**Shree Somnath Sanskrit University: An Introduction**

Sanskrit language and its literature copious literature are the most unparalleled gifts of India to the entire mankind. A detailed study of the same is being undertaken all over the country and abroad. The Government of Gujarat established Shree Somnath Sanskrit University on 12.04.2005 in order to avail facility for study of Sanskrit and its Shastras in Gujarat too. The University Grants Commission gave 2(f) recognition to this University on 17.02.2006. Shree Somnath Trust donated 17 acres of land to the University at Veraval, Gir-somnath. The heritage building existing on this land which is currently the main building of the University was also renovated and donated to the University by Shree Somnath Trust. Instruction in the post-graduate classes at the main center of the University started in academic year 2006-2007. The then Chief Minister of Gjarat and the current Prime Minister of India, Shree Narendra Modi inaugurated the main building of the University on 05.02.2007. “पूर्णता गौरवाय (**Consummation for glory)”** is the motto of Shree Somnath Sanskrit University. The University gives utmost importance to ‘quality’ for attaining its goals.

After the establishment of this University, due to the affiliation of all the Sanskrit Paathashalas with the University, all thei students studying in these Paathashaalas are getting valid Shastri, Acharya and other higher degrees after passing the University examinations. The jurisdiction of this University is the entire state of Gujarat. Currently 43 Diploma centers, 35 Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas, 1 Constituent College, 1 Post Graduate Institute comprising 6 departments, 1 Research Center, 1 self-financed Shiksha Shastri (B.Ed.) College and 20 P.G.D.C.A. Centers affiliated to the University are functional all over the state of Gujarat.

In course of time M.Phil and Ph.D. programs in research also started at the University. Since then numerous students have registered and completed their research here. The University has started a self-financed course named Post-garduate Diploma in computer application in the academic year 2010-2011. Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and semester pattern were introduced in Shastri and Acharya programs from 2010. Today subjects like Veda, Jyotisha, Navyavyakarana, Puranetihasa, Sarvadarshana, Sahitya, Vastushastra, Paurohitya, Dharmashastra, Swaminarayana-vedanta, Ramanuja-vedanta and Navyanyaaya are being taught at the University Constituent College, the Post-graduate Center and the Sanskrit Colleges affiliated to the University. Modern subjects like English, Computers, Hindi, Gujarati, History, Economics and Ancient Politics are also being taught at the Shastri (Under Graduate) level. At its various diploma centers, the University also offers one-year diploma in Vedic Ganit, Karmakanda, Jyotisha Shastra, Vastu Shastra, Sanskrit Teaching, Post-graduate Diploma in Sanskrit, Gujarati and Hindu Studies, Graduate Diploma in Sanskrit, Gujarati and Hindu Studies, Temple Management, Music, Natya Shastra and Yoga. An online diploma in Geta and its Commentaries is also being taught. More than a hundred foreign students have participated in this course. For working students the University also offers an opportunity to appear for Shastric exams in ‘external’ mode.

The University houses a library, conference hall, assembly hall, Veda Mandira, Yagya Shala, computer laboratory, Saraswati Mandira, Hostel, Play ground and a gymnasium.

Every year the University organizes various national and international conferences and seminars for updating the knowledge of its faculty members and students. Glorious programs on the Sanskrit Week, Youth Festival and Convocation Ceremony are organized every year by the University. The students selected in various sports, cultural, art and academic competitions as a part of the Youth Festival have been successfully representing the University in various inter-university competitions.

From the academic year 2010-2011