INTRODUCTION TO BASIC SPOKEN SANSKRIT AND INTERMEDIATE LEVEL OF SPOKEN SANSKRIT

PROF. ANURADHA CHOUDRY
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
IIT Kharagpur

INTENDED AUDIENCE: This is a language course and therefore it would be relevant for students from different disciplinary backgrounds of science, technology, computer sciences and humanities and social sciences.

COURSE OUTLINE :
The knowledge of Sanskrit is very helpful for anyone who is interested in delving into the original texts relating to various subjects from the Indian traditional knowledge systems. This language, however, is often presented as a difficult language to learn for many and moreover as a classical language of the past that is of no special relevance in the contemporary world. Those who have been exposed to it in school often regard it as nothing more than a scoring subject and have little appreciation for the various dimensions of the language. The objective of this course if to give students a taste of Sanskrit as a living language by introducing them to its basic grammatical structures so that they can start understanding simple texts as well as allow them to use it in daily life. It also seeks to give them an understanding and appreciation of the beauty of the different aspects of this language from its sounds to its rich content so that they feel enthused enough to delve further into it.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :
Prof. Anuradha Choudry is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, and also a Coordinator at the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Division of the Ministry of Education of the Government of India. She has an interdisciplinary background in Sanskrit, Yoga, Indian Psychology, Indian Knowledge System and is well-versed in various languages. In 2007, she was awarded the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship of the European Union for a M.Lit in Crossways in European Humanities. She has been a Visiting Faculty for Sanskrit in Ghent University, Belgium, and other Institutions and works closely as an Instructor for Yoga Psychology and Sanskrit and mantras for several organizations worldwide including the European Union of Yoga and the Irish Yoga Association among others.
She also had conducted and organized several workshops, conferences and seminars in India and abroad. In 2019, she received the Excellent Young Teacher's Award in IIT Kharagpur and her publications include two books on Happiness - Indian Perspectives (2017) and Perspectives on Indian Psychology (2013), several articles and a few book chapters.

COURSE PLAN :
Week 1 : Introduction: Some Unique characteristics of Sanskrit -Basic introduction of oneself -Simple verbs Daily vocabulary

Week 2 : Introducing different declensions and tenses - 1

Week 3 : Introducing different declensions and tenses - 2

Week 4 : Practice with various verbs in different moods and tenses Summary of the Sentence structure with different questions

Week 5 : Introduction: Some Unique characteristics of Sanskrit,Revision of the main features of Part 1 of Introduction to Basic Spoken Sanskrit,Different verb forms,Daily vocabulary

Week 6,7: Introduction of different declensions in the plural and tenses – 1,Daily Vocabulary,Poetic verses, conversations and stories

Week 8: Practice with various verbs in different moods and tenses,Summary of the Sentence structures using the plural with different questions

Week 9: Introduction of a few more words ending with consonants and their declensions,An Alternative Conjugation of verbs,Daily vocabulary,Poetic verses, conversations and stories

Week 10: Introduction to their different declensions in singular, dual and plural,New verb forms,Daily Vocabulary,Poetic verses, conversations and stories

Week 11: Introduction to Sandhi,Vowel with vowel / Vowel with consonant / Consonant with consonant / Aspirant with vowel or consonant,Poetic verse, reading and comprehension, conversations

Week 12: Practice with a variety of word endings, various verbs in different moods and tenses,Summary of the Sentence structures using the plural with different questions