

# SANSKRIT STUDIES IN HARYANA

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Haryana has the honour of having witnessed a long continuous tradition of writings in Sanskrit commencing with the revelation of Vedic mantras—*RK, Yajus* and *Sāman*—by the inspired seers, developing with the compilation of the *Samhitās*, the *Brāhmaṇas*, the *Āraṇyakas* and the *Upaniṣads* by the *Brahmavādins* in their different recensions, composition of six *Vedāngas*—viz. *Śikṣā, Vyākaraṇa, Nirukta, Chandas, Kalpa* and *Jyotiśa* by the great *Acāryās*, compilation of the great Epic the *Mahābhārata*—a compendium of Hindu dharma giving account of the great war fought between the *Kauravas* and the *Pāṇdavas* on the sacred soil of *Kurukṣetra*, codification of Hindu laws in the form of *Manusmṛti*, and many other writings in different branches of learning. During the time of Muslim invasion and its subsequent rule over India, like other states, Haryana, too suffered a great loss of literary activities. During the British period, too, the political atmosphere was not very congenial to literary activities, for most of the litterateurs were actively engaged in independence movement. After independence the literary activities again started

with great zeal. Sanskrit being the cultural language of India since hoary past, it was natural that people developed love for it and the government made necessary provision for its study at all levels in the education scheme.

### **Sanskrit in general Education Scheme**

There is a provision of teaching Sanskrit at school, college and university levels. At school level it is taught from sixth class, and many facilities have been provided by the government for it. Under the centrally sponsored scheme of provision of facilities of teaching Sanskrit in the Secondary schools, some teachers have been appointed in schools. Under another centrally sponsored scheme of 'Awarding Scholarships to the students of High/Higher Secondary Schools for the study of Sanskrit some students are awarded scholarships for studying Sanskrit in schools. Generally, the position of Sanskrit in Haryana is comparatively better. In school-education it is almost compulsory. Strength of students is also high. Examination of Sanskrit subject, as in case of other subjects, is controlled by the Haryana School Education Board, Chandigarh.

At degree level, provision for Sanskrit teaching is there in almost all the colleges run by the government or private managements in the state. There are about 34 Govt. Colleges and 75 non-Govt. colleges in the State affiliated to the Kurukshetra University and M.D. University, Rohtak and Sanskrit is being taught in all the colleges. In the beginning, Sanskrit was taught as a compulsory subject in the colleges affiliated to Kurukshetra

University. But later on this position of Sanskrit was reduced to one of the elective subjects in Arts. Science students can also offer Sanskrit as an optional subject. However, strength of students taking Sanskrit at degree level is not very high in comparison to science subjects. The system of education is three-year degree course with the examination at the end of each year. Like other elective subjects, in Sanskrit, too, there are two papers A and B each year of 50 marks each. There is also a provision for taking Sanskrit in Honour's course.

*Traditional Sanskrit pāṭhaśālās:* There are the following 24 Pāṭhaśālās in Haryana:

1. Sanskrit Pāṭhaśālā (Ashram Harimandir Sanskrit Vidyalaya) Pataudi, Gurgaon.
2. Sanskrit pathashala, Gadpuri, Gurgaon
3. Haryana Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Baghola (Palwal) Faridabad. At present it is functioning as Adarsha Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya
4. Shrimad Dayanand Arsha Vidyapeetha, Gurukul, Jhajjar(Rohtak)
5. Gurukul Vidyapeeth, Bhainswals kalan, Sonapat
6. Gurukul, Matindoo, kharakhoda, Sonapat
7. Gurukul, Aryanagar, Khurdi, Hissar
8. Gurukul Vidyapeetha, Kumbhakhera, Hissar
9. Gurukul Kurukshetra
10. Dayanand Vedic Samsthan, Gurukul Singhpur, Rohtak

11. Shri Diwan Krishna Kishore Sanatan Dharma Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya (Lahore). Ambala Cantt. (D.K.K.S.D.) It has been recognised as Adarsha Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya under Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthana, Delhi since 1.11.1981.
12. Shri Haryana Shekhawati Brahmacharyasrama, Bhiwani
13. Gaur Brahmana Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya Rohtak
14. S.D.Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Bhiwani
15. Sanatan Dharma Sanskrit Pathashala, Kurukshetra
16. Hindu-Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Julana, Hissar
17. Gurukul, Gharonda, Karnal
18. Jayram Vidyapeetha, Kurukshetra
19. Dayanand Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Shadipur, Yamunanagar
20. Dayanand Brahma Mahavidyalaya, Hissar
21. Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Dadhaura (Gurgaon)
22. Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Safeedon
23. Sanatan Dharma Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Jind
24. Panini Mahavidyalaya, Bahalgarh, Sonapat.

