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PRESS RELEASE

Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, in his monthly radio program “Mann Ki Baat” (29 August, 2021) said: “Sanskrit plays a major role in strengthening cultural ties”. He paid tribute to Mr Rutger Kortenhorst, a teacher who teaches Sanskrit in John Scottus National School, Dublin. Link: <https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/mann-ki-baat/>

- John Scottus National School, Dublin, Ireland is a private school teaching Sanskrit to children of age 5 to the age 12 as a compulsory subject since its inception in 1986. The School has around 200 students. Presently, there are 5 teachers teaching Sanskrit in the School.
- Mr. Rutger Kortenhorst, an accomplished Sanskrit teacher and scholar in John Scottus School has been bestowed with ICCR World Sanskrit Award 2020.
- The curriculum has been designed by Dr. Narendra from Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry which has been modified to suit th western children.
- The School teaches spoken Sanskrit, conducts Sanskrit assemblies and competitions. It gives prizes to students who can perform with accuracy and meaning.
- Children learn useful Slokas and Mantras from Bhagavad-Gita and Upanishads with their meaning and practical application. The School also has daily recitation of Sanskrit Slokas in its morning assembly. The School teaches Mahabharat and Ramayana through cartoons and story-telling. It is presently negotiating with the ‘Little Guru’ App to get Sanskrit approved exams for their final year students.

Rutger Kortenhorst:

Rutger has been a pioneer in propagating Sanskrit in Ireland. Rutger became involved in Advaita Vedanta Philosophy in Ireland when he was 21 years old. He has been both student and voluntary teacher of Vedanta in Ireland for the last 38 years. He has been a guest of Dr. Ramachandra Bhat in Veda Vijnana Gurukulam, Bangalore during June & July 2006 and 2007 and studied Taittiriya Upanishad, Vyākaraṇa, Vivekachūdamani and spoken Sanskrit with the help of Samskrita Bharati from June 2008 to August 2009 in India to help his school in Ireland in future years. He had started looking into spoken Sanskrit from 2005 and spent most summer holidays in India, either in Pondicherry with Narendra’s new method, Saṃskṛita Bharati or the traditional

gurukulam method. He got most detailed help from Dr. Narendra who is in charge of the Sanskrit Office in the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. He visited him from 2008 for five two-week periods to get detailed training in a new method of teaching Sanskrit which he started to use last year. In order to teach Sanskrit properly he stepped down as vice-principal to become a Sanskrit teacher exclusively. The course was so effective that he went back to publish a short workbook under the guidance of Dr. Narendra to teach children and adults in Ireland.

Since 2016 Rutger is running a Junior Certificate Short course in Wellbeing for 12-15 year-olds. This course is based on Ayurveda and Yogasutras, the former for physical and the latter for mental Wellbeing.

Note:

Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi shares his thoughts and ideas for India and its peoples through an Indian radio program 'Mann Ki Baat' (Inner Thoughts) in which he addresses people of the nation (India) on All India Radio (AIR), Door Darshan (Indian National TV broadcaster) National and Door Darshan News.

**Dublin
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