

Report on Two-Day Spoken Sanskrit Class

Date: 18th August - 19th August, 2022

Venue: Ananda Chandra College, Jalpaiguri

Objective: The two-day Spoken Sanskrit class was conducted for the 3rd-semester students of the Sanskrit Department of Ananda Chandra College, Jalpaiguri. The primary aim of the workshop was to enhance students' proficiency and fluency in spoken Sanskrit, thereby complementing their theoretical knowledge with practical application.

Day 1: 18th August, 2022

Session 1: Introduction to Spoken Sanskrit

- The session commenced with an overview of the importance of spoken Sanskrit in contemporary times.
 - **Preservation of Cultural Heritage:** Sanskrit is one of the oldest languages with a rich literary tradition spanning thousands of years. By promoting spoken Sanskrit, we contribute to the preservation and propagation of this ancient cultural heritage.
 - **Linguistic Diversity:** Sanskrit is the root language of many modern Indian languages. By learning spoken Sanskrit, individuals gain insights into the etymology and structure of these languages, fostering linguistic diversity and understanding.
 - **Intellectual Stimulation:** Sanskrit is renowned for its intricate grammar and nuanced vocabulary. Learning to speak Sanskrit stimulates cognitive functions, improves memory retention, and enhances linguistic proficiency, thereby fostering intellectual growth and development.
 - **Spiritual and Philosophical Significance:** Many ancient Indian texts, including religious scriptures, philosophical treatises, and literary works, are written in Sanskrit. By mastering spoken Sanskrit, individuals can delve deeper into


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these texts, gaining profound insights into spirituality, philosophy, and cultural ethos.

- **Global Connection:** Sanskrit is not confined to India; it has influenced various languages and cultures across the globe. By promoting spoken Sanskrit, we foster global connections and dialogue, facilitating cross-cultural understanding and collaboration.
- **Revival Efforts:** In recent years, there has been a renewed interest in reviving Sanskrit as a spoken language. By actively engaging in spoken Sanskrit, individuals contribute to these revival efforts, ensuring the language's continued relevance and vitality.

➤ Basic conversational phrases were introduced to familiarize students with everyday communication in Sanskrit.

- Greetings:

Namaste (नमस्ते) - Hello / Greetings

Pranamāmi (प्रणमामि) - I bow to you

Katham asti? (कथम् अस्ति?) - How are you?

Aham prītam asmi (अहम् प्रीतम् अस्मि) - I am fine

- Introduction:

Aham (अहम्) - I

Tvam (त्वम्) - You

Nāma kim? (नाम किम्?) - What is your name?

Mama nāma [Name] (मम नाम [नाम]) - My name is [Name]

- Expressing Gratitude:

Dhanyavādaḥ (धन्यवादः) - Thank you

Kṛtajñā (कृतज्ञः) - Grateful

Aham kṛtajñāḥ asmi (अहम् कृतज्ञः अस्मि) - I am grateful


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- Basic Questions:
Ko bhavān? (को भवान्?) - Who are you?
Kutra gamiṣyasi? (कुत्र गमिष्यसि?) - Where are you going?
Kādyaṃ asti? (काद्यं अस्ति?) - What is this?
- Common Expressions:
Suvāsanam (सुवासनम्) - Good morning
Śubha sandhya (शुभसन्ध्या) - Good evening
Suvānacakram (सुवानचक्रम्) - Good night
- Parting Phrases:
Vidaḥ (विदः) - Goodbye
Punar milāmaḥ (पुनर्मिलामः) - See you again
śīghram punar milāmaḥ (शीघ्रं पुनर्मिलामः) - See you soon

➤ Pronunciation drills and exercises were conducted to ensure active participation and comprehension.

Session 2: Vocabulary Building

➤ Various thematic vocabulary such as greetings, family relations, numbers, and common objects were taught.

- **Greetings:**

Hello: नमस्ते (Namaste)

Welcome: स्वागतम् (Swagatam)

Goodbye: वदामि (Vadami)

- **Family Relations:**

Father: पिता (Pitā), Mother: माता (Mātā), Son: पुत्रः (Putraḥ),

Daughter: पुत्री (Putrī), Brother: भ्राता (Bhrātā), Sister: भगिनी

(Bhaginī), Husband: पति (Pati), Wife: पत्नी (Patnī)


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- **Numbers:** One: एक (Eka), Two: द्वि (Dvi), Three: त्रि (Tri), Four: चतुर् (Catur), Five: पञ्चन् (Pañcan), Six: षष्ठन् (ṣaṣṭhan), Seven: सप्त (Sapta), Eight: अष्टौ (aṣṭau), Nine: नव (Nava), Ten: दश (Daśa)
- **Common Objects:**
Book: पुस्तकम् (Pustakam), Water: जलम् (Jalam), House: गृहम् (Gṛham), Sun: सूर्यः (Sūryaḥ), Moon: चन्द्रमा (Candramā)
- Mnemonic techniques were employed to aid retention and recall of vocabulary.
- Role-playing activities were conducted to encourage students to apply learned vocabulary in simulated real-life situations.

