



Samskruti Foundation  
Our Culture, Our Identity

# Newsletter

Issue 14 December 2022 Hyderabad

www. <https://samskrutifoundation.in/>

## Samskruti Samachar

### National Conference on Shivaji's Statecraft: Lessons for Modern India



24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

Srisailem, Dist. Kurnool-518101 (AP)

**Samskruti Adhyayana Kendra**  
(A unit of Samskruti Foundation, Hyderabad) and  
**Shivaji Sphoorti Kendra**

### Samskruti Talks in Progress



Income – Inequalities, Sustainability, Agriculture – discussed  
as part of the Public Policy Formulation Talks

*Self Confidence provides strength and Power  
imparts knowledge. Knowledge provides stability  
and stability leads to victory."*

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

The first of its kind National Level Conference on 'Shivaji's Statecraft: Lessons for Modern India' is being organized at Srisailem, Telangana on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022, by Samskruti Adhyayana Kendra. Preparations are underway at a hectic pace with logistics being put in place. Four themes and three sub-themes have been finalized. Resource persons for chairing the four sessions and panellists to give talks on sub-themes have been identified at a pan-India level. Eminent scholars and dignitaries will participate in the event which will have far reaching outcomes. Assistant Professors and Associate Professors from Universities across India are participating in the conference. A good number of research papers are expected to be submitted and a compendium of the proceedings is also planned. Patrons and like-minded individuals and institutions have graciously agreed to fund the event.

Shivaji recognised the need for effective public service delivery and took special care to make his administrative system responsive to the needs of the people.

Shivaji Sphoorti Kendra is a memorial dedicated to the great Hindu Emperor Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Shivaji visited Srisailem to worship the presiding deities Mallikarjuna Swamy and Bhramaramba Devi. As a mark of respect for the deities, he constructed the northern entrance of the temple known as 'Shivaji Gopuram'. The Kendra's mission is to enkindle the spirit of patriotism and devotion in the society that the great Shivaji epitomized.

*India should be proud of its  
cultural heritage and  
storytelling is part of Indian  
tradition and Kathakar  
celebrates this tradition"*



The theme for the Vande Bharatam Event to be showcased on 26th January, 2023 at Kartavya Path, New Delhi will be 'Naari Shakti' which is one of the themes for the Republic Day Parade-2023. The Vande Bharatam Nritya Utsav is being organized by Ministry of Culture to select around 500 participants from all across the country who would be part of a special choreographed presentation during the Republic Day Celebration, 2023 on the above theme. The art of storytelling in India has many forms and utilizes many mediums. Despite differences in settings, genres, or cultures, all stories ultimately aim to convey something universal. They serve both an educational and entertainment purpose for audiences. It's clear that different sections of India's culture has its own distinct approach to storytelling. Puppets, dance, or even musical instruments are used as props to help the narrator make storytelling more impactful. Hence, Kathakar, the sole celebration of India's rich oral storytelling tradition, which was started under the umbrella of Ghummakkad Narain Travelling Literature Festival was launched in 2010.  
(source: pib.gov.in)

## Samskruti Talks

**Samskruti Talks** strives to promote the inclusion of the element of our culture in public policy formulation. The theme of linkage of culture to public policy formulation into the process of Public Policy formulation is a relatively unexplored area and therefore, initially, those associated with this task need conceptual inputs so that they get a clearer and more tangible idea of the process and the work content. In addition to this, as the activities of Samskruti Adhyayana Kendra (SAK) move forward, there is a need for a platform for exchange of ideas, discussion on the progress of work, receiving suggestions for suitable changes and modifications, if need be, and giving the overall activity a large internal exposure. It is felt that this need can be addressed if periodic exchange meets among the working groups are organized in a structured manner.



Samskruti Adhyayana Kendra, a part of Samskruti Foundation, began activities in the year 2020.

