

23rd

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VEDANTA

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, August 9, 2017

Arrive in Dartmouth, MA. Check into Hotels.

Pre-Conference Dinner – hosted by Maryada Foundation at Bal Ram Singh’s residence – 11 Back River Drive; 6-9 PM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2017

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Conference Registration Desk Open – Woodland Commons Lobby

8:00 – 9:00 AM BREAKFAST – WOODLAND LOBBY

Inaugural Session

Chair: Raghwendra P. Singh, JNU, New Delhi

9:00 AM Invocation – Conference Room 1
Vedic Chanting – Swami Yogatmananda, Vedanta Society of Providence, and
Swami Atmajnanananda, Vedanta Center of Greater Washington, DC

9:10 AM Benediction: Swami Yogatmananda, Vedanta Society of Providence

Welcome and Introduction: Sukalyan Sengupta, University of Massachusetts
Dartmouth, Conference Director

9:30 AM Remarks by Rama Rao Pappu, Founding Director, Vedanta Congress

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9:45 AM **Inaugural Lecture: Conference Hall**
Rajeev Srinivasan: “Leveraging the Grand Dharmic Narrative for Soft Power”

10:30 AM **Keynote 1**
Alex Hankey, SVYASA Bangalore, “Synthesizing Vedic and Modern Theories to
Explain Cognition of Forms”

11:15 AM **Keynote 2**
Makarand Paranjape, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, “Advaita in the
Modern World”

12 Noon – 1:00 PM

LUNCH – WOODLAND LOBBY

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Session I: Woodland Commons Conference Room 1

Vedanta and Inner Sciences

Chair: Girish Nath Jha, JNU, New Delhi

Swami Yogatmananda, Vedanta Society of Providence, RI
“Patanjali's Yoga Aphorisms: A Treatise of Vedantic Psychology”

Chester Boncek
“Yoga -the Science of Human Dimension”

Ravindran Khannan, Shanmugamurthy Lakshmanan, Vetha Center for Transdisciplinary Studies, New Jersey, US
“Bio-immune System Monitor for Unravelling the Effect of Active Consciousness in Human Being when Communicating with External Objects”

Reena Sablok, Swami Shraddhanand College, Delhi
“Rig Veda as a propounder of theory of Sound”

Session II: Woodland Commons Conference Room 3

Vedanta & the Environment

Chair: Makarand Paranjape, JNU, New Delhi

Pankaj Jain, University of North Texas, Denton
“Vedanta and Ecology”

Shama Parveen, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
“Debating intrinsic and extrinsic values of nature”

Kalpana Kumari, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
“Eco-consciousness in Upanishadic and Korean Shamanistic Philosophy”

Aparna Dhir, Institute of Advanced Sciences, North Dartmouth MA
“Prajapati and Panchamahabhuta”

3:00 – 3:30 PM

TEA/COFFEE BREAK – WOODLAND LOBBY

3:30 – 5:30 PM

Session III: Woodland Commons Conference Room 1

Vedanta and Philosophy

Chair: Douglas Allen, University of Maine

Swami Atmajnanananda, Vedanta Center of Greater Washington, DC
“Consciousness, Self, and Ego in the Vedantic and Existential Traditions”

J. S. Dubey, Barkatullah University, Bhopal, MP
“The Concept of Person (Self) in the Vedic Tradition”

Nandini Bhasin, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
“Ethics in Vedanta Philosophy”

Sitansu Chakravarti, New College, University of Toronto, Canada
“Missed Understanding of Hindu Ethics or Dharma: Gayatri Mantra and Gita’s Buddhi Yoga”

Session IV: Woodland Commons Conference Room 3

Modern Vedantic Seers

Chair: Adarasupally Nataraju, Assam University, Silchar

Raghwendra P. Singh, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
“Aurobindo on Indian culture: Retrospect and prospect”

Kunchapudi Srinivas, Pondicherry University
“The Practical Vedanta of Swami Vivekananda”

Satya P. Agarwal & Urmila Agarwal
“Vedanta in the Service of Mankind”

