



# Sri Aurobindo Foundation for Indian Culture

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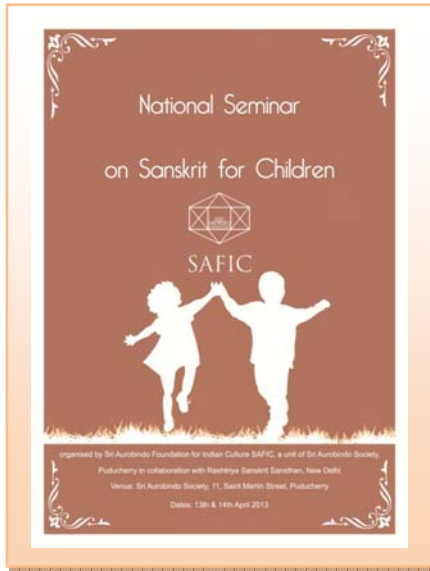
Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry – 605001

## Proceedings of the

### NATIONAL SEMINAR ON 'SANSKRIT FOR CHILDREN'

Organized by Sri Aurobindo Foundation for Indian Culture(SAFIC)

On 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 at Puducherry.



This 2-Day Seminar was organized very successfully under the auspices of Sri Aurobindo Foundation for Indian Culture(SAFIC), Puducherry in collaboration with Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi. The Seminar was attended by 35 Delegates from across the country. A good number of Sanskrit lovers and students too from Puducherry were present on both the days benefiting themselves. The highlight of this Seminar was that three Sanskrit Teachers from U.S.A., Germany and Ireland participated via Skype and enthralled the audience with their wonderful Presentations!

Sri Aurobindo Society, 11, Saint Martin Street, Puducherry – 605001

Telephone: +91 413 233 6396; M: +91 9952888350

Email: [sampad@aurosociety.org](mailto:sampad@aurosociety.org)

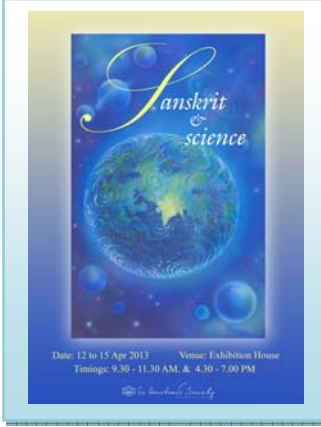
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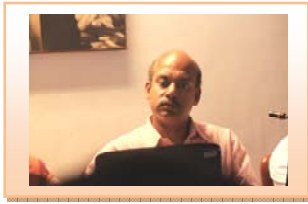
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As a part of this Seminar, a 4-Day Exhibition titled 'Sanskrit and Science' was also organized from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 by SAFIC in collaboration with Sanskritabharati as a part of its 'Sanskrit Awareness Programme'. The Exhibition was inaugurated by a Meditation with Music which was attended by 50 people. This Exhibition was extended by three more days, i.e., till 18th April, 2013 on public demand. The aim of this Exhibition was to educate the people as to how Sanskrit has the roots of various branches of Science like Mathematics, Physics, Medicine, Astronomy, Astrology, etc. The beautifully brought out and duly framed Exhibits were arranged in a chronological sequence in terms of the said branches of Science.

The Seminar was inaugurated on 13th April, 2013 by a Meditation with Music and chanting of 'OM' Mantra by all the Delegates present.



At the outset, Dr. Sampadananda Mishra, Director, SAFIC gave a brief Introduction about the importance and need of learning the Sanskrit language. He also cited The Mother's following remarks in this connection:

"Every child born in India should learn it (Sanskrit), as every child born in France has to know French".

He expressed his agony over the fact that reading of Commentaries ('Bhaashyas') of great Sanskrit poets like Kalidaasa is being ignored. He regretted that no

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teaching programme is being organized to prepare efficient teachers to teach Sanskrit to the students right from the Nursery level.

