



काशी हिन्दू
विश्वविद्यालय



BANARAS HINDU
UNIVERSITY



Department of Philosophy and Religion Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

Three-day National Seminar on The Post-Independence Advaita Thinkers

Sat, Jan 21, 2023 – Mon, Jan 23, 2023

Department of Philosophy and Religion, Banaras Hindu University is going to organize a Three Day National Seminar on The Post-Independence Advaita Thinkers. Advaita has been one of the thrust areas of the Department since its inception. Beginning from S. Radhakrishnan to Prof. Revati Raman Pandey there has been a great tradition of Acharyas who explored the teaching of Vedanta through their writings. Prominent amongst these scholars were Prof. S. K. Maitra, Prof. B. L. Atreya, Prof. T. R. V. Murti, Prof. N. K. Devraj, Prof. Ramakant Tripathi, Prof. A. K. Chatterji and Prof. Revati Raman Pandey. Influence of Advaita could be seen in the writings of L. N. Sharma and Kamlakar Mishra as well. Story is the same with some other universities also like Madras University or Allahabad University. Most of the Professors working there were engaged with Vedanta and especially with its Advaitic school.

Advaita remained as the most dominating philosophy in Post-Independence India. This dominance of Advaita could be seen in other spheres of life as well for example in culture and civilization, art and sculpture, education and literature, and in other socio-political institutions. In fact, Vedanta has always been the living force and the connecting link of the people of this land. If the people of this land could survive even after so many adversaries and assaults, if they could sustain their existence and identity this was only due to sustaining and unifying power of Advaita. The

basic teaching of Advaita is the teaching of the Vedanta, the Upanishads. This is the teaching of ekam-eva-advitīyam sat, sarvam khalu idam Brahma, ayamātmā Brahma, neti neti. Shankara has summarized this teaching in a beautiful verse. Shankara says that there is only one non-dual reality and that reality is of Brahman. Now if there is only one non-dual reality then what about the so-called manifoldness of the world. Naturally this would be false. And what about one's own self? There is something in us which says that everything in the world can be false but I cannot be false. Everything can be negated but the Atman cannot be negated. But as we have seen that reality is only of Brahman, hence Atman being real cannot be but Brahman itself. This is the teaching of Tattvamasi and Aham Brahmāsmi. Ishopanishad adds that in such a philosophy there is no place for hate and misery. One who sees everyone in oneself and finds oneself in everyone cannot have any sort of hatred or intolerance, sorrow or misery.

The Department of Philosophy and Religion, Banaras Hindu University has been organizing various seminars, conferences and lecture series on the Tradition of Advaita. However, as the nation is celebrating the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava, the present seminar will be focused on the Tradition of Advaita in post-independence India and its major Acharyas. Prominent amongst these are Swami Karpatri ji, Ras Bihari Das, A. C. Mukerji, T. R. V. Murti, K. Sachchidanand Murti, G. R. Malkani, T.M.P. Mahadevan, Ramakant Tripathi, Ganeshwar Mishra, Sangam Lal Pandey, R. Balasubramanyan, Revati Raman Pandey, Pt. Raghu Nath Sharma, Dev Swarupa Mishra and Paras Nath Dwivedi. The date of the seminar is 21-23 Jan 2023. The venue will be the Seminar Hall, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Banaras Hindu University.

Papers are invited on the specific contributions of the above-mentioned Acharyas. Some other themes may also be considered. E.g.,

1. The Tradition of Vedanta and its various schools.
2. Advaita and its Tradition
3. Pre-Shankara Vedanta
4. Shankara and his immediate followers
5. Post-Shankara Vedanta
6. Vedanta in the 19th and 20th centuries.
7. Advaita and Neo-Vedantins
8. Post-independence Advaita Thinkers