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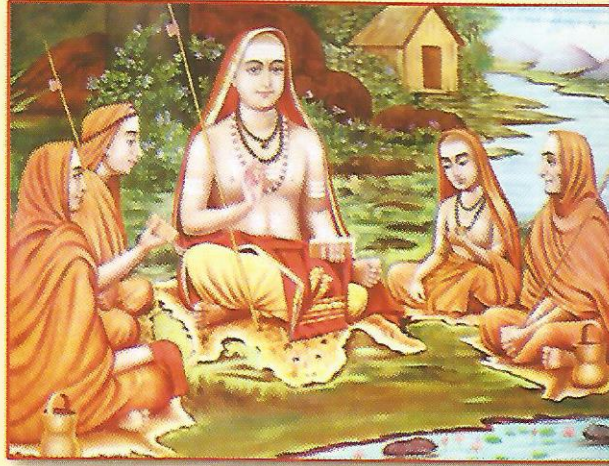
Shankara Jayanthi Mahotsav  
Atharva Veda Sammelan



श्री कामाक्षी कामकोटि मूलाम्नाय भवः पीठम्

श्री काञ्ची कामकोटि मूलाम्नाय सर्वज्ञ पीठम्

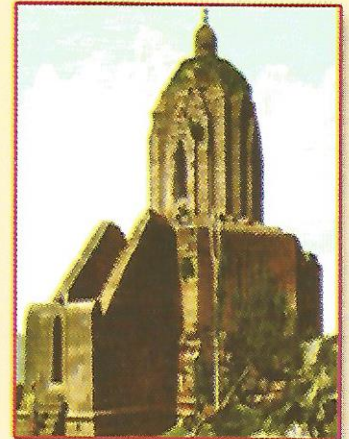
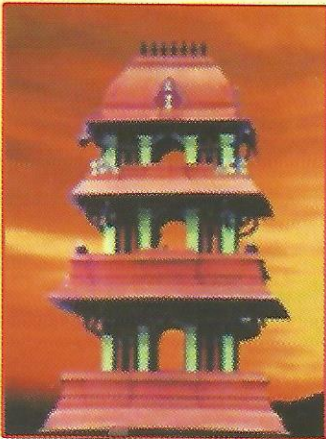
काञ्चीपुरम्, तमिळ्नाडु - ६३९५०२



Jyeshtha Mata Mandir

श्रीनगरम् श्रीनगरम् Srinagar

17 April - 23 April 2015





हर हर शङ्कर जय जय शङ्कर  
काञ्ची शङ्कर काश्मीर शङ्कर

॥श्री : ॥

स्य स्य मल्लिक द्र द्र मल्लिक  
कान्छी मल्लिक कान्छी मल्लिक

Kashmir has been a centre for Vedic culture and tradition, birth place of Kashyap Mahamuni and abode of Goddess Saraswathi Devi. Their Holiness Jagadgurus Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Sankaracharya Swamigal and Jagadguru Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswathi Sankaracharya Swamigal of Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam have blessed for Veda Parayanam to be organized at various places, for universal peace and prosperity. In pursuance of Their directions, Viswa Shanthi Maha Yagnya and Veda Parayan have been held in Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Nepal, Arunachalpradesh, Manipur, Sikkim, Tripura and such regions. In 2012, Samskruti Saptaham was held in Jyeshtha Devi Temple in Srinagar for seven days coinciding with Akshayatrithiya and Sankara Jayanthi in the presence of His Holiness Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Sankaracharya Swamigal. In 2013 Krishna Yajur Veda Jata Parayana was held. Last year, SAMA VEDA SAMMELAN was held from 25th April to 4th May 2014.

This year Atharva Veda Sammelan and Rigveda Samhita Havan will be held from 17th April to 23rd April at Jyeshtha Mata Temple (near Raj Bhavan) and on the occasion of Shankara Jayanti, special abhishek and paryan will be performed at the Shankaracharya Hills in SRINAGAR. His Holiness has blessed that the Jayanthi of Jagadguru Shankaracharya to be celebrated in Shankaracharya Hills Srinagar. Devotees are invited to participate and receive the blessings of Pujiyashri Acharyas and Anugraha of Jyeshtha Matha Devi and Sri Maha Tripurasundari Sameta Chandramouleeshwara Swamy.

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EVENT

##### Atharva Veda:

Vedas are the highest source of knowledge. Atharva Veda is one of the four Vedas. The two main branches of Atharva Veda are Shounaka & Pippalada. The Shounaka Shakha contains 5977 mantras divided into 20 Kandas.

