



SAMSKRITI FOUNDATION (R)

धर्मो रक्षति रक्षितः



Annual Report
for the years
2011-12 and 2012-13

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Annual Report for the years 2011-12 and 2012-13

1. Introduction

The current years of 2011-12 and 2012-13 have been watershed years as far as Samskriti Foundation (SF) is concerned. SF has undertaken several major research projects that would have far-reaching impact as far as the literary and scientific heritage of India is concerned. For example, though India was said to be in the forefront of different fields of Science and Technology there is no ready-reckoner with regard to the palm-leaf manuscripts or books that exist in India and abroad with regard to science and technology. No person or organization has even basic information regarding this aspect though quite a few organizations and individuals are active in exploring the scientific and technological heritage of India. SF has undertaken a project to overcome this void and has been successful in partially listing out and preparing an electronic bibliography (that is searchable, based on various criteria) of the palm-leaf manuscripts or books that exist in India and abroad with regard to science and technology. SF also brought out a series of publications of the Kannada version of the Valmiki Ramayana (authored by the great scholar-poet Sri Devashikhamani Alasingaracharya) thus engaging in the preservation and propagation of Indian Cultural heritage. SF also organized traditional Vidwad-Goshthi-s (assembly of scholars), a national Seminar on 'Application of Information Technology for Manuscriptology' and also many other informal programmes. Conducting of Sanskrit classes and classes on various aspects of Indian culture continued for foreign and Indian students with the association of various organizations. Research on the trans-disciplinary front also continued, albeit in an informal manner. Thus, the two years of reporting were very fulfilling in terms of achieving the aims and objectives of the foundation.



Science and technology. It is a pioneering project that has search facilities to search, identify and locate such manuscripts and books. All those interested in exploring or trying to know more about the rich tradition of science and technology of Ancient India are welcome to access this site and enrich their knowledge about the same and also contribute academically to bring the invaluable knowledge housed in the texts of yore to the public domain. At present, about 5000 manuscripts pertaining to about 50 different fields of science and technology have been catalogued and are available in a searchable form.

c. **Project for the preparation of the History of the Philosophy of Visistadvaita**



The Philosophy of Visistadvaita is one of the principal philosophical systems of Vedanta. Propounded originally by the great Sage Vedavyasa, it was systematized by Acarya Ramanuja, the famous mystic saint-philosopher and social reformer of the 11th Century AD. For long, there has been a void as far as the literary history of this philosophy is concerned. To fill this void, the Foundation has undertaken a project to prepare the literary history of the Philosophy of Visistadvaita. With financial support from the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi, and literary support from various scholars who are deeply interested in the topic, the Foundation is engaged in the task of authoring the literary history of the Philosophy of Visistadvaita, in a very unique manner, that can prove to be a very good model that is worth following for authoring the history of other philosophical systems like Nyaya, Vaisheshika and so on, apart from Advaita and Dvaita too. On completion, it will be an outstanding contribution to the world of philosophy at large that can throw more light on the achievements of our predecessors and the abundant knowledge they possessed about abstract concepts and entities.

2. **Trans-Disciplinary Programs**

Research work continued on the following projects during the years of reporting:

- i Speech Synthesis and Speech Recognition based on Paninian Parameters
- ii. Preparation of herbal pesticides based on inputs available in the works of Vrikshayurveda and other allied topics
- iii. Study of Ancient Indian Horticulture based on the work Upavanavinodah in Sanskrit
- iv. Other such allied projects



3. Seminars and Conferences

a. National Seminar on 'Concept of 'Shakti' according to the different systems of Indian philosophy'

The above mentioned seminar was held at the seminar hall of the Vivekananda Institute for leadership development (VILD), Hebbal, Ring Road, Mysore on 31-12-2011 and 1-1-2012. The Inaugural programme was held at 10.30 AM on 31-12-2011. Prof. E.S Dwarakadasa, Retd Prof of Metallurgy inaugurated the



Seminar by lighting the ceremonial lamp even as Vedichymns were chanted. He then gave his inaugural address wherein he gave the scientific exposition of the concept of 'shakti' and also

explained how the concept was useful in technological applications across various spheres. Prof M A Laskhmithathachar, President, Samskriti Foundation who presided over the Inaugural function, spoke about the need for such meetings to improve the standard of knowledge of the different systems of Indian Philosophy and urged the assembled scholars to spread the knowledge of these philosophical systems and also help in grooming scholars of the future generations to preserve the Indian knowledge systems. Later, as part of the deliberations of the Seminar, Academic sessions were held wherein stalwart scholars in the respective systems of Indian Philosophy and modern science presented papers, which was followed by lively discussions.

The Valedictory session was held in the afternoon of the second day of the seminar. Vid. Umakanth Bhat gave the valedictory address and stressed upon the need for having such seminars very frequently where the nuances of the different philosophical concepts are discussed threadbare. He also called for the revival of the ancient system of debate as mentioned in the Nyaya Sutras of Maharishi Gautama.



Prof M A Lakshmithathachar who chaired the Valedictory session gave a very emotional discourse remembering the scholarship of the days of yore and also the teaching methodologies employed by different traditional scholars while teaching the philosophical texts. He lamented that though India itself had a treasure of knowledge about the philosophy of education, the same was almost unknown to scholars and laymen alike and rued that the persons studying about the philosophy of education today were studying only the views of western scholars.

