



## Inaugural Session (Open to all)

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2026  
at Vivekananda Hall  
from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m



Registration

## International Seminar on A Historical Study of Indian Trade and Commerce: Changing Policies from Antiquity to Modernity

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> to Wed 25<sup>th</sup>  
February 2026

Academic  
Sessions  
(for the registrants)

Tue 24<sup>th</sup> & Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

10 a.m. to ~5 p.m at Shivananda Hall

## Themes Explored

- Origin of domestic and foreign trade and commerce: Historical and commercial relations of India with the contemporary world
- Important trade centres and ports inside and outside India
- Maritime trade activities
- Trade as reflected in the Vedic and other Indian literature
- Transport or means of communication for commercial purpose
- Discovered antiquities indicating India's internal and external trades
- Trade reflected in art
- Medieval trade and commerce: Issues related to economic policies
- Modern India: Trade and economic policies with neighbouring countries



THE RAMAKRISHNA MISSION INSTITUTE OF CULTURE

Golpark, Kolkata 700 029 website: <https://sriramakrishna.org>

CENTRE FOR INDOLOGICAL STUDIES AND RESEARCH

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# CENTRE FOR INDOLOGICAL STUDIES AND RESEARCH

Golpark, Kolkata 700 029

With financial assistance from the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India  
is organizing an INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 on

A Historical Study of Indian Trade and Commerce:  
Changing policies from Antiquity to Modernity

MONDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2026



DAY 1 : INAUGURAL SESSION (OPEN TO ALL)

VENUE : VIVEKANANDA HALL (5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM)

5-00 PM (5 min)	<b>Vedic Chanting</b>
5-05 PM (5 min)	<b>Felicitation of Speakers</b>
5-10 PM (10 min)	<b>Welcome Speech</b> <b>Swami Suparnananda</b> <i>Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture</i>
5-20 PM (5 min)	<b>Introduction to the Seminar</b> <b>Prof. Durga Basu</b> <i>Senior Fellow ICSSR, Former Director, IBMR; Fmr. Head of the Department, Department of Archaeology, Calcutta University, Kolkata</i>
5-25 PM (40 min)	<b>Keynote Address</b> <b>INSV Kaundinya : a Voyage into India's Maritime History</b> <b>Dr Sanjeev Sanyal</b> <i>Member of Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, Government of India.</i>
6-05 PM (25 min)	<b>Address by the Guest of Eminence</b> <b>Strategizing Intercontinental Commerce: Kushano-Roman Trade</b> <b>Padma Shri Dr B.R. Mani</b> <i>Vice Chancellor, National Museum Institute, New Delhi</i>
6-30 PM (25 min)	<b>Address by the Guest of Honour</b> <b>Seeing India through Swami Vivekananda's Eyes</b> <b>Swami Atmashraddhananda</b> <i>Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Kanpur &amp; Trustee, Ramakrishna Math &amp; Ramakrishna Mission</i>
6-55 PM (5 min)	<b>Vote of Thanks</b> <b>Prof. Manotosh Das Gupta</b> <i>Former Professor of Chemistry, Netaji Subhas Open University</i> <i>Member of the Academic Council, CISR, RMIC</i>



TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2026

DAY 2 : ACADEMIC SESSIONS



ENTRY BY REGISTRATION (9-30 TO 10-00 AM)

VENUE : SHIVANANDA HALL



**FIRST ACADEMIC SESSION: 10-00 AM TO 11-10 AM**

*Origin of domestic and foreign trade and commerce:  
Historical & commercial relations of India with contemporary world*

<b>10-00 AM</b> (25 min)	<p><b>Socio-Cultural Foundation of Economic Prosperity of India: Archaeological Perspective</b></p> <p><b>Prof. Vibha Tripathi</b>  <i>Emeritus Professor, Department of Ancient India History, Culture &amp; Archaeology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, U.P.</i></p>
<b>10-30 AM</b> (25 min)	<p><b>Role of Mercantile Organization and Urbanization in India's Internal and External Trade: A Historical Perspective</b></p> <p><b>Dr Kalyan Kumar Chakravarty</b>  <i>Fmr. Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi, Fmr. Director General of the National Museum, Fmr. Chancellor of the NUEPA</i></p>

