

नागेन्द्रहाराय त्रिलोचनाय
भस्माङ्गरागाय महेश्वराय ।
नित्याय शुद्धाय दिगम्बराय
तस्मै नकाराय नमश्शिवाय ॥

My Salutation to Lord Siva, who is in the form of the syllable 'na', who wears the serpent king as a garland, who has three eyes, who has ashes smeared all over his body, who is the supreme Lord, who is eternal and pure and whose clothing is the sky.



A factory where leaders are made!

“For others sky may be the limit, but for me it’s my home” read the online status message of a pilot. True, their territory begins, where other’s end. They play in a realm, where others pray for their safety. But it is not a carefree, reckless trip, though it may sound like one. They are trained to be adventurous and every microscopic detail of their job is given to them by way of several hundred hours of rehearsal. We may slip, which is normal and can happen even when we walk with our eyes wide open, but such slips will not happen as they are required to be faultless. Coming to think of our society, one may yearn that not just the air space, but our society at ground also needs such pilots. People who cross the limits, which are drawn by ordinary mortals; People who think beyond their time, and work in the present; what others perceive as miracle will be their way of life. Care and concern for not just themselves, but for their society comes naturally to them. Such people will be selfless as it is a prerequisite for getting freed from the clutches of mundane life and to soar high. Such people will be daring by default. History exists only to talk about such heroes. Swami Vivekananda, one wonderful example of such unique men, felt the need of more such people as he gave a call for them. *“What I want is the muscles of iron and nerves of steel, inside which dwells the mind of the same material as that of which the thunderbolt is made”* thundered the Swami, when our society was reeling, under oppression of alien rule. Many responded to his call and as a result a new chapter got ushered in our history. It was travel from loathsome dullness to awakened energy. Tilak, Savarkar, Aurobindo and many others with such an inspiration, wrote the remaining portion of our history which ultimately resulted in our freedom. Whether the baton was transferred to the right people is a sordid chapter which has been discussed and debated for several decades and has become clichéd by now. When our youths are subjected to racial attacks abroad; when innocent citizens are becoming target practice for the blood thirsty militants; when the combined attack against our culture continues unfettered day-in and day-out; when the daily dose of calumny against our nation goes unchecked; the need for such leaders are felt more dearly than ever. Pressed by the same feeling we are undertaking a great effort, which for sure, is going unearthen many such unique men and women to our society. The recent Vijay hi Vijay camps held at Assam and Nagpur prove a testimony to this. We can take heart from the fact that many such efforts are going to happen at various places in our country. The coming months are going to witness a lot of such activities, which is the only way to redeem our society from its trauma. As a catalyst for this much needed social change Kendra’s enviable role will become more fruitful, if lot more youths are drawn towards this glorious program. Our role in this will define future history.

V.V.Balasubramanian.

YB - ET

The Inspiring Warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Prof. P. Ramani

The ever inspiring warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj inspired and united the common people to fight against the tyranny of Aurangzeb by inculcating in them a sense of nationalistic pride. At the age of sixteen, he took a vow to establish a sovereign Hindu state.

Shivaji stands tall amongst all the rulers and military generals by the courageous life he had led. He continues to be a source of inspiration after 340 years and will continue to instill the spirit of freedom and a genuine love for independence and a strong distaste for external political domination. He raised a strong army and navy, constructed new forts, repaired existing forts, developed a strong intelligence network, evolved gorilla warfare tactics, treated every member of the society alike and behaved like a modern statesman and general. He had the foresight to appoint ministers to look after specific portfolios such as internal security, foreign affairs, finance, law and justice, revenue, defence, religious matters and general administration. He devised systems for collection of revenue and expected his officials to be people-friendly.

As an individual, he maintained the highest levels of moral standards. He was a real visionary who could think ahead of times. His thoughts and deeds were necessarily inspired by his mother, Jijabai, his teacher Dadaji Konddev, great saints like Dyaneshwar and Tukaram and the valour and ideals of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna. Let us have the glimpse of his life and achievements.



Shivaji was born on 19th February, 1630 to Sahaji and Jijabai in the Shivneri Fort, situated north of Pune. His original name was Shiva, (named after the local goddess Shivai who was worshipped by his mother Jijabai).

When Shivaji was hardly fourteen, he was entrusted with the responsibilities of managing his estate. After Sahaji was defeated by the combined forces of the Mughals and Adil Shah, Sahaji was offered a 'jagir' or estate near the present Bangalore. He was also allowed

to keep his holdings in Pune. Sahaji made his son look after the Pune estate under the direct care and supervision of his wife Jijabai. Shivaji started managing his estate with a small council of advisors and ministers. Shamrao Nilkanth, Balkrishna Pant, Raghunath Ballal and Sonapant were all ministers. Kanhoji Jedhe and Baji Pasalkar took care of Shivaji's training. In 1644, Shivaji was holding full responsibility of administering his estate.

At sixteen, Shivaji, by his courageous efforts seized the Torna Fort of Bijapur kingdom. Around 1647, he had already brought Kondana Fort and Rajgad Fort under his control. The entire Pune region came under his jurisdiction. Shivaji, true to the spirit of warrior could not keep himself to the barracks. He brought the forts in the Western ghats and Konkan coast under his control. At Purandhar, he fought against the army of Adilshah. In November 1659, he defeated Aizal



Khan, in the battle of Pratapgarh. On scoring this victory, Shivaji occupied the entire stretch leading up to Panhala fort.

In December 1659, the battle of Kalahpur took

place. Shivaji scored a victory over the Bijapuri general, Rustomjaman. When Shivaji was resting at Panhala Fort, an army led by Siddi Johar attacked him. Shivaji escaped unhurt. But he would not wait for long. He launched an attack on Siddi Johar. There was a truce between Shivaji and Adilshah. After the death of Adilshah, Aurangzeb attacked Golconda and Bijapur. Shivaji, who had mastered the gorilla strategy captured most of the Bijapuri and Mughal territories. Unfortunately, he had to yield to Moghal army and lost most of his territories in 1663.

Shivaji consolidated himself in the following few years and started his conquest of Moghals and also Bijapur. Aurangzeb sent Jai Singh, a Hindu general to capture Shivaji. Shivaji surrendered to Jaisingh at Purandar in 1665. He had no other way but to become a vassal to the Mughal. In 1666, he escaped from his house arrest on Mughal garrisons in Maharashtra. Slowly but steadily in the course of six months he retrieved his lost empire. The period between 1670 and 1674 saw the rising of Shivaji Maharaj as an emperor to the disadvantage of the Mughals.

In 1670, Shivaji launched an attack under the leadership of his General, Tanaji Malusare to capture Kondana Fort, on the outskirts of Pune. The battle was won but Shivaji had to lose Tanaji. Shivaji was grieved and he named the Kondana Fort in his honour as Sinhadag.

Shivaji was formally crowned as Chhatrapati (meaning the Head or King of Kshatriyas) in June 1674 at raigad Fort. He was decorated with the title of Kshatriya Kulavantas Simhasanadheeswar Chhatrapathi Shivaji Maharaj. True to the spirit of a great warrior, he could't sit back and relax. He started his conquest marching towards the southern parts of India. he was

an ardent devotee of Bhavani Devi and during the course of his visits to the south, he offered worship at the Kalikambal temple, in Chennai.