##### Benefits of Chanting:

The preface to the Atharvaveda commentary of Vidyaranya Swami, illustrates the various benefits derived by chanting of Atharvavedic mantras. They include, मेधाजननम् - increasing mental capacity, संरक्षणम् - protection of village, citizens, cows, horses other animals, plants, ऐक्यमत्यम् - Unity in thinking, जयम् , victory, पापक्षयम् - removal of sins, गोसमृद्धि increase in cattle and agri yield, कृषिपुष्टिकरम् agriculture development, animal welfare, स्वेच्छातः नदीप्रवहणम् free flow of rivers, वाणिज्यलाभः increase in trade, रोगनिवारणम् medication to all types of diseases including for cows, horses and elephants, वृष्टिकरम् दुर्दिननिवारणम् , balanced rain, climate balance, आयुष्यम् long and healthy life ऋणापनोदनम् removal of debts etc.. For a stable and progressive nation all the above listed are a prerequisite.

The Atharvaparishishtam says in an interesting verse:

यस्य राज्ञो जनपदे अथर्वा शान्तिपारगः ।

निवसत्यपि तद्राष्ट्रं वर्धते निरुपद्रवम् ॥

तस्मात् राजा विशेषेण अथर्वाणं जितेन्द्रियम् ।

दानसमानसत्कारैर्नित्यं समभिपूजयेत् ॥ (४.६.१.३)

“Even by the very stay of an Atharva Veda (One who has learnt Atharva Veda), that place will progress and will be free from crisis. Hence a king should make all efforts in finding a qualified & pious Atharvavedi and provide him with facilities and revere him.” In the Raghuvamsha of Kalidasa, the author has written that King Dilipa while paying his respects to Maharshi Vashistha at his Ashram states that his weapons are of no use when protected by the Sage, an expert in Atharva Veda- Atharva Nidhi.

##### Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam's role in Atharva Veda's protection:

Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam's intense efforts for preservation and sustenance of Vedic traditions is well known. His Holiness Shri Chandrashekharendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya Swamigal's ( 68th Acharya of Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam) endeavor in protection of Vedas is unparalleled. In the mid sixties (1965) His Holiness after a long search to find a competent traditional teacher belonging to Swashakha Atharva Veda, sent two young South Indian Vidyarthi to study Atharvaveda from Shri Ramanik Lal Pancholi, a great Atharvaveda Scholar in Sinor Village, Vadodara District, Gujarat in the traditional Gurukula way. The two scholars returned back after completion and today, have trained about 200 scholars in South India. Presently efforts are on to spread the knowledge received from the land of Gujarat, to entire country where traditional Atharva Veda study is fast declining.

##### The Kashmir Connection – Tribute and revival:

A very old copy of Atharva Veda manuscript (Birch Bark) in the Sharada script found in the then Maharaja's library was given to a German Indologist. As early as 1870, searching for Atharvaveda manuscripts Prof. Rudolph von Roth, the German Indologist wrote to the Maharajah asking for the manuscript. The Maharaja



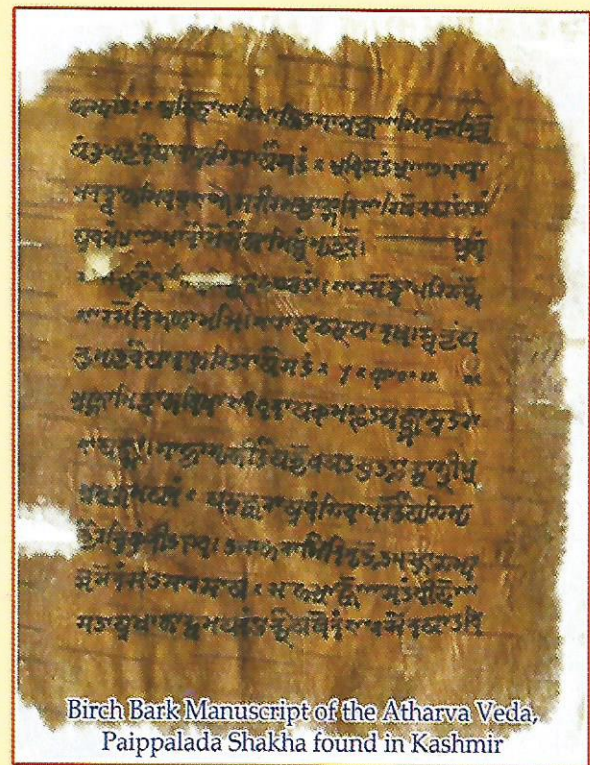
however, declined. Prof. Roth then wrote to him asking for a Devnagari version of the manuscript. The Maharajah then employed some scholars to transliterate the manuscript in Devanagari script from the original Sharada. He sent one copy to Prof. Roth. When Prof. Roth scanned through the contents, he realized that this was one of the rarest manuscripts he had come across and set his heart upon getting it. He approached a senior British official who was the Lt. Gen. of Allahabad then. He in turn entered into a long negotiation with the Maharajah of Kashmir. After several rounds of discussions and offers, the Maharaja parted with the original Sharada manuscript. The manuscript housed in the Tubingen University library, Germany has been given back to India in form of CD ROM's.

