



CHINMAYA PRADĪPIKĀ

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CHINMAYA PRADĪPIKĀ



The highlight of this issue is the 27th Chinmaya Ārādhana day celebrations globally and at CMSD. The quarter began with the Global Guru Pūrṇimā day celebrations.

CMSD 2020-2021 academic year commenced on Aug 23, 2020. Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī and Śrī Gaṇeśa Caturthī were celebrated in a grand manner.

THE MASTER SPEAKS

Submit and learn.

Submit to the feet of your Master, and render yourself receptive.

*Submit to the Will of the Lord,
and draw a lesson from every event.*

*Submit to the grandeur of Nature
and listen to every silent message it offers.*



Chinmaya Mahāsamādhi Ārādhana - Aug 3, 2020

August 3, 2020 marked the 27th **Chinmaya Mahāsamādhi Ārādhana** Day. On this auspicious occasion, Chinmaya Mission San Jose organized '**Chinmaya Samarpan**', a special program highlighting the various aspects of Gurudev's life, reminding us to be more contemplative and to deepen our *Sādhana*.

This global presentation on ZOOM began at 5:00 PM with an invocation by Smt. Jayanti Sahasrabuddhe, followed by a brief introduction by Br. Soham Chaitanya. **The focus shifted to Chinmaya Mission San Diego at 5:45 pm for the lighting of Chinmaya Jyoti, at the very hour, in the very land, that Pujya Gurudev left his mortal coil in 1993.**

Chinmaya *Guru Pādukā Pūjā* followed, with the lighting of 108 Jyoti lamps by *aṣṭalakṣmī-s* of CMSD to the melodious rendering of Chinmaya *aṣṭottaraśatanāmāvaliḥ*, and concluded with *Vedic āraṭi*.

CMSD celebrates Pujya Gurudev's *Ārādhana* day annually in this special manner creating a very serene and meditative experience for all. This year, Chinmaya devotees all over the world witnessed it.



There were offerings of love and *samarpaṇ* by devotees from various centers in the form of bhajans by Shishu Vihar, *strotrams*, and a poetic description of the *Mahābhārata* by the E-BalaVihar summer camp. We were also privileged to see the Chinmaya Darshan at Krishnalaya, Piercy, California.



'His Vision, Our Mission' part of the program brought us an inspiring candid dialogue between Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda and Swami Swaroopananda. Pujya Guruji emphasized the three key elements in our relationship with a *Guru*. We look upon our *Guru* as God, so our relationship is as a *bhakta* and *bhagavān*. He is a giver of spiritual knowledge and we are seekers of knowledge as a *śiṣya*. We consider our *Guru* as our *Svāmī*, so we are his *sevak*. All three aspects of our relationship have to be there for real communication to happen.



Chinmaya Mission Swaranjali group from San Diego offered "*Chinmaya Smṛtiḥ Chinmaya Jyoti*", a special composition of Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda for the 25th *Mahāsamādhi Ārādhana* Camp at San Diego.

The program concluded with *Chinmaya Āratī* performed at Siddhbari.

The members of the global Chinmaya family witnessed the lighting of the Chinmaya Jyoti and the 108 *Jyoti arcanā* at our Chinmaya Jyoti *āsrama* on Pujya Gurudev's 27th *Mahāsamādhi Ārāadhanā* day. Below are the blessings received from Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda, Pujya Swami Swaroopananda, other *Swamin-s* and *sevak-s*.

"This morning I watched the Chinmaya Samarpan and I was delighted to see the Jyoti being lit in our Chinmaya Jyoti. That brought so many sweet and fond memories of my visits and programmes there. I loved our devotees singing Bhajans. Hearty Congratulations! ..."

- **Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda**

"...My good wishes to all those who are participating in the program. The lighting of the lamps at Chinmaya Jyoti for Samarpan today was divine. On Gurudev's *Mahāsamādhi* day blessings for the entire family. With the Knowledge and Love Gurudev shared all His life, may we all grow in our devotion and surrender, live with wisdom and courage, serve with dedication and poise and attain the everlasting Peace and Happiness."

- **Pujya Swami Swaroopananda**

"It was divine to watch you all lighting the lamps. Gurudev's presence was there ..."

- **Swami Shantananda**

"Simply Divine Lakshmi Amma ..." - **Swami Sharanananda**

"Absolutely beautiful Puja. 108 lamps!..." - **Śrī Gaurang bhai**

"What a superb chanting of Pujya Gurudeva's namavali and lighting of 108 lamps. It was very peaceful. The ambiance you created was out of this world."

- **Smt. Darshana ben**

"I felt as though I am there with you in San Diego. Memories are so fresh as twice I was with you. 25th *Mahāsamādhi* a v v memorable one for me. Last year spending so much time ... when I saw the Jyoti programme ... Lamp decoration was beautiful."

- **Swamini Kaivalyananda**

"What an exquisite program last night in San Diego! It was extremely meditative with a strong feeling of Gurudev's presence. You and your team did excellent work."

- **Smt. Vilasini Balakrishnan**

Online Comments from devotees during the *pūjā*

"यह शांति का सही अर्थ है जिसे पूरी दुनिया को अनुभव करना चाहिए"

"ॐ अखण्ड चिन्मय ज्योतिषे नमः !"

