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University Grants Commission

Report of the Committee appointed by the Commission to consider the proposal of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Charitable Trust, Kanchipuram for grant of deemed to be University status to Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Nyaya Sashttra Maha Vidyalaya, Kanchipuram under Section 3 of the UGC Act.

The University Grants Commission constituted a Committee consisting of the following members to see the infrastructural facilities created and to assess the standard of teaching and research in Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Nyaya Sastra Maha Vidyalaya, Kanchipuram.

1. Professor D.P. Singh
Member, UGC
2. Dr. M.I. Savadatti
Vice Chancellor
Mangalore University
3. Dr. GJVJ Raju
Hony Professor
Andhra University
Waltair
4. Dr. Ram Murti Saarma
Emeritus Fellow
Delhi University
5. Shri R.L. Sondhi
Under Secretary, UGC

The Committee visited Kanchipuram on 17th April, 1993. The members were briefed about the revised guidelines laid down by the Commission for considering the proposal for declaring an Institution as deemed to be university under Section 3 of the UGC

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Act, 1956. For the purpose of recognition as deemed to be a university, an institution should generally be:

- i) engaged in programmes of teaching and research in chosen fields of specialisation which are innovative and of very high academic standards;
- ii) making, in its area of specialisation, distinct contribution to the objectives of the university education system through innovative programmes and on becoming a deemed to be university, capable of further enriching the university system as well as overall strengthening of teaching and research in the institution and in its area of specialisation, particularly;
- iii) competent to undertake application-oriented programmes in emerging areas which are relevant and useful to various development sectors and to the society in general;
- iv) Institutions should have the necessary viability and a management capable of contributing to the university ideals and traditions.

It was also clarified that institutions which are notified as deemed to be universities shall continue to receive the funds for their maintenance and development expenditure from their existing sources and supplement them by raising their own resources.

In addition, the Institution at the time of the proposal should have provision of adequate infrastructural facilities as per details given below:

(a) Buildings:

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|---|--------------|
| i) Administrative | 1000 sq.mts. |
| ii) Academic including library building | 3000 sq.mts. |

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iii) Some teachers residence and a faculty guest house for atleast 10 persons.

(b) The Institute should have created or should have atleast 3 faculties with atleast 25 faculty members including atleast 5 Professors.

(c) A minimum of Rs.40.00 lakhs annual recurring grant.

(d) Equipment, Books and Journals - Rs.50.00 lakhs.

The members of the Committee had very useful and extensive discussions with His Holiness, Swamiji Shri Jayendra Saraswati of the Kanchipuram Shankaracharya Math and the members of the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Charitable Trust, Kanchipuram. The Committee also met the faculty and students of the Nyaya Sashttra Maha Vidyalaya.

As part of the Centenary Celebrations of Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi, 68th Pontiff of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, coming under Sri Adi Sankara Parampara being held from 5th April, 1993 to 5th April, 1994, the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Charitable Trust has requested for the grant of deemed to be university status to Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Nyaya Sastra Maha Vidyalaya, Kanchipuram under Section 3 of the UGC Act. The name of the proposed deemed to the university has been indicated as "Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Mahonnata Maha Vidyalaya".

The Shankaracharya Math is running the following 3 Institutions:

(1) Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Nyaya Shastra Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Kanchipuram.

A traditional post-graduate Sanskrit College receiving assistance from the Government since 1983 under the Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya Scheme.

(ii) Shri Sankara Arts and Science College, Enathur (Kanchipuram). A Graduate College for Science, Arts and Commerce started in 1991-92.

(iii) Shri Venkateshwar College of Engineering, Sri Perumbedur offering B.E. courses in Computer science, and other branches of Engineering.

Presently these 3 Institutions have separate campuses and the institution at (iii) above is about 30-35 kms. away from the first two institutions.

Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Nyaya Sastra Maha Vidyalaya is being run by the Sanskrit Education Society, which is a registered body. A new trust namely Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Charitable Trust was registered on 27th November, 1987 to raise and mobilise additional financial resources for the Mahavidyalaya. The Secretary of the Society vide his letter dated 17.4.1993 has intimated that they are handing over the management of the above Mahavidyalaya to the Trust.

Sri Sankara arts and Science College, Enathur (Kanchipuram) was established in July, 1991 as a self-financing institution. This college is managed by Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Charitable Trust.

Sri Venkateshwar College of Engineering is being managed by a separate registered trust namely "Sri Venkateshewara Educational and Health Trust". Initially this college was also sought to be included in the proposed university but on second thought, the

Committee was told that they do not wish to include the Engineering College in the proposed deemed university.