*Chaired by Dr Padma Shri Dr B.R. Mani*

*Discussion : 10 min (total)*

**TEA BREAK: 11-10 AM TO 11-30 AM**

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**SECOND ACADEMIC SESSION: 11-30 AM TO 1-00 PM**  
*Maritime trade activities of India*

<b>11-30 AM</b> (25 min)	<p><b>Culture and Trade: The Churning of the Ocean and Archaeology of the Conch and Pearls</b></p> <p><b>Prof. Himansuprabha Ray</b>  <i>Fmr. Chairperson of the National Monuments Authority, Ministry of Culture, and Fmr. Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU</i></p>
<b>12-00 noon</b> (25 min)	<p><b>Naval Trade in the Indian Ocean in the Mid-Nineteenth Century with Special Reference to Shipping Lines</b></p> <p><b>Prof. Anura Manatunga</b>  <i>Director, Department of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka</i></p>
<b>12-30 PM</b> (25 min)	<p><b>Changing Dynamics of Ports of Early India (1st century CE to 13th century CE): Case Studies from the Western Seaboard</b></p> <p><b>Prof. Suchandra Ghosh</b>  <i>Professor &amp; HOD of History, University of Hyderabad, Telangana</i></p>

*Chaired by Prof. Alok Tripathi*

*Discussion : 10 min (total)*

## LUNCH BREAK: 1:00 PM TO 2-00 PM

### THIRD ACADEMIC SESSION: 2-00 PM TO 4-00 PM

*Transport / means of communication for commercial purposes, ports & trade items, and routes*

<b>2-00 PM</b> (25 min)	<p><b>Ancient Indian Ships and Their Role in Indian Trade or Commerce</b></p> <p><b>Prof. Alok Tripathi</b> <i>ADG, ASI and</i> <i>Fmr. Professor, Department of History, Assam University, Silchar, Assam</i></p>
<b>2-30 PM</b> (25 min)  [Online]	<p><b>Trade and Commerce of Ancient Tamilagam: Interpretation of Discovered Antiquities from Kanchipuram Excavations</b></p> <p><b>Prof. Ramakrishna Pisipaty</b> <i>Fmr. Professor &amp; Geoarchaeologist</i> <i>Department of Sanskrit &amp; Indian Culture,</i> <i>Sri Chandra Sekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Maha Vidyalaya, Enathur,</i> <i>Kanchipuram, T.N.</i></p>
<b>3-00 PM</b> (25 min)	<p><b>Searching for Lifelines: Looking at the Alternative Paradigms of Trade in Medicinal Items in Early Historic South Asia</b></p> <p><b>Prof. Nupur Dasgupta</b> <i>Retd. Prof. in History,</i> <i>Jadavpur University, Kolkata</i></p>
<b>3-30 PM</b> (25 min)	<p><b>Harappan Trade Routes with Special Reference to Haryana</b></p> <p><b>Dr Banani Bhattacharya</b> <i>Fmr. Deputy Director of the Department of Archaeology and Museums,</i> <i>Government of Haryana.</i></p>

*Chaired by Prof. Vibha Tripathi*

*Discussion : 10 min (total)*

## TEA BREAK: 4-00 PM TO 4-20 PM

### FOURTH ACADEMIC SESSION: 4-20 PM TO 5-50 PM

*Trade as reflected in Vedic and ancient literature*

<b>4-20 PM</b> (25 min)	<p><b>Commercial Trade – An Ancient Indian Approach</b></p> <p><b>Prof. Bhaskar Nath Bhattacharya</b> <i>Professor, Department: School of Vedic Studies,</i> <i>Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata</i></p>
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<p><b>4-50 PM</b> (25 min)</p>	<p><b>The Arthashastra as a Historical Source for Commercial Practices and Material Culture</b>  <b>Prof. Durga Basu</b>  <i>Vice President, Kolkata Society For Asian Studies. Fmr. Head of the Department, Department of Archaeology, Calcutta University, Kolkata</i></p>
<p><b>5-20 PM</b> (25 min)</p>	<p><b>Socio-religious Reflections of Trade in Pali Literature</b>  <b>Prof. Saswati Mutsuddy</b>  <i>Professor &amp; Convenor, PhD Research Advisory Committee Department of Pali, University of Calcutta, Kolkata</i></p>
<p><i>Chaired by Prof. Ranjana Ray</i></p>	<p><i>Discussion : 10 min (total)</i></p>

