

Manipal University (MU) and Chinmaya International Foundation
(CIF)

The Word and The World – A Philosophical Inquiry

A two-week international Summer School

July 13-25, 2015

with the financial support of Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi

A BRIEF REPORT

2015-08-06

Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi – Course Director

Manipal University (MU) and Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF)

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Overview

Manipal University and Chinmaya International Foundation had organised *The Word and The World – A Philosophical Inquiry*, a two-week international Summer School from July 13-25, 2015 at Chinmaya International Foundation, Kerala. This Summer School had hosted 36 participants from different parts of the country and the world, which was led by Prof Ashok Aklujkar and Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi as the Course Directors; and this has been selected for the financial support extended by Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi.

Last year Summer School

This was the second consecutive summer school jointly organised by both the institutions. In 2014, *The Living Philosophies and Cultures of India* a two-week international Summer School, had attracted 25 participants, who were from the universities of Harvard and Rutgers (US), Krakau (Poland), Tokyo (Japan), Delhi, JNU, Jadavpur, Pune, IIT Delhi and other institutions, which was led by Prof Arindam Chakrabarti and Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi as Course Directors.

Both the Summer Schools were appreciated well and received commendable responses from the scholars and the participants in terms of academic output and logistic facilities.

Areas were dealt

The Summer School introduced the fundamental concepts of the philosophy of language and different theories according to different Indian schools of thought with a comparative outlook of western schools. It explained the concept of verbal testimony and unfolded the dialogues for a fresh beginning of understanding their worldviews. Many Indian philosophical schools like Nyāyavaiśeṣika, Sāṅkhya-yoga, Bauddha, Jaina, Mimāṃsā, Vedānta and Navya schools were 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 were held on ‘the word and the world’.

The main purpose of the 2015 Summer School was to explore the many ways in which ‘the word and the world’ have been brought to bear upon each other by the Sanskrit philosophers of ancient and early medieval India. To use the title of a modern Western philosophical classic written by the late Harvard University professor Willard van Orman Quine, the School unravelled the various strands of the ‘word and object’ relationship that appeared in the Indian intellectual tradition.

Resource persons

All the invited scholars engaged participants in a rigorous interactive seminars and discussions with six hours of sessions everyday throughout the two weeks. Annexure II gives a detailed account of the topics that were covered in the School. This intensive school also comprised of workshops and presentations on various concepts of philosophy of language with the focus on the discursive, logical and analytic side of the long and rich Indian philosophical tradition. The

details of resource persons are provided in annexure III. Annexure I details the activities of inauguration and valedictory ceremonies.

Participants

The Summer School made the students, research scholars and the faculty members of the following institutes come under a common shade, which enriched the discussions with new perspectives that quenches the contemporary philosophical thirsts. The diversity of the participants from across disciplines and different age groups provided multidimensional outlook to the philosophical dialogues. The list of participants is provided in the annexure IV.

Services provided

The summer school was organised in Chinmaya International Foundation, the birthplace of Indian great philosopher Shankaracharya. It stands amidst sun-blessed greenery, temple shrines and lotus ponds and offers an ambience of peace and solitude for study, research and contemplation to aspirants from the world over. Further, CIF has a library housing more than 15,000 books on Sanskrit and Indology. It has a heritage hall where the sessions were conducted for the Summer School, which houses comfortable seating. The Guest House equipped with all essential facilities were provided for the participants to stay based on their preferences. A well-furnished kitchen served excellent simple vegetarian food twice a day and tea and snacks as well for twice a day. The office ensured that participants do get benefitted from WiFi, internet, faxing, printing, scanning and such facilities. Transportation were arranged for the participants to reach the venue from airport/railway station of Kochi city on request.

Other activities conducted

Traditional art forms, cultural events, and visit to significant places were also organized during the Summer School to enhance experiences of traditional learning methods through interactions with cultures and customs. Yoga, meditation and Sanskrit classes were conducted during the morning and evening hours for those interested. This was highly lauded by international participants as well.

Visibility of the funding agency

The lecture proceedings will be published and they also have been video recorded, which would ensure the maximum visibility to the ICPR through disseminating its name and logo and in other promotional material as well which will be used to enhance the visibility of the future Summer Schools with a special reference expressing its gratitude.

