

Report on Two-Day Sanskrit Orientation Workshop

Theme: Sanskrit and Sanskriti: Unearthing the Repository of Knowledge in the Traditional Indian Knowledge System

Dates: 7th – 8th May 2025

Venue: Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh

Organized by: Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), Rajiv Gandhi University in collaboration with Central Sanskrit University

Organizing Committee

Patrons:

- Prof. S.K. Nayak, Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University
- Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi, Vice-Chancellor, Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi
- Dr. N.T. Rikam, Registrar, RGU
- Prof. Otem Padung, Finance Officer, RGU

Advisory Council:

- Prof. Ashan Riddi, Director, CDOE, RGU
- Prof. Ratna Mohan Jha, Director, Institute of Open and Distance Education (Mukta Swadhyaya Peetham), Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi

Convenor:

- Moyir Riba, Coordinator (Academic & Administrative), CDOE, RGU

Coordinators:

- Dr. Saurav Mitra, Assistant Professor, CDOE, RGU
- Sushri Tinku Devi, Teacher, Centre for Sanskrit Learning (CSL), CDOE, RGU

Committee Leads:

- Media: Dr. Sunil Koijam, Assistant Professor, CDOE
- Logistics: Dr. Nyajum Lollen, Assistant Professor, CDOE
- Refreshment: Dr. Bide Mindo, Assistant Professor, CDOE
- Reception & Hospitality: Dr. Chathiam Lowang, Assistant Professor, CDOE
- Transport: Dr. Margum Ado, Assistant Professor, CDOE
- Task Oversight: Dr. Pasang Ruku, Assistant Professor, CDOE
- Publicity & Printing: Rituraj Dutta, PA to PRO, RGU
- Certificate Preparation: Manoj Dutta, DEO, CDOE, RGU
- Selfie-Point & Registration: Mili Mihu, Staff, CDOE, RGU

Acknowledgements

The organizers express deep gratitude to:

- Rajiv Gandhi University authorities for their unwavering support.
- Central Sanskrit University for collaboration and resource sharing.
- Hon'ble Speaker Shri Tesam Pongte for gracing the inaugural session.
- Prof. Prahlad R. Joshi, Vice Chancellor, KBVS & ASU, Assam, for the keynote address.
- All resource persons, panelists, and cultural performers.
- Partner institutions: Vivekananda Kendra College of Teacher Education (VKCTE), Oju Mission, Centre for Cultural Research and Documentation (CCRD),.
- Dedicated volunteers and technical teams for seamless execution of the event.

Executive Summary

The two-day Sanskrit Orientation Workshop, titled “Sanskrit and Sanskriti: Unearthing the Repository of Knowledge in the Traditional Indian Knowledge System”, was successfully held on 7th and 8th May 2025 at Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh. Jointly organized by the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), RGU, and the Central Sanskrit University, the workshop aimed to revive interest in Sanskrit as a dynamic cultural and intellectual heritage while exploring its relevance in the contemporary era in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Over 200 participants, including students, teachers, scholars, and cultural enthusiasts, attended the event. The programme featured inaugural and valedictory sessions, a keynote address, a thematic panel discussion, interactive language activities (Bhasha Parichay and Bhasha Krida), competitions, and cultural performances. The event not only highlighted Sanskrit's timeless value but also emphasized its modern applications in science, linguistics, and technology.

Part 1: Preface

1.1 About Host Institution

Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) is a premier Central University in Arunachal Pradesh dedicated to advancing academic excellence and interdisciplinary research. The Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), RGU, serves as a hub for promoting flexible learning opportunities, ensuring access to quality higher education for all.

1.2 About the Sponsoring Agency

Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, is a leading institution committed to the promotion and propagation of Sanskrit language, literature, and allied studies.

1.3 Background

Sanskrit and Sanskriti are vital components of India's civilizational fabric. This workshop aimed to rediscover the traditional Indian Knowledge System (IKS), foster renewed interest in Sanskrit education, and explore strategies for its integration into contemporary curricula.

1.4 Objectives

- Explore and celebrate the cultural heritage of Sanskrit and Sanskriti.
- Examine the role of Sanskrit as a repository of knowledge.
- Discuss NEP 2020-driven strategies for integrating Sanskrit education.
- Showcase Sanskrit's relevance in modern technological and scientific contexts.
- Engage participants through interactive learning and cultural activities.

