



**7-Day Textual Workshop**  
*on*  
***Abhidhammattha-Saṅgaha***

*(From October 15 to October 21, 2022)*

*in Offline Mode Only*

**Organized by**

**Department of Philosophy and Religion  
Banaras Hindu University  
Varanasi**

**Sponsored by**

**Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi  
(Ministry of Education, Government of India)**

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**Prof. Vijay Bahadur Singh**

**Head, Department of Philosophy & Religion, BHU**  
**Prof. Ananda Mishra**

**Workshop Coordinator**

**Dr. Baleshwar Prasad Yadav**  
**Department of Philosophy and Religion, BHU**

**Workshop Co-coordinator**

**Dr. Rahul Kumar Maurya**  
**Department of Philosophy and Religion, BHU**

## **About Banaras Hindu University**

Banaras Hindu University is an internationally reputed temple of learning, situated in the holy city of Varanasi. This Creative and innovative university was founded by the great nationalist leader, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, in 1916 with the cooperation of great personalities like Dr. Annie Besant, who viewed it as the University of India. Banaras Hindu University was created under the Parliamentary legislation - B.H.U. Act 1915. It played a stellar role in the independence movement and has developed into the greatest center of learning in India. It has produced many great freedom fighters and builders of modern India and has immensely contributed to the progress of the nation through a large number of renowned scholars, artists, scientists and technologists who have graced its portals. The area of the main campus of this premiere Central University is 1300 acres, having well-maintained roads, extensive greenery, a temple, an air strip and buildings which are an architectural delight. The Air Field of the campus was started for military training for flying during the second world war. There is another campus of the university at Barkachha, in the Mirzapur district, in the area of 2700 acres. The university comprises 3 Institutes, 14 Faculties 140 Departments, 4 Inter-disciplinary Centers, a Constituent College for Women and 3 Constituent Schools, spanning a vast range of subjects pertaining to all branches of humanities, social science, technology, medicine, science, fine arts and performing arts. It has 6 centres of Advanced Studies, 10 Departments under the Special Assistance Programme and a large number of specialized Research Centers. Four Degree Colleges in the city are affiliated with the University. Bharat Kala Bhavan, the reputed museum of the university, is a treasure trove of rare collections. The 927-bed hospital of the University is equipped with all the modern amenities. The university provides a wide range of facilities for sports and hobbies, has large playgrounds, a big auditorium, a flying club and many auxiliary services and units like Printing Press, Publication Cell, Fruit Preservation Center, Subsidized Canteens, Employment and Information Bureau, Security, etc. The University family consists of about 15000 students belonging to all streams of life, castes and religions and races, about 1700 teachers, and nearly 8000 non-teaching staff A large number of students from foreign countries like the U.S.A, the countries of Europe, Asia, Middle East, Africa, etc., come to study here. The university has taken a leadership role in promoting new ideas, the spirit of integration of the world, and the cultivation of intellect and culture. Banaras Hindu University is a small Virtually universe in a microcosm.

## **About the Department of Philosophy and Religion**

Banaras Hindu University is one of the best centres for the pursuit of Philosophy in India. There are 15 permanent faculty members in the Department of Philosophy and Religion. Many of them have institutional projects for the purpose of enhancing the Department towards eminence. The Department has earned academic excellence the world over in the fields of Indian philosophies, particularly, in the Advaita tradition of Vedanta School. It was created with an aim to give shape to the great vision of Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya, the esteemed founder of this university, and reared by a galaxy of great stalwarts of the Department like Prof. P.B. Adhikari, Prof. S.K. Maitra, Prof. B.L. Atreya, Prof. S. Radhakrishnan, Prof. T.R.V. Murti, Prof. N.K. Devaraja, Prof. R.K. Tripathi, Prof. N.S.S. Raman, Prof. R.S. Mishra, Prof. A.K. Chatterjee, Prof. L.N. Sharma, Prof. K.N. Mishra, Prof. R.R. Pandey, Prof. Kamalakar Mishra, etc. since its inception. It has been attracting students in graduate, post-graduate, Doctoral and Post-doctoral programmes of study and research in Philosophy from all over the globe. It has a grand history of imparting training for learning and research in Indian Philosophy and has been producing brilliant faculty members to serve all over the world. The Department has a long and established history of the advanced pursuit of almost all branches in the following areas: Indian Philosophy, Indian Religion, Comparative Religion and Comparative Philosophy. Apart from this, the Department has been internationally recognized for learning in the following areas of research: Advaita Vedanta, Buddhism, Jainism and Shaivism.

