

Professor Vachaspati Upadhyaya



Professor Vachaspati Upadhyaya served the cause of Sanskrit for more than four decades. He lent grace and brace to various positions he occupied. A dedicated scholar, an inspiring teacher and a dynamic administrator, he always matched objectivity with magnanimity. Professor Upadhyaya had the rare fortune of studying at the lotus feet of his father, late Acharya Shri Ramakant Upadhyaya during his childhood and then under the tutelage of Professor Gauri Nath Shastri, Pandit Pattambharam Shastri and Professor Bimal Krishna Matilal. He was bestowed upon the choicest blessing of guruparampara, by the grace of the God Almighty. He did M.A. and Ph. D in Sanskrit from University of Calcutta and D. Litt from Sanskrit University, Varansi,

Professor Upadhyaya held the posts of Controller of Examinations and Registrar of Sampurnananda Sanskrit University, Varanasi at an early age. Later on, he joined the Department of Sanskrit, University of Delhi as a Lecturer and then rose to the levels of Reader and Professor

He served the University of Delhi for a period spreading over a quarter of a century and the

Head of Department of Sanskrit, During his tenure at the University of Delhi, Professor Upadhyaya made his mark in the area of Indian Philosophy, Veda, Sahitya and Dharmashastra. He guided more than 60 scholars for the award of Ph. D. and about 70 Scholars for M.Phil degrees on various aspects of these fields. He has so many national and international research publications to his credit.

Professor Upadhyaya joined Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth as Vice Chancellor in the year 1994 and he served this Vidyapeetha till his last breath (11.7.11). He added a number of new academic programmes and courses in traditional as well as modern aspects of Sanskrit learning. His ideas and ideals are reflected in his innate wisdom and innovative vision as well. Under his dynamic leadership, The Vidyapeetha with more than 100 members of the faculties has been credited not only with high academic distinction in the country but also blessed with good infrastructures.

He introduced a number of new academic programmes of the Vidyapeetha for the development of the students and propagation of Sanskrit, the rich Indian heritage language.

Professor Upadhyaya was associated with numerous academic bodies of several Universities and the Central and state governments, Being the senior most Vice Chancellor in the country, he assumed the portfolio of president, Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi in 2005. He also held the position Director, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan from May to December in 1999. He was also entrusted with the assignment

of member secretary of Maharshi Sandipani Rastriya Vedavidya Pratishthan, Ujjain from 1996 to 1998, 200 to 2001 and 2006 to 2007, He also served Gurukul Kangri Vishvavidyalaya as Pro- Vice Chancellor from 1975 to 1976

He produced a number of students in Sanskrit who are serving throughout the world. He served the cause of Sanskrit with his association in various academic bodies of the country like Indian Institute of Advanced Study Shimla, University of Madras, Sanskrit Parishad, Lucknow, Shiksha Akademi, New Delhi, Rastriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati, Sampurnananda Sanskrit University, Varanasi, Ujjain, Kurukshetra, Chadigarh, Sagar and Gorakhpur Universities.

Professor Upadhyaya received many honours and awards in recognition of his outstanding service to The Sanskrit Studies. He was conferred the title of Mhamahopadhyaya (Honoris Causa) by Sri Sitatamdas Omkarnath Sanskrit shiksha Sansad, Calcutta in 1999 and by the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi in 2000. He was awarded the certificate of Honour by the president of India in 2001 for distinguished contribution to the cause of Sanskrit. Besides these, The other notable awards conferred upon him are: Saraswati Puraskar (2002) from Shri Kailash Math, Nasik, Acharya Umaswami Puraskar (2001) from Kund Bharti, New Delhi, Maharashtra Rajya Mahakavi Kalidas Sanskrit Sadhna Puraskar (2005) from Government of Maharashtra and Late Smt. Chandrawati Joshi Sanskrit Bhasha Puraskar (1994) from Gyan Kalyan Datavya Nyas.

Professor Upadhyaya authored and edited a number of books on Mimamsa, Dharmashastra and various other aspects of Sanskrit Studies.

He had a rare felicity of expression and is an acclaimed speaker of Sanskrit, English, Hindi and Bengali. He lectured extensively throughout the country and abroad on Indian Philosophy, Culture, Literature and Polity. He participated and represented India at many International Conferences across the globe. He successfully organized The World Sanskrit Conference at Vijnana Bhawan, New Delhi in 2001 and the World Vedic Conference at Ujjain in 2007.

Professor Upadhyaya visited countries like Germany, Switzerland, England, Australia, Mauritius, Singapore, Thailand and Nepal for the academic cross-pollination of Sanskrit Literature.

Professor Upadhyaya has logged many kaleidoscopic miles: excellence in academics as well as acumen in administration being his vowed objectives. His single-minded commitment to the cause of Sanskrit and distinguished achievements are a matter of pride for one and all. He made a remarkable impact on the academic scene of higher education in India by his vision and dynamism and has fulfilled the aspirations of his admirers by accomplishing all his onerous assignments with tremendous success. With his vast exposure and deep insight into the Indian tradition, Professor Upadhyaya made a distinctive contribution to the field of Sanskrit Studies.

Courtesy :

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