Annexure I

Inauguration and valedictory ceremonies

Invited guests for the inauguration

- Prof Prabal Kumar Sen (presided over the inaugural function), Professor – Kolkata University
- Prof Padma Shekhar (Chief Guest), Vice Chancellor – Karnataka Sanskrit University
- HH Sri Svami Advayananda Ji, President – CIF
- Prof Ashok Aklujkar (Course Director), Professor Emeritus – University of British Columbia, Canada
- Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi (Course Director), Dean – Karnataka Sanskrit University
- Dr Neeta Inamdar, Professor and Head – Dept of European Studies, Manipal University
- Sri Rajan Ji, Chief Sevak – CIF

Inauguration program

9:30	Invocation	Ms Aishwarya Nair, Yuvaveer – CIF
9:35	Lighting the lamp	
9:40	Welcome speech	Dr Shivani V, Deputy Director – CIFSS
	Introduction of the course directors	Ms Aishwarya Nair
9:50	Address by the course director	Prof Ashok Aklujkar
9:55	Address by the course director	Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi
10:00	Address by the Chief Guest	Prof Padma Shekhar
10:05	Presidential remarks	Prof Prabal Kumar Sen
10:10	Benediction	HH Sri Svami Advayananda Ji
10:15	Vote of thanks	Dr Neeta Inamdar

Inauguration brief note

During the inauguration, Dr Shivani welcomed the gathering and Ms Aishwarya Nair introduced the Directors. Both the Directors explained how the school was designed and what would be the outcome of participating in such schools. Prof Padma Shekhar, the Chief Guest and the VC of KSU, expressed her privilege to partake in such occasions and said that such events are the most important measures to enliven the philosophical debates and discourses. Prof P K Sen, who presided over the function said that he is overwhelmed to meet such a vibrant young scholars from different parts of the world who are keen in participating for the philosophy Summer School. Svami Advayananda Ji shared the need of revisiting Indian philosophical texts from contemporary approach. Prof Neeta Inamdar introduced the ideas of Summer Schools that are popular in western universities and their relevance in India with reference to traditional Indian studies and the shared vision of the institutions. Later the participants introduced themselves to the Directors and other fellow colleagues.

Invited guests for the valedictory

- Swami Advayananda
- Prof Ashok Aklujkar (presided over the occasion)
- Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi
- Dr Murali Madhavan (chief guest)
- Prof David Lawrence

Valedictory program

11:30	Invocation	Ms Shruti K Bhat
11:35	Welcome speech	Dr Shivani V
11:40	Address by Chief guest	Dr Muraleemadhavan
11:45	Sharing experiences by the participants	Ms Valeria Bevilacqua, Prof Sudhanshu Bhushan, Ms Sandhya Sunder and Mr Rajeev Nair
12:00	Address by the resource person	Prof David Lawrence
12:05	Address by the Course Director	Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi
12:10	Presidential remarks	Prof Ashok Aklujkar
12:15	Distribution of certificates	SS participants, coordinators and resource persons and Home study course students
12:35	Prize distribution	Regular comers to Yoga sessions
12:40	Felicitation to the resource persons and	Ashok Aklujkar, Shrinivasa Varakhedi David Lawrence
12:45	Benediction	Swami Advayananda
12:50	Vote of thanks	Ms Aishwarya Nair
12:55	Mangala prarthana	Dr Padma Sugavanam

Valedictory brief note

During the valedictory, Dr Shivani welcomed the gathering. Dr Muraleemadhavan, the Chief Guest, said it's a joyous moment to see people from across the world of different age groups and backgrounds assembled for a philosophy summer school appreciated such initiatives of both the institutions. Participants shared their experiences, brimmed with emotions and sense of gratitude, and said that this two-week school immersed them from the basics to the core of philosophical discussions. They appreciated the scholarly lectures which were lucidly presented to enable the participants to understand complex philosophical debates. They lauded the organisers efforts for all the arrangements including accommodation, healthy and hygiene food and transport facilities and said that they were provided timely. Both the Directors said that they were extremely happy to hear that the two-week program, though was designed intensely rigorous but still, made them to enjoy such scholarly discussions with the same enthusiasm of the first day. Svami Advayananda Ji said that the School has provided a traditional learning and living experience for Indian and foreign participants and its happy to hear that are well received.

Annexure II

Topics for the summer school

The course “The word and the world” primarily explored the various contexts, levels and ways in which language plays a part in issues of epistemology and ontology. It frequently touched upon philosophy of language and, to an extent, philosophy of grammar. However, while doing so, it took “philosophy” in the sense of ‘theory’ or ‘fundamental principles’ as in usages such as “philosophy of science,” “philosophy of law,” etc. The course, introduced the participants to how all these three obtain in the Indian intellectual tradition. Instead of focusing on a historical overview of the Indian philosophical tradition or a school within it or studying the philological or interpretational problems of specific texts, the instructors tried to generate a general (but not superficial) understanding of the Indian scholarly disciplines or darśanas through a single approach or prism.