Shivaji perhaps had a vision that he was going to leave for the heavenly abode. He was back in Raigad Fort. On April 3, 1680, he breathed his last. He was succeeded by his elder son, Sambhaji.

After the death of Chhatrapathi Shivaji and his son, Sambhaji, their prime ministers or the Peshwas become the defacto rulers. The Peshwas and the Maratha Sardars (Chieftains), like Shindes of Gwalior, Gaekwads of Baroda, Holkers of Indore contributed immensely to the growth of the Maratha Legacy. Chhatrapathi

was a professional warrior and created a whole band of professional warriors. The valour of Marathas bears a strong testimony of their professionalism. The history of India cannot be complete without the history of Marathas. Shivaji represents the Maratha community as a whole. He has been a source of big inspiration for the Indians and a pride of India for the yesteryear generations and a source of inspiration for all young men and women of India. He will continue to inspire generations of self respecting Indians.

On the occasion of his 381st birthday we shall dedicate ourselves to the massive exercise of 'Nation Building'.

2011-01-13
ABT

Warrior Patriot Netaji – The Leader With A Mission

Capt. D. Dasan
*(Author was a member of
Netaji's Indian National Army)*



He was very clear in his mind that the path he had adopted was strewn with difficulties and even death. He said “..... It does not matter who among us will live to see India free, It is enough that India shall be free and that we shall give our all to make her free...” While the army could not march to Delhi victorious, it had succeeded in its intent of arousing the sentiments of the Indians in India and more importantly, He Indian soldiers in the British Indian Army. These men met their own countrymen in the battlefield but on the opposite sides. Seeing the courage and the spirit of sacrifice of the INA men the Indian soldiers had a change of heart. They, who so far had pledged their allegiance to the British, now rose up in revolt. When these two-and-a-half million Indian soldiers revolted, the British Army was thrown out of gear. Netaji's giant suicide squad had done what it had set out for.

While the INA had lost the war, they had won a moral victory. The revolt of the Indian soldiers was followed by the RIN mutiny lead by the courageous Punnu Khan. And then there was the public trial of the INA men at the Red Fort-an episode that spelled doom for the British. It was a disaster waiting to happen. The trial inflamed the passion of all Indians and the British realized albeit late, that they had lost.

However, the one man who made all this possible was snatched away from our midst. It was a day of shock. A day of sorrow. A day I realized that death is the abyss of nothingness that shows how unaware, unknowing and how helpless we are. Every death shatters a thousand things. Netaji's death shattered the dream of thousands of Indians of seeing their hero lead his army into Delhi. But even in his last moments his only utterance was “India shall be free.” This eternal optimist did not let death defeat his mission. The British in sheer helplessness withdrew from India in 1947. Netaji did what he could do. Death did what it only can do. But as I go back, I now know compassion as it lived in Netaji, courage as it breathed in Netaji and life as it lived in Netaji.

Netaji is truly one of the greatest leaders that India has ever produced. He was a man who was focused. India's freedom was uppermost

in his mind and nothing absolutely nothing could come in between him and his cause. Not even his failing health or the fear of death. His single minded devotion to the cause of India's liberation is truly a lesson for all of us to learn. He said, "...Let us all stand shoulder to shoulder and say with one heart and with one voice that our motto is, as Tennyson said through Ulysses. "to strive, to seek to find, and not to yield." This became his credo. And it was this faith that was he able to instill into his men. He told them. "From today you are the soldiers of the Indian National Army of Free India. You have volunteered to shoulder the responsibility of 40 crore of Indians. From today your mind, might and money belongs to the Indian nation." He again said, "... Your names will be written in golden letters in the history of free India. Every soldier who is martyred in this holy war will have a monument in free India. The coming generations will shower flowers on those monuments. You are very fortunate that you have got this valuable opportunity to serve the Motherland...." Well this was the way Netaji thought we Indians would remember those martyrs. But those brave soldiers who died fighting for the freedom of our motherland are today forgotten. Their sacrifices have been sidelined. It is tragic that even our leader Netaji has not been given his due place in our history. His life has been a chronicle of continuous endeavors and relentless toil.

He was truly an extraordinary man whose only burning desire was to shake off the shackles of colonial rule. This worthy man shed his blood, suffered immensely and died for our freedom, our prosperity and our well being. It is almost as if he said to his future children: here's my gift for you. But look at the condition that India is in today. In his address to an Independence day meeting in Berlin on 26 January, 1943 he said. "...And India is a country where the past has not been forgotten, but where our past history and tradition live in our blood and in the marrow of our bones. It is because of this

national self-consciousness that neither political domination nor economic impoverishment have been able to kill our soul...." Such sterling words from this great man. He was one leader whose style of functioning was worth imitating, whose ideas worth adopting and whose examples worth following. But today we have buried our past. We have not made use of the wisdom of the past.

Netaji's skills as a diplomat left many of his contemporaries astounded. The manner in which he dealt with Hitler – even while he was requesting help from Germany he minced no words in telling Hitler that he did not approve of his treatment of Jews-leaves one with no doubt of his courage and abilities as a diplomat. The Japanese Prime Minister Tojo was so enamored by his engaging personality and sincerity that he granted him all his requests including the formation of the Provisional Government of Free India and handing over Andaman and Nicobar Islands to the Government. He maintained complete autonomy in his dealings with the leaders and equaled them in more ways than one.

Much has been said and written about Netaji's conflict with Gandhiji. The conflict was only on ideology. Non-violence was the life-long creed of Gandhi but Netaji saw this as, a "temporary tactic, a tactic which is temporarily useful. "It wasn't as if he didn't believe in the civil disobedience movement of Gandhi but as he said, "India will get freedom through an armed struggle coupled with a civil disobedience movement. But civil disobedience alone will not be enough.... As the British Government relies on the strength of bayonets, we too should use bayonets in order to defeat them decisively. As the enemy stands before us with the drawn sword, we should fight him only with the aid of the sword". The impossible is always absurd until it's done. Then it is possible.

The British never for a moment believed that Indians had the strength to pick up 'arms and fight them, but Netaji made this possible. And history is a witness to the truth that India got her independence only by the revolutionary stand taken by Netaji and in the words of Lord Attlee, the role of Gandhi was "minimal". When Gandhi commended his non cooperation programme to the Indian nation at the annual session of the Congress at Nagpur in 1920 he said. "If India had the sword today, she would have drawn the sword." So it was not as if Gandhi was opposed to armed combat but was forced to believe that his countrymen lacked the capacity to militarily fight the enemy and a much better equipped one at that. Hence Sathyagraha was the only viable weapon he had at hand and one that proved to be highly successful in demonstrating to the



British that the Indians were capable of organizing themselves into a formidable front. All said and done the respect that Netaji had for Gandhi was unquestionable. It was Netaji who gave him the title of Father of the Nation. He said, "...The service which Mahatma Gandhi had rendered to India and to the, cause of India's freedom is so unique and unparalleled that his name will be written in letters of gold

in our national history for all time." Well, the tragic and sometimes disturbing fact is that Netaji and his contribution to India's freedom has been relegated to the background. Today a child in school is being given a very distorted picture of history. I sincerely hope this situation is rectified soon for otherwise the damage done will be dreadful But sadly, we aren't even looking in this direction. Our minds are preoccupied with other issues.

