

Sanatana-Vijnana-Samudayah—Written by
C. Venkataramanaiya, Published by **Bappco** Publications,
THE BANGALORE PRESS, No. 88, Mysore Road,
Bangalore – 560 018.

pp : 632

First Edition : 1946

Second Edition : 2013

Price : ₹ 480/-

Designed & printed at:



THE BANGALORE PRESS

88, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560 018.

Tel. : 26709638, 26709027

e-mail : bangalorepress@gmail.com

FOREWORD TO THE SECOND EDITION

We are now bringing out a new print of the very informative and instructive book titled 'Sanatana Vijnana Samudaya' authored by Sri Venkataramanachar of Channapatna, the then Inspector of Sanskrit Schools, in the year 1944-46, printed at THE BANGALORE PRESS. As it is not available nowadays and elaborates on sources of thoughts and treatises in Sanskrit for various disciplines in the 64 Kala-s and has a good coverage of scientific and technological subjects, it is chosen to be made available for deeper study in Sanskrit.

This authentic and excellent book deals with four categories of Sciences, viz., Physics & Chemistry, Geology, Botany and Physiology & Zoology. It's utility to develop courses in Sanskrit and other Indian languages for students of modern subjects and professionals in diverse fields and preparing manuals for their study is considerable. Students in different scientific and technical domains in institutions of higher education would benefit from adequate knowledge of the ancient Indian contribution to those sciences embodied in the original treatises beginning with the Vedas. A healthy and proper appreciation and appraisal of or ancestral achievements to promote them in the light of modern researches, developments and needs is expected from this.

It is fitting that this release has become possible during the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Institution of national cultural and heritage importance, the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, an 8-day national conference on Vedic literature aptly named "Veda-Samvada", this source book is made available to desirous citizens.

While this book may not be completely or perfectly covering all modern scientific disciplines, it nevertheless deserves to be studied for a blueprint for such an endeavour. The author has been modest and candid enough on this point and so, the plus-points alone need attention. The subject classification, detailed table of

contents in Sanskrit and English, simple style of exposition, list of cited sources, handles to further study are all very useful.

When the Veda-Samvada programme was conceived and I was invited to involve in the exercise, I sought to get this work properly reprinted with many additions, modifications, hyperlinks and other facilities that are available today in scientific books. However, owing to lack of adequate time and other aspects, it has been decided to just revive the book for circulation 'as-it-is', to kickstart work in the direction. [Another brilliant article of over 80 pages, in Sanskrit, on the greatness of Vedas, by the *Late* Mahavidvan, Ghanapathi, NS Devanathacharya, retd. HoD of Mimamsa in Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati, also has not been possible to be published during this occasion].

It is heartening to note that the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan has determined to continue such distinguished efforts even after the Platinum Jubilee celebration event, treating the occasion as a beginning of the exciting academic journey.

The structure of the book is as follows: In all the four sections mentioned before, a detailed table of content is drawn up, followed by sequential explanation in Sanskrit, English translation of important or difficult aspects, description of modern developments in English, good bibliographic reference and scope for further work. While this would lend easily for Vedic references to be added properly for comparative study, enhancing the scope in the light of advancements in all these fields in the intervening six decades or more, it is also worthy of translation to regional languages of the country. It is also hoped that inspired by this work, many more newer and innovative efforts would be undertaken by creative researchers.

The four categories of Sciences covered, viz., Physics & Chemistry [59], Geology [80], Botany [42] and Physiology & Zoology [211], have between them about 400 topics and many appendices. Rare sources are painstakingly collected, compiled

and presented coherently to sustain interest and proceed to further the frontiers of knowledge. As was done in a similar way with Karnataka Knowledge Commission recently, to get a rare, but excellent book on conceptual studies in epistemology, the *Mana-Meya-Rahasya-Sloka-Varttikam* of the stalwart scholar of Mysore Maharaja's College, *Late* Mahamahopadhyaya, Panditaratnam Sri Lakshmipuram Srinivasacharya, this also should spur one to strive hard and excel in theoretical academic research pursuit to add new knowledge for benefit of all of humankind.

As and when the Bhavan launches efforts to follow up on the accomplishments of this wonderful event, we all can look forward to a strenuous, but rewarding journey of pursuing our ancestral accomplishments and restore the country's pristine glory as the knowledge leader of the world. I would very much like to be associated in any way possible to partake in the pleasure of the journey.

26th July 2013

DR. P. RAMANUJAN
*Associate Director (Indian Heritage
and Language Computing),
C-DAC, Bangalore.*