



# SRI AUROBINDO SOCIETY

Creating the Next Future

## स्पन्दन

Sri Aurobindo Foundation for Indian Culture SAFIC

### *Spandana: Feeling the Pulsation of a Divine Language*

#### Feedback from the Participants of June 2011 Workshop

*When I first signed up to come to this workshop, it was purely from a linguistic point of view. But at the first session on the first day, I realised that this was going to be much more than that... It was truly insightful and inspirational... I especially appreciate the great care taken to formulate the syllabus of this course and the sensitivity towards the fact that there is need to have both intense and light moments to make it more palatable for everyone... The session on Chandas, the sessions on Alphabets and the Chanting sessions were really special. The correlation between breathing (pranayama) and chanting, Chandas and song writing or poetry writing and the complex system of logic behind every existing letter in the Sanskrit language was a mind blowing discovery for me. It has changed how I think, forever!!*

*Vasundhara Das (Cine Actress and Singer)– Bangalore*

*The workshop has created a perfect blend of the inner and outer meaning of Sanskrit. For me the inspiration is to dive deeply into the language, for the experience of language – like treasure under every work and letter and sound. It seems like learning Sanskrit for a few days transformed my inner world – having me look at my life and my conducts differently. It changed my view about learning about life... All the sessions are excellent – the aspect of spiritual and gaining insights from the inner world really touch me the most. It is a very good approach to bring the “soul” of Sanskrit into the course. Understanding metres, seed letters, root sounds, etc. restore the true meaning of learning Sanskrit.*

*Manisha Lewis – USA*

*The whole week has had a big impact on me in a positive way in that I now know what I don't know about the language.*

*The workshop has highlighted the power of sound and words and what impact they have on all around us.*

*The workshop provided me with a spring board – motivating me to continue back home with more study.*

*Amit Popat – London*

*My aim in participating in this course was not to gain a practical ability to use Sanskrit, but more to get a living sense of the character of Sanskrit as it was used by the seers and visionaries of the Vedic and contemporary ages. And the teacher masterfully managed to reconcile the complex technicalities of Sanskrit with the more important spiritual nature and power of the language. The course was wholesome in its approach, and each primary aspect of the language was presented with clarity and simplicity without demeaning the profound intentions and experience of the Rishis who consciously designed the language. ..Thank you for this magical first introduction to the language which is the Mother of all languages.*

*As a poet, the session of Chandas was especially meaningful. I really appreciated the teacher's experiments and understanding of the characters of the various chandas. So too did I admire his way of presenting the Chandas as not merely poetic metres, but also as rhythms natural and crucial to the various movements of consciousness in nature and in the universe.*

*Nishin Nathiwani - Canada*

*This has been a journey that has taken me inward to unravel aspects of myself I did not know before. The workshop has opened me up to a world of Infinite possibilities... It goes beyond learning the language to taking me into a realm where simple sounds and vibrations are brought so much through this workshop, who hail from a rainbow of backgrounds, all have contributed much to my learning...*

*The two of my most favourite times of the session were the chanting sessions and the sentence formation exercises. The chants, after we were taught the meaning, had an unexplainable impact on me, taking me to a state of being I have never felt before.*

*Rachana Iyer – Mumbai*

*...I could pick up the language much beyond my level of expectation and at the end I started speaking Sanskrit as a toddler. I am sure that I will further improve my skill with the foundation laid and the material support given by the organiser. All the sessions were well planned and simultaneously timely and accurately executed.*

*Dr. Sudhir Kumar Panigrahi – Karaikal*

*It was a great experience. The sessions were really intense and organised. This workshop would definitely help me to explore Sanskrit literature further...I highly appreciate the research work Dr. Mishra has done for this workshop and the learning material he has prepared for participants...*

*I think each and every session was intense but I really liked the morning chanting sessions also the introductory session about Sanskrit made me curious to know more about the subject. Even the Nursery Rhymes Session I enjoyed very much.*

*Sachin Gupta – Delhi*

*This Sanskrit learning experience was fantastic, you would encourage us to make sentences and speak the language. The workshop inspired me at every moment to become better and I thoroughly enjoyed even if my mind didn't understand sometimes but my heart always did. Extremely grateful for the workshop and hoping to improve and be better next time I am in Pondicherry. I liked most the Nursery Rhymes in Sanskrit. Because rhymes and the chandas and the rhythms entered the learning, it became fun, without even realising my mind became active and learning became easier.*