How little it takes to make our lives unbearable... the broken top button of the shirt, a traffic jam a tyre puncture, Indian team performing badly. Everything slightly inconvenient makes us look up to God and complain, crib, curse. We waste time in trivialities like the protest against the Miss World pageant which was appalling to say the least. We seem to ignore larger issues that are facing us in the eye. Issues like bride burning, child marriages. Sati, female infanticide which have debauched our society. Issues like corruption, indiscipline which have deprived our inner souls. The extent of corruption is staggering . But what is even more shocking is our total indifference to the situation. For long we have been swallowing our anger with our pride that we have begun to get used, to its taste. Injustice is to us, second nature.' We thrive on it.

Post independent India has been through some really rough weather. Today our hard-earned freedom for which countless men and women laid down their lives is being threatened by various foes. Why have we not been able to learn from the experiences of our past leaders, sages, thinkers and scholars. Our forefathers showed us that courage and sacrifice can triumph against overwhelming opposition. A revolutionary is one who believes in the justice of a cause, and who believes that the cause is bound to prevail in the long run. He who gets depressed over failures is no revolutionary. The motto for a revolutionary is : Hope for the best, but be prepared for the worst.... "Hope is a

quality we share with the spider. Hope makes us feel positive. Hope makes us forget failures. Hope brings hope. But for a leader, hope takes much more. It takes more than just waiting to make hope arrive on the horizon. He has to pledge his life. Netaji was a hopeful. Still believing that his tomorrow can be bright. If the spider wouldn't give up. Why should we? The spirit of our past leaders knew no fatigue or death and by their abiding faith in India and their mission, they had shaped the destiny of future India. The optimist that he was, he said, "...". And if we fail in that too (attaining independence) then there will be indeed the world war III to give us another opportunity to strike for our freedom. Let us derive inspiration from the pages of his life. Fortunately for posterity, he was also a profile writer and his own letters have survived.

For a whole section of Indians then. Netaji was a lighthouse of hope. Sixty years of independence and we have done all that we could to extinguish that flicker of hope. We have allowed his sufferings and of those countless soldiers to be diluted. Where are all those men who should have been worthy successors of our priceless heritage? Where are all those modern crusaders who were supposed to finish the task left behind by our forefathers? They paid the price for the kind of mission they had embarked upon. After all nothing can be got free, a price has to be paid for everything. Without any expectation of a miracle, this country must do all it can to see that the current scenario is corrected. Society is full of issues to fight and the least we can expect from our leaders is concrete evidence that these issues are being tackled. Let our youth take charge for this is their country and they are its future.

We are not mere sycopants. We believed in Netaji. We identified ourselves with his mission. We shared his dreams. We were his partners in his fight for liberation who contributed our bit,

suffered and sacrificed for our country. To the youth I seek their attention. For on their shoulders rest the future of their India. Netaji taught us to stand up and be counted for values that count-discipline, sacrifice, patriotism and good old hard work. Sixty years after independence and these fundamental values still count. His efforts are testimonials of his determination to succeed, come what may. His short but very eventful life came to a sudden halt in the tragic accident which left the whole nation stunned. Death by accident to me is the worst form of injustice. You are the victim because you happen to be at that place at that time-the ultimate raw deal. A feeling of sadness still lingers not because he passed away-death after all is inevitable – but because our country lost a true leader at a time when it desperately needed someone like him. In an era of stalwarts like Bapu and Patel, Netaji was willing to stand apart and did not hesitate to speak his mind oblivious of the outcome. He spread his wings and gave this country the opportunity to test untried waters. The results did not matter. The fact that he took the chance did. He made the world envious of him, envious of India and her achievements. Truly only Netaji could have done that! Let our youth take over from where Netaji had left. We are hopefully moving into the 21st century. The young must wake up to that. And with the confidence of a winner say, "Hum honge kamayab".

Jai Hind!

(Concluded)

Courtesy - Universal Education

Inauguration of Vivekananda International Foundation



Shri Ajit Dovalji, Hon'ble Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, Revered Mata Amritanandamayiji, Maananeeya P. Parameswaranji and Smt. Vani Jairam during the inauguration.

A grand ceremony which marked the inauguration of Vivekananda International Foundation was held in its premises at 4.30 pm on 1st December 09. The revered Mata Amritanandamayiji showering her benedictions on the Ftion was the main feature of the inauguration ceremony. Justice M.N Venkatachaliah, the former Chief Justice of India, delivered key-note address. Smt Vani Jairam, the famous classical singer was also present in the inauguration ceremony.

The ceremony started with welcome by Shri Mukul Kanitkar, the Secretary of the Vivekananda International Foundation. He gave a brief profile of both the esteemed chief guests, Mata Amritanandamayiji and Justice M.N Venkatachaliah. It was followed by the melodious chanting of the holy invocations, by Smt Vani Jairam.

Shri Ajit Doval, the honorary Director of Vivekananda International Foundation gave a brief but profound introduction of the Foundation and its objectives. He explained how the foundation would encourage young, talented research scholars to probe the depths of research in various genre of topics which are



Shri Ajit Dovalji giving the introduction.

very vital to the national interests and thereby



Revered Mata Amritanandamayiji, signing the Visitor's book

streamline the scattered potential of the efficient human resources available in the nation, so as to elevate India to her right place in the world, as envisaged by Swami Vivekananda. The research would encapsulate various topics like international relations, changing power equations in the world, our foreign policy, the insurgencies,



Revered Mata Amritanandamayiji, inaugurates the foundation.

a entire spectrum of topics, ranging from the lofty humanistic views of Swami Vivekananda to the problems being faced in the modern society. She explained how the impact of the ma



The foundations impressive building at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

left wing extremism etc. This will bring the intellectual community in consonance with the spirit of nationalism and will intensify it.

Mata Amritanandamayi in her mellifluous speech rendered in Malayalam, which was simultaneously translated on wireless headphones in English and Hindi, touched upon



Mananeeya P.Parameshwaranji addresses the gathering

terialistic civilization was effecting disastrous changes in the society by causing an attrition in our human values like compassion, love, cooperation and augmenting negative tendencies like selfishness, intolerance etc. She explained that although the modern generation is much better informed about the world, yet they are confused as they lack in the ability of judgment. She added that the best way of worshipping God was to exorcise all our hatred and prejudice and shower our love on all, regarding them as the tangible manifestations of the supreme spirit. She emphasized on rectifying the defective system of education as it was not



Hon'ble Justice M.N.Venkatachalihi addresses the gathering.

in conformity with the ideals of Dharma which are imperative to enhance our humanism and make this world a better place for our children.



Lastly she emphasized on the intense patriotism of Swami Vivekananda and generously showered her blessings on the Foundation.

