



Department of Sanskrit Studies

University of Hyderabad

Hyderabad, India

Samsādhani – Praveśikā: Learning Sanskrit using Computational Tools (Online Certificate Course)

Background

Sanskrit, the ancient Indian classical language, has huge repository of texts covering wide-ranging genres including philosophy, linguistics, religion and ritual, law, polity, health science, astronomy, mathematics to very high quality literary masterworks such as the works of Kālidāsa, Daṇḍin, Bāṇa, the great epics Rāmāyaṇa and Mahābhārata.

During the past few years, there is an emerging trend among the Indians to learn Sanskrit so as to read and understand the original Sanskrit texts. Taking into account the complexity involved in the word-formation in Sanskrit, the euphonic changes due to the influence of oral tradition, and the tendency to use long compound expressions, it is found that the pedagogical teaching methods in the school and colleges do not provide enough training to read and understand Sanskrit literature dealing with scientific texts or those of high literary value unless one undergoes rigorous learning of Sanskrit grammar.

Hence there is a huge demand, especially from the professionals at all stages of their career, to study Sanskrit so that they can access the original Sanskrit texts.

Aim and Methodology

The main goal of this course is to teach how to access Sanskrit literature using online computational tools. The focus would be on understanding the Sanskrit texts rather than just learning the grammar or the vocabulary.

In this course, we introduce a novel method of learning Sanskrit, with the help of online computational tools developed by the Department of Sanskrit Studies of University of Hyderabad and at Inria, France.

This method, while minimizes the memorisation component, revives the traditional old methods of Khaṇḍānvaya and Daṇḍānvaya of learning Sanskrit verses practised in the Gurukulas. The computational tools include the word level analyser and generator, segmenter and sandhi joiner and a sentence level analyser. These tools are linked with the online bilingual and monolingual dictionaries. These dictionaries provide easy access to the word meanings in three different languages: Hindi, English and French. A small component of project work at the end gives a hands-on practice to read and understand the original Sanskrit texts with the help of the computational tools.

The course would be taught in hybrid mode using both asynchronous and synchronous teaching. The students would be encouraged to use the online computational tools. There will be ample discussion and doubt clearing sessions at the end of each module.

Objectives

- Provide the basic knowledge of Sanskrit grammar related to word formation, Sandhi, Samāsa and Kāraka.

- Introduce the basic concepts useful for textual understanding viz. Ākāṃkṣā, Yogyatā and Sannidhi.
- Generate confidence in students that they can access the original Sanskrit texts with some effort.

Course Outline

- Module 0
 - General introduction
- Module 1
 - Pada and an inflectional morphology (subanta and tiṅanta)
 - Grammatical features: vibhakti, gender, number, person, lakāra, padī, gaṇa, prayoga.
 - Introduction to the online morphological generator and analyser, demo and practice.
 - The problem of ambiguity during the analysis process
 - Introduction to Derivational morphology - kṛdanta (primary derivatives) and taddhitānta (secondary derivatives).
 - Demo and practice of derivational morphological analyser and generator.
 - Understanding the meaning of words from their stem and suffix(es).
- Module 2
 - Introduction to the sandhi phenomenon in Sanskrit.
 - Sandhi
 - Vowel and consonant sandhi, sandhi due to visarga.
 - Demo and practice of sandhi
 - Segmentation
 - Ambiguity in segmentation

- Demo and reading practice with Segmenter
- Module 3
 - Introduction to Kāraḥas.
 - Kāraḥa to Vibhakti mapping (Vibhakti prakaraṇa of Aṣṭādhyāyī)
 - Meanings of various morphemes, and the process of information decoding.
 - Role of Ākāṃkṣā, Yogyatā and Sannidhi in the process of understanding a text.
 - Introduction to Non-Kāraḥa relations.
 - Use of Parser to understand a verse / a sentence.
 - Traditional methods of Khaṇḍānvaya and Daṇḍānvaya for understanding a linguistic expression.
- Module 4
 - Introduction to Samāsa.
 - Semantic classification of Samāsa.
 - Understanding compounds with more than two components.
- Project Work
 - Analysis of a few select verses / sentences from a chosen text.

Evaluation

There would be 4 minor examinations of 20 marks each after the completion of each module. 20 marks would be reserved for the final project work.

Faculty

- Prof. Amba Kulkarni (Course Co-ordinator), University of Hyderabad
- Prof. Gérard Huet, Inria, France

- Dr. Pavankumar Satuluri, Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth
- Dr. Arjuna S R, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)

Salient Features

This course is unique in many respects.

- It introduces a novel method of teaching a language, with proper blending of synchronous and asynchronous teaching, discussions and doubt clearing sessions, and practicals.
- It revives the ancient teaching methods, in a modern way.
- The students would be analysing a few verses/sentences from some classical Sanskrit texts as a part of the course work.

Nature of the Course

- Open Elective (UoH Students)
- Certificate Course (Non-UoH students)

Credits	4
Mode	Online
Medium	English
Teaching	Mon, Wed, Fri (6.00 pm - 7.00 pm IST)
Discussion/Interactive Sessions	Saturday or Sunday
Duration	Tentative (20.10.2021 - 20.02.2022)

Eligibility

- Any graduate from any discipline, from anywhere in the world.
- There is no upper age limit.

Fee Structure

- The course will be free for UoH students.
- For non-UoH students,
 - for Indians: ₹2,500
 - for foreign nationals: \$150

Important Dates

Application Window	20th Sept 2021 - 10th October 2021
Selection Intimation	12th October 2021
Admission Window	13th October 2021 - 19th October 2021
Course Commencement	20th October 2021

[OPEN APPLICATION FORM](#)