It may be pointed out that these pathashalas except the Gurukul Kurukshetra and the Panini Mahavidyalaya, Bahalgarh, follow the courses and syllabi of study for the examinations as prescribed

by the Kurukshetra University and M.D. University, Rohtak under whose jurisdiction they come. Gurukul Kurukshetra follows the courses and syllabi of study as prescribed by the Gurukul Kangri Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar. Panini Mahavidyalaya has its own system of study and examination.

In other Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas the two-years Prak-Shastri or Vishard, three-years Shastri and two-years Acarya courses have become operative. Teaching of English, Hindi and some new subjects have also been introduced in their courses of study.

#### **Post-graduate teaching and Research centres**

The P.G. teaching and Research in Sanskrit is done only at the campuses of the two Universities in the state—the Kurukshetra University and the Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, and Hindu Girls College, Sonapat.

#### **Kurukshetra University:**

This University was established in 1956 by an act of Punjab Legislature as a unitary and residential university with the main purpose of promoting higher studies and research in Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Indian Philosophy and Religion, and Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology. As such, the Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit was the first post-graduate department to be opened in 1957. The jurisdiction of the university in the beginning was extended over the area covered by a radius of 10 miles from the office of the university and had two constituent and two recognised colleges under it. But at present the

jurisdiction has extended over the districts of Kurukshetra, Ambala, Bhiwani, Jind, Karnal.

The Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit imparts education in Sanskrit at post-graduate level in M.A. and M.Phil classes. Semester-system is working there. The provision exists for conducting researches leading to the award of Ph. D. degree in the subject.

### **Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies (I.S &I.S.)**

To achieve the main objective of providing encouragement to higher education and research in Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Indian philosophy and religion, Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology and many other fields of Indology, the Kurukshetra University established the Institute of Indic Studies in 1962 with the Departments of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Indian philosophy and Religion and Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology. At first it had the Dean of the Faculty of Indian Studies or the Head of the Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit as its Honorary Director and a very small supporting staff. Dr. Dharmendra Nath Shastri, Dr. Buddha Prakash and Dr. Gopika Mohan Bhattacharya held earlier positions of its Director.

In 1980, the Kurukshetra University, on the eve of its Silver Jubilee Celebrations, made a proposal to the UGC to enlarge the 'Institute of Indic Studies' with the new name the 'Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies' and also establish a Museum of Indology. In response to this proposal a U.G.C. Committee visited the Kurukshetra

University in December 1980 and recommended the proposal for re-naming the previous Institute as the 'Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies' with financial assistance to be met by the U.G.C. and the State Govt. of Haryana jointly. The recommendation became operative in due course. However, the posts of one Professor, two Readers, and three Lecturers could be filled up in the Institute by March 1985. Dr. D.B.Sen Sharma was appointed first Professor. Dr. Gopika Mohan Bhattacharya remained its Honorary Director. By September 1985 one post of Assistant Editor, one post of Manuscript Copyist and one post of Research Associate were also filled up. When Dr. Bhattacharyya went to Vienna as Visiting Professor, Dr. D.B.Sen Sharma was given the charge of Director on 1.9.1985. In March 1986 the Institute was shifted to its new building. Dr. Sen worked as Director upto August 20, 1986. Thereafter Dr. O.P.Bharadwaj, professor and Chairman, Maharshi Vedvyasa Chair, held the charge of Director of the Institute from 21.8.1985 to 11.10.1989. On 12.10.1989 Dr. Baldev Singh, the then Dean of the Colleges, K.U. took over as the Director of the Institute and acted in this capacity upto 8.4.1990. Thereafter Dr. Yajanvir, Professor, Maharshi Dayanand Chair, K.U. took over the charge of Director on 9.4.1990 and worked upto December 1990. After him Dr. Maan Singh took over the charge of Director. Now the rotation system has been introduced in the Institute and Dr. D.C.Jain is working as Director at present.

### Academic activities of the Institute

*Research projects:-* There are two types projects carried on by the Institute (1) Collaborative Research projects and (ii) Individual Research projects.

