FAQ's

1) Who was Vararuchi?

Vararuchi is one of the three sages who systematized Sanskrit Grammar. Vararuchi is referred to as Vaakyakaara. He studied the Sutras of Panini in the Ashtaadhyaayi and provided his inputs in the form of Vaartikas or Vaakyas

2) What are Vaartikaas?

Vaartikaas are the body of literature that discusses and gives verdict on the aspects that have been mentioned; aspects that have not been mentioned and the mentioned aspects that need modification or clarification.

3) Who was Patanjali?

Patanjali is one of the three sages who systematized Sanskrit Grammar. He was the author of the Mahabhaashya, a commentary on Ashtaadhyaayi. He also wrote the Patanjali Yoga Sutra, and a treatise on Ayurveda.

4) How did Patanjali treat the three shortcomings of the human life?

Sage Patanjali flushed away the sins of our mind by authoring Yoga Sutra. He cleared the defects of our speech by Mahabhaashya. He warded off the imperfections of our body through the Ayurvedic Treatise.

5) What is a Bhaashya?

Bhaashya is that body of literature which explains the sutras using the words available in the sutras itself or using the words comparable to the words available there. It also explains the new terms that it includes for explaining the main work.

6) How are the differences of opinions in the views of the three sages to be resolved?

The apparent conflicts between the views of the three sages – Panini, Vararuchi and Patanjali are to be resolved by taking the opinion of the latter sage to be valid. Thus Vararuchi overrides Panini and Patanjali overrides Vararuchi.

7) What is the greatness of Mahabhashya?

Mahabhaashya named as "The Great Commentary" due to its greatness. It is said "If you want to rule, rule over a large kingdom! If you want to study, study the Mahabhaashya". This indicates that it is the ultimate work in the field of Vyaakarana that is worthy of studies that one can feel proud about.

8) How are the three sages revered?

Before commencement and during conclusion of any session on grammar, the students pay their respects and I bow down to the three sages – Panini who wrote the Sutras, Vararuchi who wrote the Vaartikas or Vaakyas, and Patanjali who wrote the Bhaashya.

9) What is the difference between Naama Vyakarana and Roopa Vyaakarana?

Naama Vyaakarana is the enumeration and definition of the meaning of words. Paninian Vyaakarana falls under Naama Vyaakarana. Roopa Vyaakarana is the definition of objects denoted by the words. Nyaaya and Vedanta Shaastras deal with Roopa Vyaakarana.

10) What is the philosophical background of the Naama Vyaakarana, as explained in the Upanishads?

According to the philosophy of Vedanta, God alone can manifest as word and its meaning. The Upanishad states that God created the names and forms having resolved that He should put in efforts through Lord Brahma to explain the names and the forms that are there in the world.