



Azad Hind Fouz Smriti Mahavidyalaya Domjur, Howrah

‘SANSKRIT DAY’


World Sanskrit Day (*Vishva Sanskrita Dinam*) is celebrated to honour the ancient Indian language, Sanskrit. The day is observed on the full moon of the Hindu calendar month of ‘*Shravana*’ which usually occurs in July or August each year. The Indian government decided to celebrate *Sanskrit Diwas* on *Raksha Bandhan* Day in 1969 emphasize the importance of learning Sanskrit and encourage its revival among new generations.


**Azad Hind Fouz Smriti Mahavidyalaya
Domjur, Howrah**


Department of Sanskrit in collaboration with the
IQAC celebrates

World Sanskrit Day

*Our everyday World through
the lens of Sanskrit*


पयोहिमम् /
पयोहिमम्


द्विचक्रिका /
द्विचक्रिका


लेखनी /
लेखनी

An Exhibition cum Seminar

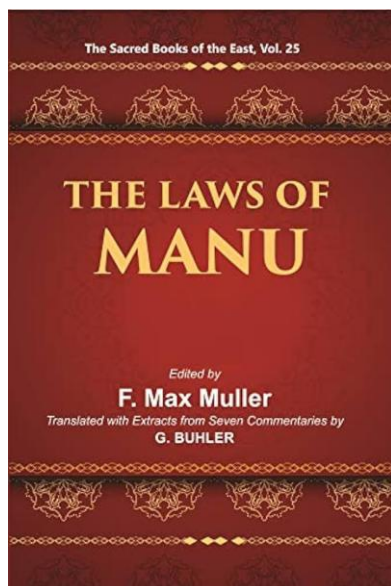
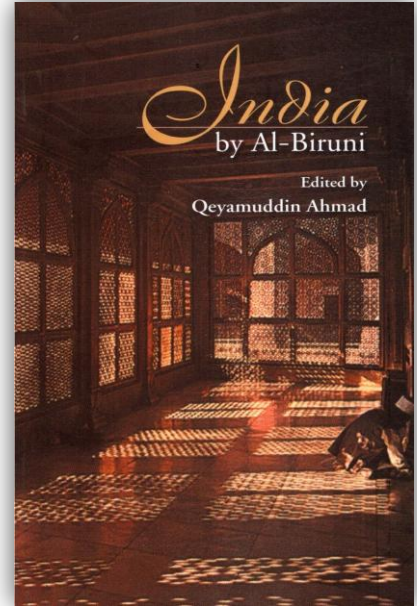
12.8.2025 ** CONFERENCE ROOM ** 1 PM

Sanskrit is one of the oldest languages of the Indo-European family of languages which originated in the Indian sub-continent around 1500 BCE. The word ‘Sanskrit’ (*Sam̐skṛta* means “adorned, cultivated, purified”).

Sanskrit evolved from the four Vedas (*Rigveda*, *Samaveda*, *Yajurveda* and *Atharvaveda*) which were compiled between 1500 and 500 BCE. Vedic Sanskrit was transmitted orally for centuries till Panini, the grammarian, standardized it as Classical Sanskrit in *Ashtadhyayi* (“Eight Chapters”) around 500 BCE. Classical Sanskrit is the language of ancient Indian texts, such as *The Rāmāyaṇa* (“Life of Rāma”) and *The Mahābhārata* (“Great Tale of the Bhāratas”). Among the famous Sanskrit authors of ancient India are **Bhāsa** (*Svapnavāsavadatta*), **Kālidāsa** (*Abhijñānaśākuntala*, *Vikramorvaśīya*, *Kumārasambhava* and *Raghuvamśa*), **Śūdraka** (*Mṛcchakatika*), **Bhāravi** (*Kirātārjunīya*), **Māgha** (*Śiśupālavadha*) and Bhavabhūti (*Mahāvīracarita*).

