

PROGRAMME ON VALMIKI JAYANTHI

Date: 31-10-2020

Organised By: **Dept of Telugu & Hindi**

Report: **Valmiki** was born as Agni Sharma to a Brahmin named Pracheta (also known as Sumali) of Bhrigu gotra. The epic *Ramayana*, dated variously from the 5th century BCE to first century BCE, is attributed to him, based on the attribution in the text itself. He is revered as *Ādi Kavi*, the first poet, author of *Ramayana*, the first epic poem. The *Ramayana*, originally written by Valmiki, consists of 24,000 shlokas and seven cantos (kaṇḍas). The *Ramayana* is composed of about 480,002 words, being a quarter of the length of the full text of the Mahabharata or about four times the length of the *Iliad*. The *Ramayana* tells the story of a prince, Rama of the city of Ayodhya in the Kingdom of Kosala, whose wife Sita is abducted by Ravana, the demon-king (Asura) of Lanka. Valmiki's *Ramayana* is dated variously from 500 BCE to 100 BCE or about co-eval with early versions of the *Mahabharata*. As with many traditional epics, it has gone through a process of interpolations and redactions, making it impossible to date accurately. Director Dr.T. Vijaya Lakshmi, Principal Dr.K.Sudha Rani, staff and students took active participation in paying floral tributes to sri Valmiki Maharshi on this occassion.

