



Gokhale Institute of Public Affairs
and
Prekshaa Pratishtana

proudly present

*Exemplars of Indian Wisdom
from Karnataka*

LECTURE SERIES



Spread across four weekends
from **23 October** to **14 November 2021**
at **10 am**

Broadcast live on the *YouTube* channel of
Gokhale Institute of Public Affairs –
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Exemplars of Indian Wisdom from Karnataka

LECTURE SERIES

ऊर्ध्वोर्ध्वमारुह्य यदर्थतत्त्वं

धीः पश्यति श्रान्तिमवेदयन्ती ।

फलं तदाद्यैः परिकल्पितानां

विवेकसोपानपरम्पराणाम् ॥

—Abhinava-gupta (*Abhinava-bhāratī* 6.31)

*The mind perceives the Ultimate
by tirelessly ascending higher and higher
It is the fruition of a flight of stairs
fashioned by the ancients*

We Bhāratīyas are fortunate inheritors of the oldest unbroken culture in the world. If the present generation takes stock of our civilizational heritage, it will benefit not just Indians but the world at large. After all, from time immemorial, India and its rich culture have attracted the greatest minds from around the world; in recent years, this interest has only increased.

Modern narratives impress us neither by their substance nor by their form. In such a scenario, the original sources—codified in Sanskrit, Prakrit, and other Indian languages—are indispensable for all sincere seekers. In this arduous journey of approaching the sources, our guides and *gurus* are the eminent individuals who are erudite, objective, and insightful. Without such scholars, we would be truly lost!

The *Exemplars of Indian Wisdom from Karnataka* lecture series (in eight parts) has been organized with the aim of introducing the life and legacy of scholars from Karnataka whose works are the *crème de la crème* of their respective fields. They serve as models worthy of emulation for the sincere student of bhāratīya-vidyā.

Swami Satchidanandendra Saraswati (1880–1975)



Swami Satchidanandendra Saraswati was a scholar-monk, a prolific author (of over two hundred books), and a professed advaitin who dedicated his life to discover the correct interpretation of Śrī Śaṅkarācārya's works. Vedānta, the Swami held, is not a belief-based philosophical system. It is the product of a rational enquiry into the nature of reality. This enquiry, though guided by scriptural authority, is independent of it. It stands upon the pillars of common human experience and holistic logic that is employed to clarify the experience. The Swami's efforts at rediscovering the correct interpretation of Śaṅkara's works purged *vedānta* of its speculative theories and placed it on the solid ground of rational inquiry based on universal intuition. A profound acquaintance with his works is imperative for the academician and the *sādhaka* alike.

M Hiriyanna (1871–1950)



Mysore Hiriyanna was a renowned Sanskrit professor and an authority on Indian philosophy and aesthetics. Intimately familiar with the classics of Sanskrit and English, Prof. Hiriyanna devoted his life to the cause of making clear and accessible the wisdom of ancient India. Hiriyanna, in his writings, neither omitted anything that was important nor added a thing that was superfluous and provided the right blend of microscopic and macroscopic perspectives. His insights into the philosophy of values are particularly remarkable. He set the gold standard for scholars writing about Indian subjects in English. He was the first scholar to defend Indian Aesthetics against the baseless accusations hurled at it by Western Indologists of that era. He was also the person who clearly demonstrated how the various schools of Indian philosophy culminate in vedānta.

D V Gundappa (1887–1975)



Renowned just by his initials, DVG was at once many things: journalist, editor, statesman, public representative, littérateur, poet, philosopher, and freedom fighter. He founded several institutions and newspapers and wrote extensively in Kannada and English with a single aim – to spiritualize public life. ‘A sage in a mundane garb,’ he moved easily with the rich and poor, bureaucrat and labourer, scholar and unschooled. His works have supplied light and succour to countless Kannada-speaking people. His collection of memoirs and interpretive biographies is a high watermark of creative nonfiction. The corpus of his political literature is a valuable repository of India’s history during the freedom movement. DVG elevated political discourse to the high status of philosophy following the inspiration of *Bhagavān* Kautīlya and *Svāmī* Vidyāraṇya. His legacy in political philosophy and public service is notable for a complete absence of mere armchair theorizing, and more importantly for courage and fearlessness. He received the *Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award* in 1967 and the *Padma Bhushan* in 1974.