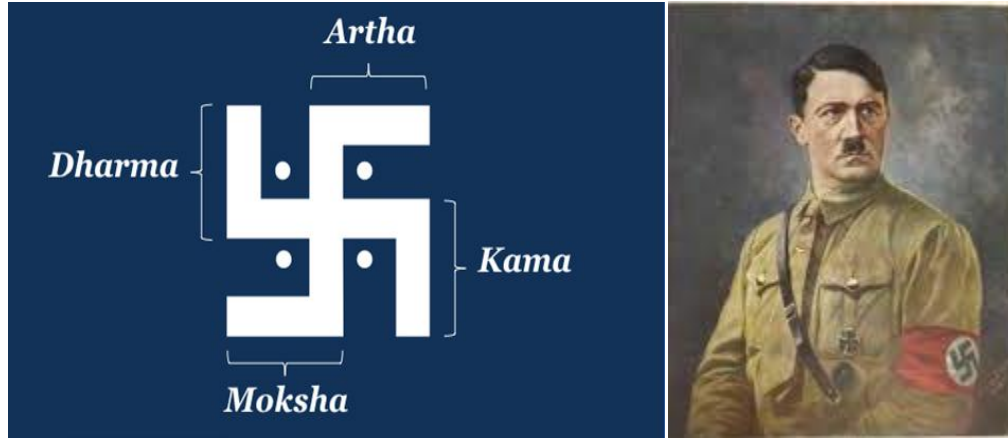


The classical period of Sanskrit spans the 3rd to 8th centuries CE. Sanskrit was widely spoken by scholars even in the 11th century when Al-Biruni, the Iranian scholar of the Islamic Golden Age, visited India. He learned Sanskrit and translated Indian texts into Arabic to facilitate cultural and intellectual exchange between India and the Islamic world. Sanskrit started to decline with the rise of other languages and political changes. The rigid social hierarchy in India made Sanskrit inaccessible to the non-Brahmin masses who spoke Prakrit and Sanskrit became confined to the upper classes and the priests. Sanskrit further declined in Medieval India when Urdu became the language of governance. With the advent of the British colonizers in India, English became the favoured language for education, law and governance. After India attained independence, Sanskrit was recognized as one of India's classical languages but not prioritized, as the focus shifted to other languages, as Hindi and regional languages, and English.



However, the declining interest in Sanskrit in India is paralleled by its resurgence in the West. Max Müller, the 19th century German-born British scholar, introduced Sanskrit literature and culture to Europe. Though he never visited India, he was one of the major Sanskrit scholars of his time. Max Müller explored the linkages between classical languages as Sanskrit, Greek and Latin though his work sparked great controversy. Nevertheless, Germany has a rich tradition of Sanskrit studies. Several

universities offer Indology programs focused on Indian culture and philosophy and courses in Sanskrit. The German airline is called ‘Lufthansa’ – a combination of “Luft” (German for ‘air’) and “Hansa” (Sanskrit for ‘swan’). However, the Sanskrit ‘*swastika*’ symbol of “well-being” has been devalued through misuse in Nazi Germany. Due to its association with the atrocities of the Nazi regime, the ‘swastika’ has been banned in Germany and Austria since 1945.



The rise of Germany as a global centre for Sanskrit studies is an interesting phenomenon, showing how a language can be cherished by a foreign nation, while the land of its origin remains less proactive in nurturing it. The resurgence of Sanskrit in the West has been criticized suggesting that the academic motives were motivated by colonial or imperialist agendas. Nevertheless, Sanskrit continues to be studied in Western universities, with ongoing research in Indology, linguistics and computational linguistics. In 1985, NASA researcher Rick Briggs published a paper titled “*Knowledge Representation in Sanskrit and Artificial Intelligence*” suggesting that Sanskrit grammar was so refined, that it could be beneficial for knowledge representation in Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly in Natural Language Processing (NLP). This idea generated considerable academic interest, but it is not a practical application used by NASA in its current space programs.

In India, Sanskrit is recognized in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India as both a classical language and an official language in Uttarakhand and continues to be used in scholarly, literary and technical media, as well as in periodicals and mass media. In conclusion, while Sanskrit may not be a widely spoken language in daily life, it continues to be a vibrant and relevant force in the modern world, offering linguistic, cultural, and technological advantages.

To generate interest in this ancient language, the Sanskrit Department has organized an exhibition cum seminar on 12.8.2025 from 1 pm in the College Library and Conference Room. The exhibition will showcase our everyday world through the lens of Sanskrit. This will provide exposure to students and teachers to the Sanskrit language in an entertaining and enlightening way.

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Date: 11.8.2025

S. Chakraborty
Principal
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