

SANATHANADHARMA PEETHOM

Chair for Sanathanadharma Studies & Research

University of Calicut

P.O. Calicut University, 673 635, Malappuram Dist.

Kerala State

Institution of the Chair

Sanathanadharma Trust, Reg. No. 180/2003, Kolakattuchali, Chelembra, Malappuram (Dt.) (Present Address, C/o Sanathanadharma Peethom, Calicut University P.O., 673635) was founded in 2003 with Swami Chidananda Puri as Chairman. The Trust applied for the institution of a chair in the University of Calicut. After much effort, the syndicate of the University on 29.01.05 decided to institute Sanathanadharma Peethom in the University for Sanathanadharma studies and Research. The decision was communicated to the Trust vide letter No. GA1/B1/1588/04 dated 15.02.2005. MOU was signed after remitting a corpus fund of Rs.3,00,000/- in the University by the Trust. All the expenditure henceforth on behalf of the Peethom was borne by the Trust. All the spiritual and social organisations in and around Thenhipalam and Calicut, including the Chinmaya Mission, Amritanandamayi Madhom, Ramakrishna Mission, Advaitashram, Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Kerala Kshethra Samrakshana Samithi, Anandashram, Sreshtachara sabha etc., (to cite a few of them) co-operated overwhelmingly in all the efforts in instituting the chair. A lot of large hearted individuals also helped in raising the corpus fund and the initial expenses.

Inauguration of the Office

The office space allotted by the University in the old Psychology Department started functioning on 11.05.2005. Swami Golokananda (Sri Ramakrishna Math, Calicut), Swami Chidananda Puri (Advaitashramam, Kolathur), Bhrahmachari Vivekamrita Chaitanya (Matha Amruthananda Mayi Math, Calicut), Sri.V.K. Eradi (Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan, Calicut) were some of the guests of honour on the occasion. Members of the Sanathanadharma Trust, the

donor organisation of the chair, were felicitated. Hope that the following report card on the activities of the Peethom will help to highlight the aims and priorities in its work.

Appointment of the Visiting Professor and Conduct of Weekly Lectures

As per the MOU, either a person qualified to be appointed as a University Professor or a Hindu Sanyasin of repute was to be appointed Visiting Professor of the Peethom. As nominated by the Trust, the University appointed Swami Chidananda Puri, a well-known sanyasin and a scholar on the various aspects of the Sanathanadharma (Advaithashram, Kolathoor, 673 315, Calicut Dt. Ph. 0495 2455050) as Visiting Professor. Swamiji took charge on 12.12.2005. Ever since Swamiji was continuing in the post and now Dr. C. Sreekumaran, Associate Professor and Head (now retired), The Zamorin's Guruvayurappan College, Calicut is to be appointed as Visiting Professor.

Unravelling the basic tenets of Sanathanadharma

With a view to familiarize the basic tenets of Sanathanadharma and to dispel doubts and misconceptions on the subject, swamiji at the outset gave more than forty lectures of short duration on the various aspects of the Dharma. These regular weekly satsangas were well attended.

A gist of various topics so far elucidated are given below.

1. Sanathanadharma - Definitions, synonyms, introduction
2. Basic scriptures – An Introduction to the Vedas
3. The Vedangas
4. The Upa-vedas
5. The Upanishads
6. The Darsanas
7. The Puranas
8. Ithihasas
9. Sruthi
10. Smruthi
11. Mahavakyas

12. Pranava
13. Panchamahayajnas
14. Prasthanathraya
15. Shodasa Sanskaras etc.

Each subject was detailed with a view to provide an overall (if not deep) perception to evoke the interest of the real seeker for detailed deep study and introspection.

Detailed classes on the Upanishads

Those who were aspiring for a systematic study of the various scriptures of the Sanathanadharma pressed for taking up regular study. Lectures on the Bhagavad Gita, Bhagavata, Ramayana etc., are abundant and hence as a sequel to the weekly classes on Sanathanadharma, the study of the Upanishads, the ultimate knowledge of the spiritual arena and the summit of the wisdom of our ancient seers, was taken up. So far, Isavasyopanishad, Kenopanishad, Kathopanishad and Prasnopanishad, Mundakopanishad along with the Sankara Bashya have been completed. Classes on Taithiriyopanishad are in progress.

