Hindu Council of Australia

Australian Hindu Conference 2021

AUSTRALIAN HINDU CONFERENCE 2021

5TH SEPT

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

PROGRAM

8:50 am - 9:10 am Log on
9:10 am - 9:50 am Inauguration
9:50 am - 10:00 am Introduction to the Conference

10:00 am -10:30 am Plenary 1
Dr Raja Ram Mohan Roy: Discovery of the Original Boundaries of Nakshatras

10:30 am - 11:00 am Plenary 2
Himanshu Pota - īśopaniṣad – Religion and the Laws of Nature

11:00 am - 11.10 pm Tea Break

11:10 am - 12:30 pm I Parallel Sessions

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm II Parallel Sessions

3:00 pm - 3.10 pm Tea Break

3:10 pm - 4:30 pm III Parallel Sessions

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm Concluding Session and feedback

* Detailed program overleaf *

PLENARY 1 ABSTRACT

Dr. Raja Ram Mohan Roy

Abstract: Indian astronomical texts give the coordinates of the yogatārās or junction stars of nakshatras. These coordinates have been interpreted as polar coordinates, which depend on the position of the north celestial pole. Polar coordinates of a star should change with time due to precession. However, different astronomical texts written over many centuries give same coordinates for most yogatārās. This has resulted in Indian astronomers being called incompetent, who did not observe the positions of the stars with accuracy. When I read this, I knew that something is seriously wrong. I refused to believe that Indian astronomers were incompetent. I knew that there is much more to this than meets the eye. Could it be possible that the data was really in ecliptic coordinates that do not change with time and that is why Indian astronomers were not updating the coordinates of the stars? The fundamental investigation went deep into the origins of Indian astronomy and involved a reassessment of the boundaries of the nakshatras and the identity of the yogatārās. It resulted in the discovery of the original boundaries of nakshatras and zero points of Vedic astronomy. In this presentation, different coordinate systems used in astronomy will be discussed. Currently accepted and the original boundaries of nakshatras will be described. The identifications of the yogatārās of Aśvinī and Revatī and their importance on ancient Indian chronology will be examined.

PLENARY 2 ABSTRACT

Himanshu Pota

Abstract: In eighteen short verses īśopaniṣad captures vast wisdom. Verses nine, ten, and eleven, in this upaniṣad provide a unique insight into the complete human being. Verse eleven is very direct in declaring that avidyā is the means to attaining immortality. The great masters, śaṅkarācarya and rāmānujācārya, take avidyā to mean karmakāṇḍa; Sri Aurobindo takes it as plain ignorance. In the language of today, avidyā can be taken to mean religion. This at once places within the embrace of religion the different faiths and opinions, made possible by avdiyā, that go by the label religion or otherwise. The great upaniṣad takes it further and emphatically declares that this avidyā or religion is the only way to immortality. This talk takes the view that the plain meaning of the upaniṣad leads to a transformation in thinking and expands the ability to comprehend diverse ideas like, Eastern and Western philosophy, culture and science, in one frame work. This wisdom from the upaniṣad may be the most potent seed to plant in the rugged Australian soil to grow the Hindu religion..

1ST SESSION 11:10pm-12:30 pm

ROOM: EDUCATION

Chair: McComas Taylor

11:10 AM **McComas Taylor** - Sanskrit Studies in the Australian Education System: Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Levels

11:30 AM **Padmanabhan Krishnan** - Mainstreaming Hindu Philosophy in Australian Universities

11:50 AM **Lakshmi Narasimhan** - Challenges in Teaching Samskritam in Australia

12:10 AM **Bhuvan Unhelkar** - Universities (Vishwa Vidyalaya) of Ancient India: Their contribution to humanity and their relevance to today's world

ROOM: RITUAL AND SOCIAL

Chair: Bharati Rengarajan

11:10 AM **Srinivasakrishnan L**- Murukaṉ, the Tamil deity, as an aspect of Kumāra

11:30 AM **Milind Sathye** - Resolving the dilemma of right and wrong: Krishna's way

11:50 AM **Christopher Hartney** - Fighting Xenophobia and Unreason: The Mukti-Gupteshwar Temple, Minto, Its Long-Term Struggle Against Campbelltown Council and What 'Religious Freedom' Should Mean in Australia

12:10 AM **Bharathi Rengarajan** - WOMEN AND HINDUISM

ROOM: PHILOSOPHY

Chair: Deepa Singhal

11:10 AM **Gopesh Sharma**- A TRANSCENDENTAL PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY OF HAPPINESS AS EXPERIENCED BY THE SADHUS

11:30 AM **Deepa Singhal** - Jainism----from eyes of a Vaishnav married to a Jain

11:50 AM **Kadbami Srinivasan** - Temple Architecture (Devalaya Vastu)

12:10 AM **Khimji Vaghajiani** - Vidurniti

ROOM: PRACTICAL HINDUISM

Chair: Ashit Mohan Maitra

11:10 AM **Shashi Holla**- 'Swastika' –– Inexorable journey from Divinity to Impiety

11:30 AM **Jayant Bapat** - Hindus in Australia: An Uphill Journey. Are We up to Climbing and Crossing the Hill?