His Holiness Swamiji Shri Jayendra Saraswati mentioned that the Nyaya Sashttra Mahavidyalaya is proposed to be enlarged by offering a few relevant courses from the Arts and Science faculties to enable it to restructure and offer innovative modular courses combining traditional sanskrit knowledge and modern science. Further, research will be undertaken in the various faculties available in Sanskrit and Vedas with the background of knowledge in Modern Science and the use of Computer. It was also mentioned that a lot of scientific material was available in our traditional and hoary vedas and shastras like architecture, Vriksha - ayurveda, vetinerary science, mathematics, geometry etc. This will be brought out through intense research using modern scientific techniques and computers. His Holiness felt that such a restructured pattern will broaden the out-look and add to the knowledge of the students and thus enhance their job prospects. It was mentioned that all this would be possible only if a deemed university status is granted to the Mahavidyalaya, as within its present frame work, there is no room for such innovative programmes and the Mahavidyalaya has to confine itself to the teaching of traditional sanskrit courses only. His Holiness is of the view that once the restructured courses are started, these would attract a large number of students. The Committee was assured that steps would be taken to create the required number of senior faculty positions and fill-up the same with eminent scholars, who would also undertake research.

It was mentioned that the Shankaracharya Math had cash and fixed deposits in banks and public sectors undertakings amounting to Rs.2.61 crores which would be transferred to the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Charitable Trust. An assurance was also given that the guidelines laid down by the University Grants Commission would be followed in all respect (such as mode of selection, scales of pay, and the terms and conditions of service of the Vice-Chancellor/ Director and the faculty). His Holiness also mentioned that the Trust has already made a provision of Rs.25 lakhs per annum during the initial years of the establishment of the university and this would be stepped-up in a phased manner.

The Committee visited the present campus of Nyaya Sastra Mahavidyalaya and Arts and Science College. The Committee was informed that Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Charitable Trust has purchased 102.41 acres of land at Enathur (Kanchipuram). The members of the Committee went round the new campus to see the progress of the construction of Library and other buildings. The construction of the library building has started on 18.1.1993 at an approved cost of Rs. 1.91 crores. The plinth area of the building is 1520 sqm. The building is expected to be ready by January 1994.

General Observations of the Committee:-

1. Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Nyaya Sastra Mahavidyalaya, Kanchipuram.

Kanchipuram is a district headquarter and is situated at a distance of 80 Kms. from Madras. Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Nyaya Sastra Mahavidyalaya, Kanchipuram caters to the

educational needs of the local students and those in the neighbourhood which is pre-dominantly rural. The Mahavidyalaya was established in 1976 and granted affiliation by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan in 1983-84. It has been conducting courses of traditional Sanskrit Education i.e. Prak Shastri, Shastri and Acharya which are recognised by the Government of India as equivalent to the corresponding courses of general education - Intermediate, BA and MA. The class-wise strength of students from 1989 to 1993 is indicated below:-

	PRAK SHASTRI		TOTAL	SHASTRI			TOTAL	ACHARYA		TOTAL	GRANT	TOTAL
	I	II		I	II	III		I	II			
1989-90	8	4	12	3	6	9	18	4	3	7	=	37
1990-91	7	6	13	2	2	6	10	4	2	6	=	29
1991-92	25	4	29	5	2	2	9	4	6	10	=	48
1992-93	23	13	36	2	4	2	8	5	3	8	=	52

The present faculty position is indicated below:-

Designation	Number of Posts	Scale of pay
Principal	1	Not indicated
Lecturers	5 (2 for Nyaya) (1 for Vyakarna) (2 for Sahitya)	Rs. 2200-4000/-
Part -time Lecturers	4 (1 each for Hindi English, Higher Sanskrit and Economics)	Rs.1000/-p.m.fixed

All the above positions except that of the Principal have been filled-up.

The Mahavidyalaya imparts education in Vedanta, Nyaya and Sahitya. Out of 9 teachers, 2 are Ph.Ds. and another 2 are registered for Ph.D. After discussions with the teachers, it was found that

they were well qualified and equipped in their field of learning and have aptitude for research and learning. The students were also found to be well versed in their subjects and their interaction showed that they were getting proper guidance from their teachers.

They spoke in chaste Sanskrit which is very uncommon even in Sanskrit universities these days. The discussions with the students regarding their courses of studies revealed that they were quite upto the mark. The Mahavidyalaya has a very good collection of rare manuscripts, books and journals which will go a long way in furthering the cause of higher Sanskrit research. The strength of the students at present is thin. However, it is expected that once the restructured courses are started and the students are trained in the Vedas/Sastras and in learning sciences like computer science and Vedic mathematics, the institution will attract not only more Indian scholars but also the foreigners who are quite enthusiastic about study of Vedas/Shastras combining traditional Sanskrit knowledge and modern sciences.

The budget of the Mahavidyalaya for the last 3 years is indicated below:-

Year	Income		Expenditure
	Govt. Share Rs.	Management Share Rs.	
1989-90	3,41,688/-	30,000/-	3,69,040/-
1990-91	4,45,820/-	40,000/-	4,76,240/-
1991-92	4,26,353/-	1,33,650/-	5,60,000/-

It was mentioned that some eminent scholars who are devotees of the Shankaracharya were offering free service and this was one reason for the expenditure to be on the lower side.

