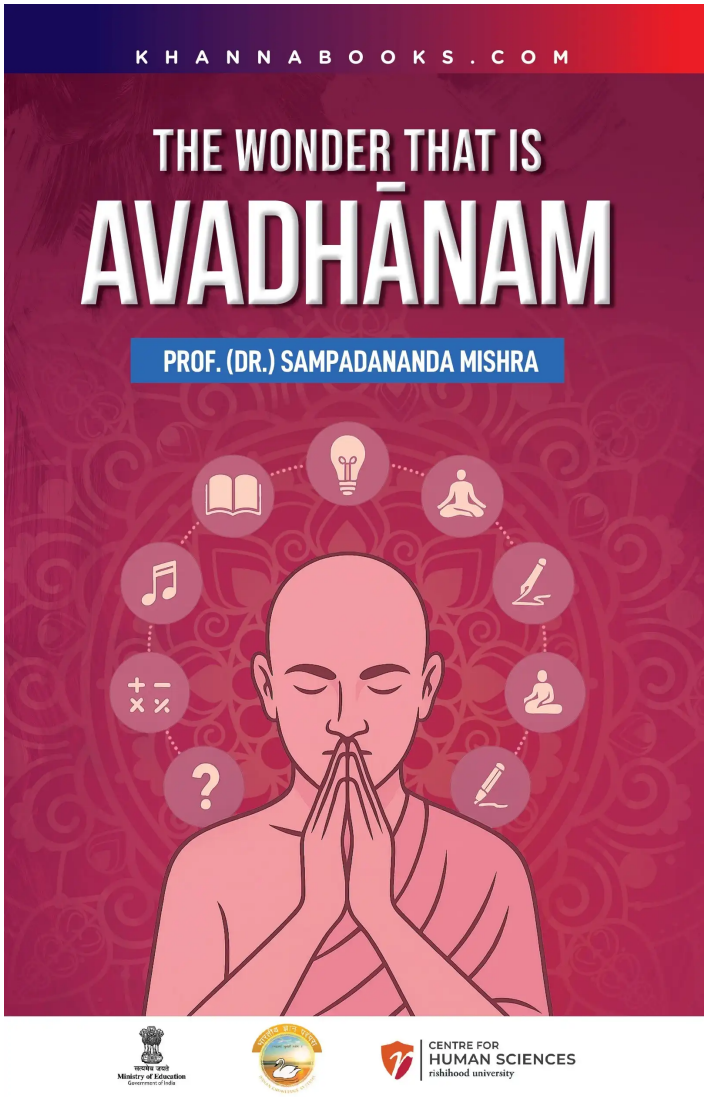

The Wonder That is Avadhanam

Author :	Sampadananda Mishra
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The year 2000 holds a special place in my heart because that's when I first discovered something truly magical – Avadhāna. It happened during a seminar in Pondicherry, and little did I know that this art form would become a source of inspiration and wonder in my life. I was part of the team organizing an Avadhāna program, and my job was simple. But what unfolded on that day was anything but ordinary. Avadhāna, which once seemed like a distant and mystical concept, came alive before my eyes, challenging my skepticism and leaving an unforgettable impression. Watching the Avadhāna performance was like witnessing a breathtaking dance of the mind. The performer's skill, speed, and brilliance pushed the boundaries of what I thought was possible. It was more than just a show; it was a journey into a world where intellect and creativity danced together in perfect harmony. Since that day, my life has been a journey of exploration into the art of Avadhāna. I felt a deep connection and a need to share its wonders with the world. I realized there was a missing piece—a book that could introduce Avadhāna to those curious about it, a guide for those wanting to understand its essence. As I delved into the details of Avadhāna, I discovered not just a skill but an endangered art form in need of recognition. It became clear that the survival of Avadhāna depended on creating awareness—helping people see its beauty, challenges, and importance in our cultural heritage. In my quest to understand Avadhāna, I stumbled upon the remarkable life of Vasishtha Ganapati Muni, a true master of Avadhāna. His ability to vi perform Avadhāna was extraordinary, and learning about his life became a fascinating part of my exploration. His anecdotes of

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Khanna Publishing House
4C/4344, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002
Email: contact@khannabooks.com | Tel: 011-2324 44 47 - 48 | Mobile: + +91-99109 09320

Author

Dr. Sampadananada Mishra, a distinguished scholar in Sanskrit and indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), has dedicatedhis life to the study, preservation, and propagation of india’s richlinguistic and philosophical heritage. He holds a BA and MA in Sanskrit from utkal University, where he also completed his Ph.D.with a dissertation on the evolution of the Sanskrit language, inspired by Sri Aurobindo’s perspectives. Dr. Mishra is renownedfor founding the World’s first 24-hour Sanskrit radio channel, Divyavani Sanskrit Radio, in 2013, adFor his role as Associate Editor of the ‘ Collected Works of Vasishtha kavyakantha Ganapati Muni; a landmark twelve- volume publication . His contributions to Sanskrit have earned him several prestigious awards, Including the president’s Maharshi Badarayana Vyasa Samman and the Sri Aurobindo Puraskar 2024. His Career has been marked by a passionate commitment to ensuring that Sanskrit and IKS flourish within both academic and cultural landscapes.

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