

**A BRIEF REPORT OF
THREE-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR ON SANSKRIT
29,30,31 JANUARY 2018**

In commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Abhedananda, Department of Sanskrit Studies at Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute (RKMVERI), Belur Math, organized a Three-Day National Seminar on Sanskrit at Vivekananda Sabhagriha, RKMVERI, Belur Main Campus on 29th, 30th and 31st January 2018.

Deliberations at the Seminar were trilingual – in Sanskrit, Bengali and English

Main Themes of the Seminar

- a) Saṃskṛta-jñānaparamparā on 29 January 2018
- b) Saṃskṛta-kāvyaikalā-paramparā on 30 January 2018
- c) Saṃskṛta-bhāṣā-paramparā on 31 January 2018

1st Day - Inaugural Session: Monday, 29 January 2018

Inaugural Session started at 10 am with Vedic Chanting and a song by Swami Shivapurnananda, RKMVERI followed by Welcome Address by Swami Atmapriyanandaji Maharaj, Vice Chancellor, RKMVERI. In his Welcome Address, Revered Vice Chancellor welcomed the distinguished guests, revered monks and all that had gathered. He brought forward the objectives of the Seminar and showed how it could be of immense help to the learners of Sanskrit.

Thereafter, the seminar was inaugurated by a talk delivered by Prof. S.R. Bhatt, Chairman, Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi. Prof Bhatt summed up the different philosophical traditions and methods of learning Sanskrit followed in ancient India. He also touched upon the problems of research in Sanskrit in present times. He also pointed out the leading scientific factors, completeness and sanctity inherent in Sanskrit language.

The guest speaker Swami Paramatmanandaji Maharaj, General Secretary, Ramakrishna Vedanta Math, Kolkata presented an illuminating speech wherein he emphasized the salient features of practical implementation of Vedanta in the life of human beings whether he is a monk or a simple householder.

In the Benedictory Address, Revered Swami Shivamayanandaji Maharaj, Vice President, Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, enlightened the august audience on the importance of philosophical values of the divine life of Sri Ramakrishna in the context of Vedanta and its implementation and propagation. He also explained the main characteristics of Vedanta in accordance with the life of Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Abhedananda, the direct disciple of Shri Ramakrishna.

Technical Session 1 - Saṃskṛta-jñānaparamparā

Panel Discussions were held on the life and philosophy of Sri Ramanujacharya and Sri

Sankaracharya. Speakers were eminent scholars and professors from different reputed institutions like Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, from states of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu etc.

Prof. K.E. Devanathan, briefly presented the general concepts of Vishishtadvaita Vedanta and later on highlighted Sri Ramanuja's contribution to Indian spiritual and philosophical traditions in a lucid manner.

Dr. Umesh Nepal, Asst Prof. Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Rajasthan Sanskrit University, Jaipur discussed the total philosophy of Srimad Bhagavadgita from the stand point of Sri Ramanujacharya. He explained that the 18 chapters of Gita divided into three groups of six chapters were devoted to bring out the meaning and implications of the three words of the famous Mahavakya *tat tvam asi*.

The first day's programme ended with a talk by Swami Tattwavidananda Maharaj, Assistant General Secretary, Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission. Programme was compered by Swami Japasiddhananda, Head , Dept of Sanskrit Studies, RKMVERI, Belur Math with vote of thanks.

2nd Day, Tuesday, 30 January 2018

Technical Session 3 - Astavadhanam

Second days programme started with Vedic Chanting by students of Sanskrit Department , RKMVERI, Belur Math. Technical Session 3 was Ashtavadhanam in Sanskrit. It began with, an introduction to Astavadhanakala presented by Vidwan Dr. H.V. Nagaraja Rao, Retd. Senior Research Assistant, Orient Research Institute, Mysore.

Astavadhanam is an ancient Indian art form that demonstrates wonderfully enormous powers of the human mind. It is not a mere scholarly performance, but a tremendous sadhana born of concentration coupled with purity and one-pointed application of mind. It calls for a unique combination of several skills and talents, prodigious memory, sharp intelligence, unagitated composure in the midst of disturbances, exhaustive knowledge of Sanskrit poetic works and scriptures, command over prosody, great sense of humour, ready wit, alacrity of delivery and above all great self-confidence(atma-shraddha).

Vidwan Dr.Venkataramana Bhat, Assistant Professor, Department of Sanskrit Studies, RKMVERI, Belur Math, was the *Ashtavadhani* (one who demonstrated his cognitive and poetical skills). At the end of the three hours programme, Shri Bhat along with other participants were felicitated by Revered Vice Chancellor Maharaj.

Technical Session 4 : Kavyakala-parampara

Dr. H.V. Nagaraja Rao, Asst. Prof, Dept. of Sanskrit Studies, RKMVERI spoke on 'Kavyaparamparadya Moksaparanatvam'.

