



Department of Sanskrit
University of Delhi
Undergraduate Course for Sanskrit
B.A. (Hons.) Under UGCF-2022 based on NEP-2020

DSC 19: Introduction to Indian Philosophy: Prasthanabheda

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Introduction to Indian Philosophy: Prasthanabheda	04	3	1	0	Class XII Pass	Nil

Learning Objectives:

Madhusūdana Sarasvatī's *Prasthanabheda* is a seminal work that delineates the principal sources (prasthanas) of Indian philosophical thought, particularly focusing on Vedānta. This syllabus will guide students through the critical examination of the text, exploring its historical context, philosophical insights, and its impact on later Indian philosophical traditions.

Learning Outcomes:

This course will enable students to

- To understand the historical and philosophical background of Various Prasthanas.
- To analyze the key concepts and doctrines of the major Various Prasthanas.
- To explore comparative approach in *Prasthanabheda*.
- To critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each school as presented by Madhusudan Saraswati.
- To develop a comprehensive understanding of the unity and diversity within contemporary philosophical thought.

UNIT I- Introduction to Prasthanabheda

1 Credit

- Chronology and Overview of Prasthanabheda
- Introduction and preface of Prasthanabheda of Madhusūdana Sarasvatī
- Sections on Shruti, Smriti, and Nyaya from Prasthanabheda
- Integrating Vedānta, Dharmashastra, Mimāṃsā: A Holistic View

UNIT II- The Shruti and Smriti Prasthana

1 Credit

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- The Upanishads – Major Themes and Teachings
- Philosophical Themes in the Bhagavad Gita
- Madhusūdana Sarasvatī's Interpretation of the Upanishads and Exegesis of the Bhagavad Gita

UNIT III Sections from Prasthanabheda (upto page 14)

1 Credit

UNIT IV Sections from Prasthanabheda (Pages 15-34)

1 Credit

Recommended Texts:

1. Primary Text:

Prasthanabheda by Madhusūdana Sarasvatī (Original Sanskrit text and/or English translation)

2. Secondary Texts:

1. A History of Indian Philosophy by Surendranath Dasgupta
2. Indian Philosophy by S. Radhakrishnan
3. Commentaries on Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, and Brahma Sutras by various scholars
4. The Principal Upanishads by S. Radhakrishnan.
5. Bhagavad Gita: As It Is" by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.
6. The Essence of the Upanishads" by Eknath Easwaran.
7. C. D. Sharma, A Critical Survey of Indian Philosophy, Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass Publication, 1964

3. Supplementary Readings:

- A History of Indian Philosophy" by Surendranath Dasgupta.
- The Philosophy of the Upanishads" by Paul Deussen.
- The Teachings of the Bhagavad Gita" by Swami Sivananda.
- *Vedanta: Voice of Freedom* by Swami Vivekananda.
- *The Advaita Tradition in Indian Philosophy* by Chandradhar Sharma.

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