



Advaya: An 8-Day Summer Retreat on Non-dual Truth in Asian Philosophies Exploring Buddhist, Vedāntic, Jaina and Linguistic Perspectives

Venue: Chhahari Retreats, Budhanilakantha, Kathmandu

Dates: 24-31 August, 2026

We are pleased to announce an intensive **8-day Summer Retreat on Advaya (Indivisible Non-dual Truth)**, exploring one of the most profound and enduring philosophical ideas in the Indian intellectual tradition.

Rather than approaching non-duality from a single school, the retreat examines how diverse traditions articulate the nature of ultimate reality, language, consciousness, ethics, and liberation. Each day is devoted to a major philosopher whose work represents a distinctive yet complementary approach to non-duality.

The retreat will be led by **Prof. Diwakar Acharya (University of Oxford)**, **Dr. Netra Acharya (Kathmandu)**, and **Dr. Pongsit Pangsrivongse (University of Vienna)**, combining rigorous textual scholarship, philosophical dialogue, contemplative practice, and cultural immersion.



Daily Themes

Day 1 — Śāntideva: Wisdom and Compassion

The inseparability of *prajñā* and *karuṇā* in the Bodhisattva path.

Day 2 — Vasubandhu: Mind and Appearance

Yogācāra perspectives on consciousness, perception, and non-duality.

Day 3 — Nāgārjuna: Emptiness and the Middle Way

Advaya in Madhyamaka: dependent origination, emptiness, and the two truths.

Day 4 — Gauḍapāda: The Non-duality of Ātman and Brahman

The Māṇḍūkya Kārikā and Advaita Vedānta.

Day 5 — Excursion

A full-day cultural and philosophical excursion to important heritage sites in the Kathmandu Valley, integrating textual learning with living traditions.

Day 6 — Bhartṛhari: Language and Ultimate Reality

Śabda, consciousness, and the philosophy of language.

Day 7 — Samantabhadra: Non-one-sidedness and Plural Perspectives

Jaina anekāntavāda, syādvāda, and the logic of coexistence.

Day 8 — Advaya in Dialogue (Half-day)

Round-table discussions, comparative synthesis, participant presentations, and concluding reflections.

Daily morning yoga and meditation before class will be offered by Dr Netra Acharya, who is also a yoga specialist.



Programme Includes

Close reading of Sanskrit texts
Comparative Indian philosophy
Lectures and seminars
Guided discussions & Evening reflection sessions
Heritage excursion
Opportunities for research networking

Course Requirements

Graduate or advanced undergraduate level of Sanskrit.

Participation Fee: 450 US Dollars

The fee includes accommodation and full board for the duration of the programme (8 days/7 nights; arrival 24 Aug, departure 31 Aug), field trips (including site entrance fees), and yoga/meditation sessions. Participants are required to cover their own national/international travel and insurance costs.

Accommodation

Accommodation and classes have been arranged at Chhahari Retreat, in the lap of the Shivapuri Hills, a scenic forested area. The location benefits from being a short drive from Kathmandu city centre while providing a peaceful, nature-filled setting. The retreat is also within walking distance of Budhanilakantha, a site of considerable artistic and archaeological importance.

Application Procedure

Please send a CV and a short statement of motivation by July 31, 2026. There are 20 places available. If the number of suitable applicants exceeds the available places, they will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If the number of applicants requesting single rooms exceeds availability at Chhahari, accommodation nearby will be arranged with daily transport. Applications and queries should be sent to:

netra.acharya@gmail.com and sanskrittextsociety@gmail.com