There were 17 sessions in all during this 2-Day Seminar, of which eight sessions were held during the first day of the Seminar on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**13<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 from 09:00am to 05:30pm**



During the first session of the Seminar, in his keynote address Shri Shashikant Joshi, Senior Manager, Software Engineering Company, an MNC in Bengaluru, who also runs a Website named 'PracticalSanskrit.com', explained about practical aspects related to the Sanskrit language, with the help of a Presentation. He started his Presentation with a melodiously sung 'Sanskrit Prayer' invoking the Goddess Saraswati. He vividly narrated various aspects like 'Need for Sanskrit?', 'Sanskrit and Children', 'Who to Target?' and 'The Panch-VighnaH'. Speaking about Translators and Translations, he opined that the Translators should have thorough knowledge of both the source and target languages. He said that the translations should not be done from Sanskrit to English but into Hindi or any other Indian language so as to bring the original flavour of the Sanskrit language and its inherent Indian Culture. He suggested that the Technical Terms like 'Dharma', 'Karma', etc. should not be translated and they should be used as they are. He further emphasized the need to teach Panini's grammar to children since all its Sutraas are precise and rule-oriented.

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In the second session, Dr. C.S. Radharishnan, Professor of Sanskrit, Department of Sanskrit, Pondicherry University delivered his lecture titled “Sanskrit for the reach of all : Ways and Means”. Narrating the ‘Trio’ of Teaching, namely, ‘Whom to Teach?’, ‘How to Teach?’ and ‘What to Teach?’, he said that the Sanskrit language should be taught to the children, adopting proper methodology and by developing a growth-oriented curriculum. He felt the need to teach Sanskrit first to housewives, who, in turn, teach their children since the very process of teaching and learning starts with the mother. In this connection, he gave a slogan ‘Each One Teach One’ to the teachers and lovers of Sanskrit. He concluded his speech with a suggestion to get the scriptures like ‘Vishnusahasranamastotram’, ‘Amarakosha’, ‘Srimadbhagavadgita’, etc. recited by the children by way of running competitions with suitable prizes to attract them. He also added that small Playlets based on the great works like ‘Kumarasambhavam’, ‘Mahabharatam’, etc. may be got written and the same may be got enacted by the children themselves.



Dr. M. Jayaraman, Manager, Vyoma Linguistic Labs Foundation and his Associate, Smt. K.R. Sowmya made a Presentation titled “Digital tools for teaching Sanskrit to children” in the third session. Dr. Jayaraman explained about the need to develop new methods to teach the Sanskrit language especially the Digital Tools. Smt. Sowmya gave a detailed Presentation of the Audio-Video-Animated C.Ds. titled “Samskrutabaalaamodini” and “SandhiH” produced by Vyoma Labs, and said that more such tools for

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children at various levels are the need of the hour and that adequate training should be imparted to Sanskrit teachers so as to use such tools.



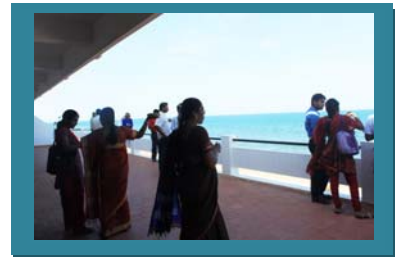
During the fourth session, Dr. Banamali Biswal, a Sanskrit Scholar from Allahabad in his speech titled “Sanskrit through Prahelikaas and Subhaashitas” via Skype, emphasized the need to teach Sanskrit to children right from their tender age. He said that interesting topics like Subhaashitas, Nursery Rhymes,

etc. should be included among the topics to be taught. He cited several examples that would suit to the



In the fifth session, Dr. Satyanarayan Acharya, Professor, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati delivered his speech titled “Sanskrit for Children through songs”. He opined that Sanskrit teaching could be made very simple and attractive for children by exposing them to Songs, Nursery Rhymes, Short Stories and Conversations in the

shape of Songs. He also mesmerized the audience by singing several such Songs and Rhymes!



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During the sixth session, Smt. Alka Thanvi, Sanskrit Teacher, Sri Aravinda Nava Shiksha Kendra, Jodhpur (Rajasthan), through her Presentation titled “Sanskrit at Sri Aurobindo New Education Center, Jodhpur”, exhibited several slides consisting of the real work in Sanskrit done by the students of various classes. She said that the Sanskrit teacher should possess the qualities like ‘Courage’ (To face the class), ‘Capacity’ (To teach) and ‘Total Surrender’ (Towards Teaching).



In the penultimate session of the day, Dr. Deepa Aier, a Speech Language Pathologist from U.S.A., delivered her beautiful speech titled “Teaching Sanskrit to the Children in America” via Skype. She explained various aspects related to the Second Language Acquisition and Sanskrit Teaching in detail. She emphasized the need to develop the four skills of the Sanskrit language, viz., Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing through the medium of ‘Sambhaashanasamskritam’ (Conversational Sanskrit).



