

## IK3001D BASIC SANSKRIT

Pre-requisites: Nil

Total Hours: 39

L	T	P	C
3	0	0	3

### Introduction

Of late, there has been a great interest both in India and among the International community in the Sanskrit language. This has been primarily due to the fact that a vast amount of Ancient Indian Wisdom remains buried in various texts that are written in Sanskrit. Increasingly it is felt that the knowledge contained in these texts is very valuable and has potential for contemporary applications. Moreover, the structure and the syntax of this language as brought out by Panini has baffled the modern day computer scientists and linguistic researchers.

Most part of the knowledge tradition in India, be it in science, art, music, logic, ethics, medicine or philosophy is preserved in Sanskrit and therefore gaining a basic knowledge of Sanskrit may prove to be not only inevitable but also valuable. This course addresses the above aspects and is primarily designed to take the first step to gain in roads into the knowledge tradition by developing a first level understanding of the language.

### Pedagogical Approach

A good way to dip into this treasure house is to develop a basic working knowledge of the language, which can provide the necessary foundation to start reading ancient texts and their translations and make greater sense of the ideas expressed therein. Traditionally Sanskrit was taught using a grammar - translation approach. In contrast to this approach, this course will introduce the language primarily through a conversational approach. The focus is on lively conversations leading the learner progressively to some of the important grammatical structures and their usages. In a nutshell, the pedagogical approach is to teach - learn Sanskrit through Sanskrit.

### Course Objectives:

- Develop a practical working knowledge of Sanskrit language
- Acquire Sanskrit language skills - Speaking, Reading and Writing
- Develop an appreciation of the overall beauty of Sanskrit language
- Acquire a general awareness of the vast corpus of Sanskrit literature

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### Course Outcomes:

- CO1: Develop a practical working knowledge of Sanskrit language
- CO2: Demonstrate Sanskrit language skills - Speaking, Reading and Writing
- CO3: Explain the structure of Sanskrit grammar
- CO4: Outline the vastness of Sanskrit literature
- CO5: Explain the characteristics of Sanskrit prose

### Module 1: (18 Hours)

Developing basic language familiarization through conversation

A brief historical perspective to the language and its origin - The overall organization of the language - Beginning conversation - The first and the sixth case - Gender - Nouns: usage and applications - Gender and number - Present tense - Introducing time and seventh case - Verb structures - Past tense and second case - Future tense and fifth case - Additional variations of verb forms (tvā-anta prayogaḥ) - Additional variations of verb forms (tumun-anta prayogaḥ) - Handling situations and developing thematic conversations.

### Module 2: (11 Hours)

Building rudimentary grammatical foundations of the language

Panini's work on Sanskrit grammar - Phonetics in Sanskrit – Patterns in Sanskrit vocabulary - The science of sound and pronunciation: Varnamālā system in Sanskrit - The Science of combining letters: Sandhi - The Science of combining words: Samāsa - The Science of making sense of sentences: Kāraḥ - An introduction to the Sanskrit grammatical and linguistic tradition.

### Module 3: (10 Hours)

Developing appreciation for the Sanskrit literature

Categories of Sanskrit literary works: Drishya and Sravya - Padyam, Gadyam and Champu - Pancha Mahakavyas and excerpts from them - Examples of well known Gadyam from Bhanabhatta (Shukanasopadesa) - Exercises on pada cheda and Samasa for a portion from identified Sanskrit works.

### References:

1. K. Chaitanya, *A New History of Sanskrit Literature*, Asia Publishing House, 2011.
2. P-S Filliozat, *The Sanskrit Language: An Overview - History and Structure, Linguistic and Philosophical Representations, Uses and Users*, Indica Books, 2002.
3. M. R. Kale, *Higher Sanskrit Grammar*, Bharatiya Kala Prakashan; 2nd ed. 2010.
4. M. R. Kale, *The Hitopadesa of Narayana*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi, 2015.
5. M. R. Kale, *Panchatantra of Viṣṇu Sarma*, Motilal Banarsidass New Delhi, 2008.
6. Kanshi Ram, *The Laghu-siddhānta-kaumudī of Varadaraja: A primer on Pāṇini's Grammar, Volumes I – III*, Motilal Banarsidass Publishers (P) Ltd. Delhi, 2010.
7. M. Sampad and P. Vijay, *The Wonder that is Sanskrit*, Auro Publications, Sri Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry; 5th ed. 2017.
8. Samskrita Bharati, *Bhasha Praveshaha: Prathama Bhagaha*, Samskrita Bharati, New Delhi, 2015.

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### **Brief Syllabus:**

The overall organization of the Sanskrit language - Beginning conversation - Gender, Nouns, verbs, cases, tenses - Variations of verb forms - Handling situations and developing thematic conversations - Patterns in Sanskrit vocabulary - The science of sound and pronunciation: Varnamala system in Sanskrit - The Science of combining letters (Sandhi) - The Science of combining words (Samasa) - The Science of making sense of sentences (Karakas) - Categories of Sanskrit literary works - Pancha Mahakavyas and excerpts from them - Examples of well known Gadyam from Bhanabhatta (Shukanasopadesa) - Exercises on pada cheda and Samasa for a portion from identified Sanskrit works.