There are in all about 50 ministries which cover different domains of activity in all walks of life relevant to the work on public policy formulation. Regular meetings amongst the people engaged in the process of culture -policy linkages and belonging to ministries of similar nature of work is desirable. This will ensure optimal use of resources and also help in avoiding of duplication of work and bring more clarity on themes besides promoting trans-ministerial approach to common problems.

The process of exchange of ideas and sharing work progress stated above is sought to be carried out through a series of meets called '**Cultural Talks**'. The meets are proposed to be held periodically at a fixed venue, on a fixed date and time every month. The invitees would be identified for long term participation.

The conducting of Samskruti Talks is envisaged to be on the following lines.

- Ministries of GOI to be divided into 5 homogeneous groups based on their similarities.
- In each month, the interaction would pertain to the work of a particular group of ministries. Thus each such group would be covered twice in a year.
- The invitees would be identified beforehand. The number is to be confined to about 50, so that when, as per normal expectations, about 30 turn out, interactive sessions are feasible.
- The group of 50 invitees would be comprised of domain experts relevant to the ministries from the group. Each domain would generally be represented by one leading expert rated at least in top 3 in that domain, and other four-five persons, also of good standing in the domain having association with SAK.
- The kind of engagement in Samskruti Talks may include any one of the following depending on the need, and the progress made.
  - Discourse by experts
  - Round Table
  - Individual Video bites
  - Discussion papers
  - Conclave and Seminar

- The initial orientation talks would be on the theme of Culture in general, and Bharatiyata in particular, covering interlinking of culture with the domains represented by the group present.

- The grouping of Ministries based on similarities and commonalities can be -

- a) Service sector ministries
- b) Regulatory ministries
- c) Development related industries

### Agenda of the Meeting

1. Inauguration
2. Discussion on "Income – Inequalities" by Sri Kishore Shastri
3. Discussion on "Sustainability" by Dr. V M Tiwari
4. Discussion on "Agriculture" by Dr. Kotha Sammi Reddy

**Date: 20-11-2022**

**Time: 10:30 pm to 01:30 pm**

**Sub: Samskruti Talks – Inaugural Session**

**Members Present:**

Sl No	Name	
1	Sri U. Venu Gopal	GRC Capability Lead, Tech Mahindra
2	Sri T. Rambabu	MD, URGE Pvt Ltd
3	Dr. P. Somanath	Doctorate in Vedic Economics. Sansk scholar.
4	Dr. Vivek Modi	Wellness educator
5	Dr. UM Chaudhari	Scientist, BHEL R&D
6	Sri Ksheera Sagar	Industrialist with interest Vedic/ancient Indian History
7	Sri KS Rama Murthy	Social Activist
8	Sri Madhusudhan Jhunjhunwala	Businessman
9	Dr. VM Tiwari	(Director, CSIR-NGRI)
10	Dr. Kotha Sammi Reddy	Principal Scientist ICAR-CRIDA
11	Sri Kishore Shastri	Engineer, E-Governance
12	S. Venu Gopal	Retd, Chief office superintendent - South Central Railways
13	B. Annapurna	Office administrator
14	D. Tukaram	CLC Co-ordinator



## Tejaswini

**Tejaswini activity of Samskruti Foundation aims to solve social problems by involving elite women of society. The platform's objective is to design solutions that are rooted in Bharatiya culture.** Tejaswini addresses women centric issues and challenges faced by them in the current times based on time tested methods. Women played a major role in shaping and sustaining our culture. Our age old dharma regards and respects the role of women in our society with reverence. Present day women are facing many challenges at domestic and professional fronts and struggling to stand on their own. They need to be strengthened to build a strong family, society and thus nation. They can derive strength with knowledge from of our ancient culture. The current education system needs to give appropriate weightage to Indian Culture so that students, teachers, men and women derive the strength to face toughis not giving them a good and proper orientation of our culture to derive the required strength to face life's challenges.

As part of its Cultural outreach initiative through different she was married to the Maharaja of Jhansi, Gangadhar Rao in activities and programs, Samskruti Foundation (Cultural Leadership Centre) organized an Essay writing competition on the occasion of Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi Jayanthi on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

Essay writing is not just a method of academic assessment, but also an art. This is an art of reporting and describing a topic. It not only requires storytelling skills but also the presentation of a story. With our Essay Writing Competition, we want to discover essay writing talent from the student community.