Swami Paramananda Puri (Sankarashram, Punnappala, Nilambur, Malappuram Dt.) is also taking classes on various other texts. He has completed classes on Thatva Bodha, Atmabodha, Narada Bhakti Soothra and is now engaging on a descriptive exposition on 'Viveka Choodamani'.

All these classes are free and open to all. Yoga classes have been handled by Sri. C. Sekharan and Smt. Shibi M.

Ask Swamiji Sessions

What have been given above are on regular classes being held at the office of the Peethom. In consideration to the persistent requests from the student community, well attended 'Ask Swamiji' sessions, with a view to dispel doubts on Sanathanadharma, were held at the main hall of the Seminar Complex in the University Campus. Swami Chidananda Puri used to clear the doubts raised by the audience.

Extension Lecture series for the students of the Campus

As requested by the students and with the co-operation of some of the University Teaching Departments, Lecture series on the following subjects were conducted at various University Departments by Swami Chidananda Puri.

1. Personality Development
2. Science and Technology

Seminar on National Integration

As requested by the National Integration Council, a seminar on National Integration was conducted on 20-04-2006. Dr. C. Gopinathan Pillai, the Pro-Vice Chancellor inaugurated the seminar. Dr. M.G.S. Narayanan, eminent historian, gave the key note address. Swami Chidananda Puri elaborated on the subject in the concluding session.

Essay Competitions for the Students of the Affiliated Colleges

Essay competition for the students of affiliated colleges and University Teaching Departments was conducted on the following Topics.

1. Relevance of Vivekananda in the Modern World
- Subject for essay competition in English.
2. Vivekanandan- Darsanikanum Samooohyaparishkarthavum.
- Essay in Malayalam.

A lot of students participated in the competition. Cash prizes, books and certificates were awarded and presented by Swami Golokanandaji to the top three place winners in both the subjects at a function on 9.02.2007 in connection with the celebration of Vivekananda Jayanthi.

Seminar on Dharma, Religion and Culture

This seminar was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Anwar Jahan Subery, who appreciated the well orchestrated functioning of the Chair and the overwhelming participation in its functions.

Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, CSIR scientist and Hon. Director of the Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage was the main speaker. Swami Chidananda Puri also spoke.

On 8-12-2011, Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan gave a talk on 'Higher Education in Kerala-Problems and Solutions' at the Seminar Complex. Dr. Gopalakrishnan also gave a talk on 'Bharatiya Sanskritiyile Samagrajivitha Darsanam' at a function presided over by Brahmacharini Atulyamritha Chaithanya of Amrithananda Mayi Mathom, Tanur.

Lectures by Swami Bodhananda Saraswathi and Swami Adhyatmananda Saraswathi

Swami Bodhananda Saraswathi, the spiritual founder and Director of 12 organizations and Ashrams under the ambit of the Sambodh Foundation, New Delhi and himself a very reputed author and management consultant in U.S.A and European countries made it his contribution to the cause of the Peethom by delivering a lecture each on his annual visits to Kerala. His first lecture on 'Sanathanadharma and Varnashramadharma' at the seminar complex was on 18-01-2008. Prof. Dr. P. Mohanan, Department of Commerce and Management Studies, University of Calicut introduced the chief guest. Swamiji also spoke on 'Economic Recession and spiritual Response', at the Seminar Complex on 03.01.2010. His speech, as pointed out earlier, is a recurring programme.

Swami Adhyatmananda Saraswathi, who is on the Governing Body of the Peethom, spoke on 'Akarma in Karma' at the Seminar Complex on 08-04-2008.

Himalaya Darasana

Sri. K.N. Ramachandran, winner of the Kerala Sahithya Academy Award for travelogue, spoke on two occasions (21-03-2008 to 18-05-2008) at the Seminar Complex on his experiences of various Himalayan sojourn including the Government of India conducted 'Manasa Sarovar Yatra'. The second of the series was a full day event. Sri. Satya Sai Seva Samithi, Thenhipalam also helped us organise and co-ordinate these two sessions.

