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COURSE ON PRE-BUDDHIST INDIAN PHILOSOPHIES – III



World Buddhist Culture Trust

January 21-23, 2020
University of Hyderabad, Telangana



We welcome students of University of Hyderabad and any one interested in this subject to participate in the 3-day course and avail the rare opportunity of interacting with traditional Indian and Tibetan Buddhist scholars.

Concept Note

In the year 2015, His Holiness the Dalai Lama expressed the importance of deeper understanding of Ancient Indian Philosophies and urged Tibetan Buddhist students to study them directly from the tradition holders. To put this advice into practice, Lama Doboorn Tulku, Managing Trustee of World Buddhist Culture Trust took initiative to provide an opportunity for the monastic students to have a deeper understanding on Pre-Buddhist Philosophies directly from excellent teachers of Hindu Philosophy.

The first course on Pre-Buddhist Indian Philosophies-I was organized in collaboration with Dept. of Sanskrit Studies, School of Humanities, University of Hyderabad in December 2016. The second course was organized in collaboration with Osmania University, Hyderabad in February 2019. This year's is the third course in this series. It is being organized in collaboration with Dept. of Sanskrit Studies, School of Humanities, University of Hyderabad.

Buddhist Philosophy students, especially monastic students do study Pre-Buddhist schools. In various Buddhist philosophical texts in Tibetan language, many of the non-Buddhist schools are described mainly as purva paksha (opponent). To mention few:

Bhavaviveka or Bhavya's Tarkajvala gives five names: Sāmkhya, Vaiśeṣika, Vedānta, Mīmāṃsā and Jain. Panchen Sonam Dragpa listed five schools: Vaiśeṣika, Sāmkhya, Jain, Vedānta and Cārvāka. Kunkhyen Jigmed Wangpo mentions six root schools: Vaiśeṣika, Nyāya, Sāmkhya, Mīmāṃsā, Jain and Cārvāka. He also mentions five tarka schools.

The most basic philosophical question that any Indian system of philosophy ask is: What is truth, and how do we arrive at rational conclusion on question of truth? In the pursuance of this long-standing dilemma, it is hoped that these courses will engage participants actively in learning and discussion on the orthodox schools: Nyāya, Vaiśeṣika, Sāmkhya, Yoga, Mīmāṃsā and Vedānta.

Course Subject

This year, we are concentrating only on **Vedānta**. Vedānta is the most comprehensive of these systems. Bādarāyana Vyāsa, who codified the teachings in the Brahma Sūtra, is considered its founder. Sometime between the sixth and eighth centuries A.D., Sankarā reorganised the system of this monistic school of thought. Sankarā Advaita and Rāmānujacārya's Viśistādvaita

are the most important sub-schools. The main teachings of Vedānta are that Self-realization is the goal of life; that the essence of the Self is ever-existent consciousness and bliss; that the Self is free from all qualifications and limitation – it does not come from anywhere nor go anywhere.

Main resource person



The main resource person for this year's course is **Swami Muktananda Yati**. He is the Director of One-World School of Vedānta, Kerala. He studied Upanishads, Vedānta, Yoga, Eastern and Western mysticism, religion and psychology under the discipleship of Guru Nitya Chaitanaya Yati, a wise master in Vedānta. Swami Muktananda Yati took traditional sannyasa from Himalayas. He has written ten books in Malayalam and English. He gives lectures on Upanishads and major religious and spiritual texts. He works for peace and religious integration among mankind.

Other resource persons

Prof. Geshe Yeshe Thabkhe from Loseling Monastery is especially invited to this course as he is one of the most senior and learnt Tibetan monk scholars.

Venerable Jampel Choezin, Former Abbot of Gongkar Choede Monastery in Uttarakhand, **Venerable Lobsang Tseten**, Former Abbot of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery and **Venerable Ngagchen Rinpoche** who will represent the Abbot of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in Bylakuppe will also attend as resource persons from Tibetan scholarship side.

Prof. J.S.R. Prasad, Professor, Dept. of Sanskrit Studies, School of Humanities, University of Hyderabad who was actively involved in the earlier two courses and **Lama Doboomb Tulku**, Managing Trustee of World Buddhist Culture Trust will oversee the whole programme.

Dr. Tsering Samdup from Varanasi who did a wonderful job in translating both from English to Tibetan and vice versa in the last two courses will also be present as the translator.

Participants

About 30 participants from outside Hyderabad consisting of Buddhist monk and nun students from Drepung Loseling Monastery and Jangchub Choeling Nunnery in Mundgod and Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in Bylakuppe will be in attendance.

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