees paid:

- Students       Research Scholars       University & Institutional Faculty  
 Other Participants       Overseas Participants

## Mode of Payment:

Amount:

Bank Draft No/Transaction No:

Dated:

Drawn on Bank:

*\* Demand Draft/Cheques to be drawn in favour of 'Chinmaya International Foundation' payable at Piravom*

Date:

Signature of the delegate:

---

Note: For Conference participants who are not residents of India we will need a copy of your passport, visa copy and arrival stamp page copy when you reach Chinmaya Vibhooti, the Conference venue.