The significant information implies that Kashmir was once a land of Vedas and that it possessed great scholars well versed in the Atharva Veda also.

The Acharyas of Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam have initiated sustained efforts to bring peace and development to Jammu, Kashmir & Leh. They have ordained that this year the Atharva Veda Parayana may be performed to rejuvenate the Vedic atmosphere of the region. Starting from year 2011 the Shankara Jayanthi is being celebrated in Shankaracharya Hill wherein Rig, Yajur, Sama Veda are chanted and various havans conducted.

### Shankara Jayanthi at Shankaracharya Hills :

The great Saint Adi Shankaracharya, who hailed from the southern part of the country had travelled to Kashmir, more than two millenniums ago and spread the vedic message of truth, oneness & harmony. The Rajatarangini authored by Kalhana has recorded the existence of a temple in the name of Shankaracharya and its renovation by a Kashmiri King Gopaditya. The Shankara Jayanti Mahotsav is being celebrated at this Shankaracharya Hill every year to commemorate the Great Saint's contribution to India's unity in this holy land.



Birch Bark Manuscript of the Atharva Veda,  
Paippalada Shakha found in Kashmir

### Daily Programme at Jyeshtha Mata Mandir

#### Morning

Go puja, Ganapati puja, Sankalpa, Atharva Veda parayana  
Rigveda Samhita Havan

Yajur Veda and Sama Veda Parayana

#### Evening

Svasti vachanam, Totakashtakam, Vishnu Sahasranam &  
Avadharaya during Harathi at mandir sanctum sanctorum

Discourse by Shri Dr.Ranganji on Adi Shankara Charitra &  
Kalhana's Rajatarangini

Special Ishtis will be performed

Shankara Jayanti day Abhishekam & Archana at  
Shankaracharya hills. Veda Parayana Purti - Purnahuti  
Adishankara Avataraghatta Parayana - Sambhavana

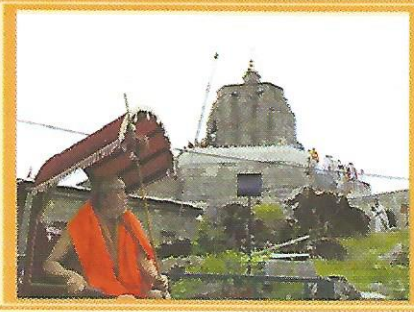
17.4.2015 to 22.4.2015

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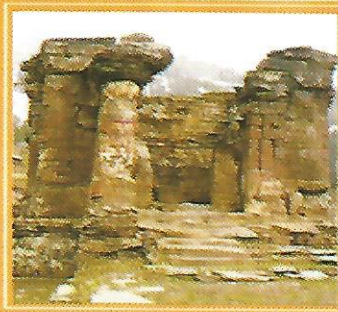
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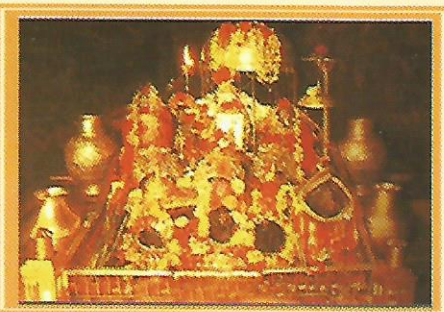




Shankaracharya Hill



Sharda Temple



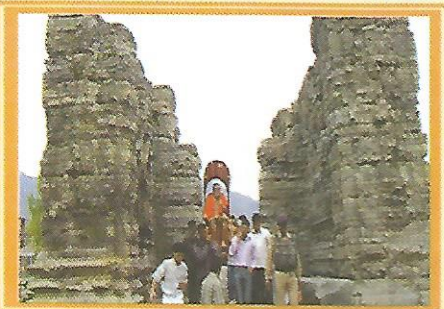
Mata Vaishnodevi



Hari Parbat



Martand Sun Temple



Avantiswamin Temple



Kheer Bhavani Mandir



Amarnath Mandir



Ragunath Mandir



Ranbireshwar Temple



Pandrethan



Sugandisha



At the Srinagar Museum



Sindhu River



Gaurishankar Mandir

यत्काम इदं जुहोमि। तन्मे समृद्ध्यताम्। वयं स्याम पतयो रयीणाम्। प्रादुर्भूतोऽस्मि राष्ट्रेऽस्मिन् कीर्तिमृद्धिं दधातु मे।