

A two-week Summer School

July 24 to August 7, 2014



“Nothing, in this world, is as pure as knowledge.”
– Bhagavadgītā

Highlights

Interactive and intensive discussions with subject experts

Exposure to different schools of philosophical thought in India

A traditional learning atmosphere

Opportunity to learn Sanskrit and Yoga

Participation in traditional and cultural events

*The Living Philosophies
and Cultures of India*

Light is the metaphor for knowledge as darkness is for ignorance. Hence the prayer, “lead us from darkness to light”. India, a country and culture specialized in seeking and spreading this pure light of knowledge all over the world for more than five thousand years, according to a creative etymology, is “*bhā* (knowledge) + *rata* (seeking)” Bhārata. Through a close study of the pluralistic and argument-rich rational philosophies of India, and an immersion in its rich spiritual culture of music and dance, knowledge-seekers of our contemporary, globalized world can, not only begin to know India but also begin to know themselves.

The reflections on every aspect of human existence are spread in the original textual resources starting from Vedas, the earliest literature, to the literature of philosophies like Cārvākas (materialists and sceptics), Buddhism, Jainism, Sāṅkhya, Yoga, Nyāya, Vaiśeṣika, Vedānta and other schools of Philosophy. The quest for the Self and the deep urge to seek the truth, have made the Indian thinkers engage in a dialogue with an open mind for more than 5000 years. Those reflections are depicted in epics, Purāṇas and other literature that provide for multi-dimensional insights into Indian thought and culture. With the acquaintance of the western thoughts and modern science, a new understanding of unity among the diversities of Indian philosophies and spiritual cultures attracts thinkers from all over the world to gain from these rich resources.

An intensive two-week Summer School by Manipal University (MU) and Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan (CIFSS) is designed for the participants with an interest in the cornucopia of cognitive and cultural wealth of Bhārata, the India.

Aitareyabrāhmaṇa, a part of the Veda, describes the arts of dance, drama and music as *ātmasaṅskṛti* - cultivation and improvement of the Self. Besides reputed philosophers, scholars and Yoga teachers, this Summer School will also feature some of India’s topmost music and dance gurus from the north and the south, who will engage us in this divine experience of self-cultivation. It is a unique opportunity to be engrossed in a community of learners of the logical, spiritual and cultural aspects of India.

It is also important to note that Manipal University has a Dvaita Philosophy Resource Centre (DPRC) whereas, Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF) focuses on Advaita. The coming together of these two modern institutions rooted in traditions itself is very significant and upholds the spirit of Indian philosophy. Details of these organizations can be found in **DPRC** www.manipal.edu/des/dprc and **CIF** www.chinfo.org

Scholars from different schools of thought will engage with participants during this period through seminars, lectures, workshops and presentations on various themes. Intensive discussions will be conducted on philosophical literature of Vedic and non-Vedic schools, teachings of Upaniṣats and





Bhagavadgītā. Traditional art forms, cultural events, narrations of Purāṇas and visit to significant places will be organized during the Summer School to enhance experience of traditional learning methods.

In the three lecture sessions, the weekly themes and daily topics are planned as follows:

Theme/Week I – Overview of Philosophical Theories and Cultural Practices of India

- What are the Vedas? Who are the Vedic gods? What is *yajña* (sacrifice)?
- “Reality is one, but thinkers speak of it in many different ways”
ekam sad viprā bahudhā vadanti – an overview of Vedic and anti-Vedic philosophical schools
- Upaniṣats – Yājñīyamantra (Īśa), Talavakāra (Kena) and Kāṭhaka
- Ethics and epistemology of the Mahābhārata and Bhagavadgītā, and Sāṅkhya on pre-existence of the effect in the material cause *satkāryavāda*
- Yoga – the eight steps to peace of mind and the pure aloneness *kaivalya* of *puruṣa*
- Vaiśeṣika on the six basic types of existent entities and on absences
- Nyāya on the means of knowing *pramāṇas* and Indian logic
- Advaitavedānta: Brahman is real, the world is illusory, Brahman and self are identical – its criticism by Rāmānuja’s qualified non-dualism

Theme/Week II – Close-up: Indian Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics and Spirituality

- Indian materialism and scepticism (Cārvāka)
- Buddhism: Early Sarvāstivāda/Vaiḥṇṣika philosophy – all is momentary

- Yogācāra Buddhism – mind only is real, there is no external world
- Mādhyamika voidism – everything, including emptiness, is empty
- The realism and pluralism of Śrī Madhva’s Dvaitavedānta
- The four goals or *puruṣārthas* of human life and Indian ethics
- The nine *rasas* and theatre – basic elements of Indian aesthetics
- Text reading of Īśopaniṣat with Śaṅkarācārya’s and Madhvācārya’s commentary
- Lectures on the Sanskrit text and multiple ancient and modern commentaries on the Īśopaniṣat by Prof Arindam Chakrabarti.
- Yoga, meditation, and Sanskrit classes will be conducted during the morning and evening hours for those interested.

Venue

CIF housed in Adi Sankara Nilayam, the maternal birth home of the great philosopher Ādiśaṅkara, in Veliyanad, Kerala. CIF stands amidst sun-blessed greenery, temple shrines and lotus ponds. It offers an ambience of peace and solitude for study, research and contemplation to aspirants from the world over.

Course credits and Eligibility

The two-week Summer School of six European credits (ECTS) is open for masters, doctoral and postdoctoral students and faculty members from across disciplines.

Course Directors

Prof Arindam Chakrabarti - MA, DPhil(Oxford)
Professor of Comparative Philosophy
Director – Eastern Philosophy of Consciousness and
the Humanities (EPOCH) Project
Associate Editor: Philosophy East and West at the
University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii USA
<http://www.hawaii.edu/csas/faculty/achakrabarti.html>

Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi - MA, Vidvat and PhD
Professor of Nyāya Śāstra
Director, Postgraduate Studies and Research and
Dean, Karnataka Sanskrit University (KSU), INDIA
Executive Editor : Karnataka Sanskrit Studies
research journal at KSU, Bangalore
<http://www.ksu.ac.in/en/faculty/faculty-of-shastras/dean/>

Fee: € 750 (\$ 1010) per person, which includes accommodation, food,
and access to library and internet facilities

Letter of Motivation should reach us by April 10, 2014

Last date for registration: April 25, 2014

To register, please click [Application form](#)

For mode of payment and other details, visit www.chinfo.org/summerschool2014

Maximum intake: 30



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