

## A note on ceremonies and pujana-s for Sadhaka-s

21<sup>st</sup> February 2021

Jai Shankar!

Dear Sādhaka-s

The Shrī Chitrāpur Math and its affiliates, under the enlightened guidance of its Mathādhipati Shrīmat Sadyojāt Shaṅkarāshram Swāmījī, propagate the spiritual practices and philosophy that has evolved over centuries through its revered Guruparamparā. So benevolent and all-engulfing is its affectionate embrace, that within the Samāja, The Math is fondly compared to one's 'KuTāra' i.e. one's mother's house where all is given and received unconditionally, with grace and without question. Just as one fulfils one's responsibilities towards one's parents with unalloyed, steadfast devotion, Chitrāpur Sāraswat-s take pride in fulfilling their responsibilities towards the revered Math, its Guru and Guruparamparā.

The laity connects to the Math and Gurushakti through H.H Swāmījī's teachings, Sādhanā, contact programmes and participation in dhārmic activities as enjoined in our scriptures. The Math, therefore, encourages members of the Samāja to perform important ceremonies, Pūjana-s and Sevā-s at its Math-s and Temples. It goes without saying that all of these are carried out by the Math without a profit motive. Conversely, as responsible Sādhaka-s, we should remain mindful that the donations made for performing sevā-s and ceremonies are at the rates set by the Math's Sevā Committee, which does so with great care and diligence. The guiding principle being that the rates should never burden Sādhaka-s. For instance, for the joyous occasion of an Upanayana (Mūñjī), the Sevā Committee assumes a maximum participation of 15 family members staying for 3 days and expenses on accommodation etc. are estimated accordingly in addition to that on the performance of the rituals. Similarly, for Mahārūdra, the assumption is that a maximum of 25 members would be present for 7 days. Needless to say, conscientious Samāja members will understand this and endeavour to give to the revered Math, just as they so unconditionally receive from it, in case such assumptions are exceeded.