

## Report on the National level meet of Saints and representatives of Institutions on Sri Shankara Jayanthi Celebrations

In response to the invitation by **Vedanta Bharathi**, of which Sri Sringeri Jagadguru Shankaracharyaji Maharaj is the Chief Patron and Sri Shankara Bharathi Swamiji of Yadathore Sri Yoganandeswara Math is the Patron, nearly 180 Saints and representatives of Institutions attended the above meeting held at Sringeri on 25th and 26th January, 2020 .



The meeting was organized with the divine blessings of Sri Sringeri Jagadguru Shankaracharyaji Maharaj and was inaugurated by Sri Sringeri Jagadguru Vidhushekhara Bharathi Sannidhanam. Notable saints and Institutions took part in it. Arsha Vidya Sanyasis and Sanyasins from various part of India also participated.

Following were the main topics discussed in the sessions .

1. The importance of the teachings of Sri Shankara in conveying the message of Ekatmata – national integration.
2. The ways and measures being practiced by different organizations

in propagating the teachings of the Upanishads and Vedas as propounded by Sri Shankara.

3. Following the example and teachings of Sri Shankara, how San'yasis can set example for .
4. Experience of the organizers in arranging the mammoth Soundaryalahari Samarpan and Vivekadeepinee Samarpana programs conducted at Bengaluru which were attended by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modiji and Hon'ble Home Minister Sri Amit Shah ji.
5. The common programs that could be arranged all over India to achieve national integration through the teachings of Sri Shankara.
6. To begin with introducing the Stotra literature in every household.
7. To organize Ekatmata Yatra in the backdrop of the experience in such a Yatra arranged in Madhya Pradesh
8. To introduce programs like Vivekadeepinee (Viveka Deepini is a collection of 37 verses from Prashnottara Ratna Malika, which emphasizes on the moral values inherited in our culture) to inculcate values in the early age of students.

After detailed deliberations the following resolutions were passed unanimously.

1. To urge the central government to declare universal thinker and the man who rejuvenated Sanathana dharma Adi Shankaracharya's birth day, Vaisakha Shukla Panchami as "**World Philosopher's Day**"
2. To celebrate "**Shankara Jayanthi**" with not just on religious ground, but also on spiritual grounds including all the sects of the society and encouraging others to do so.
3. In the earliest possible time conduct "**Ekatma yatra**" across the country and through that means make the Upanishad based teachings of Adi Shankara reach every households
4. Teach "**Viveka Deepini**" at the schools run by our institutions and also in all the educational institutions known to us so that every student would become a responsible citizens.

5. Any **adhyatmic speech** should be started by chanting any shloka composed by Adi Shankaracharya.

The above meet was followed up with another meeting held at Satya Sai Ashram, Brindavan, Kadugodi, Bengaluru on Mar 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 in order to further discuss on the resolution passed at Sringeri Meet.



Over 60 Sanyasis and other Aastikas participated in this conclave from different parts of the country. Many dignitaries like Maha Mandaleshwar, Sanyasis from **Arsha Vidya Gurukulam**, Ramakrishna Matha and other spiritual organizations, professors from various universities etc.were part of this 2day conclave.

The main agenda of this conclave was to continue the discussions and plan the activities based on the decision that was made in Sringeri meet.

The first topic was, “how to celebrate Shankara Jayanti in an uniform manner” in each and every house/ in colleges / Universities / involving all sections of society. Everyone agreed to start with one day Shankara Jayanti celebration in a meaningful manner by chanting the stotras from Shankaracharya and contemplating on the meaning. Selected shlokas from various Adi Shankaracharya works have been listed which are to be chanted on the Shankar Jayanti day.

The second topic was on teaching the Viveka Deepini in the schools across India. The positive impact that one can see on the self and on the society was shared. Poojya Sri Sri Shankara Bharati Swamiji emphasized the importance of Viveka Deepini and shared many instances that Vedanta Bharati has come across while doing the Mahabhiyana of teaching over 2 Lakhs students in Bengaluru.



Swamiji also suggested that a committee be immediately formed to take up the tasks and a workshop be planned to train the volunteers who would involve in this activity. Swamiji committed that Vedanta Bharati would send Vidwans to their respective places whenever the Workshop is planned. There was also a request for creating an online teaching document which would be of great help for the Teachers who would be taking these teachings in the schools.

A brief discussion on the Ekatma Yatra was presented by Poojya Sri Paramatmananda Saraswathi Ji and other dignitaries. A draft plan was presented.