



CENTRE FOR INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

Śaṅkara Jayantī Mahotsava 2023

Indian Philosophers' Day

The Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Chanakya University is celebrating Śaṅkara Jayantī (the traditional birthday of Śrī Ādi Śaṅkarācārya) on 25 April 2023; which is also observed as Indian Philosophers' Day. The event is conducted as part of the Centre's plan to broaden the horizons of Indian Knowledge Systems.

Śaṅkarācārya, who flourished in the early 8th century C.E., was a profound scholar of Advaita Vedānta. He revolutionised the study of *Upaniṣads* throughout Bharat. His close and systematic study of the *Brahmasūtra*, *Upaniṣads* and the *Bhagavad Gītā* - the foundational texts of *Vedānta* - encouraged several traditions of *Vedānta*. He could be credited for renewing the interest of scholars and seeking the involvement of laymen as well in these studies. Without much exaggeration, the history of *Vedānta* in India can neatly be classified as pre-Śaṅkara and post- Śaṅkara. Such is the effect he had on the intellectual climate of India. It is indeed fortuitous that the event of the Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems should be in honour of the great scholar.

This day is also celebrated as Shri Rāmānujācārya Jayantī.

On this auspicious occasion, several programs from the Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems are scheduled. Details of these programs are given below:

1. Exhibition of Indian Philosophers

Venue: IKS Center, Chanakya University

Time: 10:00 am to 03:00 PM

2. A documentary on Śrī Ādi Śaṅkarācārya

Venue: Seminar Hall

Time: 4.45 PM to 5.45 PM

3. An online lecture on Gītā-bhāṣya of Śaṅkara: Its Salient Features

Speaker: Dr. K. Aravinda Rao, IPS- Director General of Police (Retd.).

Venue: Seminar Hall

Time: 3.30 PM to 4.30 PM

Speaker profile

Dr. K Aravinda Rao, IPS, retired as the **Director-General of Police** of united Andhra Pradesh state. With his rich and vast experience in policing and administration as a top-cop and Anti-Naxal expert, Dr. Aravinda Rao played an important role in effectively dealing with Left-wing extremism in AP. During his distinguished career in the police, security and safety departments, Dr. Aravinda Rao served as the Additional Director General of State Intelligence Department, the Additional Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, Inspector General of Police (Greyhounds) and IGP (Crime Investigation Department). He also holds a **PhD in Sanskrit** and has authored several books on Sanatana Dharma.

Known for his sincerity and simplicity, Dr. Aravinda Rao developed a keen interest in studying Sanatana Dharma during his service and this led him to pursue a Masters in Sanskrit. Under aegis of his Gurus **Padmasri Pallela Ramachandruduji - a Mahamahopadyaya and Shri Tatvavidhananda Swamiji**, Dr. Aravinda Rao developed a deep understanding of Sanatana Dharma, Vedanta, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Brahmasutras and Bhashyas.

Post his retirement, Dr. Aravinda Rao has authored several books in Telugu and English besides the book '**Analysis of Jnanam in Upanishads**' in Sanskrit. He has also adeptly woven ancient Vedic wisdom with practical knowledge and rendered several online lectures on various subjects related to Advaita, Sankara Bhashyam, Upanishads, and Bhagavad Gita.

Dr. Rao has been the recipient of several awards and was also conferred with the honorary title of '**Vachaspati**' by the Rashtriya Vidya Peetham, a deemed university of the Government of India (GoI) for his valuable service to the field of Sanskrit studies.