11:50 AM **Karthik Arasu** - Swastika – A Faith Symbol Demonised as Hate Symbol!

12:10 AM **Guruswamy Jayaraman**- Culture-Specific Aged Care

2ND SESSION 1:00pm-3:00pm

Chair: Naveen Sharma

1:00 PM **Meenakshi Srinivasan** - Designing universal syllabus for Indian Languages.

1:20 PM **Naveen Sharma** - Hindu Contribution to Science & Medicine

1:40 PM **Surinder Jain** - Teaching Religion as a part of a regular curriculum in Australia

2:00 PM **Suvarna Variyar** -An Examination of the Decline in South Asian Studies Options in Australian Tertiary Education

2:20 PM **Hon. Emma Hurst MP** -The Animal Justice Party's approach to non-violence

2:40 PM **Dr. Naveen Shukla** - History of Development of Ayurveda in Australia

Chair: Jayanti Gupta

1:00 PM **Pallavi Sinha**- The sacred and significant role of Women in Hinduism.

1:20 PM **Sanket San** - Mantra Shastra and its scientific evidence

1:40 PM **Praveen Jain** - Jainism

2:00 PM **Jayanti Gupta** - Varnashrama Dharma

2:20 PM **Akhilesh Arora** -Implementation of Robotic Process Automation (Web Scraping and OCR) for the creation of Ayurvedic Indian Medicinal Plants Database.

2:40 PM **Skanda Jagadesh** -Understanding the Challenges in Introducing Sanatana Dharma to Contemporary Audiences

Chair: Vivek Apte

1:00 PM **Dev Babu** FOLLOWING THE DIVINE STEPS OF ADI SANKARACHARYA

1:20 PM **Milind Sathye** -Language and religious experience: an exploration

1:40 PM **Vivek Apte** - Gurudev Ranade's Philosophy of Rational Mysticism

2:00 PM **Sachin Chaudhari**-Significance of Hindu Sant/Saint literature – key takeaways for the 21st Century

2:20 PM **Aksharam Umamahesh** -Science of the aksharams, their importance to HINDU community and practicing them in Australian setup

2:40 PM **Shyam Gohil** - Introduction to AksharPurushottam Darshan

Chair: Mool Bhargava

1:00 PM **Ashit- Mohan Maitra -** Will Hinduism Grow into 'the Universal Religion' in Australia?

1:20 PM **Maran Nandan**-HINDUISM IN ASIA PACIFIC REGION: PAST ,PRESENT and FUTURE

1:40 PM **Mool Mantra** - Exposing façade of terming Hindu organizations as "fascists" by Communist - Islamic fundamentalist lobby.

2:00 PM **Amruta Joshi**-Grounding as a way of healing

2:20 PM **Amruta Joshi**-Emotional mapping with Chakras

2:40 PM **Rajiv Ramakrishna** -TOWARDS THE GOAL

3RD SESSION 3:10pm-4:30pm

Chair: Leena Melag

3:10 PM **Sowmya Sundar**- Contribution of Language in upholding practices of Sanatana Dharma

3:30 PM **Suresh Gurumoorthy**- My Challenges/Experience in raising children with Dharmic values in Australia

3:50 PM **Gavina Cossa**- My experiences with Sathya Sai Baba: an intersection of faiths.

Chair: Jagdish Chawla

3:10 PM **Jagdish Chawla**- Contributions of the Hindus to the Physical Sciences

3:30 PM **Raghbendra Jha**- On some Misconceptions about Ramavatar

3:50 PM **Karthikeyan**- Karma and Yama: The Impartial Lord

4:10 PM **Jagdish Trivedi**- Karma Yoga

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Chair: Jayaraman Guruswamy

3:10 PM **Sarah Gates**- Hinduphobia and Social Justice for Hindus

3:30 PM **Sarah Gates**- Hinduphobia contd..

3:50 PM **Jay Shah**- Understanding the Kurukshetra down under and shaping the youth to become Arjunas in Australia.

4:10 PM **Mritunjay Kumar Singh**- Absence of narrative about the human and cultural genocide of Hindus among expatriate Hindus and the need for a parallel structure to tell our story: