

## Appeal to Prime Minister, Ministries of HRD & Culture

- Bharateeya Janata Party Government has returned to power with the blessings of the Divine, for which the entire Vedic Scholar Community has directly and indirectly supported and worked very hard, without any tangible benefit or expectation.
- This section of the society (Veda Scholars) have some genuine requirements, which would benefit the society indirectly by sustaining our traditions and culture.
- An Appeal is made to Honourable Prime Minister and HRD Minister to increase the annual grant to MSRVVP Maharshi Sandeepani Rashtriya Veda Pratishthan, an autonomous organisation of HRD ministry (department of languages). This is the nodal body created for the development and promotion of Vedic Education.

### 1. Support for Higher Learning - Introduction of New Courses

- a. Currently the courses are confined to basic education. Emphasis should be given to promote higher Vedic education and Sanskrit studies. MSRVVP should be instructed to promote Higher Education in Vedic Texts, which should include new courses in :
  - a. Veda Vikruti (Current system has a provision, but never implemented) 6 years
  - b. Second Veda Shaakha 3 - 5 years
  - c. Vedaanga (Basic Texts and Commentaries) - 6 years (Requires Sanskrit Proficiency)
  - d. Veda Bhaashya/ Vedaartha - 6 years (Requires Sanskrit Proficiency)
  - e. Shaastra - 6 years (Requires Sanskrit Proficiency)
  - f. Research Projects with degrees such as MPhil and PhD with Universities and reputed institutions. 3 - 6 years (Requires Sanskrit Proficiency)
    - i. Important Issues:

- ii. Do not limit the intake of students with stipend for higher studies. In spite of these all these encouragements, it is hard to find at least 100 serious students.
- iii. After the Introductory course of an year, only serious students would continue the studies.
- iv. No limitation should be imposed such as one course per person. Since it is very rare to get scholars take up more than one courses due to age and ability, it is highly desired to have more scholars with all around capabilities. Such scholars would bring repute to the society.
- v. Stipend or Financial Compensation should be comparable to Senior Research Fellows under UGC, so that scholars can concentrate on studies and research instead of livelihood.
- vi. Multi Discipline Scholars such as Kalidasa, Sriharsha, Vidyaranya (to name a few) provided the nation great texts and commentaries. We need a system of promoting multi-discipline education and research-book works.
- vii. Great Scholars are the products of stupendous efforts by erudite Teachers, who should be rewarded financially at the completion of the courses by student. (Many great teachers are providing succinct support to the students, in order to sustain the Vidyaa.)

2. Employment Opportunities - Sanction for New Guru Kulas (at least 100 per year)
  - a. Veda Students studying in various Veda Schools funded by MSRVVP are affected by the stagnation in funding. New Graduates are not accorded sanction to start own Guru Kula. Guru Shishya Parampara is a great scheme to sustain Vedic Education. However, the current system has limited opportunities for aspiring teachers. Not more than 300 are functional in our great nation of 130 Crores.

- b. Impetus should be sanction at least 100 new Gurukulas every year, apart from continuing earlier Units. Such institutional decisions require large hearted decision by the political executive.
- c. In this age of lesser opportunities for Vedic Scholars, lesser number of students (especially bright children) are drawn to this tradition system. If the Govt does not act now to promote the study and create avenues of employment, our heritage based on Vedas will be on the decline.

Other Issues affecting Gurukula system.

### 3. Minimum number of students

- a. Minimum number of students pursuing students per Gurukula was 2 earlier. It was raised to 5 five years ago. It is not practical for the wife of a teacher to feed 5 children 365 days along with her own children. Similarly Pathashalas are also facing crunch of students, due to a variety of reasons including socio-economic indicators.
- b. Hence special exemption is to be given to both Pathashala units as well as Gurukula Units to run with at least half the strength. (2 Per Gurukula Unit and 5 per Veda Pathashala).

### 4. Appointment of Sympathetic Officials:

- a. Finally assign the responsibility of this department to an officer (Bureaucrat) sympathetic to Vedic Education so that ancient heritage of India is adequately preserved. Otherwise, it will be just a show case in Videos. Already, several of the branches are extinct.
- b. It is learnt that the officials are comparing this with the Madarsa Financial Grants, where as each teacher is teaching 20 students at an average. This comparison is not justified as the issues are cultural and societal as well as educational.
- c. If existing Paramparaa (Traditions) too get dilapidated, the status of living/continuing heritage will be lost. The only living heritage in the entire Universe, recognised by even UNESCO shall be protected at all costs.

d. This is the humble appeal from the managements of various Veda Pathashalas and Hundreds of poor Veda Teachers and students.

If required, we will explain the situation in person. Concerned officials - Prof. Ravindra Mulye or Secretary Virupaksha Jaddipal will join us to discuss these important issues.

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5. Other Opportunities for Veda Scholars:

- a. Decline in Rural Areas: One Major problem in cultural degradation is migration to Urban Areas for livelihood by Veda Paathi Scholars.
- b. Pan India Service Cadre can be considered by Ministry of Culture, in consultation with Dharma Acharyas. A basic Veda Paathi Scholar can be trained in a year to offer the following services in Rural Areas at nominal monthly support stipend:
  - i. Render Daily Veda Paatha (Paaraayana) in local Temples
  - ii. Public Reading of scriptures such as Ramayana, Bhagavata, Puraana and Maha Bhaarata over public address system
  - iii. Render Puja at Temples
  - Optional Services to the Society
  - iv. Render Purohit Services to different Sections of the society
  - v. Jyotishya - Panchanga consultation

With Warm Regards

Dr. Vamshi Krishna Ghanapaathi

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Vedic Scholar

Mysore