*Astha Butail – Delhi*

*It has been a great privilege for me to be in this class. When I read the description of the course that was given at the website, I was very excited and thought, 'This is exactly what I've always liked for but never before have seen'. Sanskrit is not about grammar and linguistics, it is about deep meaning and divine intent, and that is clearly expressed in the course goals and outline. Then, to experience the class, was an even cleaner confirmation: Active learning is the key to successful instructions. I have been convinced of that in my own academic context. Now in my rather advanced years, and with a brain that is certainly slower than it was formerly, I have perhaps witnessed the most original and deeply thought-out mode of instruction I have seen to date. (I do not exaggerate).*

*The chanting sessions were something. I've always wanted and never had a chance to learn with the depth of instruction – metre, pause and origin of verse. Singing and the generous patience and right amount of repetition show the patience and care taken in the presentation.*

*Nandita Black – USA*

*The way we were taught the Sanskrit language both to speak and write was very simple and convincing... All the sessions of Sanskrit learning and the aspect of spiritual touch has deeply affected my soul. The education should have spiritual touch...*

*Lambodar Pradhan – Bhubaneswar*

*This magnificent workshop will make me follow my dream, somehow or the other. The fear of Sanskrit language has gone far away from me...*

*Sulata Panigrahi –Rourkella, Orissa*

*This course has helped me realise the richness of Sanskrit. It was simply amazing to see one word with very many synonyms and each of these described the various attributes of the word. Chandas was another beautiful topic. That the entire creation has come from Chandas was a great learning as there is Chandas in the movement of planets in the seasons coming one after another. The “Let Us Speak Sanskrit” sessions was where we learnt to communicate in Sanskrit... Mantrajapa session in the morning was really wonderful way to start the day.*

*The Bhagavad Gita session really mesmerized me. The entire multimedia CD is a complete study on the Gita. The concept of Karmayoga – that no work is big or small touched me the most. Also the concept of Nirashraya – find happiness within you and not in events or people around you...to drop the dependence on others...was a great learning. Also, the chakra energizing and purification shlokas in the mantra japa session was excellent.*

*Rohini Iyer – Mumbai*

*Intensifying pushed me to a new level of enthusiasm and interest with the pursuit of Sanskrit study... The workshop was intense entertaining, rewarding and I plan to not only chant, but to commit to some daily study...But what affected me most were the speaking sessions...*

*Good news – much more confidence in reading/ writing Sanskrit in just 6 days! ☺*

*Sharada Sayyed – USA*

- *Very well researched and presented.*
- *Has kindled the urge to learn more about Sanskrit.*
- *Well structured and delivered with sincerity and passion.*
- *Story telling sessions made the applications of the language easier and enjoyable.*

*Krishna Iyer – Mumbai*

*This workshop held between 5<sup>th</sup> June till 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2011 is very important for me. As I was having a thirst for knowing Sanskrit language to use it in reading ancient scriptures of India, esp. the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Gita, the Tantras, the Mantras which bear the real truth of animate and inanimate objects and principles and rules of human conduct and values.*

*Sankar Pradhan – Bhubaneswar*

*I found it exhilarating to learn Sanskrit from Sampadji. What amazes me is the ability of Sanskrit to capture truth more exactly and precisely than any other language I know. I loved the morning chanting of Sanskrit shlokas. Sometimes I did feel a little daunted by the vastness and intricate complexity of the language, but the feeling was always accompanied by a sense of the exhilaration that a sailor feels when he is crossing a vast ocean in a fragile sail boat!*

*Anahita Sanjana – Mumbai*

*This inspires me to acquire knowledge. It is very helpful for my interest. I liked most the pronunciation of the letters of Sanskrit and chanting of bija mantras*

*Padmanaban S. – Bangalore*

*The course was well taught. It was a dream for my family to learn and speak Sanskrit. This course is a dream come true for us with this beginning, we would take an earnest effort to speak Sanskrit at home and understand the rich cultural heritage of our country.*

*All sessions were good, especially 'Let us Speak Sanskrit'. The lessons were taught in an easy manner, instilling confidence to speak in Sanskrit.*

*S. Bama – Chennai*

*The workshop had a bit of casual element to it that made it pleasant. The course contents were well organised and time-management was precise. Sentence construction was exciting. It made me think more.*

*M. Sathya Prasad – Chennai*

*I liked all the sessions of the workshop. But I liked story session the most, because in story session we had to make the story and while making that we know how much we have learnt.*

*Ekta Pandey – Jodhpur*

*This workshop re-energised me and gave me a hope for a new path.*

*Abhimanyu Mohanty, Pondicherry*

# स्पन्दन

*feeling the pulsation of a divine language*



*Spandan: feeling the pulsation of a divine language - June 2011*

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