An Essay Writing Competition was organized on the life of Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi and how she serves as an inspiration to women of all ages.

### Participating Colleges (Hyderabad)

1. Keshav Memorial Institute of Commerce and Sciences
2. Vignana Bharati Institute of Technology
3. Vignana Bharati Engineering College
4. Government City College
5. Vivekananda Government Degree College

150 students from the 5 colleges participated in the Essay writing completion.

### Rani Lakshmi Bai An Epitome of Courage and Bravery



Rani Lakshmi Bai, also called the Rani of Jhansi, was a pivotal figure in the Indian Revolt of 1857. Born on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1828 as Manikarnika Tambe in Varanasi, she is regarded as one of the greatest freedom fighters of India. At the age of 14, she was married to the Maharaja of Jhansi, Gangadhar Rao in 1842. After her marriage, she was called Lakshmi Bai. Her son Damodar Rao was born in 1851. But he died after four months. Gangadhar Rao died in 1853.

The Rani fought valiantly with the British forces under the command of Sir Hugh Rose who arrived at Jhansi fort with the intention of capturing it in 1858. The courageous Rani of Jhansi fought the battle dressed as a soldier and tying her infant son on her back. The valiant queen, however, lost the battle and attained *veergati* on 18th June 1858.



*"We fight for independence. In the words of Lord Krishna, we will if we are victorious, enjoy the fruits of victory, if defeated and killed on the field of battle, we shall surely earn eternal glory and salvation." Rani Lakshmi Bai*



## Samples of the Essay Writing

### Essay on JHANSI RANI (Mani Karnika / Lakshmi bai)

Lakshmi Bai, the Rani of Jhansi was an Indian queen born on 19 November 1835. The Maharani consort of the Maratha princely state of Jhansi from 1843 to 1853. Manikarnika was married to the Maharaja of Jhansi Gangadhar Rao Newalkar, and was afterwards called Lakshmi Bai in honour of the Hindu goddess Devi Lakshmi and according to the Maharashtra tradition of women being given a new name after marriage.

Rani Lakshmi Bai was the epitome of courage and bravery. She gave a birth to a boy, later named Damodar Rao, who died four months after birth due to chronic illness. The Maharaja adopted a child called Anand Rao. Gangadhar Rao died due to shock of the death of their son and Rani Lakshmi Bai became queen after that.

Gangadhar Rao wanted their adopted son Damodar Rao (Anand Rao) to become king, but the British Government refused it under the doctrine of Lapse policy. Rani Lakshmi Bai did not wish Jhansi to become an English state and refused to accept their demands. She formed an army and fought with the British. She had her adopted son tied to her back on the battlefield and died fighting. She died a martyr and inspired several people to fight for freedom.

She is truly an inspiring figure in history and an inspiration to many women to fight for their rights. Due to her sacrifice and courage she is remembered. She is also remembered for her valour during the Mutiny of 1857-58. She was died on June 14, 1858 while fighting in Gwalior.

"I SHALL NOT SURRENDER MY JHANSI"

### RANI LAKSHMI BAI

Rani Lakshmi Bai was an unforgettable warrior in the history of India. She is famous as the Rani of Jhansi, renowned Queen of Jhansi. Varanasi is the place she belongs to, popularly called Kashi. It was 1857 when the queen showed her heroism and valour, rising with a rebellion against Britishers. This battle was known as the very first war for independence. Formally known as "Manikarnika Tambe". At the age of fourteen, Manu married "Maharaja Gangadhar Rao Newalkar". It was 1842, and he was the emperor of Jhansi. In the year 1851, she gave birth to a son Damodar.