Mananeeya P Parmeswaranji, the President of Vivekananda Kendra, in his erudite style

explained how nationalism which was being regarded as outdated by the modern generation, is one of the most pressing exigencies of the time and was the inseparable precursor to internationalism. He expounded how Swami Vivekananda, who was a real international icon, having shaken the world with his clarion speech at the Chicago, was imbued with



boundless patriotism. He explained that in the modern, global context when bigotry has vitiated our visions, creating tendencies of conflict, mutual reconciliation through dialogue was the only panacea available to us. Hence for fructifying Swami Vivekananda's concept of worship of God being tantamount to worship of man, it was imperative to have dialogue between different communities, nations, ethnic and religious groups, for eliminating the mutual hatred and virulence looming large on their psyche.

Chief Justice Venkatachalihi in the keynote address in his scholarly style recapitulated the factors which led to the decline of spiritualism in India in the past and explained how the advent of Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda were cosmic events which not only protected the Sanatana Dharma from getting extinct but also proved the veracity of the spiritual truths enshrined in our epics. He extolled Vivekananda Kendra as an organization endeavouring to implement the noble ideas of Swami Vivekananda, without exhibiting any bias against anybody.



The ceremony was attended by nearly 600 people. A number of Swamijis from the Ashram of Mata Amritanandamayi graced the occasion with their holy presence. The presence of the Vivekananda Kendra karakartas of the topmost hierarchy like the Vice-Presidents, Mananeeya Balkrishnanji, and Mananeeya Nivedita Didi,

the General Secretary- Mananeeya Bhanudasji, President of Vivekananda Kendra Vedic Vision Foundation- Mananeeya Lakshmi Didi, Joint General Secretaries Mananeeya Pravinji, Mananeeya Kishorji and Mananeeya Rekha Didi, Dakshinanchal Pramukh – Mananeeya Satish Chowkulkarji was the outstanding feature of the inauguration ceremony. A large number of retired IAS, IPS, IFS officers along with top ranking officers of the armed forces like Air Chief Marshal (Retd) Krishnaswami, Air Chief Marshal (Retd) S P Tyagi, Admiral K K Nayyar, Admiral Raman Puri, Lt General Rawi Sawhaney, Lt General G.D Bakshi, Shri Kanwal Sibal, the former foreign secretary, Ambassador Rajiv Sikri, Ambassador T C A Rangachari and host of others were in the audience.



The longest night seems to be passing away, the sorest trouble seems to be coming to an end at last, the seeming corpse appears to be awaking and a voice is coming to us –away back where history and even tradition fails to peep into the gloom of the past, coming down from there, reflected as it were from peak to peak of the infinite Himalaya of knowledge, and of love and of work, India, this motherland of ours –a voice is coming unto us, gentle, firm, and yet unmistakable in its utterances, and is gaining volume as days pass by, and behold, the sleeper is awakening! Like a breeze from the Himalayas, it is bringing life into the almost dead bones and muscles, the lethargy is passing away, and only the blind cannot see, or the perverted will not see, that she is awakening, this motherland of ours, from her deep long sleep. None can resist her any more; never is she going to sleep any more; no outward powers can hold her back any more.

India that is to be, the future India, must be much greater than ancient India.

Her Holiness Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi's Inaugural Address at Vivekananda International Center, New Delhi Tuesday, December 1st 2009



Amma is so happy that such an institution has arisen in the name of Swami Vivekananda for the sake of interreligious cooperation and unity, and for portraying the values of Sanatana Dharma on a global level. "Swami Vivekananda", the name in itself has a certain power and attractiveness. Just by hearing this name, we unknowingly feel awakened and energized, because the owner of that name was such an effulgent being. He was a great Sannyasi, who revolutionized and transformed society, a complete Jnani, a perfect example of devotion to the Guru, an elevated karma yogi, and a brilliant orator. All in all, Swami Vivekananda was an extremely rare individual, a divine flower that blossomed in the perfect spiritual power of Sri Ramakrishna Devan, spreading fragrance throughout the world.

According to Swami Vivekananda, spirituality was not merely penance to be performed with closed eyes in a far away forest or cave. It was

a way of living to be performed in this world, while living amongst all different types of people, and while facing all circumstances and challenges of life with courage and equanimity. He firmly believed that spirituality is the basis of life and the origin of power and intelligence.

Swami Vivekananda proclaimed that he would not believe in any religion or God that failed to appease the hunger of the starving and wipe the tears of the destitute and widows. He said that compassion and service to humanity are the basic ideals of sannyasa.

There is no greater example of spirituality than the lives of mahatmas. Mahatma's lives are their message. They are what maintain the harmony of society. Family ties and values in Bharath have lasted compared with other countries, due to the inspiration from the lives of Mahatmas. Not only did they teach dictums such as "Always speak the truth, always pursue the path of dharma", "Our Mother is God, father is God, guru is God, and guest is God etc..." they also practiced them. They were considered as role models even by the rulers of their time. This in turn inspired people was well. Today, when it comes to values, how many rulers do we look upon as role models? If we lose our values, life



Confused, the young men asked the sanyasi, "What does that men?"

The sanyasi smiled and replied, "First, a sanyasi has to give up all his attachments, likes and dislikes. Then he should shoulder the sorrow of the whole world as his own and love and serve humanity. However, this weight will not be a burden, because, such a person has no

will become like a satellite that has broken free from the earth's gravitational pull.

Mahatmas are not mere individuals. They are visible forms of Ultimate Truth. Selfishness has disappeared completely from with them. Just like a magnet attracts iron filings, Mahatmas attract the whole world towards them. As they perform actions without selfishness or attachment, their each and every action quickly brings about a change in the world.

A group of young men once approached a sanyasi and asked, "What is sanyasi?"

At that time, the sanyasi was carrying a bundle of possessions on his back. Without any hesitation, he immediately dropped the bundle and continued walking forward. Not able to understand the meaning of the mahatma's action, the young men again asked, "What is sanyasi?" The Mahatma replied, "Didn't you see? Sanyas is renunciation; renunciation of 'I' and 'mine'.

Curious to know more about it, the young men asked, "What is the next step?"

The mahatma turned around, picked up the bundle, put it on his back again and continued walking.

feeling of doer-ship. There is only love."

Taking care of a child may be a difficult task for a baby-sitter but it is a joyful experience for the child's mother. Similarly, where there is love, nothing is a burden.

Swami Vivekananda's opinion was that only through awakening the inner power dormant within us will there be true transformation and a permanent solution to the problems facing society.

Strength is the most important thing needed for an individual or a country. When we realize that this resides in each and everyone of us, true strength awakens within. Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram—Truth, Auspiciousness, and Beauty—are not qualities of God. They are our experience and perspective of God. They are the limitations that our mind projects on God. In reality, God has no qualities, God is eternal.

When God's power manifests through humanity, it is Truth, Auspiciousness and Beauty. When God shines through the intellect, it manifests as Truth. When God shines through the heart, it manifests as beauty. And when God shines through actions it manifests as goodness

and auspiciousness. When Truth, Auspiciousness and Beauty come together, that is when true strength awakens within.

What India needs today is strength, vigour and bravery. If our youth arise and act, they have the strength and vigour to create huge transformation in society.

