

Project - Vedaarthha

Preamble

Vedas along with the allied texts are the most important scriptures of India. Veda means Jnaana (Wisdom). Benefits of Vedas are manifold. (Hereafter the term refers to 4 Vedas, 4 Upa Vedas, 6 Vedangas, 6 Darshanas and allied literature).

Recitation

1. Veda Mantras and prayers are powerful and beneficial to every individual.
2. Vedic Sounds produce enormous positive effect on the body, mind and environment.

Meaning of Vedas

3. Vedas also constitute powerful prayers to please the deities.
4. Vedas have immense capacity to elevate the philosophical aspects of life.
5. Vedas have magnificent art forms such as poetry, music, dance.
6. Vedas have the great linguistic structure which is the envy of the world.
7. Vedic philosophy has the salubrious effect on the society and nature in general.
Application of this philosophy will be a great boon to the ecology.
8. Vedas contributed to the Indian Heritage in the sphere of science and mathematics, continue to inspire several stalwarts with their theoretical inscriptions.
9. Inter Disciplinary knowledge of Vedic Texts improves the intellect of a common man and could help in the personality development.

Salutation

At the outset, we salute all those noble people, whose incessant efforts had ensured that the traditional heritage in the form of Vedic Scriptures is imparted thru generations in its original pristine form without any distortion.

It is a well known fact, that the Vedic Literature is one of most important sources of Culture and Heritage of this planet, and of course the pride of India. Since time immemorial, our Acharyas had set stringent rules to ensure its passage from generation to generation without any misrepresentation or alteration and dedicated their lives for the continuity of the knowledge, wisdom and principles of Truth as enshrined in our Sanatana Dharma.

Executive Summary:

It is heartening that more and more support, respect is forthcoming for the Vedic Tradition and its practitioners in India and abroad. However, it shall be noted that most of the efforts and resources are allocated and spent towards the superficial preservation, confined to few Puja Practices and Basic Temple maintenance activity.

In reality, very few practitioners – the Pundits/ Priests/ Purohits and patrons realise the need to restore the roots of these practices and knowledge in the form of Vedic Literature, so that our deeds, pronunciation, understanding of the underlying philosophy are consistent with the roots of the heritage.

True preservation of the knowledge shall be made by the twin modes of protection of the core text and the method of interpretation to understand its meaning in correct perspective.

Part 1 - Sabdaatmaka Veda Pari Rakshana (Core Text Preservation):

Pronunciation - Uchchaarana

Pronunciation is the most important aspect of the Veda Mantras. In earlier generations, sole medium for Teaching was oral chanting from Teacher to Students. However, with change of times, written documentation in the form of text books is occupying an important slot in the process of teaching.

Now many Veda Pathashalas in India are doing excellent service in the preserving the core text by teaching, memorising and reciting the Vedic Sentences. If we fine tune the teaching methodology with the induction of Shiksha Shaastra, the system will become perfect and yield the desired results to the fullest extent.

Quality is becoming a casualty, as the changing times are attracting lesser talent to this pool. With the introduction of new employment schemes, Veda Graduates and Post Graduates, better talent could be part of this stream of the society. **Hence, the Government is urged to introduce some Parayana, Teaching scheme for qualified young scholars.** (Next part of this report will suggest more job opportunities for post graduates of Veda and Sanskrit).

Part 2 - Arthaatmaka Veda Pari Rakshana (Preservation of the Methodology to understand and interpret Veda)

Relevance

Traditionally, Veda is compared to Raw Gold Bar and Shaastra to the tools to make an ornament. Let us understand what exactly Shaastra stands for? Saastra means to dictate. The terms and references in Vedic texts are so vast and general to understand. Hence, to understand the Vedic Sentences in right perspective our Rishis have stipulated that the Vedaangas (affiliated parts of Veda) are essential to know the meaning of Veda.

Real Life Incident

About 3 years ago, there was an incident in Mangalore, in Coastal Karnataka. An evangelist was arrested by police, for attempting conversion of fishing community in a pocket. Critics pointed out that police action was initiated at the behest of right wing activists.

