



SAMSKRITI FOUNDATION (R)



Annual Report for 2014-15 & 2015-16

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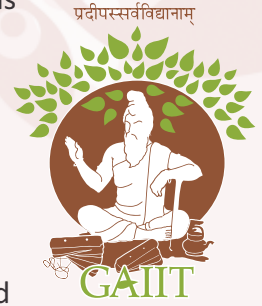
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1. Introduction

The years 2014-15 and 2015-16 have been years of vast diversification in the long and exciting journey of the Samskriti Foundation. These two years are notable for the beginning of two separate wings or sister institutions of the Foundation viz. The Gautama Academy of Indian Intellectual Traditions (GAIT) and the Sri Ramanuja Vishva Vidya Prathisthanam (SRVVP).

The *Gautama Academy of Indian Intellectual Traditions (GAIT)*, a subsidiary organization of the Samskriti Foundation, is set up to provide an institutional avenue for taking up the challenge of examining the foundational ideas and concepts that have gone into building the contemporary world and of coming up with alternative systems and ideas based on firmer foundations of knowledge. The Academy shall serve as a centre for high intellectual engagement on topics of contemporary import through the medium of Nyaya or Indian Logic and shall be primarily directed towards the Indian audience. The goal of the Academy is not merely the dissemination of knowledge contained in our ancient vidyas; it is to promote the revival of our dharma and culture by way of laying the seeds of a future renaissance that will foster a better society for the future generations of this country.



SRI RAMANUJA VISHVA VIDYA PRATHISTANAM (SRVVP) is a unique academic organization exclusively devoted and dedicated to propagate and conduct extensive research work into the Visistadvaita Philosophy and Srivaishnava tradition along with its trans-disciplinary and Mutli-disciplinary dimensions to suit the changing needs of modern times. It proposes to build a '**Srivaishnava Knowledge-Temple**' - both online and in terms of outstanding human resources that will serve the knowledge-needs of the present and future generations. The SRVVP is started in association with the Bhagavad Ramanuja Foundation®, Bangalore and aims to promote Vedic and allied Research and establish educational institutions with an objective to preserve, revive and propagate the Indian knowledge systems, with special focus on Visistadvaita Philosophy and Srivaishnava tradition.



Apart from the above, SF has continued its research and outreach activities in its usual rigorous manner; its publication continue to flow seamlessly; informal seminars and other public functions, classes on Sanskrit language and literature, apart from Indian Culture carried on as usual. One great moment that deserves mention is that the President and Chief Mentor of the Foundation, **Prof. M.A.Lakshmithathachar** was awarded the title '**Mahamahopadhyaya**' by the **Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupathi** in recognition of his mammoth services to the cause of Sanskrit and Indian Culture.

We hope the subsequent years would be more fruitful and the Foundation would be able to create a large societal impact in its fields of activity.

2. Research Projects

a. Project for Preparation of a Classified, Electronic Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Manuscripts and Books on Yoga

In the last few decades, there has been a wide acceptance of Yoga in western nations. More and more people from all over the world are also flocking to India to get the Yogic solution to their health problems. As the demand for Yoga is increasing, there is also a corresponding increase in the number of scientists studying and conducting research in the field of Yoga.



Though the number of persons studying and conducting research in the field of Yoga has increased manifold, there has not been a matching increase to facilitate learning and research in this field. Necessary and efficient tools have not been developed to facilitate easy and correct understanding of the Yogic texts.

This is due to the fact that there are an incredible number of Yogic texts that deal with different aspects like the Asana, Pranayama, Hatha Yoga and so on. It is estimated that there are at least 10,000 texts that deal with Yoga and its allied topics in India. These works are predominantly in Sanskrit. Apart from Sanskrit, there are many works written in other regional languages and English also. Out of the ancient manuscripts that are both in palm-leaf, paper and other traditional forms, it is estimated that only about 150 – 200 works have been published. Even expert Yoga practitioners and scholars do not know even the names or other details about the remaining texts. Further there is no ready reckoner to know if a book has been published or not. There is also no Catalogue that readily gives even the basic details like name, author, sub-division of Yoga with which the text deals etc of all the manuscripts / books on Yoga available in the different libraries / collections of India and abroad. This is a big handicap as far as Yoga practitioners, scholars and researchers are concerned.

To overcome this acute and critical problem, it is proposed to bring out a comprehensive, Classified, Electronic Master descriptive catalogue of all manuscripts and books on Yoga. This Electronic Master descriptive catalogue will also contain information about all the works of Yoga, authored in Sanskrit, English and other regional languages of India. This will go a long way in helping Yoga practitioners, scholars and researchers in their respective professions and create awareness in the world about the original contributions of our forefathers to this field. This will also facilitate extensive research into the practical and theoretical aspects of the original texts of Indian systems of philosophy, especially Yoga philosophy.