The British Government took an opportunity over the Maharaja's death, which caused the loss of hereditary heir, and considered occupying Jhansi. The revolt's original date was set on 31 May 1857 they started the revolution. The Queen of Jhansi fought with impeccable valour and courage. She single-handedly fought with the British army till one of the English horsemen struck her on the rear head. Despite being heavily injured, she continued the fight bravely. Rani Lakshmi Bai will always be remembered amongst the bravest fighters in Indian history. Rani Lakshmi Bai is a shining example of patriotism and pride in country.

"If DEFEATED AND KILLED ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE, WE SHALL SURELY EARN ETERNAL GLORY AND SALVATION."

4. )

## Significant Women Freedom Fighters in the Indian National Movement

1. Pritilata Waddedar (1911-1932)
2. Basanti Devi (1880-1974)
3. Aruna Asaf Ali (1909-1996)
4. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay (1903-1988)
5. Matangini Hazra (1870-1942)
6. Bina Das (1911-1986)
7. Suniti Chaudhary (1917 - 1988)
8. Jhalkari Bai (1830-1858)
9. Savitribai Phule (1831-1897)
10. Begum Hazrat Mahal
11. Rani Gaidinliu (1915-1973)
12. Durga Bhabhi (1907-1999)
13. Kittur Chennamma (1778-1829)
14. Sarla Devi Chaudhurani (1872-1945)
15. Mirabehn (1892-1982)

and many many more.....

The history of the Indian Freedom Struggle is incomplete without mentioning the contributions of many unsung Women Freedom Fighters of India. Many courageous women raised their voice against the British rule, took to the streets, led processions and held lectures and demonstrations. These women are epitomes of courage and patriotism.

### भारत की महान महिला स्वाधीनता सेनानी



### Great Indian Women freedom fighters

Union Minister of State for Culture Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi had earlier released a pictorial book on India's Women Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle as part of Azadi ka Mahotsav, in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha. The book celebrates the lives of some of the women who led the charge and lit the flame of protest and rebellion throughout the country. It contains the stories of queens who battled colonial powers in the struggle against imperial rule and women who dedicated and even laid down their lives for the cause of the motherland. If we go through the glorious past of Indian history, we find that the Indian culture was the one which celebrated women and there was no place for gender discrimination. This is amply evident from the fact that women had the courage and physical strength to fight like soldiers in the battlefield. Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi said that celebration of freedom has a meaning only when we familiarise our youth with the past and make them feel proud of their history. It is important for the youth to understand the history of freedom struggle through an Indian perspective rather than the colonial one.

(source: Indian Ministry of Culture)



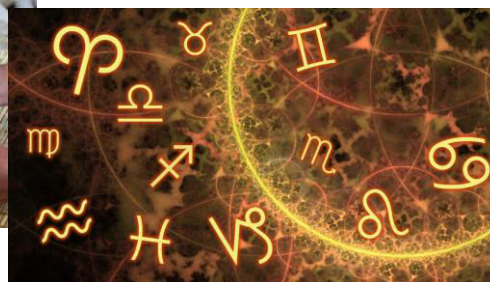
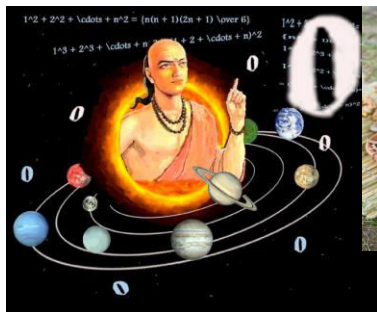
## Cultural Leadership Centres

Seminars on - **Science and Technology in India: Past, Present and Future** - were held in several colleges across the country as part of Samskruti Foundation's cultural leadership activities. The Indian Civilization has a long recorded history of scientific culture that goes back to more than 5000 years, and is regarded as one of the longest surviving civilizations who have made profound contributions to the growth of science and technology.

The key to future progress for mankind lies in the realization of "science and technology for society, and in society." With the shift to a knowledge-based society well underway in the opening years of the 21st century, the creation of new knowledge is an increasingly important aspect of scientific and technological activities, and the role of science in this knowledge creation is important for the realization of "science and technology for society."

