

NEWS & VIEWS

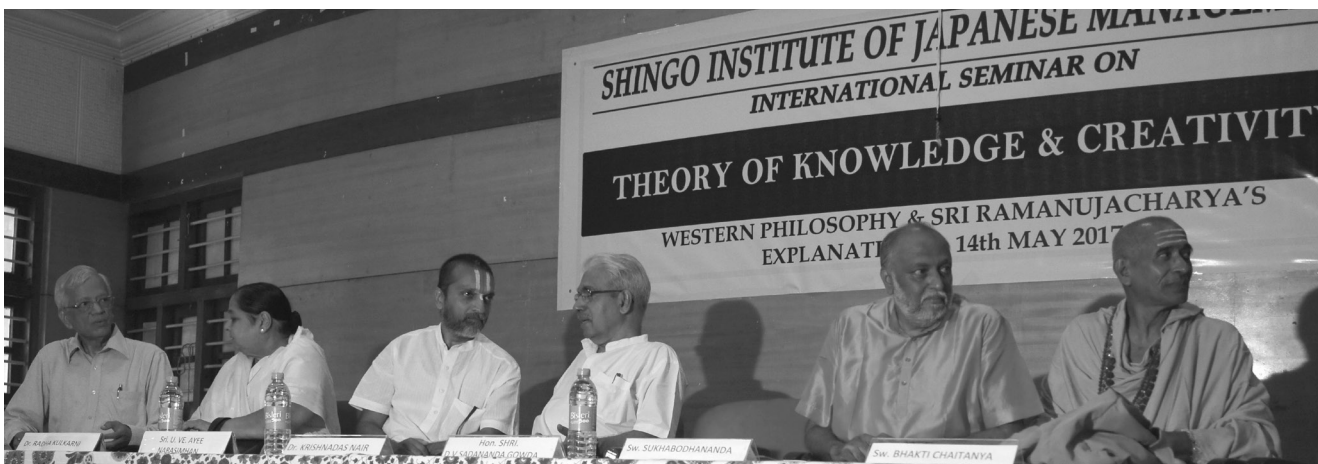
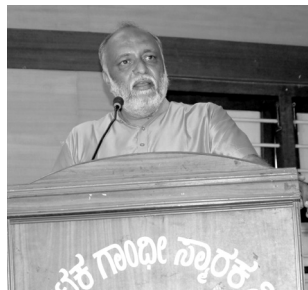
Knowledge and Creativity Seminar

Commemorating the 1000th birthday of the great Indian Visionary Saint Ramanujacharya who propounded the theory of Knowledge & Creativity, a full day seminar was held at the Gandhibhavan Auditorium, Bangalore, on 14th May 2017.

Keynote address was delivered by Swami Sukhabhodananda who is a Spiritual Master from Bangalore, nicknamed as “the Corporate Guru”. (*His talks and workshops combine Vedic Tradition with Western Management and Psychological Development perspectives. He is known internationally for representing Hinduism at the 2005 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. His books, which have sold over a million copies, have appeared in many Indian languages, and recordings of his mantra singing and talks have appeared on the Sa Re Ga Malabel*).

After an introductory statement on theory of knowledge, he dealt with metaphysics quoting Greek and Roman philosophers. Looking at the

large number of young faces in the hall, he then took the audience to calculation example, explaining the system of quantification and evaluation. “Knowledge should be inspiring and create smartness within you. Smartness should destroy your foolishness. Knowledge covers your intellectual faculty. As you acquire knowledge, you get transformed; you develop thinking skill and your ‘being’ skill. The being skill kindles creativity within you. When creativity within you is awoken, you get experienced. That experience brings wonderment in your life. That wonderment blends your ‘jeevatma’ with the ‘paramatma’ within you. That strengthens your faculties of intuition and cognition. Creativity expands your profess to be a good professional in which ever area you are engaged”.



Dignitaries on the dais at the inauguration of the Seminar

Narrating elaborately on the vedic concept of knowledge that was simplified by great Saints of India, he explained Saint Ramanujacharya's approach to knowledge and creativity with examples of contemporary life.