2. Sri Sankara Arts and Science College, Enathur (Kanchipuram)

Sri Sankara Arts and Science College, Enathur was started in July 1991 at Enathur (Kanchipuram), and is managed by Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Charitable Trust. The college has been granted affiliation by Madras University in 5 job oriented courses i.e. B.Sc. (Computer Science), B.Sc. (Biochemistry), B.Sc. (Physics), BBA (Business Admn.) and B.Com. It is a self-financing college and no assistance is provided by the State Government or Central sources. The source of income of the college is from tuition fees and the support from the Trust. Students from the rural areas of Kanchipuram and its suburbs have been able to pursue higher studies in the job oriented courses which are not available in any of the nearby colleges. The college has a built in area of 27,600 sq.ft. It has 3 laboratories, (Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science), 15 class-rooms, 4 staff rooms, library, administrative block and 20 room hostel. While the college had a student strength of 189 for the first year of the 4 programmes in 1991-92, this increased to 317 in Ist and 2nd years of the 5 courses during 1992-93. The faculty strength is 20 (Lecturer level) and one Principal. One teacher has obtained Ph.D. and 8 have M.Phil. The college has equipment worth Rs. 15 lakhs and library books and journals purchased worth Rs. 25 lakhs. The total fees collected including lab. fee amounted to Rs. 1.60 lakhs during 1991-92 and Rs.3.75 lakhs during 1992-93.

Remarks of the Committee:-

1. The Institutions are located in 2 camuses. The new campus is at Enathur (Kanchipuram) where Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam

Charitable Trust has acquired 102.41 acres of land for construction of buildings and future expansion.

2. The Sanskrit Education society, Madras is managing the Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Nyaya Sastra Mahavidyalaya and the college is affiliated to Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan. It is getting assistance from the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan and the Sanskrit Education Society, Madras.
3. Shri Sankara Arts and Science College, Enathur is managed by the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Charitable Trust. The college is affiliated to Madras University as a self-financing institution and no assistance is provided to it either by the State or the Central Government. The expenditure is met out of fees collected from students and financial support from the Trust.
4. The Sanskrit Education society has undertaken to transfer the Management of the Nyaya Sastra Mahavidyalaya to the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti peetam Charitable Trust.
5. The Trust has requested that deemed university status be conferred on Sri Chandrasekharaendra Saraswathi Nyaya Sastra Mahavidyalaya.
6. The Trustees of the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Charitable Trust and His Holiness Shri Jayendra Saraswati assured the Committee that:
 - (a) All guidelines of the UGC issued from time to time will be followed.
 - (b) Not expect financial assistance in any form from the UGC or the Government of India.

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- (c) Mode of selection, terms and conditions of service and the pay scales of the Vice-Chancellor/ Director and the faculty will be as per UGC norms.
- (d) Senior faculty positions will be created so as to concentrate on advanced research in sanskrit.
- (e) Cash and fixed deposits in the banks/ public sector undertakings amounting to Rs.2.61 crores in the name of the Shankaracharya Math would be transferred to the Trust.
- (f) Provision of Rs.25 lakhs per annum has already been made by the Trust during the initial years of the establishment of the proposed university and this allocation would be stepped up in a phased manner.
8. The staff in general appeared to be committed and devoted. Some eminent scholars who are the devotees of the Sankaracharya are rendering free service.
9. The present student strength in the Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Nyaya Sastra Mahavidyalaya at BA and MA level is thin. The Management expects that with the introduction of restructured courses, many Indian/ foreign students might feel attracted to enrol themselves at the Institution.
10. Research work of significance needs to be started.
11. The students from Kanchipuram and its suburbs are being benefitted by under-going job-oriented courses at Shri Sankara Arts and Science College.

Institute for traditional subjects like vedic learning cannot be, and should not be assessed on the same footing as other formal institutions. These institutions have a totally different role to play i.e. to preserve the cultural and societal value of these ancient times and to see how far the present society can benefit from them. From this point of view, the institution, in question, has a sound foundation and possesses the aura of a traditional and venerated Shankaracharya Math for the vedic studies that spur over life, its values, the sciences and so on. Now, if this can be integrated with the present day sciences like computer technology, physics, Astronomy, Mathematics, it can provide a novel way of synthesizing the cultural heritage and provide an identity to our education. For this experiment, the institution is well suited and the trust is enthusiastic and adequately prepared.

Therefore, the Committee recommends that Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Nyaya Sastra Mahavidyalaya, Kanchipuram be granted the deemed university status with the mandate to develop these novel courses which could be incorporated in MOA.

The Mahavidyalaya as at present would require some strengthening in terms of expertise and infrastructure. Therefore, it is suggested that the Mahavidyalaya be advised to have an expert Committee for academic development that should lead to an establishment of the following schools:

1. School of Humanities
2. School of Applied Sciences
3. School of Social Sciences
4. School of Vedic Studies

As far strengthening infrastructure, UGC in recent times has stopped supporting deemed universities either for maintenance or for development. Therefore, it is suggested that the Central Government may consider supporting through its agencies in the early stages to ensure satisfactory progress.

The other deficiencies as mentioned in the observation and remarks should be attended to by the Management immediately. Clearance from Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, if necessary, should be obtained.

D.P. Singh

(Professor D.P. Singh)

M.I. Savadatti 23/4/93

(Dr. M.I. Savadatti)

G.J.V.J. Raju

(Dr. G.J.V.J. Raju)

Ram Murti Sharma

(Dr. Ram Murti Sharma) 23.4.93