A study-cum spiritual yatra to the Chatur Dhams in the Himalayas was organised during September 2011. Orientation classes for the participants were arranged with the help of stalwarts in the field such as Dr. P.Raman, Retired Professor of Dermatology, Government-Medical College, Calicut and Sri. Vijayaraghavan, Satyananda Yoga Research Institute, Calicut. Sanyasins and Ashram Heads in the Himalayas and other places were contacted and the itinerary chalked out. Nine selected persons participated in the yatra and visited places like Haridwar, Rishikesh, Uttarkashi, Yamunotri, Gangotri, Gomukh, Kedarnath, Badarinath, Ganesh Guha, Vyas Guha, The Saraswathi Confluence, Mana Village, Joshimath etc., participating in Satsangas and classes. They were documented and the C.D. is available in the Office. As a sequel to this visit, many sanyasins from the Himalays visited the Peethom, the news of which was carried by the prominent dailies.

Some other programmes conducted by the Peethom are given below:

1. Swami Chidananda Puri, the Visiting Professor was invited by Kannur University to present a paper in the seminar on formulation of the syllabus for Yoga Studies and Research.
2. In order to familiarise the Adhyatma Ramayana of Thunchath Ezhuthachan to the students, a continuous workshop for students for two years was conducted to recite and learn the Kandas on Sundays. Smt. Latha, Smt. Geetha Komalan, Smt. Ambika Ammal, Smt. K.P. Sreedevi and Sri. Sekharan C. conducted the classes.
3. A seminar on the part played by the various Sanyasi order in the Indian Renaissance was conducted at the Seminar complex. Padmasri P. Parameswaran (Bharatiya Vichara Kendram), Sri. P.A. Ramachandran (Co-ordinator, Satya Sai Seva Samithi), Brahmachari Vivekamrita Chaitanya (Mata Amritananda Mayi, Calicut), Sri. U. Kalanathan (Kerala Yuktivadi Sangham), Swami Chidananda Puri and Dr. K. Kumarankutty participated.

4. 'The Problems of Higher Education' – A two-day Seminar was conducted. Prof. Anwar Jahan Suberi (Vice-Chancellor), Dr. K.K. Balachandran (University Syndicate Member), Swami Chidananda Puri, Sri. T. Balakrishnan (Retd. Deputy Editor, Mathrubhumi), Sri. A. Sajeevan (Kerala Kaumudi), Dr. K. Jayaprasad (Dept. of Political Science, S.N. College, Kollam, Dr. Devadas P. (K.M. Centre for West Asian Studies), Dr. Prabha Sukumar (Satyasai Seva Organisation), Dr. K. Kumarankutty (Retd. Professor, Dept. of Statistics), Dr. G. Saratchandra Raj (Retd. Principal, NSS Training College), Dr. C.N. Balakrishnan Nambiar (Principal, Devaki Amma Memorial Teacher Education College, Chelembra), Dr. A.R. Sitaraman (Founder Director, Paramahansa Yoga Therapy Centre, Mysore), Prof. Damodaran Namboothiri (Principal, Bhavan's Ramakrishna Institute of Teacher Education, Ramanattukara), Sri. K.R. Bhaskara Pilla (Vivekananda Educational Institutes, Palemad) etc. participated.
5. In the seminar on the celebration of 150th Birthday celebration of Swami Vivekananda Dr. M. Abdul Salam (Vice-Chancellor), Smt. Indira Krishnakumar (Member, Postal Service Board, Retd.), Swami Chidananda Puri, Swami Virabhadrananda (President, Haripad Sriramakrishna Madham), Dr. P.I. Devarajan, Student representatives of various student organisation, etc. participated. The program was conducted with the co-operation of Swami Vivekananda 150th Birthday Celebration Committee, Kerala Govt. Youth Welfare Department and Sri Ramakrishna Mission.
6. In the Navaratri Festival on 3rd November 2014, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. M. Abdul Salam initiated small children to the field of reading and writing. Various seminars and cultural programmes were held in the occasion. In 2015 also, the Navaratri was celebrated with seminars and various other programmes.
7. During the Keralappiravi Dinam the poem recitation programmes for children were held. A seminar on 'Marunna Malayalam' (The Changes in

