



Modern Perspectives on Vedānta

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Vedānta has retained its fundamental ideas as enshrined in the Upaniṣads over the centuries. But it is still extremely relevant in addressing the contemporary problems of globalised and liberalised societies. It is in this context that the Vedanta Congress has met at regular intervals to debate and discuss challenges faced by contemporary societies.

This volume presents a compilation of papers presented at the Twentieth International Congress of Vedanta, held at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The papers cover a variety of topics in English, Hindi and Sanskrit: philosophy of the origin of the universe, the behaviour of matter, social structures, political systems, role of language, yoga and meditation, among others. The insightful papers discuss the Advaita concept of testimonial perception, the concept of *māyā*, the notion of time and space in the cosmology of the Sāṃkhya system of philosophy and the Vedāntic perspective on the spiritual quest and science. They deal with the nature and theory of origin of *varṇa* in the *Bhagavad-Gītā*, Vedāntic perception of organisational behaviour, importance of Vedānta in the corporate world, and value systems in governance with reference to Indian dhārmic perspectives. These papers also highlight the essence of Vedānta as it applies to modern philosophy, science and business and the influence it exerts on culture, language and lives of people in India and the world. The volume will prove valuable to scholars and students of Indology, religion and philosophy, particularly researchers of Vedānta and its relevance to modern times.

Dr Girish Nath Jha is Associate Professor at the Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and holding Mukesh and Priti Chatter Distinguished Professor Chair at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, USA. **Dr Bal Ram Singh** is the Director of Center for Indic Studies at UMass – Dartmouth. As a Professor of Biophysical Chemistry and Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar, he has been conducting research on botulinum and tetanus neurotoxins, and lately also on yoga, mind, and consciousness. **R.P. Singh** is Chairperson, Centre for Philosophy, Jawaharlal Nehru University. His areas of specialization include Modern Western Philosophy, Postmodern Philosophy, Indian Philosophy, specially Upaniṣads, Buddhism and Advaita Vedānta. **Diwakar Mishra** is a PhD student at the Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies in JNU in the area of Sanskrit Computational Linguistics.

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