Many scholars from Mysore, different parts of Karnataka and India attended the seminar. Pure and tasty food arrangements were made apart from providing very neat and decent accommodation for the participants. Positive feedback was received from all the participants. Overall, it was acknowledged as a successful programme in achieving the desired results. Active cooperation was provided by Vivekananda Institute of Leadership Development (VILD), Mysore in organizing the same.

b. NMM Seminar

Samskriti Foundation organized a National Seminar on “Application of Information Technology for conservation, editing and publication of Manuscripts” on the 20th, 21st and 22nd of January 2013, at Multivision Theatre, ISKCON, Harekrishna Hill, Rajajinagar, Bangalore, with support from the National Mission for Manuscripts, IGNCA, Govt. of India.

The current seminar was aimed at developing a comprehensive plan for the application of Information Technology for the



preservation, propagation, deciphering and ultimately publication of all the manuscripts available in the country and successful in assembling experts in information technology and manuscriptology. After due deliberations, it evolved a comprehensive strategy for

the application of Information Technology for each of the aspects concerning preservation, propagation, deciphering and

ultimately publication of manuscripts. Thus, it was most useful to students, scholars, researchers and all other persons working in the field of manuscripts. The Inaugural function of the seminar was held at 10.30 AM on Sunday, the 20th of January 2013. Dr. V Prakash, former Director and distinguished Scientist of CSIR-India inaugurated the seminar. Sri Stoka Krishna Dasa of ISKCON, Bangalore was the Chief Guest. Dr. S Sadagopan, Director, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore



delivered the key-note address. Prof ES Dwarakadasa, former Professor of Indian Institute of Science and Trustee of the Samskriti Foundation presided over the inaugural function.

His Excellency Dr H R Bharadwaj, Honorable Governor of Karnataka delivered the Valedictory address at the Valedictory function that was held at 5.30 PM on Tuesday, 22nd January.

Over 50 Delegates comprising noted Sanskrit Scholars and IT Experts attended the three day Seminar, presented papers on various aspects associated with the main topic of the Seminar, and deliberated on issues of concern. At least a hundred visitors attended the Seminar. The Papers are listed in the attached Annexure.

Two outstanding scholar-manuscriptologists, Dr. SY Wakankar and Dr P.Ramanujan were felicitated by the Governor on behalf of Samskriti Foundation, on this memorable occasion .

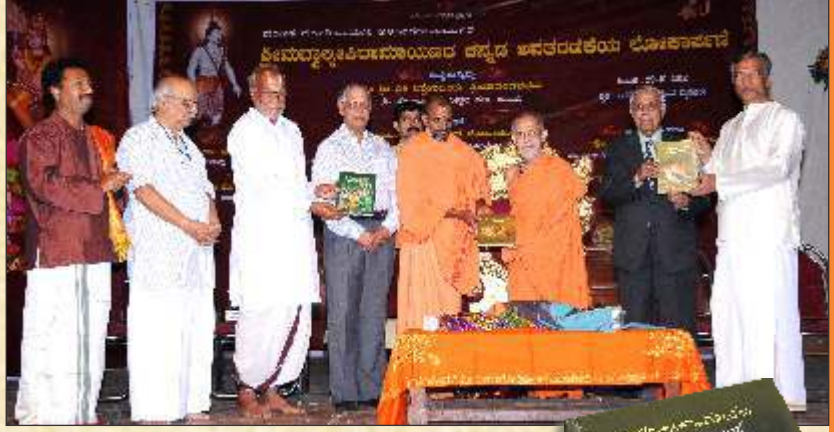
4. Publication of Books

SF has undertaken a project to bring out a series of publications of the Kannada version of the Valmiki Ramayana (authored by the great scholar-poet Sri Devashikhamani Alasingaracharya), with financial support from ESP Das Foundation, USA. Under this project, 5 volumes of the above book were published. A grand function was organized to release the books at the majestic auditorium





of the Jagan Mohan Palace in Mysore. The function was presided over by HH Sri Sri Vishvesha Teertha Sreepada Swamiji, the pontiff of the Pejawar Adhiokshaja Mutt, Udupi, who is also an outstanding scholar in Sanskrit and the Sastras. Dr. Pradhan Gurudutt, Director of Kuvempu Bhasha Bharati was the chief speaker on the occasion. Dr. E S Dwarakadasa, Trustee of the Foundation presided over the function. Prof M.A.Lakshmitha-thachar, President of the Foundation spoke on the occasion and explained the salient features of the Publication and also about the SF. Prof M N Venkatachalaiah, former Chief Justice of the Suoreme Court of India was the Chief Guest of the function. All the dignitaries lauded the efforts of the SF in bringing out such a series of publications. The crowning glory of the programme was a dance drama on the Ramayana by the world famous Drama troupe called 'Prabhat Kalavidaru' of Bangalore.



More than a thousand people attended the function which was very well covered in various newspapers and TV channels. Food in the form of 'prasadam' was offered to all the members of the audience by the Visvakshema Trust, Srirangapatna, Mysore. Thus, the principal aim of the trust engaging in the preservation and propagation of Indian Cultural heritage was well realized by above activity.

5. Classes on Sanskrit and Indian Culture

Classes continued to be held at the Foundation for foreign and Indian students free of cost. The topics covered include Sanskrit Language, Yoga Sutras, various aspects of Indian Culture and so on.

6. Conclusion

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



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