

A Course Proposal  
on  
***Sanskrit and Heritage***  
(for BTech. As HSS Breath)

Submitted By

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- **Course Name**

*Sanskrit and Heritage* (L-T-P: 3-0-0, CRD: 3)

- **Proposed Course Instructors**

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- **Semester in which Course will be offered**

Spring and Autumn Semester

- **Justification for Introducing the New Course**

For thousands of years, ancient Indian knowledge traditions characterized by a unique blend of hair-splitting intellectual rigour and intuitive perceptions and underlined by a systematic scientific temper, were passed on from generation to generation in Sanskrit. This language therefore is a potent tool to tap into this vast treasure-trove of our indigenous knowledge systems. Talking of 'The Legacy of Sanskrit', Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma highlighted the multidimensional benefits of knowing this language in our contemporary world when he said:

On the practical plane one must acknowledge that in terms of its grammar, phonetics, vocabulary and the Devanagari script, Sanskrit becomes a wonderfully efficient vehicle of communication...

The culture of Sanskrit and Sanskrit literature is actually the culture of synthesis and assimilation. The message of Sanskrit literature is one of humanism of unity of mankind, of values, of peace and mutual understanding and of harmonious development of the individual and the society. Acquaintance with such literature can only elevate and widen one's outlook. Far from being obscurantist, the Sanskrit literature can be a positive force for progress and growth in the right direction...

It would help us to remain not too far behind those other countries that have surged far ahead of us in reaping the benefits of study of Sanskrit and Sanskrit literature...

It would help reviving the ethos of India because synthesis, harmony and reconciliation comprise the essence of the culture of Sanskrit...

It would help us to unlock the treasure house of scientific insights and research results concerning positive sciences in our ancient literature...

It would help us in using Sanskrit as a medium par excellence in Computer operations and as a language for the new technology...

It would help us to invigorate various languages of India. As Gandhi-ji said, "Sanskrit is like the river Ganga for all our languages. I always feel that if it were to dry up, the regional languages also would lose their vitality and power. It seems to me that an elementary knowledge of Sanskrit is essential."

It is not sentiment on my part that makes me say so but practical consideration of the utility to our country of this great language and the vast knowledge held in it.

Offering Sanskrit and Heritage is in keeping with the objective of equipping young promising scholars and scientists with the key to tap into the rich mine of their own invaluable knowledge inheritance.

- **Description**

This course proposes to first introduce simple conversational Sanskrit based on an innovative and interactive teaching method to provide students with a functional knowledge of the language that they can apply in their daily context. Having familiarized students with applied grammar and certain unique characteristics of the language, it will present them with the more sophisticated contents of Sanskrit literature spanning across a variety of subjects including science and technology.

The programme will cover a wide array of subjects that are available in Sanskrit with the hope of creating an awareness of the extensive and systematic work that has been done in these domains in ancient India. Many of these texts, have not only a contemporary significance, but have served to inspire scholars and scientists in many parts of the world for centuries and have left indelible imprints on world thought.

The Course will be taught and evaluated using simple Sanskrit and English. Furthermore, the students will be introduced to the English transliteration of the Sanskrit alphabet right in the beginning to help them write their exams using roman script to represent Sanskrit words.

## **Course Syllabus**

### **1. Simple Spoken Sanskrit**

1.1 Basic grammar through direct application

1.2 Understanding the building blocks of language and the unique characteristics of Sanskrit

1.3 Application of spoken Sanskrit in understanding simple verses

## 2. Sanskrit in Literature

- 2.1 An Overview of important literary works (e.g: Prose, Poetry and Drama)
- 2.2 Creative Techniques of verse formations in Sanskrit
- 2.3 Study of some verses from classical works of Kalidasa, Vyasa, Valmiki etc.

