



Invitation to Register for Workshop on Īśāvāsya Upanisad: A Week of Close Reading

message

Workshop-CSU <workshop.csu@gmail.com>
cc: director-bhopal@sanskrit.ac.in

Sun, Apr 26, 2026 at 12:55 PM

Dear Esteemed Scholars and Faculty,
Namaste,

Central Sanskrit University is honored to invite applications for an intensive seven-day workshop dedicated to the linguistic, philosophical, and comparative study of the Īśāvāsya Upanishad.

We are privileged to have the support and encouragement of our Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi, whose vision inspires us to deepen engagement with classical Indian knowledge systems.

Workshop Overview:

Īśāvāsya Upanishad forms the last chapter of the Vājasaneyi Samhitā of the Śukla Yajurveda. As an Upanishad which begins with the two words "By the Supreme must be dwelt in" (Īśā vāsyam) it is called, Īśāvāsya or Īśa upanishad. Barring Māṇḍūkya, this is the smallest of the Upanishads. It contains only eighteen verses. But it is like the legendary mouth of baby Krishna. It looks tiny, but when the mother-teacher-inquirer in each of us opens it up, with love and doubt, to check what is concealed in it, infinite layers of meaning could be seen inside it. All that needs to be known practically and theoretically for the sake of living well, in ancient or current times is contained in it. "If all the books of Indian wisdom get destroyed but only the first verse of Īśa Upanishad is left", Mahatma Gandhi had remarked, "the entire Indian Civilization and its philosophical wealth can be re-created out of just those two lines!"

This workshop offers a rare opportunity to move beyond a surface-level reading. Participants will engage in a "close reading" of every word, uncovering infinite layers of meaning tucked within this brief but profound scripture.

Academic Highlights:

- Word-by-Word Analysis: An exhaustive study of all 18 verses.
- The Great Debate: Intellectual dialogue between the commentaries of Adi Śamkara, Anandagiri, Vedāntadeśika, SriRangarāmānuja, Madhvācārya, Jayatīrtha, and Rāmanandācārya.
- Modern Perspectives: Analysis of contemporary Sanskrit commentaries.
- Research Deliverable: A unique comparative study linking the 18 verses of the Īśa Upanishad with the 18 chapters of the Bhagavadgītā.

Lead Resource Person:

Prof. Arindam Chakrabarti, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Ashoka University, Haryana

Dates: May 18 – May 25, 2026

Venue: Central Sanskrit University, Shri Raghunath Kirti Campus, Devprayag, Uttarakhand

Languages: Sanskrit and English

Eligible Participants: Research Scholars and Faculty members

Accommodation and Travel: Accommodation and travel allowance available (up to Train 3rd AC fare only).

Location Highlight:

Experience the profound teachings of the Sukla Yajurveda at the holy confluence of the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi rivers in Devprayag –the perfect setting for spiritual and intellectual inquiry.

We kindly request you to circulate this invitation among your research scholars and faculty members who may be interested in this unique academic opportunity.

For registration, fill in the details through the following link:

<https://forms.gle/H9QPEvBhUzhQ3Zsg9>

Workshop Coordinators:

Prof. P.V.B. Subrahmanyam, Dean of Yogic Science & Holistic Health Practices, & Director of CSU Shri Raghunath Kirti Campus,
Devprayag

Prof Madhukeshwar Bhat, Director (Central Schemes) & Director (Programmes) & OSD to Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, New Delhi

Warm regards,

Workshop Coordinators
Central Sanskrit University