This project is undertaken with support from the Ministry of AYUSH of the Govt. of India and the execution of the same is under full swing. In a way, this project is a natural progression of the Dictionary of Yoga prepared earlier.



b) Dasa Sahitya Project

As reported earlier, the translation of the Bhakti literature of the Hari-dasa-s (who flourished in various parts of Karnataka in from the 14th Century onwards) into Tamil continued in full swing to the current years of reporting also. Two more books constituting the I part of the literature were translated and made ready for publication. The original text has been given in Devanagari script so that even those not knowing Kannada script can read and sing these devotional lyrics of a very high quality. This project is undertaken with the financial assistance provided by the Mahaperiyaval Trust, Bangalore.



c) Knowledge Tree Project

Under the auspices of the **SRI RAMANUJA VISHVA VIDYA PRATHISTANAM (SRVVP)**, a sister concern of the Samskriti Foundation, a unique project that aims at structuring all the Indian Knowledge systems in a systematic way and bringing it under a tree structure to facilitate easy search of the required information of any Indian Knowledge system in a comprehensive and specific way. Fortunately, our ancient sages and saints have brought the knowledge belonging to different domains and different areas which forms a specific integral part in the whole tree of knowledge.

The work is in full swing to bring the knowledge systems belonging to Vedic literature under a tree structure. Similarly, all the modern sciences are brought under different divisions of sciences and a science tree is constructed. Efforts are going on to put the ancient Indian Sciences and technology under specific heads to facilitate the knowledge systems to form an integral part of the science knowledge tree. Under Biology, Agricultural sciences of Ancient India based on a research work conducted by



Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Professor of Sanskrit, Udaipur University, is prepared and added to the Science tree.

From the point of view of technology, the specific parameters of different knowledge trees namely, Pramāna (Works) tree, Prameya (Contents) tree and Pramātā (Authors and Propagators of Knowledge) tree are defined.

Information collected by researchers under various domains is being placed in the Knowledge tree with proper tagging, etc. Whatever work has been done so far is also uploaded on Cloud for easy accessibility to the researchers utilizing cloud sourcing.



d) Multimedia Presentations of Yatirāja-Saptati & Yatirāja-Vimshati

In the initial years of Samskriti Foundation, execution of Multimedia projects depicting and teaching various aspects of Indian Culture and heritage was the main focus. After more than a decade or so, once again the same has gained priority.

In this Project, an audio visual presentation of **Yatirāja-Saptati** (a eulogy of Acharya Ramanuja by Sri Vedanta Desika) and Yatirāja- Vimshati (a eulogy of Acharya Ramanuja by Sri Varavara Muni) with the following features is prepared:

1. Recital of the original sloka in the traditional way
2. Splitting of the word (Padavibhagam)
3. Prose order (Anvayam)
4. Word to word meaning in Tamil (Padapadārtham)
5. Gist of the stanza in simple and elegant Tamil language (Tātparyam)

The compilation of the audio visual CD of Yatirāja-Saptati and Yatirāja-Vimshati in the aforementioned manner has been successfully completed. As far as the Yatirāja-Vimshati is concerned, it is also proposed to bring out the same in Physical printed form. When this project was started, it was thought that it would be a very small project since Yatirāja-Vimshati consists of only 20 slokas. But SRVVP was able to lay hands on different commentaries available on Yatirāja-Vimshati such as

1. The commentary of Pillai Lokam Jeer, 2. The commentary of Doddayyācharya, 3. Munindra Bhāva Prakāshikā. All these commentaries are written in manipravālam style. This volume on Yatirāja-Vimshati consists of all these three commentaries in manipravālam style and the kannada translation of the commentary of Pillai Lokam Jeer.



Front Cover of the completed Yatiraja Saptati Tamil CD

e) RESEARCH PROJECTS of GAIIT

The Academy plans to initiate its research programs with two sets of projects, as follows:

1. To critically examine the central theme of contemporary philosophy and contemporary thought which promote the view that the pursuit of the larger goals of philosophy is to be abandoned as not constituting a legitimate pursuit of knowledge.
2. To undertake a philosophical investigation of the obstructers that stand in the way of developing an alternate platform of discourse grounded in the Indian Intellectual tradition.



3. Seminars and Conferences

Launch of Gautama Academy of Indian Intellectual Traditions (GAIT)

The inaugural function of GAIT was held on the 5th of Dec, 2015, at the Multi Vision Theater, ISKCON, Bangalore. Dr.K.E. Devanathan, Vice Chancellor of Vedic University, Tirupati, was the Chief Guest. Prof Darshan Shankar, Vice Chancellor of Trans Disciplinary University, Bangalore, inaugurated the function and delivered the inaugural address. The Website of GAIT was launched by Padmashri Dr. V. Prakash, former Director of CFTRI and presently distinguished scientist of CISR and this was followed by a Key Note address by Dr. K. E. Devanathan. Justice M.N. Venkatachalaiah, former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of India, presided over the function. The entire program was well received by the audience comprising scholars, intellectuals and experts from many walks of life.



