

PAPER SUBMISSION

Research papers, including an abstract of 250 words, should be original and unpublished. The paper should be formatted on A4-sized paper with Times New Roman font, font size 12, justified alignment, and 1.5 line spacing, not exceeding 10 pages.

Please mail your papers to :
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Deadline

Abstract : 20th March 2025

Selected Full papers will be published later

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NATIONAL SEMINAR ON The Humanist Philosophy of Pandit Nilakantha Das: Bridging Tradition and Modernity



Sponsored by: RUSA 2.0 Utkal University

26th & 27th
March 2025

Department of Philosophy
Utkal University
Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar,
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Introduction

Pandit Nilakantha Das was a renowned Philosopher, humanist, and social activist from Odisha, whose contributions to Philosophy, literature, and social thought continue to inspire. Known for his deep understanding of ancient texts and his rational approach to traditional concepts, Nilakantha sought to bridge the gap between timeless spiritual wisdom and modern societal needs. His work is particularly noted for its focus on the concept of dharma and its relevance to both individual and collective well-being. In two of his religio-philosophical writings, Srimad Bhagavad Gītā and The Cult of Jagannātha, he presents a detailed discussion on the concept and types of dharma and emphasizes mānava dharma. Alongside his works, in honor of his memory, there is an institution in Bhubaneswar, 'Pandita Nilakantha Smrti Samiti,' which regularly publishes books and articles authored by teachers of Philosophy and literature on his Philosophy and contributions to literature.

In this two-day national seminar, we will explore Nilakantha Das's humanist Philosophy, emphasizing his interpretation of dharma as the continuous expansion of the human mind, leading to oneness with creation. His analysis of key Gita concepts such as Purusottama, karma, and svadharma offers a fresh perspective, urging us to reconsider them not only as theological ideas but also as essential socio-ethical principles for guiding modern society. Through his writings, Nilakantha highlighted the importance of aligning with the moral and natural orders, stressing that a proper understanding of dharma is vital for the harmony of both human society and the universe.

This seminar will provide an in-depth analysis of his philosophical views and their enduring relevance in today's world, promoting a humanistic approach to addressing contemporary challenges.

Major Objectives of the theme are to :

- Examine Nilakantha Das's views on the classification of dharma.
- Analyze his humanistic and rationalistic perspectives on dharma and mānava dharma.
- Explore his understanding of svadharma with a focus on mānava dharma.
- Investigate how ātmika dharma, being non-different from mānava dharma, can be considered humanistic rather than spiritualistic.
- Assess the perspectives of scholars who regard him as an advocate of naturalistic philosophy.
- Rationally justify his view that Jagannath dharma represents the 'religion of humanity.'

Sub-themes:

- Sri Jagannatha Cult
- Humanism: Socio-philosophical Viewpoints
- Socio-political Reflections
- The Gita Dharma
- Religion & Politics
- Pandit Nilakantha Das as a Rational Thinker
- Socio-ethical Concept of Pandit Nilakantha Das
- Scientific Approach in Human Life
- Pandit Nilakantha Das on Present-day Perspectives
- Pandit Nilakantha Das on Education



Pandit Nilakantha Das
(5.8.1884 - 6.11.1967)