Indian heritage is one of the richest and oldest among the world. From the time of ancient India, scientific and technological developments were done. Many famous mathematicians from India contributed a lot in the development of theories that we still use and are applied in majority of fields. Indian heritage has been known for its various developments like gemstone therapy, ayurvedic medicine, physics, farming, literature and many more. Indian heritage has led to current advancements in science and technology.

The Idea of Zero, The Decimal System, Numeral Notations, Fibonacci Numbers, Binary Numbers, Algorithms, Ruler Measurements, Atomic Theory, Heliocentric Theory, Wootz Steel, Smelting of Zinc, Seamless Metal Globe, Plastic Surgery, Cataract Surgery, Ayurveda, Iron-cased Rockets, are some of the significant contributions of India to science and technology.



***"We owe a lot to the ancient Indians, teaching us how to count. Without which most modern scientific discoveries would have been impossible." – Albert Einstein***

India has gained limelight in the world due to its consistent new inventions in the field of science and technology from Indian students and experts. The growth of technology today is in all sectors including education, infrastructure, electricity, aviation, medicine, information technology and other fields.

Prominent Scientists of modern India are Srinivas Ramanujan (1887-1920), one of India's greatest mathematical geniuses, Chandrasekhara V Raman (1888-1970), discoverer of Raman Effect, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (1931-2015), India's Missile Man, Dr. Hargobind Khorana, eminent scientist in biotechnology and gene therapy. At present, India is one of the most fascinating



destinations for technology trans actions in the world and it is ranked among the top five. About 27 satellites (out of which 11 facilitate the communication network to the country) are



active and in operations. India is ranked among the top ten nations in terms of the number of scientific publications. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully completed its mission of developing India's independent navigation system by launching the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS – 1G). IRNSS – 1G is the seventh navigation satellite and it will reduce the country's dependency on US Global Positioning System. The first Asian nation to reach Mars orbit and the first nation to do so on its first attempt is India.

The objective was to promote interest in science and technology in daily life, to commemorate ancient India's contribution to modern science and technology, and to foster a spirit of science and curiosity in students. The outcomes of the Seminars on Science and Technology in India: Past, Present and Future were very encouraging as students got a better understanding of how developments in science and technology influence the creation of new occupations and subsequent changes in educational programs can help decision makers at all levels of our society. Since we are advancing, the science and technology industry is also advancing at a faster pace. Although there are challenges, the road ahead is exciting. Students were subjected to energetic discussions on past, present and future of science and technology in India.

Seventeen colleges conducted the seminars - .Sailajananda Falguni Smriti Mahavidyalaya, West Bengal; Solapada +3 Mahavidyalaya, Angul, Odisha; Gauhati Commerce College, Assam; K. C. Das Commerce College, Assam; Pragjyotish College, Guwahati, Assam; Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya Assam, Government

General Degree College, Mohanpur, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal; Sikkim Government College, Namchi, Sikkim; Kingston College of Science, Barasat, West Bengal; Lokenath B.Ed. College, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal; Madhyamgram B.Ed. College, Kolkata, West Bengal; Bir Bikram Memorial College, Agartala, Tripura; Barabazar Bikram Tudu Memorial College, Purulia, West Bengal; Sitaram Mahato Memorial College, Purulia, West Bengal; Sikkim Alpine University, Kamrang, Namchi, Sikkim; Govt. Gen. Degree College, Jhargram, West Bengal; and Sevayatan Sikshan Mahavidyalaya, Jhargram, West Bengal.

Students elaborated on the present science and technology innovations and the future such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Virtual Reality and Information Technology. Students were motivated and they took oath for best practices and to learn more about "Science and Technology in India: Past, present and future". The HEIs were inspired by the theme of Samskruti Foundation.