Day 2: 19th August, 2022

Session 3: Grammar Essentials

- Fundamental grammar concepts including sentence structure, verb conjugation, and noun declension were elucidated.
 - **Sentence Structure:**
Sanskrit follows a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) word order in most cases.
However, due to its highly inflected nature, word order is relatively flexible without affecting the meaning of the sentence.
The structure of a simple sentence in Sanskrit typically consists of a subject (prathamā), object (dviṭiyā), verb (kartarī), and sometimes other elements like adjectives, adverbs, etc.
 - **Verb Conjugation:**
Sanskrit verbs are conjugated based on person, number, tense, voice, mood, and aspect.
There are ten classes of verbs (called 'gaṇas'), each with its own set of conjugation rules.
Verbs are conjugated into three voices: Active, Passive, and Middle.


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Tenses include Present, Imperfect, Perfect, Future, Aorist, and Future Perfect, among others.

Moods include Indicative, Imperative, Subjunctive, Conditional, Optative, and Potential.

- **Noun Declension:**

Nouns in Sanskrit decline based on their gender, number, and case.

There are three genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter.

There are eight cases: nominative, accusative, instrumental, dative, ablative, genitive, locative, and vocative.

Nouns belong to one of three declensions: a-, ā-, and i-stems, each with its own set of declensional endings.

- **Sandhi:**

Sandhi refers to the rules of euphonic combination and alteration of sounds when words come together.

It includes rules for combining vowels and consonants, and it affects both pronunciation and written form.

- **Compound Words:**

Sanskrit frequently uses compound words, where two or more words are combined to form a new word.

These compounds can be of various types based on their components and formation rules.

- **Syntax and Morphology:**

Sanskrit employs a rich system of suffixes (pratyayas) to modify the meaning of words.

The language is highly inflected, with nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and verbs each having multiple forms depending on their grammatical role in a sentence.

- **Panini's Ashtadhyayi:**

Panini's Ashtadhyayi, dating back to around the 4th century BCE, is one of the earliest and most comprehensive works on Sanskrit grammar. It is composed of nearly 4,000 sutras or


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aphorisms that systematically describe the grammar of the language.

- Practical examples and exercises were provided to reinforce understanding and application of grammar rules.
- The instructor emphasized the significance of grammatical accuracy in effective communication.

Session 4: Conversational Practice

- Students engaged in pair and group discussions to practice conversing in Sanskrit.
- Topics ranging from personal interests to societal issues were explored to enhance students' conversational fluency.

Feedback and correctional guidance were provided by the instructor to refine students' spoken Sanskrit skills.

Conclusion: The two-day Spoken Sanskrit class proved to be highly beneficial in fostering students' proficiency and confidence in conversing in Sanskrit. Through a combination of theoretical insights, vocabulary enrichment, grammar reinforcement, and practical exercises, students gained a holistic understanding of spoken Sanskrit. The interactive nature of the sessions facilitated active learning and encouraged students to overcome inhibitions associated with speaking in Sanskrit. Overall, the workshop served as a valuable platform for students to apply their theoretical knowledge in a practical setting, thereby contributing to their overall academic and linguistic development.

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सम्भाषण संस्कृतवर्गः

नामनि	प्रत्ययसंख्या	पञ्जीकरणसंख्या
1. Beauty Roy	0192105010231	
2. Keya Roy	0192105010248	
3. Sabnur Begam	0192105010235	
4. Banashtee Roy	0192105010213	
5. Apurba Sen	0192105010203	
6. Anamika Dutta	0192105010214	
7. Antara Sen	0192105010220	
8. Subhamay Mallick	0532105010161	
9. Later Barman	0192105010240	
10. Sudipa Ghosh	0192105010242	
11. Swankhi Roy	0192105010202	
10) Priyanka Sharma	0192105010234	
11) Sonia Roy	0192105010206	
12) Supriya Chakrabarty	0192105010201	
13) Rama Ghosh	0192105010243	
14) Payel Mohanta	0192105010244	
15) Jayeda Dutta	0192105010207	
16) Debalina Ray	0192105010212	
17) Alebosmita Barman	0192105010204	
18. Jui Sarkar	0192105010199	
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