



PROF. VEMPATY KUTUMBA SASTRY



Prof. Vempaty Kutumba Sastry is one of India's foremost Sanskrit scholars, a distinguished academic administrator, and an internationally respected authority in Advaita Vedanta, Darshanas, and Sanskrit poetics. He currently serves as Chancellor of Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Mahavidyalaya (SCSVMV), Kanchipuram, and holds the prestigious National Fellowship at the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi.

2. Born 12th August, 1950 in Gudlavalleru, Andhra Pradesh, Prof. Sastry from an early age displayed exceptional promise in traditional learning. He underwent rigorous training in Rigveda at S.V. Vedapathasala, Tirumala, which laid a strong foundation in Vedic studies. He later pursued higher education in Sanskrit and Darshanas, earning the oriental titles Vidyapravina from Andhra University and Siromani from the University of Madras. He completed his Vidyavaridhi (Ph.D.) at Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, and further enriched his academic profile with an M.A. in Philosophy and a Postgraduate Diploma in Yoga from Sri Venkateswara University. He has also been conferred honorary doctorates (D.Litt) by S-VYASA University, Bangalore, and Kavikulaguru Kalidasa University, Ramtek.

3. Prof. Sastry has held several transformative leadership positions. He served as Vice-Chancellor of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi and Sree Somnath Sanskrit University, Gujarat, and was the founding Vice-Chancellor of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (now Central Sanskrit University). His tenure was marked by institution-building, curriculum innovation, and strengthening Sanskrit education at the national level. Internationally, he served two consecutive terms as President of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies, presiding over multiple World Sanskrit Conferences across Europe, Asia, and North America, thereby enhancing India's intellectual presence on the global stage.

4. A prolific scholar, Prof. Sastry has authored and edited fifteen books and more than fifty research papers. His recent monograph, Tatparya: An Inter-Sastraic Study, published by the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, is widely regarded as a significant contribution to classical Indian philosophy and hermeneutics. He has guided numerous doctoral scholars, delivered hundreds of lectures, and organized major national and international academic forums dedicated to Sanskrit studies. Equally noteworthy is his pioneering initiative in Sanskrit pedagogy. The Samskrita-Svadhyaiah selflearning material, developed under his leadership, has brought nearly two million people into the fold of Sanskrit learning and speaking. This innovative program has been adopted by universities and organizations across India and has inspired several adaptations, making Sanskrit accessible to diverse sections of society.

5. Prof. Sastry's contributions have been recognized through numerous honours, including the President of India's Certificate of Honour (2014), Mahakavi Kalidasa Sanskrit Sadhana Puraskar, Sanskrit Sahitya Seva Samman, Vedavyas Puraskar, Lokamanya Tilak Sanskrit Puraskar, and several other awards from academic, cultural, and religious institutions. His unique ability to combine deep roots in traditional Vedic learning with modern critical scholarship has won him recognition from Shankaracharyas, Peethadhipatis, Mahamandaleshwaras, and the global Sanskrit fraternity alike. Through his scholarship, leadership, and outreach, he has advanced Sanskrit studies, inspired generations of scholars, and brought India's timeless knowledge systems closer to the world.