(i) *Collaborative Research projects* : The Institute has undertaken preparation of 'Word Concordance of Mahābhārata' (Poona edition), initially undertaken by th Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, as a long term collaborative project under the title 'Word Index of Mahābhārata' but later on changed as above. The first, stage work of the concordance was got completed in July 1989 in which about seven lac basic cards were prepared. In the beginning it was envisaged that the words in the concordance would be arranged on grammatical basis: *Subanta* and *Tiñanta* padas were to be arranged under respective *Prātipadikas* and *Dhātus* (roots) at the proper place according to *Vibhakti, lakāra, Vacana* etc. But for convenience sake at a later stage, this idea was changed and it was decided to arrange the words on purely alphabetical order without taking into consideration the meaning of the words. A considerable work of the project has been completed and remaining work is in progress.

(ii) *Individual Research projects*: As per UGC guidelines teachers of the Institute have undertaken some individual research projects among which mention may be made of the following ones:

1) *Dr. D.C.Jain* :

- (i) The concept of *Nayavāda* in Jainology
- (ii) Some aspects of *Abhidhammik* Teachings in Pali and Sanskrit Literature.



2) *Dr. (Mrs.) Indu Sharma*

- (i) Pauranic Sahitya men Bhrātrbhāva
- (ii) Vedon men Viśvabāhdhutva
- (iii) Mahābhārata men Viśvabāhdhutva

3) *Dr. Ranbir Singh*

- (i) A Critical edition of Anekārthadhvani-Mañjari of Mahākṣapaṇaka
- (ii) Critical study in Ratimanmathanātakam

4) *Dr. Shrikrishna Sharma*

- (i) A Critical edition of Akṣartantra (published in 1993)
- (ii) A word Index of Bharata-Nātya-śāstram

5) *Dr. B.M. Sharma*

- (i) A word concordance of Manusmṛti

#### B. Published Works:

The Institute has so far published the following works under the scheme of Sanskrit Texts and studies:-

1. Kurukshetra-Māhātmyam (an original work in (Sanskrit verse) by Shri Digvekar.
2. Parama-laghu-muñjuṣā of Nagesa Bhatta, ed by Dr. Kapildev Shastri.
3. Meghadūta-Ṭīka, ed. by Dr. G.M. Bhat-tacharyya
4. Kusumāñjalikārikā-Vyākhyā of Nārāyaṇa Tirtha, ed. by Dr. S.N. Shastri

5. Sattriniśattattva-Sandōha with the commentary of Rājānaka Ānanda kavi, ed. by Dr. D.B. Sen Sharma
6. Gaṇapāṭha ed. by Dr. Kapildev Shastri
7. Vedic Rsi: Eka Pariśīlana, by Dr. Kapildev Shastri,
8. Padapadārtha-Samikṣā, by Dr. Baldev Singh
9. Nyāyabindu with the commentary of Dharmottara, ed. by Dr. S.N. Shastri
10. Dayananda Darśana :Eka Adhyayana, by Dr. S.N. Shastri
11. Veda-prāmāṇya tatha Ṛṣi Dayānanda, by Dr. S.N. Shastri

### C. Publication of Journals:

- (i) The Institute has been publishing an annual digest of Indological Studies viz 'Prāci Jyoti' since 1963. So far twenty-five volumes of the Journal have been published. The specific feature of this journal is this that it publishes non-critical abstracts of articles in the field of Indology drawn from major Research journals, published the world-over. In addition, it also records information of Research being carried on leading to award of Ph.D. and D.Litt. degrees at different Research Institutes and Universities in India and abroad and Reviews of Indological Publications.
- (ii) Another Journal viz. 'Kurukshetra University Research Journal' (Arts and

Humanities) is also published once a year. So far twenty-seven volumes (upto 1993) have been published. There is a special section of Sanskrit papers in this journal.

#### D. Conferences and Seminars

- (i) The Kurukshetra University hosted the twenty-seventh session of All India oriental Conference in December 1976.
- (ii) The Institute organised a four-day National Seminar on Manuscriptology on August 16-19, 1985.
- (iii) The Institute organised a three-day National Seminar on Indology on Dec. 18-30, 1990
- (iv) The Institute organised National Seminars on (a) Dhvanisastra, (b) Philosophy of the Bhagavadgita and (c) Philosophy of language; an approach.
- (V) A U.G.C. sponsored three-day national seminar on Vedic Interpretation was organised by the Deptt. of Sanskrit Pali and Prakrit on March 1-3, 1996.

