

Indian Council of Philosophical Research

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR) proposes to organize two seminars on the following topics:

- 1) VEDANTIC SAMANVAYA—SRI RAMANUJA'S VEDANTA AS A PARADIGM FOR SOCIAL HARMONY
- 2) RAMANUJA: THE PRECURSOR OF BHAKTI TRADITION

Professors, teachers and research scholars are hereby requested to submit well-researched papers (not more than ten typed pages) to seminar.icpr@gmail.com or send to:

Director (P & R)

Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR)

Darshan Bhawan

36 Tughlakabad Institutional Area

Mehrauli Badarpur Road

New Delhi – 110 062

Note:

- a) At the time of submission, attach a bio-data including name, designation, contact detail, etc.
- b) Selected papers will be considered for presentation during the seminar
- c) A scholar can submit papers for both the seminars
- d) The last date of paper submission is **February 15, 2019**. No paper received after this date will be considered for presentation
- e) The decision of ICPR authority will be final so far as selection of papers is concerned and no one can challenge the decision of ICPR authority in this regard
- f) The date and venue of the seminar will be communicated to the author of the selected papers in due course

The Concept Notes of the seminars are as under:

1. VEDANTIC SAMANVAYA—SRI RAMANUJA'S VEDANTA AS A PARADIGM FOR SOCIAL HARMONY

There is no doubt that Vedantic thought is the culmination of Indian wisdom and for its formulation, systematization and propagation the contribution of Sri Ramanuja is very deep and significant. Cutting across all barriers of caste, creed, region and language he put forth the essence of Vedanta in a harmonious way which may provide an efficacious paradigm of modes of thinking and ways of living to meet the menaces of fundamentalism, conflicts, violence and terrorism in the contemporary strife-torn world. To mark the millennium birth anniversary of Sri Ramanuja the Indian Council of Philosophical Research is willing to organize for Ministry of Culture an International seminar in the first week of October 2018 at Vijnana Bhavan, New

Delhi with the objective of engaging in a wide range of deliberations by drawing scholars from different parts of the world .

The main objective is to reformulate Sri Ramanuja's synthetic Vedanta in current terminology to suit the needs and aspirations of present day humanity. His holistic and integral approach assimilates divergent views in an organic unity wherein all differences are reconciled in a harmonious synthesis. His Visistadvaitic interpretation of Vedanta is a system of harmony which accommodates all and assigns them proper place and value.

Sri Ramanuja was a great synthetic thinker who successfully undertook social reform and empowered deprived sections of the society. He opened the door of liberation to one and all in the society. His multifaceted thoughts need to be disseminated at the global level.

2. RAMANUJA: THE PRECURSOR OF BHAKTI TRADITION

The proposed seminar aims at delving deep into the doctrine of bhakti advocated by Ramanuja in his Gitabhasya. The Bhagvadgita is a classic and anything that is classical is both enjoyable and useful. It is enjoyable if appreciated and it is useful if properly understood. It is a classic of perennial interest and significance. It is to be visited and revisited in terms of the needs and aspirations of the given time. Visiting and revisiting this classic has always been rewarding as it always provides new insights and guiding light. The Bhagvadgita is quintessence of the Upanisads and the best exposition of Vedic wisdom. It is the finest masterpiece of Indian acumen and synoptic and symbiotic mind. Like the Brahmasutras though small in volume it is rich in contents and encyclopedic in its sweep. It reveals the fundamental truths of life and reality in diverse facets of epistemology, metaphysics, cosmology, eschatology, ethics, religion, social and political thought, human psychology, individual, social and cosmic environments and many others.

The Gitarthasamgraha of Yamunacarya is an exposition of the Gita based on an ancient and weighty Vedantic tradition established by Visistadvaitic precursors like Bodhayana and developed by 'purvacaryas' (ancient teachers) like Tanka, Dramida, Guhaddeva, Kapardin, Bharuchi and others. His genius lies in systematic and masterly presentation of the tradition. After Yamuna, Ramanuja carried forward this task with greater fervour, logicity and vehemence. In Ramanuja we find an elaborate and forceful exposition of the Visistadvaita. He attempts to reconcile the roles of Karma, Jnana and Bhakti.

- End -