As Swami Vivekananda once said, "The supreme value of youth period is incalculable and indescribable. Youth life is the most precious phase of life. Youth is the best time. The way in which you utilize this period will decide the nature of the coming honour and your good name all depend upon the way in which you live now, in this present moment. Remember this. The wonderful period of youth can be molded like soft wet clay in the hands of a potter. A potter skillfully gives it his intended shapes and forms. Similarly, you can wisely mould your life in any way you desire. And you must do this now."

It is not enough for parents to give their children only wealth and luxuries. The wealth that they really need to impart to their children is culture and proper values. Even if a person buys the most expensive car and fills its tank with the highest grade petrol, a battery is needed in order to start the engine. Similarly, however much wealth and education the child receives it is the love and cultural values received from the parents that

help the children to handle any circumstances once they grow into adulthood, and to give and receive love.

Today, the phase of human life called "youth" is disappearing. From childhood, people go straight to old age. In reality, youth is the centre-point of life. They are neither child nor grownup. It is an age when one can live in the moment and train the mind as needed. But

what is the condition of today's youth.

Once, a lady was walking through a park, when she saw an old man sitting on a bench, smiling to himself. The lady went up to him and asked, "You look so happy! What is the secret behind your long and happy life?"

The old man replied, "Well.... as soon I get out of bed, I drink two whole bottles of whiskey straight. Then I smoke a pack of cigarettes. For lunch I eat fried children and beef curry to my heart's content.

I spend the rest of the day listening to heavy metal and rap music. I snack on chips, sweets and other junk food the whole day and I usually take drugs (marijuana) 4 to 5 times a week. Exercise.... I don't even think about that!"

The lady was shocked, "Amazing! I have never heard of anyone who lived to such a ripe old age with your kind of lifestyle! By the way...



how old are you?"

"Twenty six" the man replied.

This is how many of us are wasting away our precious youth.

How can young people develop spiritual values and qualities? How can we lead them on the right path? How can we use the strength of youth for the growth of society, the country, and the world? To this question, Swami Vivekananda answered that we should prepare the youth for self-unfoldment and personal development. For that, we should go to their level and understand them.

There are so many texts in Sanatana Dharma that reveals the depth and vastness of true knowledge about spirituality and the nature of the world. But the mind of young people may not accept these texts in their original form. We should be able to express these spiritual teachings to the youth in an understandable language, according to the times. This is the role of the older generation. But, this shouldn't become a mere intellectual exercise. When explaining spirituality to the youth, we should be able to join both heart and intellect as required. The older generation should employ the approach of dialogue. When approaching young people, we should not try to demonstrate our own knowledge and erudition. We should become one with them, understand their hearts and discuss things with them. We should patiently and lovingly listen to their questions and criticism. We should approach them with compassion. Such an approach will create a change within them. Above all, we should set examples that will create inspiration in them.

A sleeping or ignorant individual is not one but

many, like a crowd of people. Such people cannot make a decision about anything, because a crowd has so many different opinions. When creation happens in one part of their mind, another part strikes it down. Such people's efforts will always be in vain. They keep wandering without any sense of direction. It is like tying 4 horses to each side of a vehicle and placing the reins in the hands of a sleeping driver. Life won't reach anywhere. The lives of those devoid of spiritual thoughts are like this. They think, "I'm reaching my goal, I'm reaching my goal," but in reality their life is not moving forward. Finally, they collapse and fall. We should focus our mind, which is now flowing towards so many external objects, and discover the infinite strength within us. We should not be a mere individual, but a conscious individual. This is the purpose of spirituality. This knowledge should be passed on to the youth.



According to the world today, strength lies in being able to interpret truth the way one pleases. If we are unable to do this, it is considered weakness. Truth should never be interpreted as we please. Truth should be transmitted in such a way that it aids in the development of both the individual and society. That is why those people who pass on this knowledge should be mature, discriminative and openhearted. Only

then will goodness and nobility arise in the one receiving the knowledge.

Today's youth are not satisfied with mere words. They have so much more knowledge on modern information technology than the previous generation. Today, dissemination of information is not a difficult task. Merely preaching such information does not create a dialogue. Not only will it fail to attract the youth; it won't attract anyone. Any change created through such words is only fleeting. We should explain to the youth what real dialogue is. This is the responsibility of the previous generation. All of Swami Vivekananda's words were dialogues, as they were heartfelt words flowing from a perfect understanding of the intellectual and mental level of others. That power lies behind his words. And that is why even today these words create change in people.

Problems arise when we say, "My religion alone is good and yours is bad." This is like saying, "My mother is perfect, your mother is a prostitute." When we hold discussions with the understanding that each person sees their mother as perfect, we will be able to truly communicate with others.

Discussions take place between the leaders of different religions and cultures. But we should re-examine whether the methodology and language used for these discussions is truly adequate. Today, many people are able to logically and intellectually interpret things. But, we are forgetting to impart the beauty of the heart along with logic.

True religious leaders love and worship the whole Creation, seeing it as God Consciousness. They see the unity in diversity. but nowadays, many religious leaders misinterpret the words and experiences of the ancient Seers and Prophets, exploiting weak-minded people.

Religion and spirituality are the keys to open our hearts and see everyone with compassion. But, blinded by our selfishness, our minds have

lost their proper judgment and our vision has become distorted. This attitude will only serve to create more darkness. Using the same key meant to open our hearts, our indiscriminate mindset is locking it shut.

There were once four men who were traveling by boat to attend a religious conference. They were caught in a storm and had to take shelter on a deserted island. It was a bitter-cold night. The temperature was almost zero degrees Celsius. Each traveler carried a matchbox and a small bundle of firewood in his pack – but each one thought that he was the only one who had firewood and matches.

The first man thought, "Judging from the medallion around that man's neck, I would say he is from some other religion. If I start a fire, he will also benefit from its warmth. Why should I use my wood to warm him?"

The second man thought, "That person is from the country that has always fought against us. I wouldn't dream of using my wood to make him comfortable!"

The third man looked at one of the others and thought, "I know this guy. He belongs to a sect that always creates problems in my religion. I'm not going to use up my wood for his sake!"

The last man thought, "This guy has a different skin color than mine, and I hate that! There's no way I'm going to use my wood for him!"

In the end, not one of them was willing to light his wood to warm the others, and so, by morning they all froze to death. In reality, their cause of death was not the external cold. They died because of their cold and numb attitude. We are becoming like these men. We quarrel in the name of religion, caste, nation, and colour, without showing any compassion towards our fellow beings.

To be Continued...