- the Malayalam Language) was conducted. Sri. P.L. Sreedharan (Poet and Asst. Registrar, University of Calicut) and various other Resource Persons participated in the Seminar.
8. A fifteen day workshop on training in the Shodasa Sanskaras was held.
 9. 'Mystic India', the film based on the life history of Sri Swamy Narayan was exhibited.
 10. Swami Agnives, Swami Chidananda Puri etc. spoke on the seminar on 'The Monotheism in the Sanathana Dharma'.
 11. Gandhi Jayanthi, Sreenarayanaguru Jayanthi, Chattambi Swami Jayanthi, Kalidasa Jayanthi etc. were held with the participation of various celebrities. Dr. T.P. Sasikumar (Director, Academic Staff College), Sri. K.P. Vinodkumar (Sree Sankara Sanskrit University), Prof. Priyadarsan Lal (Principal, Govt. Arts & Science College, Calicut), Darsanacharya V.G. Venugopal, Dr. S. Radha (Head, Dept. of Philosophy), Sri. Murali Vilayil, late Sri. Ramakrishna Varier, etc. participated in the various functions.
 12. On 21.06.2015, the first International Yoga Day was celebrated at 7 am in the Seminar Hall of the Tagore Niketan. Dr. Baby Shari (Head, Dept. of Psychology), Sri. V. Saratkumar (Sivananda Yoga Centre, Asokapuram, Calicut), Sri. Sivaprasad (School of Yoga, Ramanattukara), Swami Chidananda Puri etc. spoke on the occasion. The students at Sri Sankara Balasadan, Kolathur exhibited the Yoga postures scheduled by the Human Resource Development Ministry of the Central Government, under the leadership of Sri. Ajithkrishnan, their Yoga teacher. Sri. Ajith and Smt. M. Shibi, the Yoga teacher of the Peethom exhibited Yoga postures. The seminar was inauguated by Dr. P. Mohanan, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor. Brahmachari Veda Chaitanya, Kolathur Advithasramam spoke on the occasion.

13. In the seminar on the 'National Identity on the basis of the Ramayana and the Mahabharath', Sri. K.K. Suresh (Joint Registrar), Smt. E.P. Jyothi (Research Scholar, Dept. of Malayalam), Sri. Anil Narayanan (Research Scholar, Dept. of Sanskrit), Swami Chidananda Puri, Sri. P.R. Nathan (Renowned scholar and writer) etc. participated.
14. On 28.06.2016, the design of the sketch and plan prepared by M/s Prasanth & Associates, Calicut for the office building of the Peethom at the site allotted by the University was handed over to Swami Chidananda Puri in the presence of Dr. T.A. Abdul Majeed (Registrar), Sri. O. Abdul Ali (Syndicate Member), Sri. C. Janardhanan, Sri. K. Sreedharan Master, Sri. Balagopalan Payicherry and Sri. C.Sekharan. Sri. A.K. Prasanth, the Architect dwelt upon the plan.
15. Sri. K.K. Muhammed (Regional Director, Archaeological Survey of India) is the person who renovated about eighty temples and historical sites in North India befriending the robbers of the Champal Forest. He is the author of the book, 'Nhan Enna Bharatheeyan'. On 25.07.2016 he spoke on his experience with powerpoint presentation of the renovation projects. The programme was much appreciated by the overwhelming audience at the University Auditorium.
16. The release of the Book, 'Sanathanadharma Parichayam'.

Dr. M. Abdul Salam, the Vice-Chancellor wrote the preface of the book on 'Sanathanadharma Parichayam', a 704 page book (in Malayalam) edited from the lectures conducted by Swami Chidananda Puri, the Visiting professor at the Peethom. A copy of the book was presented to Dr. K. Kumarankutty by Smt. P. Valsala, the novelist in a function conducted at the Seminar Complex of the University. Dr. C. Rajendran, former HOD, Dept. of Sanskrit presented the book. In the function presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Swami Adhyatmananda Saraswati (Sambodh Foundation, Trivandrum), Dr. T.A. Abdul Majeed (Registrar), Dr. N.R. Madhu (Editor,

