

Summer School

July 13 to 25, 2015

THE WORD
&
THE WORLD

Highlights

- Interactive and intensive discussions with subject experts
- Exposure to different schools of philosophical thought in India
- Opportunity to learn Sanskrit and Yoga
- Participation in traditional and cultural events

“The world would have been benighted completely,
if the ‘word’ had not enlightened it.”



The world cannot be imagined sans 'word' - the language. If our understanding of the world is expressed in terms of our own language, we need to understand the nature and function of the language before venturing into any philosophical inquiry of the world. The metaphysical inquiry becomes possible only through the word, since the complex notions of philosophy are founded on the language. When our thinking process involves language, we can analyze thought only by analyzing language and its functions. Thus, the philosophy of language is the foundation of philosophy.

'Word' is one among the three means of knowledge according to many Indian philosophers. Most of

the Indian philosophical schools believe that the Vedas describe the nature of the world and its aspects and they regard Vedas as the ultimate criteria of realization. The Vedas are considered to be the ultimate authority in certain areas of our belief system. Vedic schools admit that the Vedas are eternal and the final word, whereas the non-atheist schools reject the idea of Vedic authority. However, the 'verbal testimony' finds an important place in Indian philosophy as a source of knowledge, like perception and inference.

Therefore, Indian philosophical inquiry of language comprises of philosophical foundations of language and epistemological aspects of the same in the first place.

The second aspect is concerned with the ontological world. The idealists view is that the universe is just a creation of language. It does not have any external reality. In contrary to this, the realists hold that the world has an independent existence in



reality. The language or word has got a permanent denotative connection with each and every reality of the universe. These divergent views make the philosophical debate complex.

Many Indian philosophical schools like Nyāya-vaiśeṣika, Sāṅkhya-yoga, Bauddha, Jaina, Mimāṃsā, Vedānta and Navya schools are engaged in this inquiry. Starting from Yāska to Bhaṭṭhari in grammar tradition, from Gautama to Gadādhara in Nyāya tradition, a great range of interesting discussions can be found in a centuries-long dialogue on 'the word and the world'.

This Summer School explores these inquiries and unfolds the dialogue for a fresh beginning of new



avenue of dialogue on 'the word and the world'. Scholars from different schools of thought will engage with participants during this period through seminars, lectures, workshops and presentations on various themes. Traditional art forms, cultural events, and visit to significant places will be organized during the Summer School to enhance experiences of traditional learning methods. Yoga, meditation and Sanskrit classes will be conducted during the morning and evening hours for those interested.

It is also important to note that Manipal University (MU) 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 organisations can be found in the websites of [Dvaita Philosophy Resource Centre](#) and [Chinmaya International Foundation](#).

Venue

CIF is 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.

The venue has a Heritage hall for the Summer School with comfortable seating capacity, twin sharing accommodation, both AC and Non AC and a well equipped kitchen that serves excellent simple vegetarian food.



CIF has a wonderful library having more than 15,000 books on Sanskrit and Indology and an office that provides facilities for your internet, fax, printing and scanning needs.

Transportation to and from airport/railway station/ Kochi city can be arranged on request.

Many ancient temples like Guruvayur and other sightseeing places like Alleppey, backwaters, Fort Kochi fall in an around 60 km of range from CIF.

Course credits and Eligibility

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



Course Directors

Prof Ashok Akhujkar – MA, PhD (Harvard)
Professor Emeritus – University of British Columbia, CANADA
Visiting Professor at universities of
Hamburg, Harvard, Kyoto,
Oxford, Paris and Rome
Website: <http://www.asia.ubc.ca/people1/ashok-akhujkar/>

Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi – MA, Vidvat and PhD
Vice Chancellor (Acting)
Professor and Dean - Faculty of Shastras and
Director - PG Studies and Research
Karnataka Sanskrit University, INDIA
Website: <http://www.ksu.ac.in/en/administration/vice-chancellor/>



Fee: € 750 (\$ 950) per person, which includes accommodation, food,
and access to library and internet facilities

*Scholarships are available for select candidates

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

Last date for registration: April 25, 2015

For mode of payment and other details, visit <http://mu-cif.chinfo.org/summerschool2015>

Maximum intake: 40

For details, contact:

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