BELUR MATH PILGRIMAGE

By Swami Asutoshananda – Sri Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004; 114 pages with an appended Map. Price Rs. 25/- (subsidised). Year of publication 2009

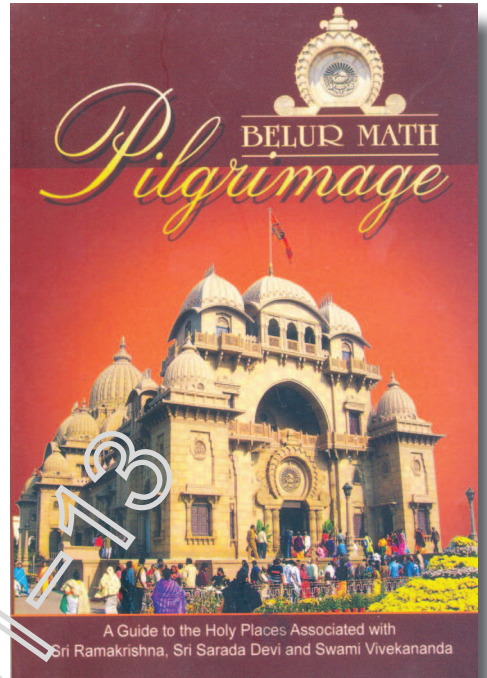
The growing literature on Sri Ramakrishna, Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda and other direct disciples of Guru Maharaj because of the excellent research work being done by the Math and its devotee, throws light on many aspects of Guru Maharaj's life. Many devotees from India and abroad are lured by His Life and Message to visit the places associated with His experiences and utterances.

This comprehensive and yet compact book on the Leelasthanas of the Holy trinity has come from the pen of Srmat Swami Atutoshananda, with appropriate pictures reproduced with wonderful clarity.

Pilgrimage as such is a great Indian spiritual Sadhana. One facilitator from the tourism business remarked that 94% of India's tourists are Hindu pilgrims. Pilgrimage helps a Sadhaka to relive the experiences of our Gods and Goddesses, saints and seers. A sensitive person perceives the vibrations in a pilgrim centre.

For the devotees of Sri Ramakrishna the Dakshineswar temple, Kamarpukur and the Cossipore garden house are holy and these places beckon them to visit them. All the details of these places are given in this book.

The background information about the places, sanctified by the lives of the Holy Trinity, the reference books, are all specified, adding to the worth of the book.



Naturally, Kamarpukur, Jayambati, Dakshineswar Temple, Belur Math and Swami Vivekananda's ancestral house come in for detailed treatment. Because, each footfall there, each brick here, each curve of the Ganga, each tree has a historic, religious and spiritual significance. The spiritual and temporal headquarters of the world-wide Sri Rama Krishna movement, the Belur Math gets a detailed coverage. A multicolour map adds to the usefulness of the book.

Dakshineswar temple comes in for the reverential treatment it deserves. Each place associated with Guru Maharaj is described in adequate detail. The Cossipore garden house, Udbodhan office, Balaram Babu's house, Shyampukur house, Kolkata Kali Temple, Yogodyan and Antpur are covered. Perhaps a separate full-fledged pictorial book on the ancestral house of Swami Vivekananda is under preparation. The Appendices include 1) How to Reach each place 2) Addresses of Pilgrim Centres, 3) Sug-

gested extra Reading. They add to the usefulness of the book.

Swami Vivekananda described the order of Monks as the body of Sri Ramakrishna. It is said Mother Kali stopped Rani Rasamani from proceeding towards Varanasi and made her build Dakshineswar temple as a substitute destination. The place of Belur Math and Dakshineswar temple in Ramakrishna Leela is explained by these two descriptions.

Well produced, with clear pictures and maps this book is a good companion for the pilgrim. It is also worth an independent study, for the arm chair traveler.

--- N. Krishnamoorti

Dates to Remember

February 8th	-Swami Dayananda Saraswati Jayanthi
February 16th	-Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa Jayanthji
February 19th	-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanthji
February 26th	-Swantraveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar Punyathithi
February 28th	-Chaitanya Jayanthi

SHRADDHANJALI

With profound regrets we record the passing away of a long term well-wisher and local worker of the Vivekananda Kendra Shri S.G. Padmanabhan (78). He died on 08/01/2010 Tirunelveli after a brief illness. He was born in a family of Nationalists and all Nationalist leaders of various hues visited his house to meet his father Sri S.V. Gopala Krishna Iyer. As a young boy Ambi as he was affectionately called along with his elder brother Shri S.G. Subrahmaniam plunged into National work.



Shri Eknathji sent Shri S.G. Padmanabhan along with Shri S. Venkataraman to accompany Shri S.K. Achari the architect of Vivekananda Rock Memorial, to visit places like Ajanta, Ellora, Carls caves etc., so that the Vivekananda Rock Memorial could incorporate the best features of our National heritage.

After the construction phase was over Shri Ambi associated himself with our publication department helping it off and on. In his later years he took great interest in Namajapa and visited institutions such as Anandashram and Gondavalekarji temple.

Soft spoken, gentle and loving his was a familiar face in the Kendra campus. He used to help our employees in difficulties Shri Mamaji attended his funeral on 09/01/2010.

May his soul rest in peace!

Om Shanti: Shanti: Shanti:

What do we do?

S. Shirsankar

A widow had five sons. She took care of all of them when they were young. They grew up into strong and able men. The widow was now old, worn and tired. She was afflicted with the ailments of age. Her first four sons did not bother to tend to her – either due to fear of the pain and disease, or due to ignorance, or due to plain lethargy and wretchedness.

The last son however, knows what troubles his old mother. He is also aware of how to treat her and care for her. Now what does he do? What would YOU do, if you are in the position of the fifth son?

What did they do then?

This is the story narrated by Savarkar to his companions on board the ship SS Persia. He requested them to envision their motherland as the widow. And each one of themselves as the youngest son.

What did they do then? The Indian population at London was deeply motivated by Savarkar's thoughts and speeches. Savarkar inspired so many of the sons of the soil, who had traveled to London at that period of time, for either study or business. The efforts to bring pressure on the British government by various means were begun. The result was the spread of revolution for India's freedom, right at the heart of the lion's den.



Indian revolutionaries present in different countries all around the world were brought into contact. This way a large network of Indian nationalists was established. Planned events were set in motion that would eventually deliver independence to India.

What do we do now?

The above mentioned events happened in the past century. Today, India is an independent nation. The fetters of slavery and submission to an alien power are a very distant memory. We are no more a colony of a foreign nation. What then are we to do?

The question we need to ask of ourselves today is this – are we really, truly free? As a country, we are independent. Take a look. The invasion is coming back, albeit in a subtle manner. The invading armies are not actually equipped with guns and grenades. They approach with pens

and cameras, and with the most debilitating weapon – money. They penetrate and petrify through economic and demographic aggression, through terrorism and television, through caste and cultural hegemony.

There is no enemy standing to recognize and oppose. This time around the aggressors are amidst us; sometimes a part of our minds. So,

we ask again – are we really, truly free from the mental fetters left behind and reinforced after independence? Do we know what's ailing our country? Do we know what we should do to get rid of them?

We ponder on such questions as we observe the Smrithi din of Veer Savarkar on February 26.

All India Drawing Competition – 2010, conducted by Sri Ramakrishna Vijayam:

Sri Ramakrishna Vijayam, a Tamil monthly of Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai, commands a circulation of 1,20,000 copies out of which around 60% are youth subscribers. This magazine has been conducting “Youth Day Competitions since many years in Tamilnadu. This Tamil Magazine, one of the earliest in Tamil Nadu has served the humanity for 89 years and has entered 90th year of its service. Earlier years were devoted to essay writing on Swami Vivekananda’s message to the youth. So far 4 lakh youths have participated.