The necessary historical information were provided at various junctures mainly through handouts. Brief references were made to where the available textbooks and studies need correctives. Relevant texts in their Sanskrit originals (rarely in the Sanskrit recasts of Pali and Prakrit originals) were read to demonstrate how the ideas explained in English in lectures or the prescribed readings find expression in their native environment. Questions such as what should be taken as the nature of language, consciousness or mind or what should be understood as the mission of philosophy were dealt with as they naturally arise.

Part I Introduction

1. Understanding the Word and World: a philosophical approach
2. Philosophy of language: a Vedic perspective
3. Language and grammar
4. Language and epistemology
5. Language and ontology
6. Mahabharata and language philosophy

Part II Indian schools of philosophy of language

1. Bhartṛhari's philosophy of language and Śabdabrahmavivartavāda
2. Nyāya-vaiśeṣika theory of language
3. Mīmāṃsā theory of language and Vidhivada (the role of injunction)
4. Buddhism on language (nama, rupa, etc.)
5. Language and Jainism
6. Language in Kashmir Śaivism - Utpala-deva, Somānanda, Abhinava-gupta
7. Language in Dvaita and Advaita Vedanta
8. Nirukta parishishtha
9. Grammar and linguistic studies in India

Part III Reading philosophical texts

1. Prof Ashok Aklujkar on Vākyapadīya (Brahmakāṇḍa and Sādhanasamuddeśa)
2. Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi on Kārikāvalī and Pramanapaddhati (Agama-pariccheda)
3. Swami Advayananda on Śabdāparokṣaparakaraṇam in Advaitasiddhi

Part IV Group seminars and presentations

1. Is śabda (word) an authority”? (Views of Cārvāka, Buddhism, and Nyaya-vaisheshika schools)
2. What does word and sentence mean?
3. The relation between the word and its meaning (various theories)
4. The relation between logic and language
5. The verbal testimony vs perception and inference
7. The world's existence as a reality independent of word – a debate

8. Veda Apauruṣeyatva (views of Nastika and Astika schools)

9. The Sphoṭa theory - Patañjali's and Vedanta view

Word and World – a historical understanding

- 1) The various senses of "word" in the context of philosophy and their Indian counterparts
- 2) Indian ways of referring to the world and what they indicate: idam, yat kimcit, sarvam, jagat, visvam, Brahman, etc.
- 3) Possible ways in which 'word' and 'world' come together
- 4) The concept of nirvikalpa jnana, nirvikalpa samadhi, etc.
- 5) Thoughts in Vedic Rks, Yajus, Brahmanas (inclusive of Aranyakas and Upanishats), linguistically later but essentially Vedic Rks collected from various works
- 6) Greek logos, Sanskrit nama, rupa etc
- 7) Māndukya, gaudapāda and philosophy of AUM
- 8) How Raghunathasharma interprets BH
- 9) Vācaspati-misra and Tattva-bindu
- 10) Self-standing Sphoṭa texts, Shābda-bodha
- 11) Word in the composition of saint and poets: Gorakh-nāth, Jñānadeva, Kabir, Nanak
- 12) Jaina yoga: Udaya-prabhas Shabda-brahmollāsa, yogindu - comparable with Buddhist tradition or Buddhist Tantra in particular
- 13) Shata and sahasra nāmans - alliterative, evoking mythology

Annexure III

Details of resource persons

Internationally renowned scholars and field experts were invited as resource persons and their profile in brief is provided below.

1) Prof Ashok Aklujkar – Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia Vancouver, Canada

Web: <http://www.asia.ubc.ca/people1/ashok-aklujkar/>

Prof **Ashok Aklujkar**, who is presently serving as the Professor Emeritus – University of British Columbia, Canada, received his MA degree in Sanskrit and Pali from the University of Poona and his PhD degree in Sanskrit and Indian Studies from Harvard University. He has been teaching courses in Sanskrit language and in the related mythological and philosophical literatures at the University of British Columbia since 1969. His published research is mostly in the areas of Sanskrit linguistic tradition and poetics. For the last several years, he is engaged in the ambitious project of preparing critical editions of the works of Bhartrhari, a grammarian-philosopher, and of the commentaries elucidating those works. Advanced students have worked under Aklujkar's guidance in the areas of Buddhist and Brahmanical philosophy, religion, and mythology.

2) Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi – Dean, Karnataka Sanskrit University Bangalore, Karnataka

Web: <http://www.ksu.ac.in/en/faculty/faculty-of-shastras/dean/>

Prof **Shrinivasa Varakhedi** is the Dean of the Karnataka Sanskrit University (KSU), Bengaluru who also held the positions – of the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Dean and Director of Research KSU, is one of the promising scholars who has been putting his efforts to bridge the gap between traditional and modern academia. Prof Varakhedi is one of the pioneers in newly emerged interdisciplinary research field Sanskrit Computational Linguistics. He had his early education in the Gurukula system in Poornaprajna Vidyapeetha, Bengaluru and continued his higher studies in Shastras under the stalwarts like His Holiness Sri Vishveshatirtha Svamiji of Sri Pejavana Matha and many others. He gained reputation by working closely with famous institutions such as IIT and many central universities. He led many projects such as Sanskrit-net, Ramayana Project and NLP related PG courses in Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati. His contributions in the revival and development of Sanskrit Academy of Hyderabad as its Director are highly regarded and have received attention from the scholarly community nationwide. He has edited and published more than 50 works as well as equal number of research papers in Sanskrit also in English and his book titled The Path of Proofs published by Manipal University Press received appreciations even from scholars abroad. He is also a member of several academic boards and committees such as UGC and Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan. Dr Varakhedi received Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman by the President of India in 2008. He has also been honoured by saints like Sri Vidyamanyatirtha, and several religious leaders and prestigious institutions. It is a matter of proud for us that Prof Varakhedi was awarded with the first Swami Chinmayananda Gold Medal by CIFSS in 2013. This is for recognising the intellectual achievements of scholars of below 40 and also encouraging them further in academic pursuits.

3) Svami Advayananda Ji – President, Chinmaya International Foundation Adisankara Nilayam, Kerala

Web: http://www.chinfo.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=88

Inspired by Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda, Swami Advayananda joined Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, the premier Institute of Vedantic Learning of the Chinmaya Mission in Mumbai, at the very young age of 18. He completed the training in 1992, and Pujya Gurudev Swami

Chinmayananda himself gave him the initiation into Brahmacharya Diksha. Initially, he served the Chinmaya Mission Centres at Kodaikanal and Trichy, and later took charge of the Spiritual and Cultural Department of the Chinmaya International Residential School, Coimbatore, where he remained for close to four years. In 2000, Swamiji became Acharya of Sandeepany Vidyamandir, the Gurukula of the Chinmaya Mission at Coimbatore, and trained a batch of young monks for the Chinmaya Mission. Later, in 2003, Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji, the head of the Chinmaya Mission, initiated him into the holy order of sannyasa. Swami Advayananda currently serves as the President of Chinmaya International Foundation, the Academia of the Global Chinmaya Mission, at the maternal ancestral birth home of Adi Shankara at Veliyanad, Ernakulam District, Kerala. In the last decade, under his guidance and benign care, CIF has made tremendous progress. An accomplished teacher of Vedanta, with many Gita and Upanishad Jnana Yajnas to his credit, Swamiji is a writer too. He has authored many books: the Holy Gita Ready Reference, a course in Advanced Vedanta, Vedanta Unveiled, and has also edited Vedantic works in Sanskrit and English including the Foundation course in Vedanta, a course in Bhagavad Gita, Ishwara Darshanam, Sukti Sudha and the Brahmasutra Chatussutri. Swami Advayananda researched and coordinated the Upanishad Ganga teleserial produced by Chinmaya Creations that was broadcast by Doordarshan. He also served as Acharya of the 15th batch of trainees at Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Mumbai.

4) Prof **Prabal Kumar Sen** – Kolkata University Kolkata, West Bengal

Web: <http://www.htcampus.com/college/departement-philosophy-university-calcutta/>

5) Prof David Lawrence – Professor of Philosophy and Religion, University of North Dakota North Dakota, USA

Web: <http://arts-sciences.und.edu/philosophy-religion/faculty/lawrence.cfm>

Prof **David Lawrence**, presently Professor at the University of Chicago, works in the areas of Hindu and Buddhist religion and philosophy, nondual Kashmiri Śaivism and tantra, Sanskrit, intercultural philosophy of religions, philosophy of cultural theories and intercultural dialogue, history of religions, psychology of religions, and mysticism. He received Fulbright--Nehru Senior Research Fellow in 2011. He has published a couple of books on Shaivism and other Indian schools. He has penned and reviewed many chapters as well as articles.