#### Establishment of Chairs

The Kurukshetra University has established the following chairs for the promotion of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, Particularly Vedic and pauranic Studies:

- (i) *Dayanand Chair for Vedic Studies:*

This chair was established with a view to promoting Vedic studies on the lines of Svami Dayanand Saraswati. Dr. S.N. Shastri, Dr. Kapildev Shastri and Dr. Yajanveer and Dr. Kapildev Shastri

produced good works in their tenures. At present the Chair is vacant.

(ii) *Maharshi Vedavyasa Chair*: This chair was established by the State Govt. in the Kurukshetra University with a view to promoting Indological studies. Dr. O.P. Bharadwaj, I.A.S. was the first and last professor to occupy the Chair. Now the Chair has been abolished.

*Manuscript collection*: The Kurukshetra University has a good collection of Sanskrit MSS. Among these MSS there are some very rare ones and these have not been published as yet. The University has published the catalogue in three volumes. The work of preparing catalogue of remaining and some newly found Mss is in progress. Pt. Sthanu Datt was pioneer to collect Sanskrit Mss in this University.

### **Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak:**

another University in the State of Haryana is Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak. It was established in 1975. It has a post-graduate Department of Sanskrit with facilities for research leading to M.Phil and Ph.D. degrees. The University publishes an annual journal called 'Maharshi Dayanand University Journal (Arts)' of which, so far, five volumes have been published.

The teachers of the Department have undertaken some individual research projects. Dr. Sudhikant Bharadwaj has published (i) Linguistic Study of Dharmasūtras, (ii) Sūryasiddhānta an astro-linguistic study, (iii) Essays on Sanskrit Linguistics and (iv) Vaidik Vānmayā kā Itihāsa. Professor Yajanveer has also published his many works. Dr.

Baldev Singh, Reader has recently published his work 'Śrauta sacrifices in Atharvaveda' (1994) Dr. Balbir Singh has also completed his project of 'Paśuyajña Mīmāṃsā' on which he was working for sometimes.

The university hosted the thirty-seventh session of All India Oriental conference on Dec. 25-28, 1994. The Sanskrit Deptt. organised a two-day National Seminar on 'śulva-sūtras on Feb. 22- 23, with the financial assistance of Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratisthan, Ujjain.

### Government Bodies for the Development of Sanskrit

(i) *Haryana language Department*: The language Department has some schemes for the development of Sanskrit. It organises annual meetings of Sanskrit writers at different district headquarters. Research papers on different branches of Sanskrit learnings are read and discussed in these meetings and its proceedings are published annually.

(ii) *Haryana Sahitya Akademy, Chandigarh*:

The Haryana Sahitya Akademy is another Govt. body which contributes for the development of Sanskrit study and research on Indology. The Akademy honours the Sanskrit scholars and awards prizes to them for their meritorious work. It also gives financial assistance to the Sanskrit scholars for publication of their writings. The Akademy had started publishing bi-annually the 'Journal of Indological Studies'. But after the publication of Vol. III Nos. 1-2 (1988) no issue has come out as yet. The Akademy has published a book entitled

'Sanskrits Sāhitya ko Haryānā kā Yogadāna' written by Ram Datt Sharma.

A constant demand from the Sanskrit scholars of Haryana has been coming to establish a separate 'Haryana Sanskrit Akademy' on the pattern of Sanskrit Akademies in other states. A resolution to this effect was passed in the 37th session of All India oriental conference held at Rohtak in December 1994.

### **Voluntary organisations for the development of Sanskrit:**

(i) **Haryana Sanskrit Sammelanam:** This organisation of Sanskrit scholars is a registered body and works for the development of Sanskrit. It holds conferences and Seminars. At present Dr. Rameshwar Datt Sharma is working as its Secretary. The Sammelan has published many Sanskrit works written by the Sanskrit poets and scholars of Haryana.

(ii) **Vishva Sanskrit Pratishthanam:** Vishva Sanskrit Pratishthanam is an international body of Sanskrit lovers. Its Haryana State Unit is also functioning for the development of Sanskrit. At present Dr. Rameshwar Datta Sharma is president of Haryana Unit Of Vishva Sanskrit Pratishthanam.