Dr. C. G. Krishnadas Nair, Chancellor, Jain University, explained the concept of knowledge and creativity or application of the knowledge



acquired by one with embedded values. Saint Ramanuja, he said, took the bold step to exhort that everyone is born with power of knowledge and creativity – including the economically and

socially downtrodden. Ramanujacharya did not stop there – he demonstrated it during the 120 years of his life. He highlighted the dignity of humanity and the earth. Thousand years ago when western theories of science were in the novice, we had in India great saints like Ramanuchacharya who enunciated principles of knowledge and science, of course with human values paramount for the growth of the individual and the society at large.

Sri A. Krishnamachari, Editor, Panchajanya, narrated the social reforms introduced by Ramanujacharya. In this context the speaker explained how Ramanujacharya taught humanity on the importance of self-discipline, helping others, looking at nature and animals with love. Ramanujacharya also established a system of public welfare like providing food, shelter and clothing to the poor. The Saint's ultimate aim was to educate and empower the individual such that each individual would be a useful tool to the growth of the society.

M.A.Lakshmithatchar spoke on Mnemonics. "Mnemonics is a learning technique that aids information retention in the human memory, he

said He then to elaborated the theory of Memories "it makes use of elaborative encoding, retrieval cue and imagery as specific tool to encode any given information in a way that allows for efficient storage and retrieved in the brain. They help use information already stored in long-term memory to make memorization an easier task." He then gave examples of various forms such as Music mnemonics (using songs and jingles), Name mnemonics combining the first letter of each word, eg. VIBGYOR or ROY G BIV for the colours of rainbow or HOMES for the great lakes, The other examples he gave included expression or word mnemonics: The first letter of each word is combined to form a phrase or sentence – eg. Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain for the rainbow; Ode mnemonics: placing the information into a poem or doggerel, Note organization mnemonics, Image mnemonics, Connection mnemonics, etc. for remembering, numerical sequences, foreign-language acquisition, medical treatment for patients with memory deficits, etc.

When you think of Ramnujacharya and online information, here you should go to a different conext altogether he explained. During his time there was no computers or suprcomupeters. But that did not make Ramanujacharya detest from making anything online. For this purpose, instead of depending upon super computers and their remarkable memory of several terabytes, Ramanuja was thinking of the human brains which were far superior to all these super computers. He wrote several texts presenting the information in such a beautiful way so that people could remember all the information provided, whenever needed.

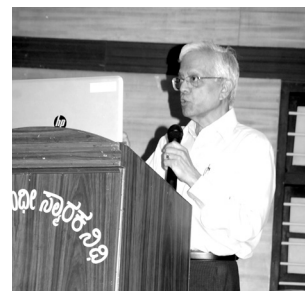
In this context, he stated the purpose of discussing the subject was to make the computer scientists get interestd in the methodology of compression and expansion of information which would lead to make every information online.

Swami Bhakti Chaitanyananda Saraswati

elaborately dwelled in to the whole gamut of Vedanta, the Guruparampara, the fourteen worlds, Surya Mandalas, Milky Ways, the Omnipresent and Omniscient Supreme Self's abilities, the source of Vedas, the Panchabhootas (five elements), the Indriyas, the Sankhya philosophy, etc. He explained that "the Vedantic theory of perception is that the mind comes out through the eye and perceives the shape of the object outside. It is only the individual's mind that sees objects outside. If you see the same objects through a telescope, they appear different. When you see with the mind directly, you will have a different vision altogether compared to what is seen by the eye that may have vision related problems." He summed up with the great

vedantic exhortation "Serve All, Love All, Share the goodness with All." That is the message that Saint Ramanujacharya has left to the posterity.

Sri K.S.Madhavan, organizer of the event made a comparative study on the Theory of Knowledge as propounded by great Western philosophers with Ramanujacharya's teachings and 'prmanas' through a high tech power point presentation (the text published separately as an article).



A.V.Balakrishnan



The organizers and volunteers along with some of the speakers at the valedictory function of the Seminar