## Glimpses of the Seminars

Sailajananda Falguni Smriti Mahavidyalaya, Birbhum, West Bengal



K. C. Das Commerce College, Assam



Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya, Assam



Government General Degree College, Mohanpur, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal



Solapada +3 Mahavidyalaya, Angul Odisha



Pragjyotish College, Guwahati, Assam



Sikkim Government College, Namchi, Sikkim



Gauhati Commerce College, Assam



Kingston College of Science, Barasat, West Bengal



*"Dream, Dream, Dream. Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action."*

Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam



Lokenath B.Ed. College, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal



Bir Bikram Memorial College, Agartala, Tripura



Barabazar Bikram Tudu Memorial College, Purulia, West Bengal



Govt. Gen. Degree College, Jhargram, West Bengal



Madhyamgram B.Ed. College, Kolkata, West Bengal



Sitaram Mahato Memorial College, Purulia, West Bengal



Sikkim Alpine University, Kamrang, Namchi, South District, Sikkim



Sevayatan Sikshan Mahavidyalaya, Sevayatan, Jhargram, West Bengal



*Science and Technology hold the key to the progress and development of any nation. Technology plays a fundamental role in wealth creation, improvement of the quality of life and economic growth of the country*

Samskruti Foundation CLC's resource person Dr. Savita Mishra coordinated a college visit to Salesian College, Siliguri, Darjeeling, West Bengal. Salesian College (SC) is a Government recognized, minority educational institution of the Catholic Church, run by Salesians of Don Bosco, Kolkata Province where over 2200 students do their Arts/Humanities, Commerce, Science and Professional Courses (UG & PG) under the North Bengal University (NBU). The Faculty and students presented their views on Indian science and Technology. It was seen that students were curious to gather knowledge about the progress of Indian science and technology. They collected different articles and presented their views in this seminar. The more people become open to science, the more the nation will develop.



## From the Chairman's Desk



**Dr. C. Umamaheswara Rao**  
**IAS (Retd.)**

Economic, social, religious, cultural, and psychological variables - all influence the emergence and development of women's empowerment. As we celebrate Rani Lakshmi Bai's birthday in November, it is apt that we remember and pay homage to all the known and unknown unsung women in India's freedom struggle. Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi's heroism and outstanding leadership laid an exemplary example of real patriotism. Indian women, from all walks of life, irrespective of education, social standing, caste, creed, religion and community, joined the national movement. Their contributions to our life cannot be overlooked. Samskruti Foundation's call for Essay Writing competition on Rani Lakshmi Bai was a step towards making youth aware of the huge valour depicted by the great woman and the lessons we need to imbibe from her life which was laden with great personal strife. Students need to be inspired by such historical

and cultural personalities who fought unselfishly for our national cause. The battles they fought, the wars they won, and the wars they lost should not be restricted to the text books of history, but must be practical lessons for students to learn from their struggles and give them due respect and gratitude.

The process of exchange of ideas and sharing work progress is being carried out through a series of meets called 'Samskruti Talks'. This is intended to be held periodically at a fixed venue, on a fixed date and time every month. We are all geared up for the first of its kind National Level Conference on '**Shivaji's Statecraft: Lessons for Modern India**' being organized at Srisailem on 24th and 25th December 2022, by Samskruti Adhyayana Kendra. I am thankful to all the members and volunteers who are working at a hectic pace to put the event in place. The far reaching outcomes of the event will be eventually shared and the knowledge disseminated.

The seminars on 'Science and Technology in India: Past, Present and Future' organized by Cultural Leadership Centres of Samskruti Foundation were very encouraging with thought provoking and experiential learning elements. Faculty and students alike participated and came out with their thoughts on India's current science and technology development. India's contribution to modern science and technology is well established as has been acknowledged by great scientists and scholars of the world.

### Samskruti Foundation

Samskruti Foundation is a registered trust consisting of prominent and accomplished senior civil servants, professionals and corporate citizens. It is constituted under section 4 of Indian Trust Act 1882 with registration no. 000124/2009. It has been striving towards promoting Nation Building activities among the youth of the society in Telangana and across India.

**Our Vision** – To be National Resource Center for Culture

**Our Mission** – To preserve, protect and encourage practice of the Bharateeya Culture and Ethos through research, education, training and Dialogue

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