Two days International Seminar on "*Darshana of Radhakrishnan: Eternal and Temporal*" scheduled on 09-10 March 2026

Concept Note

Sixty Years ago, Radhakrishnan gifted Rashtrapati Niwas to Indian Institute of Advanced Study which indeed is the crowning glory of his generosity and magnanimity. Needless to mention, IIAS is a premium Institute in higher research in the country.

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a seminal thinker; a visionary darsanika; a virtuoso orator; a writer with stylish vigour; an indefatigable translator and commentator and a prophetic soul. Added to this were the worthy intervention in public affair: the staunch patriot, the constructive educational administrator, the ambassador who won confidence in what was thought to be an un-congenial atmosphere, and finally the dignified presence for 15 years in Delhi as Vice President and then the President of India.

His reading of Hindu view of life provided the base for his Darsana of ideal of the way of life. His efforts to interpret Hindu dharma and restore its vitality promoted social concern and action. His conviction that Hindu Darsana at its best stood for a Dharma of the spirit which encompassed all routes to the same goal prepared the ground for spiritual bridges and world unity. The Darshan of Radhakrishnan is partly interpretative and partly constructive. It is both analytical and synthetic in its approach. He combines in him the 'holy fervour' of the philosopher of the contemporary period, he tends to dominate the world-thought through his deep conviction in the spiritual unity of mankind. He is of the opinion that there is one common purpose which runs through all apparent diversities of human existence. His vision of the universal spirit behind all human phenomena renders a new faith in man and infuses a new confidence in him. He believes in everything human and delights in the kinship of the spirit. Radhakrishnan presupposes of faiths, mental unity running through the entire gamut of great men. As a philosopher of life, he rejects the unwanted metaphysics and attempts to solve the day-to-day problems of life. Radhakrishnan's Darshana is an inquiry into the nature of man, his origin and destiny. It is not a mere logical investigation of the particular phenomenon nor is it a verbal generalisation of the world as a whole. On the other hand, it seeks to give a general synthesis, taking particular groups into consideration. It even studies the individual instances with great care. Thus, it is a blend of both 'instant' and 'abstract', 'particular' and the 'general'. Radhakrishnan sees life from inside as much as he contemplates the worlds form outside.

Radhakrishnan is hailed universally as the greatest Darshanik-statesman of India. He is not only considered as the exponent of Hindu thought tradition but is viewed as the great world-champion of Dharma and Darsana in general. He firmly believes that spiritual souls can alone save the present man from ever-increasing miseries. The moral and the spiritual values are the dynamic forces of the universe. This is the Absolute Idealism of Radhakrishnan. According to him, no system can be substituted for the moral or spiritual ideal of man. Naturalism, humanism, materialism, pragmatism etc., cannot serve the cause of humanity. They are one-sided views of life.

Radhakrishnan owes so much to traditional Indian thought that he is rightly called as the 'theologian of Human' by Swami Aghedananda Bharati. In this living philosopher of India we witness the beginning of Renaissances. If we closely study his system which he himself calls 'absolute idealism' we discover many of the Upanishadic truths developed in the most original way. The conception of one Ultimate Reality associated with the ideas of 'grace' 'intuitive experience' and '**self-realisation**' based on 'self-surrender' assumes an original status in the philosophy of Sarvepalli. The traditional Hindu ideals of elimination of misery from the affairs of men by selfless service are also the constituent elements of his system. Again, the metaphysical idea that both man and the universe are but the same expressions of the one 'divine spirit' called 'Paramatman' is also prominent in his idealistic metaphysics. To quote "**Sa Mahatma Sudurlabhah (Geeta. 7.19), this statement of Geeta has been translated by Radhakrishnan as "Such a great soul is very difficult to find"** which can be applied to Radhakrishnan himself and it almost is like an autobiographical statement".

Radhakrishnan brought together two powerful living forces- **pride in the past and faith in the future** of Bharata. His work not only shows the influence of thought of other times and places, but is of interest to men and women everywhere even today.

This is the year wherein the Institute is celebrating its 60th Year, the writings of Radhakrishnan spanned for 60 Years and his works (critical, translated, edited) outnumber 60. In this background, the Indian Institute of Advanced Study is planning to have a two-day National Seminar on the "Darshan of Radhakrishnan : Eternal and Temporal".

The Sub-themes of the Seminar are:-

1. Radhakrishnan as a blend of Eastern Religions and Western Thought.
2. Humanism of Radhakrishnan
3. An overview of Educational thoughts of Radhakrishnan
4. Vedanta and doctrine of Maya, according to Radhakrishnan
5. As an interpreter of various Darshanas
6. Radhakrishnan as a World Teacher
7. Radhakrishnan's thoughts on future of Civilization
8. Radhakrishnan's thoughts on Hindu view of life
9. Radhakrishnan as an administrator and his foreign policy
10. Radhakrishnan as a translator with special reference to Bhagwad Gita
11. Radhakrishnan's concept of Man

The luster of Radhakrishnan's life has made him a **legend in his native India and an honoured memory in the West**. His words on intercultural understanding and world brotherhood for peace will resound through the ages. The prominent feature of our time is not so much the wars and dictatorships which have disfigured it, but the impact of different cultures on one another, their interaction and the emergence of a new civilization based on the truths of the spirit and the unity of mankind which is the need of the hour and hence in this background the two-day National Seminar on the **"Darshana of Radhakrishnan : Eternal and Temporal"** will be utmost significance for posterity.

Dr. S Ranganth
Convenor
E-mail- ranganath.sampatoor@gmail.com
Mob. No.- 9886290420

Prof. Himanshu Kumar Chaturvedi
Director, IIAS, Shimla

Dr. Muktikant Mohanty
Co-convenor
E-mail- mohanty.mukti@rediffmail.com
Mob. No.- 9438448694