



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
New Delhi

in collaboration with the

SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI UNIVERSITY

(A State University recognized under Sections 2(f) and 12(B) of UGC Act 1956)

KAKRYAL, KATRA - 182320, J&K

School of Philosophy & Culture

Ten-Day FDP-cum-Textual Workshop on Śāṅkara Vedānta (Level-1)

[20th - 30th May 2019]

Chief Patron

Prof. (Dr.) D. Mukhopadhyay

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor (Acting), SMVDU

INVITATION

To,

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is for your kind information that the School of Philosophy & Culture of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra (Jammu & Kashmir) is organizing a Ten-Day FDP-cum-Textual Workshop on Śāṅkara Vedānta (Level-1) from 20th - 30th May 2019 in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.

On this occasion, we extend a cordial invitation to your good-self for the participation in the program. The details of participation are enclosed for your convenience. We have limited seats in the program; therefore an early response would ensure a seat for you.

Looking forward your cooperation and participation

(Anil Kumar Tewari) 22.4.19

Head

School of Philosophy & Culture
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University
Katra, 182320 J&K (INDIA)



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ABOUT US

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi (IGNCA) is visualized as an autonomous body encompassing study of the arts - each form with its own integrity, yet within a dimension of mutual inter-dependence and inter-relatedness. The Kalakosa Division undertakes fundamental research and investigates the intellectual traditions in their dimensions of multi-layers and multi-disciplines. As a Research and Publication Division, it endeavors to place the arts within the integral framework of a cultural system, combining the textual with the oral, the visual with the aural, and theory with practice. IGNCA has signed an MoU with SMVDU in July 2018 through which its Regional Centre of Jammu and Kashmir is being established in the University campus for the preservation and promotion of the diversity of art and culture of the region.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) was established through an Act of J&K Legislature in 1999 as an autonomous, fully residential and technical University of excellence. The University gets grant and continuing support from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra besides University Grants Commission and different departments and research organizations of the Union Government. The University is recognized under section 2(f) and 12(B) of University Grants Commission, Govt. of India. The University has four Faculties consisting of 15 Schools (i.e. departments), which offer Undergraduate (B. Tech and B. Arch) and Postgraduate (M. Tech, MBA, M. Sc. and M.A.) programs besides Ph.D. and Post Doctoral Research. The School of Philosophy & Culture is one of the two constituent Schools under the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. It offers MA and PhD programs in philosophy discipline.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

For a long time, Indian philosophy, to an Anglophone, meant Vedānta and Vedānta philosophy meant only Śāṅkara Advaita Vedānta. Such has been the influence of this philosophy. Even today, the highest expression of Indian religion is generally found in terms of the concept of non-duality. Hence, an ordinary mind knowing nothing about Indian philosophy with all confidence proclaims a delusory character of the empirical world and the non-dual nature of reality as such. On this basic principle, the Advaita philosophy lays the foundation of the essential oneness of diversity and social cohesion amidst plurality. Given the promising nature of this thinking, it is necessary to familiarize the teachers and researchers with the Advaita viewpoints so badly needed in the world torn in distrust and violence.

Moreover, a huge amount of literature is produced in the name of the Advaita philosophy and also that a lot more confusion prevails due to lack of direct accessibility to the original sources available in Sanskrit language. Even in the Sanskrit language, many viewpoints are proposed in the name of the Advaita tradition. An authentic understanding can be ensured if the participants of the discourse have direct access to reliable resources. One of such authentic sources is the Vedāntasaṅgraha of Bellamkonda Ramaraya (1875-1914). Ramaraya is one of the most brilliant expositors of the Advaita tradition from Andhra Pradesh. In his short span of life, like Śāṅkarācārya himself, he wrote more than 140 texts to articulate the deep philosophical ideas of the Advaita Vedānta. It would therefore be beneficial to familiarize the researchers with the philosophical position by using his text to arouse interesting research problems in their minds. The ingenuity of the text lies in its comprehensive presentation of the Advaita Philosophy in a lucid Sanskrit.

