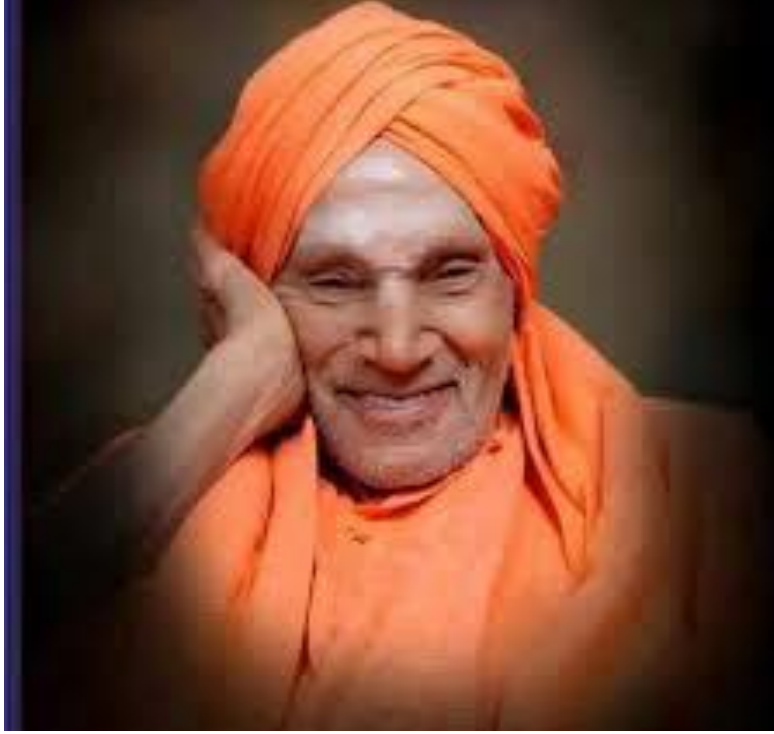


Shivakumara Swamiji

Compiled by Harish R Hiremath
For narration in Chat with Chocolate Program for VSNA Children



Before he left us, he was one of the oldest people living in India with the age of 111 years, 295 days. He was light eater and light sleeper and used to sleep only 3 hours from 11 to 2PM. The Government of Karnataka declared a public holiday 22 Jan this year as part of the three-day state mourning period.

Shivakumar Swamy was born as Shivanna on 1 April 1907 in Veerapura, a village near Magadi in present-day Ramanagara district of Karnataka state. He was the youngest of thirteen children of Gangamma and Honnegowda.

Shivanna completed his elementary education in a rural anglo-vernacular school in Nagavalli, a village in the present-day Tumkur district. He passed his matriculation in 1926 and enrolled in Central College of Bangalore to study in arts with physics and mathematics as optional subjects but was unable to earn the bachelor's degree as he was named successor of Uddana Shivayogi Swami to head the Siddaganga Matha. Shivanna was proficient in Kannada, Sanskrit and English languages.

He joined the Siddaganga Matha in Jan 1930 Karnataka and became head seer from Jan 1941 – Nearly 78 years leading the Math and Sri Siddaganga Education Society. Shivakumara Swami founded a total of 132 institutions for education and training, including colleges for engineering, science, arts and management.

The Swami's gurukula at Siddaganga Mutt houses more than 10,000 children from ages five to sixteen years at any point in time and is open to children from all religions, castes, and creeds

who are provided free food, education, and shelter. The pilgrims and visitors to the mutt also receive free meals.

For his humanitarian works, he has received Doctor of Literature by the Karnataka University in 1965. On his centenary in 2007 received Karnataka Rathna from Karnataka Government and In 2015 received Padma Bhushana from Indian Government. Highest honor he received for his exemplary life is from his devotees who addressed him as WALKING GOD (Nadedaaduva Devaru). We MUST proud to be devotees of such a great man and let us remember him and pray for him in silence for few minutes.

