

**Reading Vedānta Deśikaṅ's *cillarai rahasyaṅka!*  
February 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.**

Veṅkaṭanāthaṅ (14th century) is known for being a prolific, versatile and distinguished writer (among other things), who in his own lifetime bore titles such as *kavi-tārkika-siṃham* ('Lion of poetry and logic') and *sarva-tantra-svatantra* ('Master of all arts'), besides the distinguished one that has become synonymous with his very name. His corpus comprises works of different types such as theological treatises, commentaries and poems. And his knowledge of and mastery over the *ubhaya-vedānta* philosophy and literature is no less impressive than his teṅkalai counterparts' like Piḷḷai Lokācārya and Maṅavāḷa Māmuni, as demonstrated by his works such as the *Draṃiḍopaniṣadtātparyaratnāvalī*, which deals with the *Tiruvāymoḷi*, or the ones that were composed in Maṅipravāḷam, the language par excellence of the *ubhaya-vedāntins*. For, other than Sanskrit, Deśikaṅ also used Tamil and Maṅipravāḷam to compose. As a matter of fact, works in these languages actually make up a sizeable portion of his extant corpus, without the knowledge of which we cannot fully comprehend this teacher or his philosophy. This NETamil workshop will focus on his minor works in these two languages, also referred to as *cillarai rahasyaṅka!* (literally, 'miscellaneous esoteric works'), which are equally diverse in nature. Participants can either read a text of their choice for a session, or simply attend the reading sessions and participate in the general discussions.

The workshop will be hosted at the EFEO (Pondicherry), and NETamil will sponsor accommodation for the participants and daily refreshments and lunch on three days for all those who attend the workshop.