In last session of the day, Smt. Archana Maheswari, a Senior Sanskrit Teacher, Ashram School, Puducherry, delivered her speech titled “Sanskrit at Sri Aurobindo International Center of Education” She exhibited various Teaching Aids prepared by her to teach Sanskrit. She said that the Sanskrit language could be successfully taught to the children by way of Picture-Cards, Games, etc.

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It was highly welcoming to observe that all the Delegates present had actively taken part during all the sessions of the day by way of interacting with the Speakers and Presenters.



Later, all the Delegates were guided by Dr. Sampadananda Mishra, Director, SAFIC to the Exhibition Hall where the Exhibition on “Sanskrit and Science” was being organized by SAFIC.



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**14<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 from 09:00am to 05:30pm**

The second and final day of the Seminar started at 09:00 A.M. on 14th April, 2013 with the chanting of 'OM' Mantra by all the Delegates present. In all, nine sessions were held during this day.



The first session of the day commenced with a Presentation titled "From Internet to Inner-net – Bringing Sanskrit Alive in a Digital Age" by Mr. Martin Gluckman (From South Africa) presently working at Puducherry in the development of Sanskrit language and constructing a Sanskrit Dictionary. He said that he had established an Organization named 'Vedic Society' with the objective of developing some new tools for the Sanskrit Education. He opined that three steps, viz., Sanskrit Medium Education, Sanskrit as a Unifying National Language and Sanskrit Movies – are essential in the present-day scenario.



In the second session, Dr. Debajyoti Jena, Assistant Professor, Department of Sanskrit & Indian Culture, Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Vishwa Mahavidyalaya, Kanchipuram presented his Paper titled "Story-telling in Sanskrit for Children". He emphasized the method of teaching Sanskrit to children through the medium of Short Stories, Life-Sketches of Great Personalities like Sri Aurobindo, Rabindranath Tagore, etc. He said that the Story-Teller should possess all the required qualities, viz., thorough knowledge of the story concerned, knowledge of Child Psychology, ability to express in simple Sanskrit, etc.

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Prof. (Smt.) Hansa M. Kathiriya, Reader & Head, Sanskrit Department, Ayurved College, Surat delivered her speech on the topic titled “Sanskrit through Subhaashitaas” in the third session. She emphasized the method of teaching Sanskrit to Children through the medium of Subhaashitas, Shlokas, Mantras, Devotional Shlokas, etc. She gave several samples in this direction through her beautiful Presentation.



In the fourth session of the day, Mr. Rutger, an eminent Teacher of French, Mathematics and Sanskrit from Ireland gave a highly impressive Presentation titled “Why and How we do Sanskrit here in Ireland with children and adults” via Skype. Explaining the need for Sanskrit Teaching to children, he said that the Rules of Sanskrit Grammar related to Number, Gender, Case, Verb, etc. should be taught with the help of Illustrations and Songs for better understanding.



In the fifth session, Mr. T.R. Hari Kumar, Coordinator of Balabharati, a Branch of Samskritabharati and a Teacher of Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Rajapalayam, through his speech titled “Instilling Values through Sanskrit”, thrown adequate light on the Method of Teaching Sanskrit with the help of Pictures. He later described some graded Sanskrit Primers titled ‘Latikaa’, ‘Mallikaa’. ‘Kalikaa’, ‘Maalikaa’, ‘Vaatikaa’ and ‘Giitikaa’ published by Samskritabharati, Chennai, which are based on relevant illustrative pictures.

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During the sixth session of the day, Mr. Sriram, Organizer, Samskritabharati, Tamilnadu, through his Presentation titled “Networking of Organizations Engaged in Creating Innovative Materials for Teaching Sanskrit to the Children”, listed out several probable challenges in this direction. He concluded stating that all the Organizations engaged in the development of Sanskrit should come closer and do the work. He further emphasized the need to publish modern Sanskrit books.



In the seventh session of the day, Dr. Radhikaranjan Das from Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Puducherry, in his dynamic and dramatic speech titled “Sanskrit through Plays”, said that the ‘Drama’ should be made the medium of teaching Sanskrit since it leaves an everlasting impression on the minds of the children. He added that teaching should be rendered only through the Direct Method.