6) Dr **M A Alwar** – Karnataka Sanskrit Univeristy Mysore, Karnataka

Web: <https://in.linkedin.com/pub/ma-alwar/69/787/340>

7) Dr Shivani – Deputy Director, Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan Adisankara Nilayam, Kerala

Web: http://chinfo.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=240

Dr V **Shivani** completed her doctorate on *A Computational Model for Linguistic Study of Sanskrit: Balakanda of Ramayana as a Case Study* under the guidance of Dr M P Unnikrishnan, Kerala University. She did her post-graduation in Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Sanskrit Vyakarana. Erstwhile she served as a guest faculty member at Department of Sanskrit Studies, University of Hyderabad, as well as at Shabdabodha and Language Technology, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati. She also held the position of Sr Linguist, Department of Sanskrit Studies at University of Hyderabad. She has participated and presented papers at many international and national seminars on NLP, Machine Learning and topics pertaining to Computational Linguistics and Sanskrit Grammar.

7) Mr Srinivasa Kumar N Acharya – Assistant Professor, Dvaita Philosophy Resource Centre, Manipal University Manipal, Karnataka

Web: <http://manipal.edu/des/departement-faculty/faculty-list/srinivasa-kumar-n-acharya.html>

Mr **Srinivasa Kumar N Acharya** pursued his three masters in Navyanyaya, Alankara and Sanskrit language and literature from Poornaprajna Vidyapeetha Sanskrit College, Bangalore. He also completed his studies in Dvaita philosophy under HH Sri Vishveshatirtha Svamiji over two years and studied other Indian philosophical schools under revered scholars. Presently, he is working as an Assistant Professor at Dvaita Philosophy Resource Centre (DPRC) at Manipal University and also pursuing his PhD in Navyanyaya. He coordinated successfully the two international summer schools – *The Living Philosophies and Cultures of India* and *Explore India – A Cultural Encounter*, which were held in Kerala and Manipal last year. He coordinates the academic and logistics activities of the present Summer School – The Word and the World being part of the Manipal University. He has conducted and presented papers in a couple of international conferences, seminars and workshops.

8) Mr Santosh More – (Karnataka Sanskrit University) San Fransico, USA

Mr **Santosh More**, who is an IT engineer by profession, is presently pursuing his PhD in Yoga and Kama Shastra under Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi. He is a well-trained Yoga practitioner and teacher. The last year's Summer School participants admired his training. He too has participated in international conferences and seminars. He conducts sessions on Advaita and Yoga for the general public.

Annexure IV

List of participants

#	Name	Institution
	International participants	
1)	Dr Sudhanshu Bhushan	Boston University, USA
2)	Mr Aditya Menon	Harvard University, USA
3)	Ms Navaneethapriya Manivannan	Rutgers University, USA
4)	Mr John Arnold	Shimer College, USA
5)	Ms Sophia Steinmetz	Queen Mary University of London
6)	Ms Maria Anagnostopoulou	Queen Mary University of London, UK
7)	Ms Roshni Lakhani	SOAS University London, UK
8)	Ms Valeria Bevilacqua	SOAS University London, UK
9)	Dr Richa Sawant	Pushkin State Institute of Russian Language, Russia
10)	Mr Rafal Kleczek	University of Hyderabad
	Indian participants	
11)	Mr Kulbhushan Vaishnavi	BHU
12)	Mr Praveen Singh	Delhi University
13)	Dr Shalini Yadava	GGSIIP University
14)	Ms Shruti K Bhat	Karnataka Sanskrit University
15)	Mr Vasanth Anvekar	Karnataka University
16)	Mr Santhosh Karunakaran	Kerala University
17)	Ms Tanim Nigam	Lady Shree Ram College – Delhi University
18)	Mr Naresh Keerthi	Manipal University (NIAS)
19)	Dr Kodati Vijayalakshmi	Osmania University
20)	Mr Asmita Merchant	Osmania University
21)	Mr Rajeev Nair	Osmania University
22)	Mr T N Ananth	Osmania University
23)	Ms Manjushree Hegde	PESIT (VTU)
24)	Mr Anil Pratap Giri	Pondicherry Central University
25)	Mr Machavaram Narayan Rao	Sikkim University
26)	Mr Damodar Narayanan C N	Sri Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit
27)	Mr Muralikrishnan M V	Sri Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit
28)	Mr Amrish Khamar	University of Bombay
29)	Mr Girjaprasad J Kantharia	University of Bombay
30)	Ms Sandhya Sundar	University of Bombay
31)	Mr Venkata Raghavan R	University of Hyderabad
32)	Dr Padma Sugavanam	University of Madras
33)	Mr Ashok Kumar Galada	University of Madras
34)	Ms Kusum Kumari	University of Madras
35)	Dr Geeta Ramana	University of Mumbai
36)	Ms Mugdha Chandrakant Date	University of Pune