— END OF DAY —



**FIFTH ACADEMIC SESSION: 10-00 AM TO 11-10 AM**  
*Trade as reflected in the Medieval Period*

<p><b>10-00 AM</b> (25 min)</p>	<p><b>Bazārs and the Mercantile World of Medieval India: Shops, Merchants, and Urban Society</b>  <b>Prof. Nadeem Rezavi</b> <i>Secretary of IHC and Professor, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, U.P.</i></p>
<p><b>10-30 AM</b> (25 min) [Online]</p>	<p><b>Currency Pattern and Trade Network of Medieval Bengal, c. 14th-16th Centuries</b>  <b>Prof. Syed Ejaz Hussain</b>  <i>Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India, HISTORY, Faculty Member</i></p>
<p><i>Chaired by Prof. Sudipa Ray Bandyopadhyay</i></p>	<p><i>Discussion : 10 min (total)</i></p>

**TEA BREAK: 11-10 AM TO 11-30 AM**

**SIXTH ACADEMIC SESSION: 11-30 TO 1-00 PM**  
*Trade as reflected in Indian Art*

<p><b>11-30 AM</b> (25 min)</p>	<p><b>Textiles of India: Ambassador of Indian Trade to Distant Shores</b>  <b>Dr Sanjib Kumar Singh</b>  <i>Director/Managing Consultant, Ram Janambhumi Museum, Ayodhya, U.P.</i></p>
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12 noon (25 min)	<b>Beyond Borders: Trade and Cultural Exchange in Indian Art</b> <b>Dr Keka Adhikary Banerjee, Curator, Museum, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata</b>
12-30 PM (25 min)	<b>Trade and Traders in Jaina Inscriptions from Mathura : In Special Reference to Jaina Art</b> <b>Prof. Shanti Swarup Sinham, Faculty of Visual Arts, BHU, Varanasi.</b>

*Chaired by Prof. Durga Basu*

*Discussion : 15 min (total)*

### **LUNCH BREAK: 1:00 PM TO 2-00 PM**

### **SEVENTH ACADEMIC SESSION: 2-00 PM TO 3-00 PM**

*Pre-colonial and Modern Period*

2-00 PM (25 min)	<b>Indian Trade Story in Numbers: The Evolving Challenges in a Changing EXIM Landscape</b> <b>Sri Onkar Prosad Ghosh, Dy. Director General (DGCI&amp;S), GoI</b>
2-30 PM (25 min)	<b>Dynamics of Trade in India's Western Coast: The Pre-Colonial Experience</b> <b>Prof. Amit Dey</b> <i>Asutosh Chair Professor of Medieval and Modern Indian History, Dean of Arts Acting, Calcutta University, Kolkata</i>

*Chaired by Prof. Nadeem Rezvi*

*Discussion : 10 min (total)*

### **CONCLUDING SESSION: 3-00 PM TO 4-00 PM**

3-00 PM (30 min)	<b>Final thoughts and Future Directions (A Panel Discussion)</b> <b>Dr Sanjib Kumar Singh, Prof. Shanti Swarup Sinha, Prof. Vibha Tripathi &amp; Dr Rajendra Yadav (Superintending Archaeologist, ASI, Kolkata)</b>
3-30 PM (15+15min)	<b>Valedictory Speech(es):</b> <b>Dr Kalyan Kumar Chakravarty (IAS, retd.) &amp; Prof. Alok Tripathi (ADG, ASI)</b>



*Available  
Abstracts*

*You and your friends are cordially invited to attend the Inaugural session on Monday, 23 February 2026 to be held in the Vivekananda Hall from 5-7 p.m.*

*Swami Suparnananda  
Secretary*

\* The programme is subject to change.

**Chief Coordinator : Prof. Durga Basu**

\* The views expressed by the speakers do not necessarily represent those of the organizer.

**Academic Session } Sri Hemadri Chatterjee, Lecturer in Humanities,**

**Anchoring } Ramakrishna Mission Shilpapitha, Belgharia, Kolkata.**