The penultimate session of the day was handled by Smt. B.S. Manorama from Chennai. She delivered her speech on the topic titled “Teaching Sanskrit through Shlokas, Songs and Nursery Rhymes”. She was of the firm opinion that Sanskrit could be taught to one and all easily through the medium of Songs. She sang several songs in her melodious voice. The Delegates present too joined her in singing those songs.

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During the ninth session of the day, Dr. Sadananda Das, a Sanskrit teacher from Germany presented his Paper on the topic titled “Sanskrit for Children with special reference to Subhaashitas”. In his opening remarks, he opined that this Seminar, in fact, should have been named as the ‘International Seminar on Sanskrit for Children’ since Speakers and Presenters from different countries of the Globe too took part though via Skype! In his Paper, Dr. Sadananda Das described the definition of ‘Subhaashitam’ and the place of Subhaashitas in Sanskrit literature. He said that the Subhaashitas could be used as a medium to teach Sanskrit, to teach grammar, body parts, etc. to children with ease. He gave several examples of Subhaashitas for this purpose. The highlight of his Paper was that he compiled the Subhaashitas in a chronological order in terms of various modules of Sanskrit grammar and presented them besides singing the same!



A Special Session titled ‘Action Plan, Feedback and Conclusion’ was held from 04:30 P.M. to 06:30 P.M. with Mr. Vijay, Member Executive – Admin. & Finance, Sri Aurobindo Society in the Chair. Firstly, Dr. Y.N. Rao, Retired Deputy Director(Official Language), Government of India, Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications, Andhra Pradesh Telecom., Hyderabad(Andhra Pradesh) briefed his Paper titled “Standard Devanagari Script with Special Reference to Sanskrit Alphabet”. Later, he presented the summary of the entire Proceedings of this 2-Day National Seminar on ‘Sanskrit for Children’ in a



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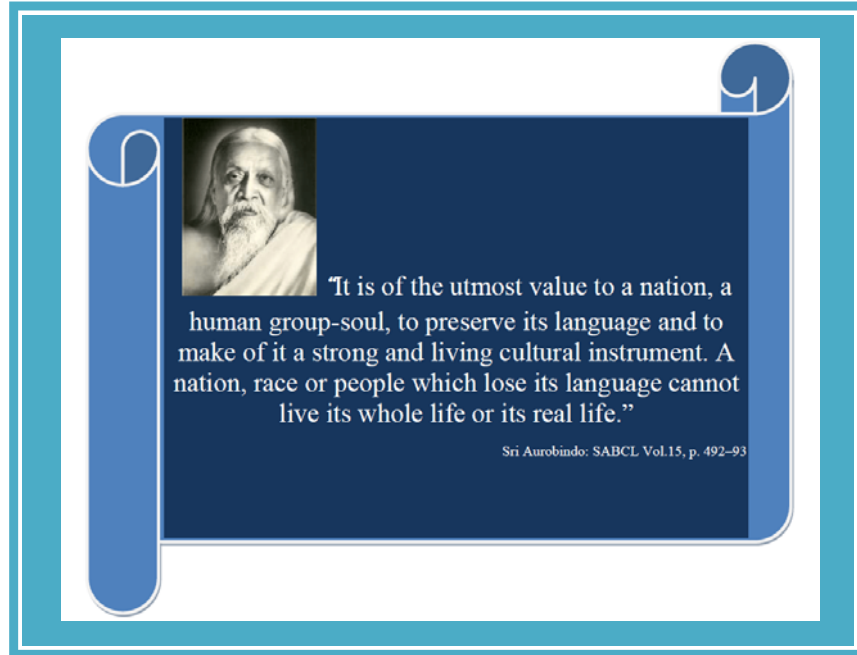
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befitting manner. This was followed by an in-depth discussion about the 'Action Plan' when all the Delegates besides giving their respective 'Feedback' came forward with valuable suggestions in respect to the development of Sanskrit for Children. Mr. Vijay who personally interacted in detail with the Delegates about the future course of action, invited 'Volunteers' to work together exploring the individual talent in this direction. He also requested them to communicate their willingness indicating the area of their expertise to Dr. Sampadananda Mishra, Director, SAFIC on or before 21st April, 2013

The 2-Day National Seminar on 'Sanskrit for Children' came to an end with the chanting of OM by the Delegates.



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