S R Rao (1922–2013)



Shikaripura Ranganatha Rao was an accomplished archaeologist. He was instrumental in discovering several Harappan sites. His identification of Lothal and Dwaraka are seminal in the study of ancient Indian history. He played a vital role in the conservation of many forts and monuments. The *National Institute of Oceanography* started a *Marine Archaeology Centre* at his behest, which is now a reputed institute. Deeply interested in ancient Indian history, Prof. Rao made a significant contribution to the decipherment of the Indus script. He showed that the Indus script must be approached from Sanskrit and that it is a phonetic script and not a pictographic one. His studies showed the connection between the Vedic people and the Harappan people, highlighting their maritime culture. This opened new vistas in the research on the Sindhu-Sarasvatī civilization.

A N Upadhye (1906–75)



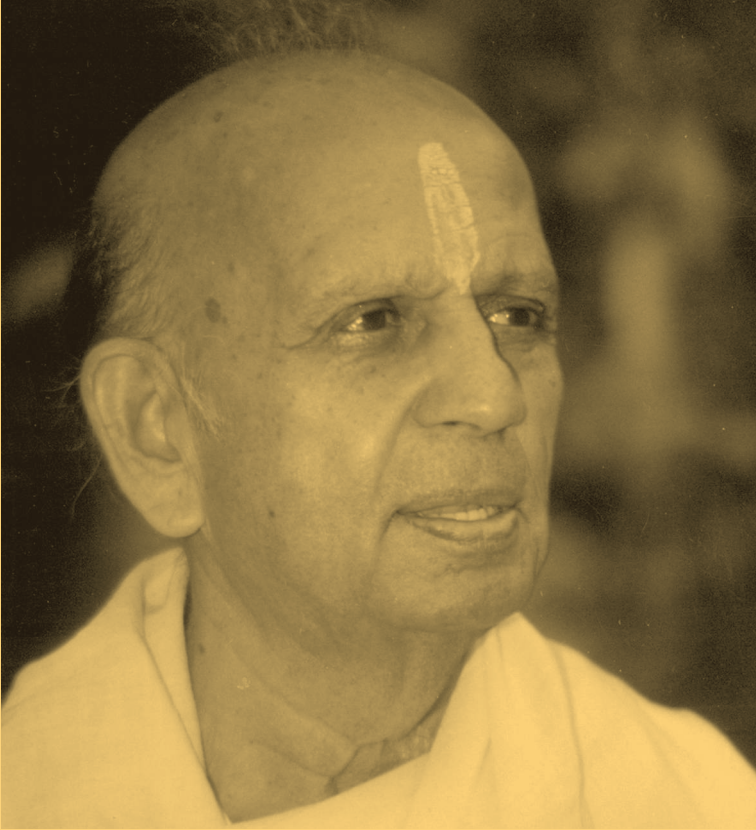
Adinath Neminath Upadhye was one of the heralds of Prakrit and Jain studies in modern India. He was a scholar of Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, and Ardhamagadhi. His untiring work rescued several important treatises from oblivion. His works have hugely influenced Prakrit, Sanskrit, and Kannada languages. He frequented libraries and meticulously studied ancient manuscripts to spearhead the publication of several unpublished works. His editions include highly informative introductions and extensive notes, thus making them inevitable to every student of the field. In addition to editing several secular works of Prakrit poetry and drama, he also worked on many treatises on the Jaina philosophy. He demonstrated the connections between Kannada and Prakrit and showed the beauty of Kannada.

