



Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute
(Deemed to be University declared by Govt. of India under Sec. 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

P.O. Belur Math, Dist. Howrah 711202, West Bengal

Department of Sanskrit and Philosophy



**Two-day National Seminar on
'Ancient and Contemporary
Commentators of the Vedas' (पुरातन-नूतन-वेदभाष्यकाराः)**

Dates: 3-4 April 2026 from 10 AM to 5 PM

Venue: Abhedananda Convention Centre, Belur Math

The Vedas, the foundational scriptures of *Sanātana* Dharma, have been preserved by oral tradition over the millennia through an unbroken chain of *guru-śiṣya paramparā* (preceptor-disciple tradition). A plethora of interpretations of this sacred Vedic lore through commentaries (*bhāṣya-s*) by scholar-saints have come down to us as sacred treasures. Exegetics, synonymously called hermeneutics, interpretation, exposition, exegesis, and analysis, which is the systematic study, science, or practice of critical interpretation of these sacred texts which are often appear esoteric and obscure for those uninitiated in the tradition, is therefore a *sine qua non* for understanding the Vedic texts. Scholar-saints' creation of a vast, almost unfathomable, literature of exegetics of the Vedas had remain unabated over the centuries and millennia, perhaps coeval with the original texts themselves. While the earliest and most well-known of these are the commentaries are those attributed to *Sāyaṇācārya*, *Bhaṭṭabhāskara*, *Madhvācārya*, and *Śaṅkarācārya*, there are several later scholars like *Durgadas Labiri* and *Satyavrata Sāmāśramī*, whose commentaries have played a crucial role in Vedic exegetics.

Such an almost unfathomable ocean of knowledge and wisdom, born of relentless intellectual pursuit as well as spiritual realization, is truly mind-boggling and overwhelming. The present seminar seeks to provide a taste of a few drops of this ocean of *Vedāmṛta* (the Vedic ambrosia) based on the ancient (*purāratna*) as well as relatively modern (*nutana*) Veda *bhāṣya-s* (commentaries or exegetics), emphasizing their continuing relevance in contemporary academic and cultural discourse.

Swami Vivekananda emphasized the study and propagation of the Vedas in modern times, saying: “the study of the Vedas will destroy all superstitions”. In fact, just on the eve of his passing away in *mahāsamādhi*, he expressed a strong wish to establish an Institute at Belur Math for the study of and research into the Vedas. This University, bearing his hallowed name, owes it posterity to expose them, however infinitesimally, to these immortal sacred texts and their interpretations by various ancient and modern scholar-saints, as an ‘appetizer’ in order to rouse their hunger to learn more and more.

The following Resource Persons, well-known Vedic scholars, have kind consented to come over to Belur Math main campus of our University and enlighten us on the theme of the seminar.

Resource Persons and the topics of their discussion:

- (1) **Prof. Rani Sadasivamurthy**, Vice Chancellor, Sri Venkateshwara Vedic University, Tirupati: Key-note Address
- (2) **Prof. Mau Dasgupta**, Head, Dept. of Sanskrit, University of Calcutta: *Satyavrata Sāmāśramī, Durgadas Labiri's Veda Bhashya*
- (3) **Prof. Prava Ramakrishna Somayaji**, Head, Dept. of Krishnayajurvedabhashya, Sri Venkateshwara Vedic University, Tirupati: *Sāyaṇācārya's Veda Bhashya*
- (4) **Dr. D. Dayanathan**, Associate Professor, Dept. of Veda, Central Sanskrit University: *Viśiṣṭādvaita* perspective on *Vedabhāṣya*

Parama Pujya Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj, Sanghādhyakshā (President), Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission will preside over the inaugural session and deliver his introductory address of benediction.

Additional unique features:

➤ **Panel Discussion (to be moderated by Dr. Rakesh Das)**

Topics to be discussed:

Skandasvāmin, Veṅkaṭamādhava, Ubaṭa, Mahīdhara, Rāvaṇa, Aurobindo, Caturvedasvāmin, Mudgala, Bhaṭṭabhāskara etc.

➤ ***Gītāvadhānam***

Avdhānī: Dr. Shantanu Ayachit, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Sanskrit and Philosophy, RKMVERI

Research papers will be presented by faculty members and research scholars of various Universities and Institutes in India on themes having a bearing on the topic of the seminar. Such presentations will be in the online (virtual) mode in the evenings on both the days (3-4 April 2026), from 6.30 PM. We are glad to say that as of 1 April 2026, the number of papers received and in the pipeline are 20-25, all of them from budding faculty in Sanskrit and/or PhD scholars in Sanskrit—a satisfactory response for a seminar of this kind.

Place: Belur Math
Date 1 April 2026

Swami Atmapriyananda
Pro-Chancellor & Secretary,
RKMVERI, Belur Math

Dr Rakesh Das
Head, Dept. of Sanskrit and Philosophy
RKMVERI, Belur Math