1.5 Expected Outcomes

- Renewed interest in Sanskrit among students and educators.
- Strengthened collaboration between universities and cultural institutions.
- Practical recommendations for implementing Sanskrit programs at multiple levels.

1.6 Themes and Sub-Themes

- Sanskrit as a living heritage.
- Indigenous languages and cultural identity.
- Sanskrit in computational linguistics and education.
- Bridging traditional wisdom and modern knowledge.

1.7 Resource Persons and Panelists

- Prof. Prahlad R. Joshi, Vice Chancellor, KBVS & ASU, Assam (Keynote Speaker & Panelist)
- Prof. Oken Lego, Head, Department of Hindi, RGU (Panelist)
- Dr. V.K. Mishra, Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi, RGU (Panelist)
- Dr. Arun Kumar Pandey, Associate Professor, Department of Hindi, RGU (Panel Moderator)
- Shri Nil Kamal Pandit, Assistant Professor, Sanskrit, Darang College, Assam (Resource Person)
- Ms. Rituparna Sarma, Research Scholar, KBVS & ASU, Assam (Resource Person)
- Ms. Nita Devi, Research Scholar, KBVS & ASU, Assam (Resource Person)

1.8 Target Population

Students, teachers, researchers, and cultural practitioners.

1.9 Budget

As per official records (to be appended).

1.10 Modus Operandi

Structured sessions comprising inaugural and valedictory ceremonies, keynote and panel discussion, language games, competitions, and cultural performances.

Part 2: Session-wise Deliberations

2.1 Inaugural Session

The inaugural session commenced with the RGU Kul Geet, ceremonial lighting of the lamp, and a graceful Manglacharan dance by Ms. Manami Gamlin. Dr. N.T. Rikam, Registrar, RGU, delivered the Welcome Address emphasizing the importance of Sanskrit and indigenous language preservation. Moyir Riba, Convenor, presented the objectives of the workshop and highlighted its alignment with national campaigns.

Prof. Prahlad R. Joshi, in his keynote, underscored Sanskrit's living relevance and its role in enriching Arunachal's linguistic diversity. Shri Tesam Pongte, Hon'ble Speaker, delivered an inspiring address on safeguarding cultural traditions and oral heritage. Prof. S.K. Nayak, Vice Chancellor, RGU, presided over the session and shared his vision for integrated linguistic education.

2.2 Panel Discussion

The panel on "The Need for Sanskrit Education in the Context of Arunachal Pradesh" included:

- Prof. Prahlad R. Joshi: Spoke on historical trajectory and modern applications.
- Prof. Oken Lego: Highlighted collaboration for certificate programs.
- Dr. V.K. Mishra: Connected Sanskrit grammar to computational linguistics.
- Dr. Arun Kumar Pandey (Moderator): Shared innovative teaching methodologies.

2.3 Technical Sessions

Interactive Bhasha Parichay and Bhasha Krida sessions were facilitated by Sushri Tinku Devi, assisted by resource persons Nil Kamal Pandit, Rituparna Sarma, and Nita Devi. These sessions blended structured language learning with engaging activities.

2.4 Competitions & Cultural Events

- Shloka Recitation (Chapter 12 of Bhagavad Gita)
- Sanskrit Song (Gayan) Competition
- Sanskrit Skit Competition

The valedictory day featured cultural performances including a heartfelt song by Padi Kari and a traditional folk dance.

2.5 Valedictory Session

The session began with the RGU Kul Geet, followed by a welcome address by Sushri Tinku Devi. Dr. Saurav Mitra presented the workshop report, while remarks from Prof. Ashan Riddi and Prof. Otem Padung lauded the success of the event. Prize winners showcased their talent through live performances. The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Chathiam Lowang and the National Anthem.

Part 3: Major Takeaways

- Renewed momentum for Sanskrit education in the Northeast.
- Strengthened partnerships between Central and State institutions.
- Practical recommendations for curriculum integration under NEP 2020.
- Emphasis on indigenous language revival alongside Sanskrit education.

Part 4: Appendices & Annexures

Media Coverage (press releases attached)

<https://arunachal24.in/sanskrit-comes-alive-at-rgu-two-day-workshop-ends-with-cultural-brilliance-and-scholarly-impact/>

https://echoofarunachal.in/news_details.php?nid=31932

<https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2025/05/09/pongte-calls-for-revival-of-states-traditional-shamanic-chanting-languages/>