S Srikanta Sastri (1904–74)



Sondekoppa Srikanta Sastri was a historian (with expertise in multiple facets of history including archaeology, prehistory, epigraphy, and numismatics), author (of seminal works on history and culture), professor (Head of the Department of History, *University of Mysore*), polyglot (fluent in fourteen languages), polymath (scholar of vedānta, nyāya, jyautiṣa, music, sculpture, and other disciplines related to Indian heritage), and a poet (who versified in Kannada and Sanskrit). Hailing from a renowned family of scholars, he had a brilliant academic career with several research papers to his credit long before he earned his D.Litt., which yesteryear doyens deemed to be but meagre for his erudition. The intimate familiarity he enjoyed with the primary sources of history coupled with his linguistic felicity, analytical acumen, and inter-disciplinary learning made his academic papers penetrating, rigorous, and practically irrefutable. He is one of the first historians who contributed significantly to demolish the myth of the Aryan invasion.

S K Ramachandra Rao (1925–2006)



Saligrama Krishna Ramachandra Rao was a professor of psychology. A polyglot and polymath, Prof. Rao wrote several books in Kannada and English on a wide spectrum of topics related to India. His versatility helped him see interconnections between various streams of knowledge. His works cater to the needs of both the lay and learned. His writings on veda, vedānta, Buddhism, tantra, āgama, classical music, temple art, architecture, traditions, rituals, and iconography are especially noteworthy. He was an accomplished artist and biographer. His illuminating pen portraits of scholars and artists present an intimate picture of life and culture of yesteryears. Trained in classical arts, he played the vīṇa, painted, sculpted, and also had one-man exhibitions of Indian art. He was also learned in the theoretical aspects of Āyurveda.

B A Saletore (1900–63)



Bhaskar Anand Saletore easily ranks as one of the titans of Indian historical research belonging to the distinguished league of Jadunath Sarkar, P K Gode, S Srikanta Sastri, and similar luminaries. In a career spanning more than three decades, Prof. Saletore authored more than ten invaluable historical works and hundreds of research papers. His seminal work, *Social and Political Life in the Vijayanagara Empire* in two volumes, continues to enjoy the high mantle of being a classic in the field. These volumes are indispensable to any study related to Vijayanagara Empire. His last work, *Ancient Indian Political Thought and Institutions* is also regarded as a masterpiece. Prof. Saletore was also a polyglot and contributed immensely not only to the field of historical research but gave direction to the *National Archives* in his capacity as its director.

K Krishnamoorthy (1923–97)



Keralapura Krishnamoorthy was a doyen of Indian aesthetics. He wrote on a broad range of topics related to Sanskrit literature and aesthetics. His editions of treatises such as 'Dhvanyāloka' and 'Vakroktijīvita' are considered landmarks of scholarship. Intimately familiar with the classics of Sanskrit, Kannada, and English, Krishnamoorthy produced lucid translations of numerous Sanskrit texts. His annotated Kannada renderings of 'Kāvyaḷaṅkāra,' 'Dhvanyāloka,' 'Kāvyaṗrakāśa,' and 'Kāvyaṡīmāṡsā' have set the gold standard for translations. His comprehensive exposition of dhvani and its kindred concepts is particularly remarkable. Krishnamoorthy was awarded a Certificate of Honour by the President of India for his contribution to Sanskrit.

Sediyapu Krishna Bhat (1902–96)