(iii) **Veda Vyasa Sanskrit Parishant, Rohtak:** The lovers of Sanskrit language of Rohtak established this body in 1994 with a view to protecting and developing the Sanskrit language and literature. This parishad had published a work called *Mayurakalasyam* (1996), a collection of Sanskrit poems composed by the Sanskrit poets of Haryana,

with Dr. Sudhikant Bhardwaj as its editor who is also President of the said parishad.

### **Pāṇini Mahāvidyālaya, Bahalgarh (Sonepat)**

Besides the teaching work of the Sanskrit Shastras according to the system introduced by Svami Dayanand Sarasvati without being affiliated to any University or Govt. Body, the Pāṇini Mahāvidyālaya has a well known Research wing. Pt. Yudhishtir Mimamsaka remained its Acharya till his death. After him Dr. Vijayapal is incharge of the Mahavidyalaya comprising both Teaching and Research wing. All research works and general books of the Mahavidyalaya are published by the Ramlal Kapur Trust. The Trust has a long list of more than 50 books as its publication, mostly connected with critical editions of Vedic Texts.

### **Modern Sanskrit Literature**

Many Sanskrit Pandits and scholars have enriched the treasure of Sanskrit literature by their writings and publications. Here we may make mention of some important sanskrit writings alongwith their writers:-

(1) Pt. Chajju Ram Shastri- (i) Kurukshetra Māhātmyam, (ii) Durgābhyudaya Nātakam, (iii) Sāhityabindu, (iv) Śiva Kathāmṛtam Mahākāvya

(2) Svami Omanand Sarasvati : He has edited a number of books such as (i) Vyākaraṇa-Mahābhāṣya, (ii) Kāvya-lāṅkāra-sūtra (iii) Kāvya-prakāśa (iv) Phitsūtra, (v) Chandahśāstra, etc.

(3) Hajarilal- (i) Sanskrit Mahākavi-divyopākhyāna (Rohtak, 1973),

(ii) Śivapratāpa-rudrāvali. (iii) Kādambari-Śatakam (Rohtak, 1973).

(4) Pt. Satyadev Vasistha- (i) Satyāgraha-nītikāvyaṃ (ii) Viṣṇusahasranāma stotram (Vol. 1-4) (iii) Nāditattvadarśanam

(5) Dr. Radhakrishna (now Svami Nigam Bodh)-(i) Haryana-Vaibhavam (ii) Shri Śankarācāryacaritam

(6) Harddatt Shastri:- Srimastanāthacaritam (Rohtak)

(7) Chandrabhanu Shastri:- Gāngeya-Mahākavyam (Sonapat)

(8) Shivaram Shastri: Haryānā-Vaibhavam (1972)

9. Vidyadhar Ghasmana:- Mukataka-gaṅjanam (Ambala, 1981)

10. Lakshman Singh Agrawala (i) Kālarātri (Ballabharh) (ii) Padyapuspavātika (1982)

11. Shanti Rathi-Indira Praśāstri-Satakam (Sonapat)

12. Dr. Rameshwar Datta Sharma (i) Divyadr̥ṣṭi (1987) (ii) Haryānā Sanskritvṛttam (1983), (iii) Ahubhutini (1994) (iv) Brāhmaṇa Samājah

13. Dr. Sudhikant Bharadwaj (i) Arapabhm (Rohtak, 1985), (ii) Virahastutimālyam, (iii) Vayami ke smaḥ (Sanskrit drama)

14. Shri Narayana Shastri-(i) Śivastotram (1986), (ii) Mangala-Kalaśam

15. Shri Tikam Singh Shastri-Sanskrit Rasmih

16. Raksh Pal Rakesh Shastri-Śatadalaṃ (collection of one hundred lyric poems)



17. Ram Nath Shastri- (i) harsikōdgāraḥ (1948), Bhāminimāna bhaṅgam (1949) (iii) Prahelika śatakam 91984) (iv) Sikṣā-sudhā (1985), (v) Gobindaśatakam, (vi) Buddhalilāvilāsam, (vii) Vikāṭakavikāvyam,

18. Ram Prasad Shastri-Triveṇī (collection of Sanskrit poems)

19. Satayadev verma Shastri- (i) Sanskritam-kurāṇam, (ii) Shri Keśava caritam, (iii) Śīvasamādh-natakam

Besides the above mentioned Sanskrit scholars there are many others who have done a lot and are still working in the field of Sanskrit and Indological Studies.