PREFACE

It is very small attempt of bringing together the Indological Research Institutes (IRI) in India and abroad and their activities in one place. I know that this attempt is not exhaustive; rather it is the request to the authorities & scholars to give us more and more information about the IRIs they know in their area and elsewhere.

I sincerely admit that despite my continuous efforts for more than four years I could not collect much information of the IRIs. To all the IRIs, Society, Sanskrit Academies, bodies I have circulated a three page questionnaire.

ABOUT THE INDOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

There are more than 100 IRIs fully functioning today, obviously more than that are existing but not fully functioning. By fully functioning I mean, there is a paid staff, who are working on certain projects. The courses of different duration are being carried over, and accordingly such Institutes are also engaged in teaching students, conducting courses and seminars for the students as well as teachers. Research activities are finally supported by such teaching, preaching and training activities.

The main aim of these research institutes is to work on certain topic and as fruit of it, they bring out a book. Thus number of publication of the books is the norm to measure the progress achieved by the institutions.
However it seems that now a days the trend, direction and method of the researchers is bit changed. It is shifted from Library to society. The researchers are motivated to make it useful for the mankind.

However the major research projects of these institutions can be classified as follows: (a) Preparing the critical editions; (b) Giving the translation and notes; (c) Preparing various indices, concordance, dictionaries, catalogues, etc. Collection of the manuscripts and their digitization are additional activities undertaken by the Research Institutes.

The 14 Sanskrit Universities play very important role in this field. On one hand they promote Sanskrit studies, utilize the expertise of these Institutes and on the other hand yield and provide trained and capable staff for them.

The Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Vedavidya Pratishthan, Ujjain (MP) (MSRVVP) (An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India) has been doing a note worthy work regarding the preservation of the Vedic tradition.

It is a matter of great concern that the condition of the old Vedic Research Institute and Centres is very pitiable and these are gradually declining. The research projects undertaken by most of the Institutes have been left either incomplete or are lingering on without making any substantial progress. One of the main factor responsible for this pitiable condition is the lack of sufficient and competent staff.

A cursory glance on the information collected from the IRIs will reveal the fact that the major problem they are facing is the want of good,
capable, enthusiastic and promising students and also good dedicated teachers. The financial problem can be overcome. Even food can be provided but different types of efforts, with different directions are required to retain them in the field.

One more fact revealed through this survey is that there are geographical pockets where the IRI’s are comparatively good in number. Contrary to that there are some places where this activity is very rarely found. Many institutions and organizations have seriously undertaken the promotion and propagation of Sanskrit studies.

At the end of this note I express my deep sense of gratitude towards all of them who extended their cooperation by responding to my request and sent me the filled up questionnaire. Hence, enabling me to compile this work.

The present study is divided in 7 chapters. Chapter-I ‘Introduction : Problem and Methodology. It will highlight the problem, objectives of the studies. Chapter-II ‘Indology; past and present’ Here we will discuss the meaning and the scope of the word ‘Indology’ in its full length. Chapter-III ‘Origin and development of the Indological Centres and their Libraries in India.’ Chapter-IV will be ‘Library Documentation and information Service.’ This chapter will deal with the services of the Indological Centres in India. Chapter-V entitled ‘Organization and administration’. Here we will discuss the general working in the Libraries. Chapter-VI entitled
‘Publication of Indological literature in India’. This chapter will enlist the kinds of the publications of these centres in India. Chapter-VII entitled ‘Conclusion, suggestions and reflections. Here, we will access the overall position of the Indological Research Institutes and review their position and give necessary suggestions for the up-liftment of the IRI Libraries.