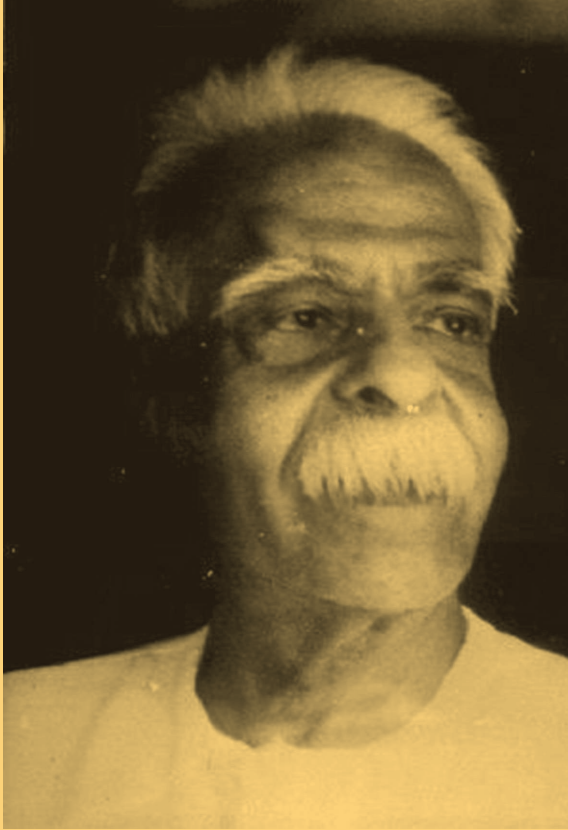
Sediyapu Krishna Bhat was a Kannada tutor by profession. A self-taught scholar of high eminence, Krishna Bhat was an authority on grammar, prosody, word lore, and cultural studies. He was a polymath and polyglot. Although he wrote less, whatever he wrote was original and valuable. His articles were pathbreaking in their respective fields – they either solved age-old issues or inaugurated new vistas of scholarship. He insightfully expounded the aesthetics of Indian poetic metres. His contribution to prosody is comparable to the contribution of Ānandavardhana to poetics. His exposition of words such as ‘ārya,’ ‘drāviḍa,’ ‘līṅga,’ ‘brahmāvarta,’ and ‘āryāvarta’ is of immense use in establishing the nativity of the Sindhu-Sarasvatī civilization. He has given valuable insights into how various regional and provincial names have originated from Sanskrit.

R Narasimhacharya (1860–1936)



Ramanujapuram Narasimhacharya was a scholar of grammar and poetics of Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, and Tamil. As the director of the *Department of Archaeology* in the Mysore State, he brought out valuable annual reports. He published a treasured anthology of Kannada inscriptional verses and was instrumental in bringing to light numerous inscriptions. He wrote elaborate histories of the Kannada language and its poets for the first time. His English monographs on Hoysala temples elucidating the nuances of art and architecture were the first of their kind. He translated hundreds of classical Tamil verses into classical Kannada.

M Govinda Pai (1883–1963)



Manjeshwar Govinda Pai was a noted poet and scholar. He was a polyglot conversant with twenty-two languages. He was well known for the dating of kingdoms, kings, poets, authors, and works. His knowledge of epigraphy, astronomy, astrology, and multiple languages aided him in his work related to history, religion, and culture. He was the first poet-laureate ('Rāṣṭra-kavi') of Karnataka. A great classical poet of eminence, he toiled for the renaissance of Kannada. His writings—particularly his epic fragments—paved the way for new works in Kannada. Intimately familiar with the classical roots of Kannada, he was on par with the great classical poets.

B G L Swamy (1918–80)



Bangalore Gundappa Lakshminarayana Swamy was a botanist trained under Prof. Irving Bailey at the *Harvard University*. He published more than three hundred research papers on the subject. A person of wide-ranging interests, Swamy wrote on ancient Tamil literature, Tamil history, South Indian inscriptions, and cultural history in the light of botany. He was a violinist, artist, and music critic. His Kannada satires and cultural studies incorporating taxonomic nuances are peerless. He was conferred the *Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award* for his work *Hasuru Honnu*.

R Sathyanarayana (1927–2020)



Ramayya Sathyanarayana was a professor of Chemistry. Trained in classical Carnatic music, he wrote extensively on Indian music and dance and worked as an investigator and advisor in many projects on these subjects. He edited several musical treatises and translated them from Sanskrit into Kannada and English, along with elaborate notes and introductions. He was a practitioner of Śrī-vidyā and initiated earnest disciples into it. His Kannada works on tantra and Śrī-vidyā are significant. The Government of India conferred the *Padma Shri* award upon him.