Basic issue: Reprinting the translated version of Veda Mantras proclaiming Jesus to be the incarnation of God. Mantra in question was: Chatwaari Shrunga Trayo Asya Paadaah... which is a daily prayer to Yajneshwara in any Vedic Ritual. (An abnormal description is given to the form of the deity: Literally it translates that: A great Deity with 4 Horns, 3 Legs, 2 Heads, 7 Hands which is tied in three different ways. That Great Force has entered humanity.) The pastor has originally depicted this to be Jesus, with the some comparison to biblical description. Traditionalists were infuriated by this inference, which was deployed by the pastors to lure the devout Hindus.

Counter Question was posed by Critics: If you are confident about the meaning of the Mantra, which you claim to be your heritage, why cannot your priests, scholars narrate the original meaning, which is based on the scriptures. Take the war to media and enlist the portions.

Project - Vedaarthha

(Later the meaning from Veda Bhaashya of Vidyaaranya Swamy and Mahaa Bhaashya of Patanjali were quoted by the scholars to dispel the propaganda and the issue was laid to rest.)

However, the basic issue has churned the minds of traditional scholars across the region for some time. Let us take the illustration of Ganapati Puja, one of the most common features of Indians. The following four questions point towards the state of pity, in which the system is entangled.

Set of questions to Worshipper

This set is addressed to the devout public, who are interested in customary rituals:

1. How many of the worshippers (people) know how to perform the primary Puja?
2. How many of them, have perfect knowledge of conduct of the Puja?
3. How many of them require the assistance of the Purohit? (For clarity, the word – Priest is avoided)
4. How many of them are sure of the quality of the assisting Purohit?

Set of questions for Archaka/ Purohit / Pundits?

1. What caused them to undertake this profession? (Family Customs/ Financial Necessity/ Self Interest/ Social Respect)
2. How many of them are qualified to perform Ganapati Puja? (Got trained under a scholar)
3. How many of them can understand the meaning of the Puja and explain the innate philosophy?
4. How many of the Pundits can explain the methodology, for its interpretation with authority? Who can amplify the rationale for the approach for the way it is understood and explained?

The answers for the above are obvious. But, it is matter of grave concern that the society is blissfully insensible to the downward trajectory. It is the common conclusion that the number of knowledgeable persons is fast dwindling and the answer to the last question is even more frightening.

In this age of misinterpretation, misrepresentation, malaise and ignorance, the onerous task of preserving the methodology of understanding the Vedic Text, its underlying practices and customs lies with those pious souls, who yearn to secure the cultural and wisdom fabric of India. Study of the Shaastra, bestows the mental strength, finesse of interpretation, essence of understanding the terms and word backed by the vigour of logic.

It is to be noted that erudition in Shaastra, which is very essential for understanding Vedic literature, almost extinct. It is quite disheartening that the ratio of Shaastra Scholars (Higher learning after Vedic Studies) to Veda Scholars (Basic Studies) is 1: 1000. Is it not quite alarming that we have less than 100 Erudite Shaastra Scholars in a population of 1.1 Billion?

In the current alarming scenario, it is the need of hour to encourage brilliant students to undertake the study of Shaastras, after the completion of basic Veda Adhyayana (with memorisation skills) to acquire analytical skills with Shaastra Adhyayana.

Project - Vedaarthha

Project Vedaarthha

Current Project envisages the digitisation of all the commentaries of Vedic Scriptures. In the second phase, translation of the texts would assist the public to understand the meanings of Vedic Scriptures.