"So very serene. our Koti Koti PraNaams. Jai Gurudev."

"Hari OM. feel HIS presence in the divine rendering."

Chinmaya Mahāsamādhi Ārādhanā at San Diego - Aug 3, 2020





CMSD Summer Sunday e-sessions - *Upaniṣad Gaṅgā*

During summer, many of us gathered on Zoom every Sunday to watch episodes of *Upaniṣad Gaṅgā*. It was a fun, educational, and thought-provoking experience. One of my favorite episodes is the story of *Aṣṭāvakra* and *Bandī*. This episode emphasizes that knowledge is meant for the benefit of all beings and not to increase one's ego nor use as a means of destruction. Upon watching this episode, I really began to think about what fuels my desire for knowledge. I realized that sometimes I learn because I'm interested in studying the topic. However, sometimes I learn to get good grades or to impress my friends and teachers. This episode has inspired me to change this attitude that I occasionally have towards learning. My motivation to learn should always be to seek excellence in everything I do. My attitude should be that of gratitude and service. After understanding the teachings demonstrated by this *Upaniṣad Gaṅgā* episode, I have resolved to never learn for selfish reasons or to 'show off'. Knowledge - both academic and spiritual should be acquired for personal and spiritual growth, and with the motive to serve.

- Arushi Bharadwaj, Grade 10



Ananya Bharathwaj, Grade 10



Chinmaya Mission e-Balavihar Summer Camp

A highlight of my summer this year has been the **e-Balavihar summer camp** arranged by Chinmaya Mission West. It has been a great way for me to connect with and learn alongside other youth from all around the world, and to share and study the great teachings of the ***Mahābhārata***. Not only do we get the opportunity to walk through the story, but we also gain important knowledge from these historical incidences that we can apply to our lives. Something that really stood out to me was when we learned about the promise *Bhīṣma* made to *Satyavati's* father so that King *Śāntanu* could marry *Satyavati*. From this story, I learned that a true leader always puts the happiness of their people above their own, just as *Bhīṣma* did when he vowed to never marry or take the throne of *Hastināpura*. Learning this encouraged me to always act while considering the happiness of not only myself, but those around me as well. Instead of waiting for *Satyavati's* father to change his mind, *Bhīṣma* took action proactively to solve the problem at hand. In the same way, I learned that I must not wait for another to solve the problems at hand, but look for solutions myself and inspire others to do the same.

- Shreya Sapkal, Grade 10

CMSD 2020-2021 session commences...

This year was a bit different than the rest. As much as we wanted to go to the *āśrama*, we couldn't in order to keep everyone safe. However, the Chinmaya Mission team decided that everything will go forward as expected, but with a few changes. Although assembly takes place in the Pranava Nilayam, the audience will be watching on zoom. Similarly, all Bala Vihar classes take place virtually on zoom. The first two classes went similar to the years before, the first class being a class introduction to the students and the second being a class introduction to the teachers. It was refreshing to see familiar faces on the screen. To be honest, it barely felt like any time has passed since the 2019-2020 CMSD class ended. It just felt like only a week passed. It was strange to have a new teacher, new classmates, and a new topic for the year. Everyone viewed the "Logic of Spirituality" video by our Pujya Gurudev. It was a great introduction to people that were new to Chinmaya Mission and a sweet and memorable experience for returners. It felt like Gurudev was talking to us live. Overall it was a fun, and new experience and although I desperately hope to go back to the *āśrama*, I hope the online experience will bring new opportunities and lots of fun.

- Sindhu Narasimha, Grade 10

The Study group classes, talks on *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam* and *Rāmāyaṇa*, CMSD Samskrta Vihar, and Vedic Chanting classes have also started with the blessings of *Śrī Jyoti Vināyaka* and Pujya Gurudev.

CMSD Launches Shishu Vihar - 'Mommy and Me Program'



The Shishu Vihar teachers along with Lakshmi Aunty and Sukumar Uncle enacted a *Gaṇeśa* play for the children. The children and their parents were viewing through ZOOM, due to Covid19 precautions. Lord *Śiva* (Uncle) and Goddess *Pārvatī* (Aunty) decide to challenge their sons, Lord *Muruga* and Lord *Gaṇeśa* to race around the world. The prize is a mango given by Sage *Nārada*.

Lord *Muruga*, with the swift peacock, promptly starts going around the entire universe whereas Lord *Gaṇeśa* on the other hand, slowly went around his parents three times since they were his entire world. Thus, Lord *Gaṇeśa*, with his quick thinking, won the prize. Overall it turned out to be a beautiful, rewarding, fun and memorable experience for us and the Shishu Vihar families.

A great beginning!



Guru Pūrṇimā celebrations



Guru Pūrṇimā this year was celebrated via the grand online program '*Vande Nityam Gurum Shivam*' on July 4 and July 5, 2020. The program commenced with *Guru Pūrṇimā* Message by Pujya Swami Swaroopananda at CIRS Coimbatore followed by *Guru Pādukā Pūjā* by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda at Sandeepany Sadhanalaya. *Śrī Gurutattva Aṣṭottaraśatanāmāvalī* (108 ways to describe the essence of the Guru) composed by our Pujya Guruji was chanted and 16 step puja was performed to *Guru Pādukā*-s.