Dr. Tanmayakumar Bhattacharya, Asst. Prof, Dept. of Sanskrit Studies, RKMVERI spoke on 'Samskrtavanmaye Vangadesasya Yogadanam' followed by narration of 'Samskrtavanmaye Ramakrsnamathaswaya Yogadanam' by Dr. Narayan Das, Asst. Prof. Narendrapur college and 'Understanding Rasa in Kavyakala-parampara' by Piyal Bhattacharya, ICH Fellow, Drama Section, Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi.

3rd Day, Wednesday 31 January 2018

Technical Session 5 : Samskrita-bhasha-parampara- Sanskrit and Communication

The last day's programme started at 10 am in the morning with Invocation by students, Dept. of Sanskrit Studies, RKMVERI. The main theme on this day was Samskrita-bhasha-parampara. The first speaker on the subject was Swami Vedatattwananda, Principal, Ramakrishna Math Vivekananda Veda Vidyalaya, Belur Math who highlighted the salient features and rules and philosophical aspects and usage of Sanskrit language while its learning and propagation. It was followed by speech by Shri Janardan Hegde, Editor, Samskrita Bharati, Bengaluru who mainly put forwarded the grammatical portion of Sanskrit and 'Pananiya Dhatupath'.

After the song by students, Dept. of Sanskrit Studies, RKMVERI, Belur, there was speech on 'Samskrita-bhasha-parampara' by Dr. H.R. Vishwas, All India Head, Training, Samskrita Bharati who rendered some practical instances by giving some examples from our ancient ages and tried to draw a conclusion that although there are some stories which are of fantasy in nature but it helps a lot in understanding Sanskrit.

The last speaker of this session was Dr. Sampadananda Mishra, Director, Sri Aurobindo Foundation for Indian Culture, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry.

Technical Session 6: Samskrita-bhasha-parampara - Sanskrit and Computation

Prof. Amba Kulkarni, Dept. Of Sanskrit Studies, University of Hyderabad, demonstrated application of Sanskrit in computation and the 'Use of theories of Sabdabodha' in Samskrita-bhasha-parampara through her creation of her own computer website in Sanskrit. The presentation was summarized in Bengali by Dr. Rakesh Das, Asst. Prof. Dept of Sanskrit Studies, RKMVERI, Belur Math.

Valedictory Session: Sri-Ramakrishna-samanvaya-vedanta

After the Welcome Address in both Sanskrit and English by Swami Atmapriyananda, Vice Chancellor, RKMVERI, Belur Math, Swami Vedarthananda, Monk Faculty and Research Scholar, RKMVERI, Belur Math rendered a speech in Sanskrit on 'Sri-Ramakrishna-samanvaya-vedanta' by visualizing its philosophical aspects. Swami Divyananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Saradapitha, Belur Math also placed his precious views on the

subject in Bengali.

At the end of the Seminar, Revered Swami Suviranandaji Maharaj, Chancellor, RKMVERI, and General Secretary, Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math, delivered the Valedictory Address. The Seminar ended with musical rendition of a *stotra* composed by Swami Abhedananda on Shri Ramakrishna, by Swami Shivadhishananda, Belur Math.

Parallel Sessions :

There were parallel sessions during the Seminar for presentation of papers on the following themes:

1. *Sanskritavangmaye ramakrishnparamparanugaminam yogadanam* (संस्कृतवाङ्मये रामकृष्णपरम्परानुगामिनां योगदानम्)
2. *Vedanteshu prasthanatrayabhashyani* (वेदान्तेषु प्रस्थानत्रयभाष्याणि)
3. *Yogadarshanam* (योगदर्शनम्)
4. *Stotrasahityam* (स्तोत्रसाहित्यम्)
5. *Sanskritasahitye vangiyanam yogadanam* (संस्कृतसाहित्ये वङ्गीयानां योगदानम्)
6. *Sanganakiya-sanskritam* (संगणकीयसंस्कृतम्)
7. *Sanskrita-bhasha-vijnanam* (संस्कृतभाषाविज्ञानम्)
8. *Vaidesikeshu sanskritasya prabhavah* (वैदेशिकेषु संस्कृतस्य प्रभावः)

Participants in the Seminar:

1. Total number of registered participants from other institutions, in the Seminar – 379
2. Number of Brahmacharins from the Probationers' Training Centre, Belur Math, who participated in the Seminar – 19
3. Papers presentators in the parallel sessions – 45
4. Resource persons – 24
 - a) Monks – 8
 - b) Scholars – 16
5. Students of Dept. of Sanskrit Studies, RKMVERI, who attended the Seminar- 66
6. Guest Registration - 13 (3 Professors, 6 Staff, 6 Monks)
7. Others - 79

Feed-back information & Suggestions

Feedback Forms were distributed to all the participants who attended the Three Day Seminar, and were requested to provide their comments and suggestions for future

reference. A general review of the feedbacks suggest the following:

1. 100% opined the Seminar was helpful.
2. 80% rated their experience at the Seminar as 'Excellent'.
3. 20% rated their experience at the Seminar as 'Good'.