## 3. Sanskrit in Science and Technology

- 3.1 An overview of the scientific subjects available in Sanskrit literature (eg: Astronomy, Metallurgy, Agriculture, Medicine, botany etc)
- 3.2 Concepts having parallels in scientific findings (e.g: Pythagorean theorem, value of Pi, etc.)
- 3.3 Scientific enquiry in Sanskrit Literature

## 4. Glimpses of the richness of Sanskrit

- 4.1 Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy
- 4.2 Indian psychological tradition through Sanskrit
- 4.3 Sanskrit and its influence on world thought

## • References

- Bag, A. K. (ed.). (1997) *History of Technology in India*. New Delhi: Indian National Science Academy.
- Bose, D.N., Sen, S. N., & Subbarayappa, B. V. (ed.). (1971). *Concise History of Science in India*. New Delhi: Indian National Science Academy.
- Narasimha, R., & Selin, H. (ed.). (2007). *Encyclopaedia of Classical Indian Sciences*. Hyderabad: Universities Press.
- Goldberg, P. (2010). *American Veda*. New York: Three Rivers Press.
- Malhotra, R. (2015). *Battle for Sanskrit*. Noida: Harper Collins.
- Mishra, S. (2005). *Sanskrit and the Evolution of Human Speech*. Pondicherry: Sri Aurobindo Institute of Research in Social Sciences, Sri Aurobindo Society.
- Briggs, R. (1985). Knowledge Representation in Sanskrit and Artificial Intelligence. *AI Magazine* , 1 (6), 32-39.
- Travis, F., Olson, T., Egenes, T., & Gupta, H. K. (2001). Physiological Patterns During Practice of the Transcendental Meditation Technique Compared With Patterns While Reading Sanskrit and A Modern Language. *International Journal of Neuroscience* , 109 (1-2), 71-80.

History topics: Index of Ancient Indian Mathematics, [http://www-history.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/HistTopics/Indian\\_mathematics.html](http://www-history.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/HistTopics/Indian_mathematics.html)

- **Text Book**

*Abhyāsa-pustakam*, New Delhi: Samskrita Bharati.

Sampad, & Vijay. (2005). *The Wonder that is Sanskrit*. Pondicherry: Sri Aurobindo Society.

*Science in Sanskrit*. (2007). New Delhi: Samskrita Bharati.

- **Lecture Distribution**

Themes/sub-themes	No. of lectures
<b>1. Simple Spoken Sanskrit</b>	(TOTAL - 20)
1.1 Basic grammar through direct application	16
1.2 Understanding the building blocks of language and the unique characteristics of Sanskrit	2
1.3 Application of spoken Sanskrit in understanding simple verses	2
<b>2. Sanskrit in Literature</b>	(TOTAL - 7)
2.1 An Overview of important literary works (e.g: Prose, Poetry and Drama)	2
2.2 Creative Techniques of verse formations in Sanskrit	2
2.3 Study of some verses from classical works of Kalidasa, Vyasa etc.	3
<b>3. Sanskrit in Science and Technology</b>	(TOTAL - 5)
3.1 An overview of the scientific subjects available in Sanskrit literature (eg: Astronomy, Metallurgy, Agriculture, Medicine, botany etc)	2
3.2 Concepts having parallels in scientific findings (e.g: Pythagorean theorem, value of Pi, etc.)	2
3.3 Scientific enquiry in Sanskrit Literature	1

<b>4. Glimpses of the richness of Sanskrit</b>	(TOTAL - 6)
4.1 Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy	2
4.2 Indian psychological tradition through Sanskrit	2
4.3 Sanskrit and its influence on world thought	2
<b>Total number of lectures</b>	<b>38</b>

#### **Short Description of Course for ERP**

This course proposes to first introduce simple conversational Sanskrit based on an innovative and interactive teaching method to provide students with a functional knowledge of the language that they can apply in their daily context. Having familiarized students with applied grammar and certain unique characteristics of the language, it will present them with the more sophisticated contents of Sanskrit literature spanning across a variety of subjects like the different branches of science and technology, poetry, prose and drama, philosophy, and psychology followed by an exposure to the extent of influence this literature has had in shaping national and world thought in the past as well as in contemporary times.