

పూజ్యతీ వేదవ్యాస గురుదేవులు నిర్వహిస్తున్న చోళోపవిధి
(గురుస్థాన్, హైదరాబాద్)



Vedic Seminar - 7

Vedangas

Siksha and Kalpam

వేదాంగములు

శిక్ష-కల్పము



Vyasa Poornima Celebrations: 30th June - 3rd July 2012

Published by

USCEFI

Plot No. 56, Road No. 8, Jubleehills, Hyderabad - 500 033

and

Vedavyasa Bharati Trust

No. 5, MHBCS, 20th Main, opp. 4th Cross, BTM Layout, Phase 1,
Stage 1, BENGALURU 560 029. Karnataka, India. 2012

Quest towards research on Sanskrit, Vedic and Manuscript knowledge

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There is a dearth of scholars conversant with reading various rare scripts like Grantha, Nandinagari, Sharada, Modi, Tulu etc., in which many Sanskrit manuscripts are written in the past. The same is true of an authentic Reference Compendium of Vedic Scriptural Treatises as a KnowledgeBase. The enormous amount of input available in Sanskrit texts on any subject under the Sun, the relative difficulty in decoding and understanding the content unambiguously, the geographical spread of traditional Sanskrit and Vedic experts virtually across the length and breadth of the entire country, the difficulty in putting up a team of such experts in a single location for prolonged periods and the ease of achieving the same from heterogeneous locations employing advanced modern developments like Internet, Grids etc. readily offering a tailor-made solution all render the path to be chosen more than obvious.

Indian Heritage and Language Computing Group under C-DAC, Bangalore (KP) has undertaken a mission for study of some of the profound Heritage literature unique to the region in Sanskrit, for the benefit of mainland traditional compatriots as also to fulfill the desire of the scholars of the region for better understanding and popularization of their heritage in the entire country.

Brief outline of this mission:

A web portal housing the following tools is created for free access via internet for the public. <http://ihlc.cdac.in:8080/ihg>

1. (Manuscript Editor) - Study, collation and critical edition of rare, unpublished Palm-leaf manuscripts

The functional modules of the system cover Acquisition, formatting, inputting, indexing, creating database, searching, locating, printing, collation and publishing the manuscripts.

An activity of scanning and digitising the palm-leaf and other manuscripts of Vedic texts with accents in various Indian scripts (along with catalogs, bibliographic reference works of major libraries, if not available from NIC) will be taken up and archived in the site for reference.

Some important works are sought to be critically edited with the help of the software, like Venkata Madhava Bhashya, commentary on RgVeda in Sanskrit, Shadvimsati Sutra with a commentary got written anew, various Shikshas (phonetic texts) with commentaries, Krama Dipika of RgVeda, Phulla Sutra of SamaVeda, pada-patha of SamaVeda, rare commentaries on Taittireeya Pratishakhya, Srautam, a treatise on sacrificial performance with translation and hyperlinks. NMM could be approached to lend the requisite images of works/manuscripts required for critical edition through suitable partnership arrangements. We may get images of manuscripts for sharing across the grid nodes for undertaking collation and critical editions of works of interest to the teams at different centres. We would train and help in processing from heterogenous locations.

The following are some of the Manuscripts acquired from different libraries across the country that are digitized and facilitate browse and search.

Shadvimsati Sutra
Yohi Bhashyam
Krama Dipika
Pluta Shiksha
Anta Pradipika
Taittireeya Pratishakhyam
Sama Rahasya Gana
Chandas Sutra
Naparam
Aranyaka Shiksha
Bharadvaja Shiksha
Jatadarpana Vyakhya

Koundinya Shiksha
Phulla Sutra
Sama Stobha Pada
Aavarni
Sama Chandah-Padam
Aningyam
Avarni
Sapta Lakshanam
Shamanam
Taparam
Panini Shiksha

2. Digital Vedic Knowledgebase Creation:

Here, the digital web contents are created for all the fourteen vidyasthanas. For all the surviving branches of the four Vedas, Samhita, Brahmana, Aranyaka, Upanishad, pada-patha, krama-patha, rulebase for vikrti-pathas, lakshana, pratishakhya, anukramanikas etc. will be prepared in text mode authentically. Commentaries and translations will also be attempted. In Vedanga-s, hyperlinking to Veda-s will be provided dynamically.

Application programs for each vidya-sthana and an integrated, hyper-linked 'concordance' program will be developed. All the contents will be seen in Indian scripts with transliteration facility and Vedic texts will be with proper accent-markers in the corresponding scripts.

Regarding phonetics and Kalpa, the following are created:

KALPA

Kalpa Sutras, typically of sage **Apastamba**, (Asvalayana, Bodhayana..) divided into 6 portions -

- i) Paribhasa Sutra-s being the metalanguage and conventions used in Kalpa Sutra-s in 160 sutras in 4 quarters of 1 chapter,
- ii) Dharma Sutra-s dealing with moral rectitude, conduct and character, physical, spiritual and ritualistic aspects of human behaviour at individual and society levels, contained in 1362 Sutra-

s of 2 chapters, 11 sections and 29 sub-sections,
iii) Grhya Sutra-s dealing with domestic Vedic ritualry, consisting of 405 Sutra-s, 8 sections and 23 sub-sections,
iv) Pitrmedha Sutra-s describing obsequial ritualry comprising 306 Sutra-s in 2 chapters,
v) Sulba Sutra-s describing constructional and architectural aspects of sacrificial altars etc. involving Vedic Mathematical principles, contained in about 300 Sutra-s, 6 sections and 21 sub-sections, and
vi) Srauta Sutra-s describing the various sacrifices mentioned in Vedas, contained in over 10000 Sutra-s in 23 chapters and scores of sections and sub-sections;

SIKSA

Siksa of Panini, Bharadvaja, Vyasa, Pari, Kaundinya etc. dealing with phonetics for Vedic intonation and accents, pronunciation and certain special features of Vedic grammar in verse form;

The Ancient Indian Science of Phonetics (Siksa) is first of the six auxiliary branches of study (vedanga - Siksa is likened to the nose of vedas) for the proper interpretation and understanding of vedas. Many sages like panini, vyasa, bharadvaja, yajnavalkya, narada, apisali, pari etc. have described Phonetics, and as such, different Siksa works are attributed to them. Some of these are common for all vedas while some are specific to certain veda/sakha. Here, we shall concern with paniniya Siksa for further discussions. This work is in the form of sixty verses and references to them here would be by their verse numbers. According to panini, the purpose of the Science is to clarify the proper pronunciation of utterances (vacah uccaranavidhi vyaktikaranam - pa. si. 2).

Conclusion

One can take advantage of sites like ours and <http://www.parankusa.org> for meaningful study and research into Vedas, Vedangas, Upangas, i.e, the shastras, the proper way, exploiting ICT revolution of our modern times.