Padmashri DR. V. Prakash launched GAIT's Website



The audience listening to the Key Note address



Special thanks accorded to Shri R.G.Rajan, Chairman and Managing Director of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) Ltd, for providing help and support in bringing the idea of GAIT to fruition.

National Workshop on 'Reviving the Indian Intellectual Tradition'

As a precursor to the above, a National workshop was held on 'Reviving the Indian Intellectual Tradition' from the 26th to 28th of January 2016 at Mysore, South India. The workshop was attended by stalwart scholars and intellectuals from various fields, especially from the Shastra fraternity. It was inaugurated by Sri N.Ramanuja, Chairman of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bangalore. The Key-note address was delivered by Sri Chittaranjan Naik, an Independent Scholar-visionary, who presently is the Chief Functionary of the GAIT. Prof. M.A.Lakshmithathachar presided over the function. More than 12 scholars presented papers on various topics concerning the Indian Intellectual Tradition which was followed by a healthy and in-depth discussion on different issues involved in reviving the various facets of the Indian Intellectual Tradition. In the end it was resolved that a separate institution should be started to undertake the mammoth tasks that are direly needed to achieve the objective mentioned above, which ultimately gave rise to the GAIT. Details about the background of the same are given in introductory portion of this report.





Publication of Books & Digitization

Publications (that were brought out during this period)

Srimad Bhagavatam – Kannada rendition – (3 Volumes – 5 more Volumes to follow)

This 8 volume series, authored by a famous Sanskrit-Kannada scholar known as Devashikhmani Alasingaracharya, originally belonging to Melkote, this work has gained the respect of scholars and layman alike for its lucidity and profoundness. It helps one understand even the hidden meanings of the extremely difficult text of Srimad Bhagavatam.



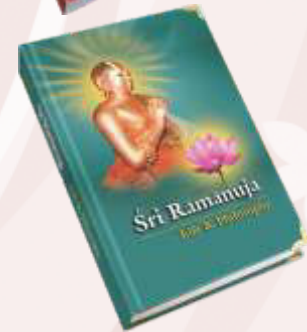
Srivaishnava Festival and Auspicious Days – Significance and Procedures (by M.A.Goda and translated into English by Smt. Geetha and Sri R.S.Alvar)

This book gives a detailed account of the Festivals and Auspicious days all Srivaishnavas have to perform by undertaking the prescribed procedures. It also has a very detailed portion of the delicious dishes to be prepared and offered to the Lord as part of each of the Festivals and Auspicious Days, alongwith the information about the significance of those dishes, tips for the preparing them, their preventive and curative aspects etc.



Sri Ramanuja – Life & philosophy (II Edition)

This is a very versatile book, that has captured the imagination of connoisseurs as well as laymen in understanding the multi-faceted personality of Bhagavan Ramanuja the saint-social reformer-scholar of the 11th Century. It also gives readers glimpses of his universal and unique philosophy. Currently, the II edition of the same is brought as per popular demand in a hard-bound format.



Melkote – An Introduction – In 5 languages (Kannada, Tamil, Hindi, Telugu and Hindi)

Melkote, also known as Tirunaraynapuram, is the holy Badrinath of South India. This book gives us a detailed account of its mythological, historical, religious and cultural aspects apart from informing us about its uniqueness and specialties.





Classes on Sanskrit and Indian Culture

In association with various academic partners of the Foundation, classes were held on various aspects of Sanskrit, Yoga, Spirituality and Indian Culture both directly as well as online throughout the 2 years. Prof. M.A.Lakshmithathachar, President of the Foundation and other scholars of the Foundation conducted the classes. The classes were well received by all the students and the students have requested the Foundation to continue the classes during the next years also. The classes have been recorded and the recordings are proposed to be hosted on the website of the Foundation.

Conclusion

Thus, the current years of reporting were very fulfilling in terms of achieving the aims and objectives of the foundation.

Subsidiary organizations



VAAK

(Virtual Academy of Ancient Knowledge Systems)

To promote the extensive usage of Indigenous science and Technology to the modern world

Website: www.vaak-india.org



RKVK

Rishi-Krishi Vijnana Kendra

(To promote traditional Indian Farming procedures based on knowledge available in ancient texts)



Gautama Academy of Indian Intellectual Traditions (GAIIT)

To revive, promote and propagate the strong logical traditions of India

Website: www.gautamaacademy.org



Sri Ramanuja Vishva Vidya Prasthanam (SRVVP)

Institute of Trans-disciplinary studies in the philosophy of Ramanuja

Website: www.srvvp.in



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