Observations and Suggestions Received:

1. The Seminar was immensely helpful in learning, studying, acquiring communicative skills and understanding the undercurrents of different knowledge traditions in Sanskrit.
2. The Seminar was enriched with deliberations on ancient philosophy of Vedanta and the sublime cultural values.
3. The Seminar provided an opportunity for the Sanskrit students and enthusiasts to witness an assembly of many a well versed exponents and pandits of Sanskrit language in one place, thus kindling interest and confidence in the minds of the participants for undertaking further studies in Sanskrit.
4. After end of each Technical Session, there should have been a Question-answer Session for participants.
5. Some are of the opinion that to make the seminar more lively, insertions of drama, dance and songs on Sanskrit subjects, of short duration after each technical session, may be thought of for future to make the seminar more vivid and interesting.
6. There should be a provision for providing first-aid medical help for any emergency, at the venue of the Seminar.

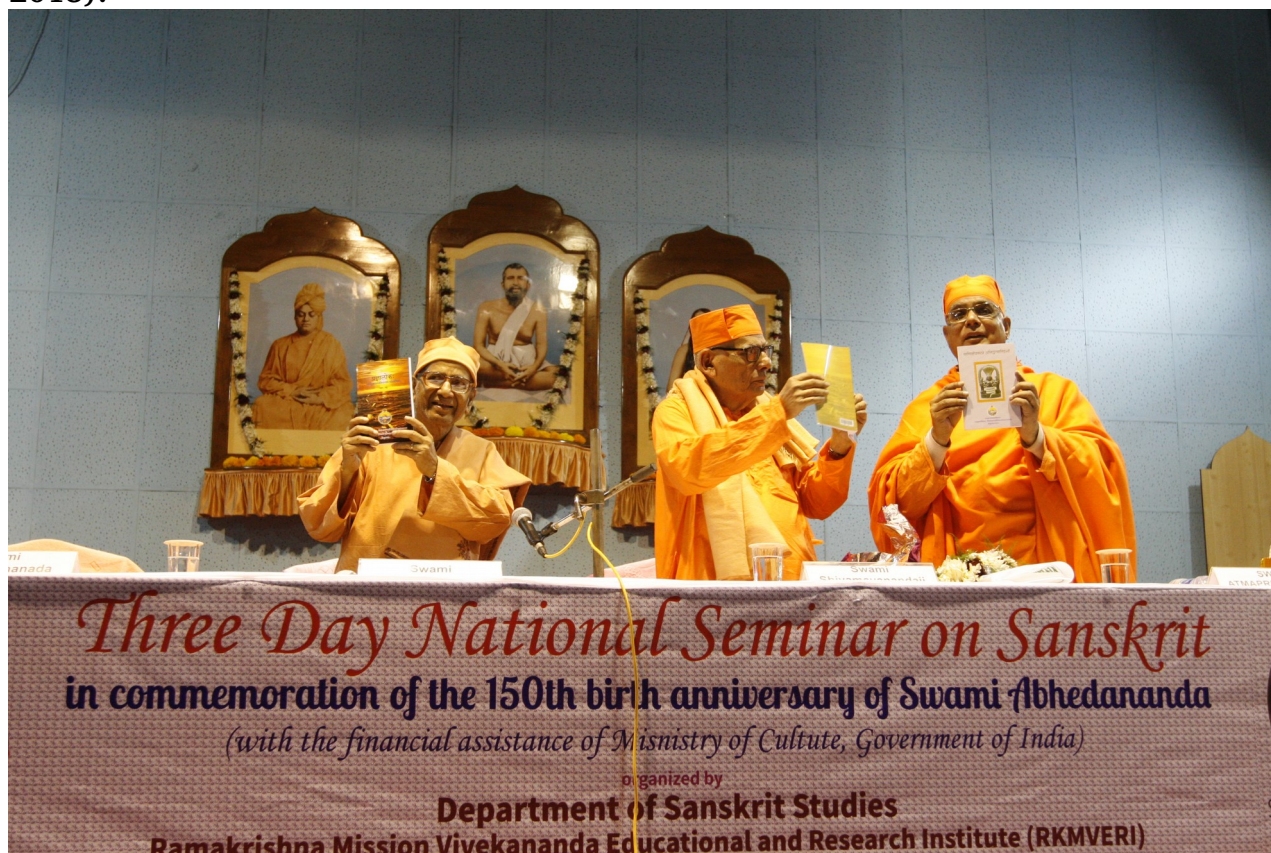
**Head
Department of Sanskrit Studies, RKMVERI.**

Photos of the Event:

Inaugural Session – Invocation by Swami Shivapurnanandaji (29th January 2018):



Benedictory Session – Books released by Swami Shivamayanandaji (29th January 2018):



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Technical Session-1 (29th January 2018):



Technical Session-2 (29th January 2018):



Technical Session-3 – Ashtavadhanam by Shri Venkataramana Bhat (30th January 2018):



Technical Session-4 (30th January 2018):



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Technical Session-5 (31st January 2018):



Technical Session-6 (31st January 2018):



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Valedictory Session (31st January 2018):

