

Embassy of India
Thimphu

Press Release: **Launch of the 'Little Guru' App for learning the Sanskrit language**

Sanskrit has been the most influential language in world history, guiding India and Asia for thousands of years and countries located across East Asia to South Asia, from China to Indonesia. It is one of the oldest languages in the world, a language that opens doors to the some of the greatest literary treasures of mankind such as the *Vedas*, *Upanishads*, and to the great epics of the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*. Sanskrit, to a large extent, symbolizes an important aspect of India's cultural heritage and traditions. There is a yearning amongst PIOs and NRIs and also amongst foreign scholars who want to learn this ancient language and associate themselves with one of the world's oldest civilizations.

In order to give a fillip to the promotion of Sanskrit, to make it accessible and offer an easy learning opportunity, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations has collaborated with GamappSportswizz Technologies to develop an App titled '*Little Guru*'. This '*Little Guru*' App will be the world's first Gamified Sanskrit learning App that uses gaming techniques, AI and advanced user interface to ensure that learning Sanskrit is easy and fun.

In Bhutan, a Sanskrit language module was introduced in early 2002 for undergraduate students of the College of Language & Culture Studies, Trongsa and it continues to be a part of the 2nd year curriculum of the Bachelor's degree in Language & Literature. Bhutanese scholars who study language and Buddhist studies have close affinity with Sanskrit as 80-90% of the original Buddhist literature traditional texts and scriptures belonging to the 13th-14th century were written in Sanskrit and have been subsequently translated into Tibetan language and Dzongkha. Even today, several mantras and other remarks conducted in rituals and prayers are in Sanskrit.

As part of [India@75](#) celebrations, the Embassy of India, Thimphu will be organizing a ceremony on the occasion of the global launch of the '*Little Guru*' App by ICCR on its Foundation Day i.e. 9 April 2021. Lyonpo Thakur Singh Powdyel, distinguished personality and former Minister of Education of Bhutan will be the Chief Guest at this programme. The Ambassador of India to Bhutan will address the audience on this occasion. Two Bhutanese scholars, Dasho Lungtaen Gyatso, President of the College of Language & Culture Studies (CLCS), Trongsa and Dr. Moksha Nanda Adhikari, Sanskrit scholar will deliver remarks in Sanskrit during the programme. A few undergraduate students of the CLCS will present their Sanskrit language oratory skills to mark their participation in the launch of '*Little Guru*' in Bhutan.

Little Guru is a subscription based App that is being made available by ICCR for Bhutanese nationals at a special rate of US\$ 0.99/month or US\$7.99/year.

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