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 Lahiri* 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:

- **Prof. Rani Sadasivamurthy,** Vice Chancellor, Sri Venkateshwara Vedic University, Tirupati will deliver the Keynote Address.
- **Prof. Mau Dasgupta,** Head, Department of Sanskrit, University of Calcutta will speak on *Satyavrata Sāmāśramī, Durgadas Lahiri*'s Veda Bhashya.

- **Prof. Prava Ramakrishna Somayaji,** Head, Department of Krishnayajurvedabhashya, Sri Venkateshwara Vedic University, Tirupati will deliberate on the well-known commentary of the Vedas by Sri *Sāyaṇācārya*
- **Dr. D. Dayanathan,** Associate Professor, Department of Veda, Central Sanskrit University will speak on *Viśiṣṭādvaita* perspective on *Vedabhāṣya*

We invite papers from faculty members and research scholars on themes having a bearing on the topic of the seminar. Such presentation will be in the online (virtual) mode in the evenings on both the days (3-4 April 2026), from 6.30 PM. Last date of submission of the papers (by email to: sanskrit@gm.rkmvu.ac.in) is 30 March 2026.

Registration Fees

- For paper presenters: **Rs.500/-** (five hundred only)
- For all other participants (except undergraduate and postgraduate students for whom registration will be free): **Rs.250/-** (two hundred and fifty only)
- Limited residential accommodation (on extra payment which will be nominal) is available and may be provided for outstation participants on prior request.
- Registration link for undergraduate and postgraduate students - https://zfrmz.in/9VI4khPTQ87h4O0Hc86c
- Registration link for others - https://zfrmz.in/Bo3P3YXZUdrufRkXxars

QR for UG/PG students

QR for others

Scholars, researchers, and interested participants are cordially invited to attend the seminar.

Swami Atmapriyananda
Pro-Chancellor & Secretary,
Ramakrishna Mission
Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute

Dr. Rakesh Das
Head, Department of Sanskrit and Philosophy (Seminar Convener)