



**RAMAKRISHNA MISSION  
VIVEKANANDA EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
(Deemed UNIVERSITY)**

**as declared by Government of India under Section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)  
PO Belur Math, Dist Howrah 711202, West Bengal, India**

**20 August 2020**

**GOOD WILL MESSAGE TO 'PRANTAKATHA' ON ITS 15<sup>th</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY**

"Three things are necessary to make every man great, every nation great:

- (1) Conviction of the powers of goodness,
- (2) Absence of jealousy and suspicion,
- (3) Helping all who are trying to be and do good."

These were the words of Swami Vivekananda written in 1894. How true and how relevant are these words even after 116 years! In the same letter, Swamiji continues:

"Three men cannot act in concert together in India for five minutes. Each one struggles for power and in the long run the organization comes to grief. ... In such a nation, and especially in Bengal, to create a band of men who are tied and bound together with a most undying love in spite of difference, is it not wonderful? This band will increase. This idea of wonderful liberality joined with eternal energy and progress must spread all over India, it must electrify the whole nation and must enter the very pores of society in spite of horrible ignorance, spite, caste-feeling, old boobyism, and jealousy which are the heritage of this nation of slaves."

These remarkably powerful and insightful words of Swami Vivekananda in the context of the formation of an interwoven network of Ramakrishna followers is highly relevant for the Pranthakatha which was born this day, the twentieth day of August, fifteen years ago. The tragedy of life is that, rare exceptions apart, good people with all their goodness and nobility seem to lack the conviction in the extraordinary power of goodness. The following poignant W.B. Yeats' poignant verse *The Second Coming* (1920) laments that

*Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world, the blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.*

Pranthakatha was formed with this philosophy of cultivating in its members the conviction in the powers of goodness which coupled with the strength of impeccable character and selfless work-energy will electrify society as Swami Vivekananda wanted and stand like bedrock amidst the turbulent and tumultuous ocean of strife and conflict in the present day society. On the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its birth, we offer our very best wishes. May Pranthakatha grow from strength to strength, endowed with the power of goodness spreading the message of selfless love and service is the prayer of

*Atmapriyananda*

Swami Atmapriyananda  
Pro-Chancellor