Sanskrit Varnamala: 1 [Vowels (Swara ach)]

Class Objective: To understand the basics of Sanskrit language by understanding what are swaras (vowels)

Concept A: Let us understand the background of sanskrit language and some facts about it:

In Sanskrit verbal adjective *sámskrta-* is a compound word consisting of *sam* (together, good, well, perfected) and *krta-* (made, formed, work). It connotes a work that has been "well-prepared, pure and perfect, polished, sacred"

It has a very rich and extensive collection of Sanskrit vocabulary, which till date amounts to crores of words used in the language so far.

Sanskrit belongs to the Indo-European family of languages. It is one of three ancient documented languages that arose from a common root language now referred to as Proto-Indo-European language:

- Vedic Sanskrit (c. 1500 500 BCE).
- Mycenaean Greek (c. 1450 BCE) and Ancient Greek (c. 750 400 BC).
- Hittite (c. 1750 1200 BCE).

Other Indo-European languages related to Sanskrit include archaic and classical Latin (c. 600 BCE – 100 CE, old Italian), Gothic (archaic Germanic language, c. 350 CE), Old Norse (c. 200 CE and after), Old Avestan (c. late 2nd millennium BCE) and Younger Avestan (c. 900 BCE). The closest ancient relatives of Vedic Sanskrit in the Indo-European languages are the Nuristani languages found in the remote Hindu Kush region of the northeastern Afghanistan and northwestern Himalayas, as well as the extinct Avestan and Old Persian—both Iranian languages. Sanskrit belongs to the stem group of the Indo-European languages.

Concept B: Forms of Sanskrit:

We have 2 forms of Sanskrit:

- 1. Vedic Sanskrit
- 2. Classical Sanskrit

Vedic Sanskrit: The pre-Classical form of Sanskrit is known as Vedic Sanskrit. The earliest attested Sanskrit text is the Rigveda, the Hindu scripture, from the mid-to-late second millennium BCE. The *Rigveda* is a collection of books, created by multiple authors from distant parts of ancient India. These authors represented