In addition to this, some major thrust areas from Western Philosophy like Analytic Philosophy, Existentialism, Phenomenology, Philosophy of Language and Religion, Aesthetics, etc. are also the central point of focus.

## A Textual Workshop on the *Abhidhammattha-Saṅgaha*

### Concept Note:

The *Abhidhamma Pitaka* is one of the three *Pitakas* as the authoritative canons which is recognized by the Theravada tradition of Buddhism. It is held in the highest esteem and as the crown jewel of the Buddhist scripture. The philosophies contained in this *Pitaka* are so lengthy and spread over several Texts and *Suttas* that it is too difficult to discern them all in their entirety. So, for the purpose of making them easier to grasp and put in a compendium form, an honest and highly diligent effort was made by a venerable Sri Lankan savant monk Ācariya Anuruddha (period sometime between the 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century A.D., as the author's time of origin is still not settled.) of the Theravada *Abhidhamma* tradition, and composition came to light in about fifty printed pages in a coded format of their philosophy in the name of *Abhidhammattha Saṅgaha*. It bears a praiseworthy entitlement of being a balancing work in its concise and comprehensive format. The philosophy that is part of its chapters' schema is very elaborate but in a coded and aphoristic genre which requires in-depth discussion for decoding and analyses of the contents. Ācariya Anuruddha tried to condense the philosophical contents in the light of *Abhidhamma Pitaka* and *Visudhimagga* of Ācariya Buddhaghosa in an insightful manner keeping its integrity intact by disallowing any deviation from the core of its contents. It is a preparation must for the Buddhist meditative steps and processes as well as the deliberation of the consciousness-related mind and mental issues. Due to being in a shorter format, it is easier to memorize and communicate to others and through the lineages. This Text has built wider popularity and contributed to a greater extent to the spread of the journey of Buddhism. All theoretical teachings of the *Abhidhamma* are contained and summarised in the *Abhidhammattha Saṅgaha* taking its base in consonance with the original Buddha's teachings. It has been classified into nine chapters that include the

philosophies of seven Buddhist Texts. It is a compendium of consciousness, mind and mental facts, varieties of *chittas*, cognition processes, the process of freedom, matter, categories, relation, and finally meditation. Several commentaries on this Text are also available to elucidate the encoded teachings of the Text. However seeing the practical difficulties and consequently, the need for an exhaustive and textual method of teaching the *Abhidhammattha Saṅgaha*, the Department of Philosophy and Religion, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi is going to organize a one-week national workshop on the same from October 15 to October 21, 2022.

### **Who can participate**

Faculty members and the research scholars from the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies can apply along with their brief CV.

### **Registration**

The registration is compulsory for all the participants and has no registration fee. TA may be provided to the outstation participants as per ICPR norms depending on the availability of funds.

### **Hospitality**

Lunch will be provided to all the participants and the outstation participants will be provided Breakfast and Dinner at their stay/guest house. Free accommodation (on sharing basis) will be provided to outstation participants only.

### **Last date of Registration**

October 06, 2022 (upto 05.00 PM)

## **Resource Persons**

Prof. H. S. Shukla

Retired Professor and Head,

Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

Prof. Bimalendra Kumar

Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

Prof. Siddhartha Singh

Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

Prof. Ramesh Prasad

Professor and Head, Department of Pali and Theravada,

Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi

Prof. Rana Purushottam Kumar Singh,

Department of Buddhist Studies, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda

## **Workshop Schedule**

**15-10-2022**

10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Inaugural & Technical Session

**16-10-2022**

10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Technical Session

**17-10-2022**

10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Technical Session

**18-10-2022**

10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Technical Session

**19-10-2022**

10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Technical Session

**20-10-2022**

10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Technical Session

**21-10-2022**

10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Technical Session & Valedictory