Schedule

Saturday, October 23

- 10 am Welcome address and inauguration
10.15 *Keynote Address*
by 'Nāḍoja' Dr. S R Ramaswamy
10.30 Introduction to the Lecture Series
by Hari Ravikumar
10.45 **Swami Satchidanandendra Saraswati**
by Manjushree Hegde
12.15 Break
12.30 **Swami Satchidanandendra Saraswati**
by Śatāvadhānī Dr. R Ganesh

Sunday, October 24

- 10 am Welcome
10.05 **M Hiriyanna**
by Arjun Bharadwaj
11.30 Break
11.45 **M Hiriyanna**
by Arjun Bharadwaj

Saturday, October 30

- 10 am Welcome
10.05 **D V Gundappa**
by Shashi Kiran B N
11.30 Break
11.45 **D V Gundappa**
by Sandeep Balakrishna

Sunday, October 31

- 10 am Welcome
10.05 **S R Rao**
by Dr. C B Patil
11.15 Break
11.30 **A N Upadhye**
by Dr. Balram Shukla

Saturday, November 6

10 am Welcome

10.05 **S Srikanta Sastri**

by Hari Ravikumar

11.15 Break

11.30 **S Srikanta Sastri**

by Śatāvadhānī Dr. R Ganesh

Sunday, November 7

10 am Welcome

10.05 **S K Ramachandra Rao**

by Śatāvadhānī Dr. R Ganesh

11.30 Break

11.45 **S K Ramachandra Rao**

by Arjun Bharadwaj

Saturday, November 13

10 am Welcome

10.05 **B A Saletore**

by Sandeep Balakrishna

11.30 Break

11.45 **K Krishnamoorthy**

by Shashi Kiran B N

Sunday, November 14

10 am Welcome

10.05 **Sediyapu Krishna Bhat**

by Śatāvadhānī Dr. R Ganesh

11.30 Break

11.45 **R Narasimacharya**

M Govinda Pai

B G L Swamy

R Sathyanarayana

by Śatāvadhānī Dr. R Ganesh

Speakers

Dr. S R Ramaswamy is a renowned littérateur, journalist, art critic, environmentalist, and social activist. For over four decades he has served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Kannada monthly *Utthāna*.

Śatāvadhānī Dr. R Ganesh is among India's foremost Sanskrit poets and scholars. He is a master of the ancient art of Avadhāna, having performed it in multiple languages and credited with revived the art in Kannada. He has written and lectured extensively on many subjects related to Indian culture.

Dr. C B Patil is the Deputy Superintending Archaeologist at the *Archaeological Survey of India*, Bengaluru. He has written several books, monographs, and research papers. He lectures extensively on archaeology.

Dr. Balram Shukla is a professor of Sanskrit at *Delhi University*. He is a polyglot and a scholar of Sanskrit literature and Pāṇinian grammar as well as an accomplished poet in Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Persian.

Manjushree Hegde is a Sanskrit scholar who is presently a doctoral student at *Indian Institute of Technology – Madras*. She has an abiding interest in the Sanskrit language, vedānta, and vyākaraṇa.

Arjun Bharadwaj is an author and translator, well-versed in Sanskrit, Kannada, English, Greek, and German. His field of research is comparative aesthetics of classical Greek and Indian arts and literature.

Sandeep Balakrishna is an author, translator, and socio-political analyst. He has written and translated many books and runs the popular website *The Dharma Dispatch* (<https://dharmadispatch.in>).

Shashi Kiran B N is a scholar of aesthetics and a Sanskrit poet. He has an abiding interest in Indian culture. He writes on various topics related to Sanskrit and Kannada literature.

Hari Ravikumar is a writer, editor, violinist, and designer. His interests include philosophy, literature, and education pedagogy.