



## Sri Vedanta Desikan



- Vice President released a **postage stamp** to commemorate the **750th birth anniversary** of **Sri Vedanta Desikan**.
- Shri Vedanta Desikan is one of the most prominent preceptors in the **Sri Vaishnava tradition** and one of the most effulgent luminaries of South India.
- He followed the philosophy of Ramanuja's Vishishtadvaita.
  - VishishtAdvaita literally means Advaita with uniqueness; qualifications, it is a non-dualistic school of Vedanta philosophy.
  - It is **non-dualism** of the qualified whole, in which Brahman alone exists, but is characterized by multiplicity. It can be described as qualified monism or qualified non-dualism or attributive monism.
  - It is a school of Vedanta philosophy which belief in all diversity subsuming to an underlying unity.
- He was celebrated as '**sarva-tantra-svatantra**' master of all arts and crafts; awarded the title '**kavi tarkika-kesari**' the lion amongst poets and logicians; and glorified as '**ramanuja-daya-patram**' the recipient of Ramanuja's blessings.
- He had authored brilliant poems, prose, drama, epics, commentaries, scientific texts and philosophical treatises in Sanskrit, Tamil, Prakrit and Manipravalam.
- Much more than a spiritual teacher, he was a multi-faceted personality-- a scientist, a logician, a mathematician, a literary genius, a linguist, a military strategist and much more.
- His philosophy was based on inclusion, where anyone irrespective of caste and creed could join the Sri Vaishnava fold.
- He mastered the Vedas, the Vedangas, the **4000 Divya Prabhanda**(collection of 4,000 Tamil verses) and all the existing schools of Indian philosophy such as **Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Purva Mimamsa, Yoga and Sankhya** by the age of twenty.
- He also expressed his genius in the field of arts and sciences through other works such as:
  - **Aahaara Niyamam** that detailed how different food items help in maintaining a healthy mind and a disease-free life.
  - **Subhashita Neevi** contains a fund of moral and ethical advice which is relevant and practical.

- **Silpartha-saram**-a treatise on sculpture.
- **Bhugola-nirnayam**-a research text on geography.

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