The proposed text reading is not only beneficial for academic instructions and research but is also instrumental in serving social causes. Today when the academic philosophy in India is in search of a respectable place amidst the uproar of science and technology, the persons associated with the discipline look for a meaningful ways to engage themselves in the discourse of principled life and socially relevant research works. The workshop is to fulfill this timely requirement. The workshop is basically planned in three phases using three texts separately, the other two being the Siddhāntabindu of Mdhudana Saraswati and the Chatuṣsūtrī from Śāṅkara's Brahmasūtra-Bhāṣya. In the first level, we are going to take up the Vedāntasaṅgraha. It is a text aimed at introducing the students and teachers of philosophy the basic concepts of Advaita of Shankara. It has 15 chapters and covers the basics and fundamentals of the Advaita philosophy. The greatness of this introductory text lies in its clear exposition of the difficult concepts in a chaste śāstric Sanskrit.

Beginning with the above text, the School of Philosophy & Culture at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra (J&K) is organizing a "Ten-Day Faculty Development Program-cum-Textual Workshop on Śāṅkara Vedānta, Level-1" from 20th – 30th May 2019. A significant philosophical dimension of the workshop is also to consider Jayantabhatta's refutation of the Advaita of Śāṅkara. Jayanta is a renowned Nyāya thinker of 9th century AD Kashmir. The textual workshop intends to consider his critical reflections and challenge to the philosophy of Advaita from the Nyāya perspective. It is conspicuous that Kashmir Śaivism has been influenced by the Advaita tradition and it has been in continuous dialogue with the Nyāya and Buddhist philosophy. In fact, this topic itself has ample scope for a full-fledged Textual Workshop on Nyāyamañjarī of Jayanatabhatta of Kashmir. The proposed workshop will consider the prominent arguments advanced by Jayanta to probe the fecundity of the Advaita philosophy. Moreover, the resource persons also intend to deliver some talks to familiarize the students of the University about the intellectual tradition of Kashmir.

ABOUT THE RESOURCE PERSONS

The two renowned scholars of Sanskrit and Indian philosophy of our time Prof. V.N. Jha and Prof. Ujjwala Jha have agreed to conduct the workshop. Both are retired professors of Sanskrit and Former Directors of the Centre of Advanced Study in Sanskrit, University of Pune. After their superannuation, they have been actively engaged in the dissemination of knowledge preserved in Sanskrit language across the country. They have established a Trust called Rishi Rina Trust for the purpose. Through this trust, they are propagating the logical and spiritual messages contained in the terse philosophical texts of Sanskrit language.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

The program intends to accommodate 50 outstation participants on first-come-first basis. The participants are expected from the members of faculty and research scholars of different universities/institutions apart from some learners outside of academia. The number is flexible and it may be increased depending on the availability of space and funds.

TRAVEL SUPPORT

The faculty members and bona fide research scholars of recognized institutions will be provided with to and fro train fare as per the rules (AC-II train fare for faculty members and AC-III for research scholars). Reimbursement will be against the original bills and tickets. They need to apply on the given format with the requisite fee and the application should be forwarded by the competent authority so as to reach us **on or before 10th May 2019**. The general learners are not entitled to receive any travel support. However, they are also required to apply with requisite fee.

REGISTRATION FEE

For outstation (25) faculty members and general learners: Rs. 5,000/-

For outstation (25) research scholars: Rs. 3,000/-

For (15) local participants (without accommodation): Rs. 1000/-

The fee may be deposited through a demand draft in favor of "Head, Dept. of Philosophy & Culture, SMVD University" payable at Katra/Jammu. The amount may also be deposited in the a/c 0477010100000123 of the Jammu And Kashmir Bank Ltd, Mata Vaishno Devi University, Jammu & Kashmir, IFS Code: JAKA0SMVDUN (the fifth from the left is ZERO).

ACCOMMODATION

Participants will be provided with shared accommodation in the university guest house/hostels as per the availability. Any request for a non-participating accompanying person may be accepted only on the condition that they bear full expenses of their boarding and lodging as per the existing rates.

CORRESPONDENCE

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Registration Form

Name of the Delegate:

Designation:

Name and Address of the Institution/Organization:

Gender:

Mobile Number:

E-mail:

Accommodation Required: Yes / No

Registration Fee Details (along with original draft or transaction details):

Date and Time of Arrival:

Date and Time of Departure:

Date:

Place:

Signature

Forwarded by (not required for general learners)
Dean of Faculty/Head of Department
Signature with Seal