This year, ‘Sri Ramakrishna Vijayam’ has conducted a drawing Competition at National level in connection with the Silver Jubilee celebration of National Youth day 1985 – 2010.

“Draw Swamiji, Draw Energy” is the theme given to the youths to draw Swamiji. More than 30500 students participated from all the States including Jammu & Kashmir. The prize winning drawings were selected by eminent artists, Sri Maniam Selven, and Sri Chitrak and Smt.Pushpak Chitrak from Delhi.

Some of the Prize winning Drawings



Vivekanand Kendra, Kanyakumari - Branch Ajmer

Report of Samarth Bharat Parv 2010

Samarth Bharat Parv is convened with yagna held at Branch Centre on 25th December, 2009 at 9.30 am. On the same day, a programme was held at Govt. College, Ajmer, where the youths of National Service Scheme was shown the Power Point Presentation of Samarth Bharat. In this programme, youths encouraged with the story of glory of Bharat. On 30th December, there was a programme in DAV Centenary School, where the students performed the Surya Namaskar and various activities related to Karya Padhati. On 1st January, 2010 Kalptaru Divas is celebrated at Vijay Smarak at Bajrang Garh Chouraha, where the Map of Bharat Mata prepared and decorated with the petals and deeps. In this function, Mayor of Ajmer Nagar Nigam Shri Dharmendra Gehlot was the Chief Guest. During 2nd to 8th December, 2010 Samarth Bharat Parv is celebrated continue in three schools of State Govt and with this programme youths are prepared for various activities. On 10th December one day camp is organised at Kendra Sthan. On 11th December a programme was convened in Govt. Girls College, Ajmer where the C.D. presentation and Suryanamaskar is performed. On 12th January a function was organised at Jawahar Lal Nehru Medical College, Ajmer. Chief Guest of this function was Rajasthan Public Service Commission's Member Prof. P.K. Dashora, Special Guest was former M.L.A Dr. Shri Gopal Baheti and the function was presided by the Principal of the Medical College Dr. B.L. Gupta. In the Samarth Bharat Parv, 600 people participated in all the programmes.

National Youth Camp VK, Kanyakumari

National Youth Camp was organized by Vivekananda Kendra at Kanyakumari from 28th to 31st December 2009. The theme of the camp was "Organise for India". In all 138 college students from 10 states of India - Delhi, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh,



Participants during the National Youth Camp.

Maharashtra, Pondicherry, Kerala, Manipur, Karnataka - participated. The camp was inau



Maananeeya Balakrishnanji addressing the Camp Participants.

gured by Sri Balakrishnanji, Vice President of Vivekananda Kendra. Dr. Kanagsabapathi and Sri Pramod Kumar were the other speakers. Participants had interactive lectures and Group discussions on "Youth makes a Nation", "India



In every attempt there will be one set of men who will applaud, and another who will pick holes.

and the World”, “Future Trends”; workshops on Leadership, Excellence, Communication and Life-skills. Yoga, Bhajans, Group and individual presentations, and visit to Vivekananda Rock Memorial were the other highlights of the program. Finally, the Youth pledged to make India a Developed Nation by 2020.

VK, Kanyakumari Yoga Shiksha Shibir 1-15 December 2009

All India Yoga Shiksha Shibir was organized by Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari from 1-15 December 2009 for 52 participants from 10 states of India. The Shibir was inaugu-



Participants of the Yoga Shiksha Shibir

rated by Sri Angiras (Mamaji). The topics deliberated were Ashtang Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, Bhartiya Sanskriti, Bhagvad Gita, Challenges, Sadhana of Service, Swami Vivekananda, Kendra Prarthana and Vivekananda Kendra. The Group discussions were held on Rousing Call to the Hindu Nation. Participants were trained in Yogasanas, Pranayama, Kriyas and Meditation. Trekking to Marut Malai and visit to Rock Memorial

VK Arunjyoti Youth Motivation Camp

On the eve of “SAMARTH BHARAT PARVA” Vivekananda Kendra Arun Jyoti Conducted a five day youth motivation camp from 21st to 25th at Bharat Scout and Guide Training Cen-



tre, Naharlagun. The participants included students from JNC Pasighat, IGGC Tezu, DNGC Itanagar and Don-Bosco College Itanagar. Some of the students were from Higher schools of capital complex. The camp was sponsored by VKV Alumni Association.

The resource persons were Shri L. Khimunji Executive Engineer (Dirang) and Secretary General of Rang Fraa Faith and Promotion Society, Changlang ;Shri Bengia Tolum President of Nyishi Elite Society; Dr. Nani Bath Associated Professor RGU Doimukh ; Sushri Lisa Lomdak lecturer RGU Doimukh; Shri Kanu Bagang for-



mer AAPSU President; Shri Chaphung Wangsupa, Chairman of DISHA (Tirap based NGO) spoke to the youths on the topics, our culture -Our Pride, our life; Challenge before the youth and how they can response; the special features of Arunachal Pradesh; Swami Vivekananda the youth Icon; Role of Youth in Nation Building; and concept, purpose and activities of Vivekananda Kendra respectively.

The youths were also guided by Shri Narang Tani the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Itanagar on entrepreneurship and Shri Jahang Ajang an Educational Counsellor, Itanagar on Educational Career guidance and he also took the classes on "Pariksha De haste-Haste", a workshop on proper way of studying and preparing for the examination.

Group discussions were conducted on above mentioned topics so as to bring better clarity among the participants. Patriotic songs, Intelligence enhancement games, Bhajans for emotional and moral development and Yoga sessions for all-round development were also a part of the camp.

Dr Nabam Takang, Secretary VKV Alumni Association, graced the concluding session. He called upon the youth to follow the path shown by Swami Vivekananda for the betterment of oneself and the society as a whole. He also emphasised upon the youths to be more careful at their age as they are more vulnerable to negative changes in the society because they are the face of the society.

Vijay Hi Vijay – A State Level Leadership project for Ignited Youth, a report.

The Vijay Hi Vijay Mahashibir, organized by Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari's Assam



Maana neeja Nivedita Didi addressing the youth.

Prant from 6th January 2010 at Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Laipuli, Tinsukia, concluded successfully on 10th Jan. 2010.

712 students and organizing team karyakartas participated in it. Details of the Shibir:



Games and Group discussions during the camp.

The students reported on 5th January 2010. The Mahashibir was inaugurated by Dr. K.K. Deka, Vice-Chancellor, Dibrugarh University. Prof



Dinesh Chandra Baroowa, former Registrar Gauhati University and Prant Sanyojak, Vijay



The history of the world is the history of a few men who had faith in themselves. That faith calls out the divinity within. You can do anything.

You fail only when you do not strive sufficiently to manifest infinite power. As soon as a man or a nation loses faith, death comes.

Hi Vijay, welcomed the gathering and Mananeeya Shri A. Balakrishnanji, All India Vice President, Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari presided.

In the Valedictory on 10 January 2010 Dr. K.K. Dwivedi, Deputy Commissioner, Tinsukia Dis-



trict was the Chief Guest. Mananeeya Nivedita Didi, All India Vice President, Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari delivered the Valedictory Address.