Benefits

- With digitisation of the texts, Academic researchers across the globe will access the site for information.
- As this digitisation job is not undertaken by any institution (Government/ NGO), this project will bring laurels to the new Telangana Government as Life Time Project across the world.**
- Employment opportunities will be created to worthy Graduates and Post Graduates in the state.** (Data Entry Operators with minimal skill set, Proof Readers with higher training and Editors with Higher Scholarship will be employed.)
- Academic research activity in traditional fields will receive a huge boost.**

Scope of the project in brevity.

| Sl | Name of the Text | Publisher | Number of Pages* | Data Entry Operators | Sub-Editors | Editors | Number of Months |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------|------------------|
| 1 | Rigveda Translation | Mysore Palace | 12,800 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 10 |
| 2 | Rigveda Bhashya | Ananda Ashrama | 6,000 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 10 |
| 3 | Yajurveda Bhashya Vidyaranya | Ananda Ashrama | 6000 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| 9 | Yajurveda Bhashya Bhatta Bhaskara | Motilal Banarsi Das | 6000 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| 5 | Samaveda Bhashya | Traditional | 4000 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| 6 | Atharva Veda Bhashya | Hoshiarpur, VVI | 5000 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 7 | Shiksha Texts (75*) | Various | 5000 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 8 | Vyakarana | Various | 20,000 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 11 |
| 9 | Meemaamsa | Various | 12,000 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| | | Total | | | | | |

Financial Planning

| Sambhavana to Scholars (A) | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Job | Number | Per Month | Number Months | Amount |
| Data Entry Operators | 21 | Rs. 12,000.00 | 12 | Rs. 30,24,000.00 |
| Sub Editors | 21 | Rs. 18,000.00 | 12 | Rs. 45,36,000.00 |
| Editors | 16 | Rs. 24,000.00 | 12 | Rs. 46,08,000.00 |
| Office Attendants | 2 | Rs. 9,000.00 | 12 | Rs. 2,16,000.00 |
| Clerical Staff | 1 | Rs. 12,000.00 | 12 | Rs. 1,44,000.00 |

Project - Vedaarthha

| | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------------|-------|---------------------------|
| System Administrator | 1 | Rs. 18,000.00 | 12 | Rs. 2,16,000.00 |
| Administrator | 1 | Rs. 24,000.00 | 12 | Rs. 2,88,000.00 |
| Total Number | 62 | | | Rs. 1,30,32,000.00 |
| Other Expenditure (B) | | | | |
| Computers & Peripherals | | Rs. 30,000.00 | 60 | Rs. 18,00,000.00 |
| Furniture | | Rs. 4,000.00 | 60 | Rs. 2,40,000.00 |
| Book Purchase/ Photo Copy | | Rs. 1,000.00 | 500 | Rs. 5,00,000.00 |
| Travel | | Rs. 12,000.00 | 60 | Rs. 7,20,000.00 |
| Seminars & Symposia | | Rs. 5,00,000.00 | 4 | Rs. 20,00,000.00 |
| Administrative Expenditure (Electricity & Telephone Charges) | | Rs. 2,00,000.00 | 4 | Rs. 8,00,000.00 |
| | | | Total | Rs. 60,60,000.00 |
| | | | A+ B | Rs.1,90,92,000.00 |
| Escalation Factor due to complexity of some texts and non-availability of man-power in time could contribute to the cost/ Time overrun. | | Add 25% Buffer | | Rs.2,38,65,000 |
| Building and necessary supervisory infrastructure could be arranged with the available facilities of participating/ collaborating institutions. | | | | |

Proposed Institutions for Participation/ Collaboration/ Facilitation Institutions

1. Prachya Vidya Parishad, Kamareddy (Nizamabad District) 50 year old institution based in Kamareddy (headed by Rajeshwara Sastry (Founder) and Prabhakar principal) would be the principal applicant.
2. Academy of Sanskrit, Hyderabad
3. SGS VedaNidhi Academy & Masters' Institute, Mysore (Technical Coordinator)
4. Sribhramari Surya Prakashaka Vijaya Shankara Veda Smarta Pathashala Trust, Alwal
5. Sanatana Guru Sampradaaya Pratishtanam
6. Avadhana Saraswati Peetham, Cyberabad
7. Mahavidya Peetham, Dundigal
8. Shri VedaBharathi Trust, Madhura Nagar, Hyderabad
9. TTD Veda Pathashala, Keesaragutta
10. Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashramas in the State (Kamareddy, Hyderabad, Warangal, Nizamabad, Datta Giri (Hyder Guda)

Note:

After the completion of First Phase, we can undertake Remaining texts of Shaastra about which the next section will inform.