PREFACE

Śaṅkara is no doubt, one of the greatest philosophers of the world. His philosophy, the Advaita Vedānta, has attracted the best talents of India and they have made their valuable contributions for the development of the subject. The fact that even now this is the most influential school among all the philosophers of today shows how deeply Śaṅkara's philosophy is rooted in the minds of Indian thinkers.

The present Dissertation "The Concept of Appearance in the Advaita Philosophy of Śaṅkara Chārvya - A study", is prepared as a part-fulfilment for the M.Phil Degree in Philosophy of Gauhati University. The scope of enquiry, hence, are limited. We have tried to understand Śaṅkara's philosophy in the over-all Indian Philosophical prospective and the position of the concept of māyā or adhyāsa in his system.

The Dissertation is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introductory. Here we have given the historical background of Śaṅkara's philosophy. In the second chapter, we have discussed the possibility of appearance. Here our primary source has been Śaṅkara’s Adhyāsaḥbhāsya. In the third chapter - the nature of appearance is discussed as elaborately as possible. In the
fourth chapter, the status of appearance has been discussed. Śaṅkara has assigned a phenomenal status of appearance. In the fifth and the last chapter, we have brought together our conclusion.

Though it is not possible to include all the concepts in details in such a small work, with in a limited period of time, a sincere attempt has been made to touch all the possible corners, after considering the available literatures and explanations already made by notable authors in the field. Yet, there are clues for the scope of further research and explanation of views in this field. The author is hopeful that such work will definitely inspire the rising scholars for further reach in the field.