Daily the participants followed a camp routine from 4.30 am - 9.30 pm. Yogabhayas for memory & personality development was practiced. Conceptual clarity and communication of ideas were inculcated through 2 lecture sessions and group discussions per day. In the Vijay Kshana the participants interacted with a high achiever from various fields – education [Shri Gahen Boro], literature [Dr. Nagen Saigal], defence [Shri Prakash Singh, former DGP – BSF] and social service [Shri Pravinji, Joint General Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari]. The evening games gave the participants a practical feel of team building, alertness and will power. The day concluded with the recitation of Srimanta Sankaradeva's Bharat Bhu Prashansa -46 shlokas in praise of Bharat.

You will be glad to know that 106 karyakartas have committed to serve as alpakaleen [short duration] / Poornakaleen karyakarta [minimum 3 years]. Follow up activities include:

A] to contact and involve all those who were selected for the Mahashibir but were unable to attend. Study groups and Memory development workshop –Pareeksha de Hastein

Hastein would be conducted for them so that they could prepare well for their forthcoming degree-level exams.

B] during their vacation, they will contact and train, potential trainers from middle and secondary school students in Suryanamaskar.

C] Samuhik Suryanamaskar in all the branch centres, during school students' vacation in July 2010.

VK Gulbarga

The National Youth Day and Swami Vivekananda Jayanthi (14th) was celebrated with Vivekananda Institute of Management, Gulbarga. Sarvashri Rameshwaran, Secretary, Principal of Institute Shri Pravin Nayak, Narendra Badsheshi, Prof in Sociology Col. University, GLB, B.R.Kulkarni, Prof in English visiting Prof. Of GLB were present. Around 300 students attended the programme.

Sixth International Conference on Yoga research and cultural synthesis

Shri M. Hanumantha Rao, Jeevanvrat & Secretary (Administration), Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, attended the 6th International Conference on Yoga Research & Cultural Synthesis, from 27 to 30 December organized by Kaivalyadam Lonavla, Maharashtra.

Justice Shri B.N. Krishna, Retired Judge, Supreme Court of India and Justice Shri Dalveer Bhandari, Judge, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi, presided over the conference. About 800 delegates from around the globe participated in it and presented 82 papers on –

1. Yoga & Scientific research,
2. Yoga Therapy and
3. Yoga and allied subjects.

Vivekananda Kendra is happy to inform that Shri Hanumantha Rao made a power point presentation on* Yoga & Value Education *and this was declared to be the best in its category (Yoga & allied subjects).

VK - NAGPUR 'Vijay Poorna Vijay' Vibhag Shibir Report

'Vijay Poorna Vijay' Yuva Prerana Shibir was conducted from 31st Dec. 2009 to 4th Jan. 2010



Group Discussion during the Camp.
by Vivekananda Kendra, Nagpur at Savarkar

sabhagruha in which 76 college students participated. Participants were from Nagpur, Bhandara, Chandrapur and Varora. The students were contacted in July when the colleges reopened and were encouraged to study the book 'Vijay Poorna Vijay' which contains the life and thoughts of Swami Vivekananda. The students who passed the examination conducted on same subject were selected for one day camp. The selected students from these camps attended this shibir.

Shri. Shrinivas Varnekar – a leading personality in the field of construction and also authority on Bhagawad Geeta – inaugurated the Shibir. Daily routine of the shibir started at 4.30 am and till 10.00 pm the students were busy in different activities. Prayers, Sooryanamaskar practice, physical work experience, out-door

games, bhajans, lecture sessions and group discussions were included in the schedule. Dr. Surendra Gole, Vice Principal of Jhulelal Institute of Technology talked to the participants on 'Punyabhoomi Bharat'. General Secretary of Vivekananda Kendra Mananeeya Shri. Bhanudasji Dhakras invoked in the youth the sense of duty towards our Motherland. Inspiring speech of Pranjali didi – a civil engineer and jeevanvratini of the Kendra was based on Swami Vivekananda's plan of campaign. Shri. Ravindraji Bhusari from RSS made everybody realize the importance of organized work.

Participants were divided in 8 groups and in their own groups they discussed on different topics like glorious past of the Motherland, Samartha Yuva – Samartha Bharat etc. It helped them to understand the subject properly.

On 4th morning all the participants and the youth of surrounding area participated in 108 Sooryanamaskar Yajna.



Surya Namaskar practice during the camp.

After the planning about the celebration of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti which is on 12th January, the shibir was concluded.

The inspiring hindu spiritual and service fair – 2009 at chennai

The Hindu spiritual and service fair 2009 organised by Global Foundation for Civilisation

al Harmony, was held at Vasudevapuram, Tiruvanmiyur, Chennai between 24/12/2009 and 28/12/2009. 110 Hindu spiritual organizations



Swami Gautamananda Maharaj, President, Ramakrishna Mission, Chennai, along with Vellimalai Swamiji Visiting our Stall.

working in Tamil Nadu participated in the Fair. H.E. Surjit Singh Barnala, the Governor of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the Fair in the evening of 24/12/2009, lauding the Hindu organizations for their work. The Karnataka Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yeddiyurappa was the Chief Guest. In his special address he said:- "Spirituality and service are identical. They are like two sides of a coin. There can be no spirituality without



Swami Mitrananda, President, Chinmaya Yuva Kendra, Visiting our Stall

service nor can there be service without spirituality." Shri Ramakrishna Mission, Sri Aurobindo

Ashram, Kanchi Math, Shringeri Math, Mata Amritanandamayi Math and similarly well-known Hindu spiritual organizations participated in the event.

110 organizations working in Tamil Nadu in such a variety of fields as Education, Medicine, Rural Development, Tribal Welfare, Yoga-education, Spiritual training, Water-resource-management etc informed the public of their service and spiritual activities. They run a number of small/cottage industries the products of which were displayed and sold in the Fair. Their publications were also available for sale.

The concluding programme of the Fair was held at 6.00 p.m on 28/12/09. The Director General of police Shri R. Natraj IPS lauded the service activities of the organizations and



the spirit of voluntary service. Shrimat Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj, Head of Sri Ramakrishna Math Chennai delivering the valedictory address said that the Foundation's ideals and work are close to Swami Vivekananda's heart. Serve Man Serve God is the thought that has brought religion closer to people and has elevated social work to a spiritual level. It has simplified the acts of worship of God.

The workers and volunteers of Chennai Vive-

kananda Kendra and Vivekananda Kendra Prakashan Trust served the Fair well, organizing two stalls and helping in its over-all work.

The Fair gave a big boost to the Hindu concept of "Together We Serve" and reminded the people of the social commitments.



Shri Venkaih Naiduji, BJP having a look at our books



Shri L.Ganesanji, BJP, Visiting our Stall



Shri Veerapandianji, Anchor, SunTV, getting briefed about our activities.



Shri Rama Gopalanji, President, Hindu Munnani Visiting our Stall.



Shri Manikeeran, Coordinator Ekal Vidyalaya Foundations Sanfrancisco USA visiting our stall.