- Kesari Weekly), Sri. K.R. Bhaskara Pillai (Chairman, Vivekananda Educational Trust), Dr. Priyadarsan Lal (Retd. Principal, Govt. Arts & Science College, Calicut), Prof. Ulloor M. Parameswaran (Retd. Head, Dept. of Library and Information Science), Sri. T. Janardhanan (Kerala Kshetra Samrakshana Samithi), Swami Paramananda Puri (Sri Sankarashramam), Sri. M. Narayanan (Manager, Devaki Amma Memorial Educational Institutions), Sri. N.C. Parameswaran Nair (Founder Trusty, Sanathanadharma Trust), Smt. Gita Koamalan etc. participated.
17. Yoga performance by the students of Sree Sankara Bala Sadan, Kolathur under the leadership of Sri. Ajith Krishnan was held on 21.06.2016 as part of International Yoga Day celebration. Swami Chidananda Puri presided over the function.
 18. Final session of the Yoga Class at the Recreation Centre on 29.07.2016. Sri. T.A. Abdul Majeed, Registrar participated and spoke. Five Yoga batches of three months duration for ladies were conducted following this at the Recreation Centre.
 19. Navaratri Sangeetholsav on 08.10.2016. Recital by Sri. Attuvassery Mohanan Master, Attuvassery Vivek, Smt. P.K. Sreedevi and Dr. Geethakumari K.K. of the Sanskrit Department. The full team of Devaragam Devotionals, Calicut University performed Devi keerthanam.
 20. Meetings on 03.12.2016 and 27.12.2016 about the future plans of the Peethom.
 21. Spiritual Conclave on 06.05.2017. Swami Chidananda Puri, Br. Vivekamritha Chaitanya of the Matha Amrithanadamayi Ashramam, Calicut etc. participated.
 22. Geetha Sandesa Bharath Yatra by the State Govt. of Haryana on the auspices of the Kurukshetra Development Authority, drama and seminar on the Mahabharath. Dr. Bharath Jetwani, President, Saptarang Sri Sabhavi

- Sanstha and NIFA participated. Dr. P. Mohanan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the Mahabharath Seminar.
23. Meeting to evaluate the Mahabharath Seminar and Building construction.
 24. The release of the second edition of Sanathanadharma Parichayam, the Malayalam book with 700 pages on 06.06.2018. The second edition of the book was also printed at Manipal Technologies Limited, Manipal.
 25. On 17.07.2018, Upanishad and the Ramayana – Ramayana Day talk by Swami Chidananda Puri.
 26. Seminar on 12.11.2018 on Temple Entry Proclamation and the Sabarimala Verdict – Adv. K.N.A. Khader, MLA, Samad Mankada (KPCC Samskara Sahiti), Adv. Sanku T. Das, Sri. Kunhikkannan K.T. (Kelu Ettan Smaraka Padana Gaveshana Kendram, Calicut), Swami Chidananda Puri, Sri. K. Sreedharan Master, Sri. B.S. Anilkumar and Sri. Sekharan C. spoke.
 27. Navaratri Festival was conducted with speeches on the importance of acquiring knowledge. Devi Sanskirtan by Devaragam Devotionals under the leadership of Smt. P.K. Sreedevi, Asst. Registrar, was held.
 28. Vivekananda Jayanthi celebration along with Ayudh Tanur on 11.01.2020. Swami Athulyamrita, Amritanandamayi Madhom, Tanur spoke at the function held in the University Seminar Complex. Sri. Balan Pootheri, who got an award from the President of India was felicitated.
 29. Lalitha Sahasranama Classes and recital started on 11.09.2016. Veda recital by Sai Veda Vahini also started on the date.
 30. The Peethom conducted online Zoom classes on the Bhagavatha during the Covid situation. Smt. Geetha Komalan and others took classes.

31. Classes on the Mundaka Upanishad by Swami Chidananda Puri ended on 24.07.2018. Swamiji started classes on Taittiriya Upanishad with Sankara Bhashya from 31.07.2018 onwards.

Library

A library having more than 400 books in Malayalam, Hindi, Sanskrit and English has been made available. The book volumes of magazines and weeklies have been arranged for reference. Attempt is being continued to gather books on Sanathanadharma to make it a research centre on the subject.

Peethom has brought forward small books on Tattwa Bodha, Shodasa Sanskaras, Yoga and Atma Bodha. Records of classes are also available in digital mode.

Sekharan. C,
Coordinator