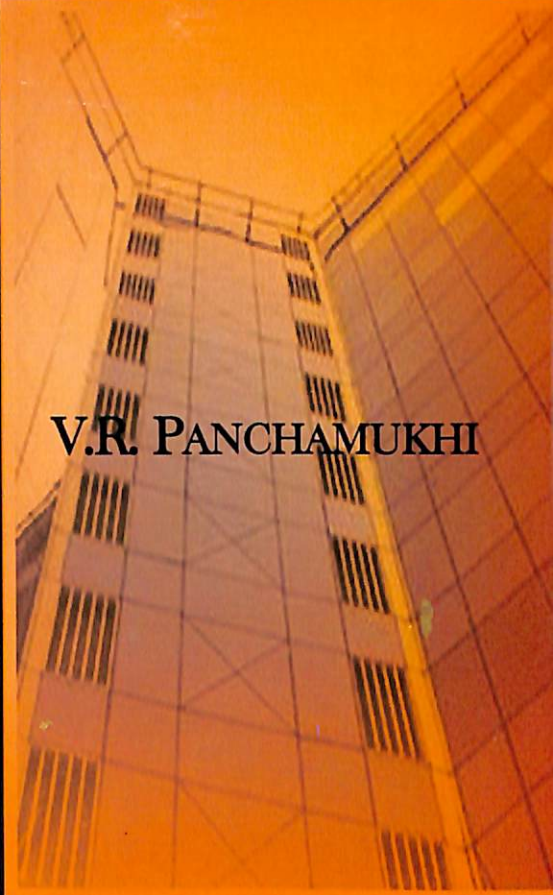


READINGS IN SANSKRIT ON ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT



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राष्ट्रीयसंस्कृतसंस्थानम्

मानितविश्वविद्यालयः

(भारतशासनमानवसंसाधनविकासमन्त्रालयाधीनम्)

नवदेहली

Preface

Sanskrit is a rich language and is one of the most ancient languages of the world. It is now commonly accepted that Sanskrit is the mother of many Indian and European languages. What makes Sanskrit language, the most respectable one is the fact that the literature in Sanskrit is the rich reservoir of profound Knowledge about the different disciplines of physical and social sciences, in addition to containing perceptive thoughts of Philosophy and Metaphysics. Unfortunately, in the recent centuries, Sanskrit has been considered only as a language meant for rituals and religious practices. This situation has arisen because, we have lost touch with the language as also with its rich literature. What ever be the causes for this pathetic status of Sanskrit, in the recent times, it is gratifying to find that some new initiatives are being taken, both at the governmental level and in the non-governmental circles, to restore to Sanskrit, its pristine status in the intellectual space of India.

It is my firm view that the respectability and acceptability of Sanskrit in the contemporary world, can be enhanced only when, the relevance of the wisdom and knowledge contained in the Sanskrit literature for resolving many challenging dilemmas of the present day society, are clearly brought out and eloquently advocated. There is a very peculiar problem of communication-gap, between the Sanskrit world and the modern world of economics and management. Further there is also a big space of ignorance in the Sanskrit World and in the world of modern formal education.

In many fora, wherever, I had had the opportunities of delivering lectures on Economics, Management and Sanskrit, I have been making the suggestion that the students of modern Institutions in Economics, Management, and Science, should learn Sanskrit and study the relevant portions from Sanskrit Literature,

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III.1. INTRODUCTION

Kautilya's Artha s'astra is one of the greatest treatises on Political Science, Diplomacy, Strategic policy-making, Foreign affairs and Economics science. It was authored by scholar-cum-politician, called by different names, such as, Chanakya, Kautilya, and Vishnugupta. It was written, some time, in the 4th century B.C and it has the uniqueness of being a narration of Theory and Practice, drawn from the personal experiences and the conceptions of the author. It was a practical manuel for ousting the wicked Nandaraja from the seat of power and installing the noble Chandragupta, in his place, so that value-based governance for the welfare of the people at large, is established. The messages and the guidelines provided in this pre-Christ composition of deep wisdom are found to be relevant even in the present times, when interpreted in the framework of the modern times.

Even though, this rich treatise was written more than 2000 years ago, it is only in 1908, that this rare and valuable manuscript, which was buried deep in the Archives of India- was unearthed, carefully edited and published by the well-known scholar, Pandit. R. Shama Shastri, under the auspices of the "Oriental Research Institute" of Mysore. It is worth-noting that Pandit Shama Shastry had had access to only one copy of the Manuscript, and he bravely took the challenges of editing the same. No amount of accolades is sufficient to express our admiration to this extraordinary scholar. But for his efforts, the profound theory and practice propounded by Chankya would have been lost to the Posterity.