Śrī Guru Gītā Pārāyaṇā was chanted by Guruji, CIF and CIRS.

The following morning we were treated to *Bhakti Saṅgīta Mālā* by devotees followed by talk by Pujya Swami Swaroopananda and book release of :A Sage is Born.~We heard Gurudev extol the qualities of a *Guru*.



The program concluded with *Bhakti Saṅgīta* by Pujya Guruji dedicating songs to Lord *Śiva*, *Guru Veda Vyasa* and Pujya Gurudev. This was followed by the book release of '*Tattva Bodha*' in French.

- Lalitha Kumar



Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī - Aug 10, 2020

On August 11, 2020, CMSD Śrī Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī celebrations were conducted over Zoom, with great pomp and splendor. It is always an absolute delight to welcome baby Kṛṣṇa and celebrate his glory! All the CMSD families joined together to celebrate the birth of the Lord and watched on eagerly as Lakshmi Auntie performed the *pūjā* at Chinmaya Nivas. Auntie began the *pūjā* by chanting Śrī Kṛṣṇa Stuti and then proceeded with each step of the evening's *pūjā*.

As part of the *upacāra-s*, the CMSD Dhvani group offered two melodious bhajans – *cilaṅga kaṭṭī* and *choṭī choṭī gaiyāñ* enacting the words of the latter to visualize the glorious form of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. The children offered the songs with great enthusiasm and devotion in a relay format. Then, the Chinmaya Swaranjali group offered several beautiful Kṛṣṇa bhajans. Lakshmi Auntie sang *enna tavaṁ śaidanai Yaśodā* - "What tapas did Yaśodā do for Lord Kṛṣṇa to call her Mother!", which always evokes many emotions.

As the evening progressed, a very unique and interesting part of the celebrations was the *Antakṣarī*. Several CMSD sevaks, sevikas and children energetically participated, eager to keep the *Antakṣarī* going by reminiscing beautiful Kṛṣṇa bhajans, stotrams or verses from the *Bhagavad Gītā*. It was truly joyful! As midnight approached, everyone could sense the great moment of the birth of the Lord was here, and Lakshmi Auntie wished that Kṛṣṇa be born in all our hearts. CMSD Svak Sowmian Rangarajan sang a sweet lullaby for the just born baby Kṛṣṇa.

Priya Venkitaraman shares – "This year's Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī celebrations were truly blissful and a wonderful way to celebrate the Lord's birth. Even if the times are different, the glory and grace of the Lord could be seen in the way we got the opportunity to celebrate along with the entire CMSD family."

- Ashwin Mohan



Śrī Gaṇeśa Caturthī on August 22 , 2020

Śrī Gaṇeśa Caturthī was celebrated at the Chinmaya Jyoti āśrama on Saturday, August 22, 2020 with a ceremonious *pūjā* and *rājōpacāra* for Śrī Jyoti Vināyaka.

Śrī Jyoti Vināyaka was dressed beautifully and looked splendid in his red *dhoti*. The Lord was offered beautiful red flowers during the *pūjā* and 108 *modaka*-s for *naivedya* which made this experience more divine and surreal.

Many CMSD members participated in the *pūjā* virtually. Chinmaya Dhvani students led the *rājōpacāra* with their melodious singing filled with love and devotion for Lord Gaṇeśa.

- Hetal Babla



CMSD Portal was inaugurated on this auspicious occasion.



Video presentation of Śrī Jyoti Vināyaka Sthāpana at the āśrama in 2013 was made.



Sixth CHYK Alumni meeting and workshop

The 2020 **CMSD Annual Alumni Meeting** held on August 15, 2020 was a successful endeavor. The first part of the session was a discussion led by Lakshmi Auntie and assisted by Raja Uncle on '**Viewing Social Justice through the Lens of Vedanta**'; the discussion included quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhiji, a comprehensive definition on the multiple dimensions of social justice, as well as personal anecdotes from all participants. The second part of the session was a peer discussion, which I had the opportunity to facilitate, continuing on the topics raised earlier. In addition to this, there was a discussion regarding how our group can continue to stay engaged throughout the year, primarily through the establishment of a regular study group. The meeting was concluded with a relay chanting of *Hanumān Cālīsā*, after Lakshmi Auntie and Raja Uncle joined back. Overall, it was a great success!

- Mihir Pandya, CHYK

CMSD in the Community

CMSD *Annadānam*

In the spirit of *Mahālaya Pakṣa*, the high schoolers of Chinmaya Mission San Diego guided by the CMSD CHYKs organized a food drive. It is very auspicious to donate food during this period. Three boxes of food were collected and delivered to Interfaith Community Center in Escondido. They were very grateful. The event was a grand success due to the tremendous participation of the CMSD members and the *seva* of the high schoolers and CHYKs.



SWAMI TEJOMAYANANDA

An unexamined life is not worth living.