Shikha Sharma, University of Mumbai
“Oneness: The Essence of Human Life (With Special Reference to Swami Vivekananda)”

5:30 – 5:45 PM

BREAK

5:45 – 7:00 PM

**Session V: Public Keynote Speech
Woodland Commons Conference Hall**

**Chair: Bal Ram Singh, Institute of Advanced Sciences, North Dartmouth,
MA**

5:45 – 6:15 PM

Public Keynote 1

M. G. Prasad, Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ

**“Universal Relevance of Vishishtadvaita Vedanta Darshana of Sri
Ramanuja”**

**Special Lecture to Commemorate the 1000th Birth Anniversary of Sri
Bhagavad Ramanuja Acharya**

6:15 – 7:00 PM

Public Keynote 2

Rajiv Malhotra, Infinity Foundation, Princeton, NJ

Title: TBA

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7:00-8:00 PM

DINNER – WOODLAND LOBBY
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FRIDAY, August 11, 2017

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Conference Registration Desk Open – Lobby

8:00 – 8:30 AM BREAKFAST – WOODLAND LOBBY

8:30 AM Invocation – Conference Hall
Vedic Chanting – Pruthvi Rajeshwara Kandala, Venkateshwara Prachara
Parishath

8:45 – 10:15 AM Plenary Session 1 – Conference Hall
Chair: **Satya Parayitam, UMass Dartmouth**

Balbir Sihag, Emeritus Professor, University of Massachusetts Lowell
“Kautilya: The True Founder of Economics”

Girish Nath Jha, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
“Automatic Translation of Ancient Sanskrit manuscripts - Roadblocks for Human Language
Technology”

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10:15 – 10:30 AM TEA/COFFEE BREAK – WOODLAND LOBBY

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10:30 AM - 12:00 Noon

Session VI – Conference Hall 1

Session in Sanskrit

Chair: Girish N. Jha, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Hari Ram Mishra, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
"वक्तृबोद्धर्मध्ये वाग्व्यवहारस्य प्रक्रियायाः दार्शनिको विमर्शः"

Narayan Dutt Mishra, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
“'षष्ठी शेषे' - सूत्रपदार्थस्य सम्बन्धार्थस्य च विशेषालोकपुरस्सरं विमर्शः”

Khushboo Shukla, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
“पर्यावरणचिन्तने औपनिषदिकी दृष्टिः”

K. Ramasubramanian, IIT Bombay
“परिमलदिशा अन्यथाख्यातिवादनिरासः”

Session VII- Woodland Commons Conference Room 3
Chair: Rajeev Srinivasan

Social Hierarchies
Chair: Kumar Nochur, Vidya Inc., Boston, MA

Kaushal Panwar, Motilal Nehru College, New Delhi
“वेदान्त और वर्ण व्यवस्था”

Shipra, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
“Reevaluating gender hierarchy: A comparative study of Simone De Beauvoir and Samkhya”

Ishvar Bhai Patel, North Dartmouth, MA
“Bhagawad Gita and the Varna System”

12 Noon – 12:15 PM GROUP PHOTOGRAPH – WOODLAND COMMONS LAWN

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12:15 – 1:30 PM LUNCH – Campus Center Cafeteria
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1:30 - 4:00 PM

Session VIII- Charlton College of Business Room 149

Vedanta and Consciousness Studies – I
Chair: Jerry Solfvin, UMass Dartmouth

Adarasupally Nataraju, Assam University, Silchar
“Swarupalakshana and Tahatsthalakshana of Brahman”

David Scharf, Maharishi University of Management, Iowa
“Lamp at the door: On Brahman and Brahman consciousness”

Reshma Shetkar, SVYASA Bangalore
“Cognition of Pure Consciousness and its Structure”

Kumar Nochur, Vidya, Inc., Boston, MA
“Cosmology as if Consciousness Mattered!”

P.Selva shunmugam, Siddha Consultant, Health India Foundation, India.
Shanmugamurthy Lakshmanan, Vice Chancellor, Vetha Center for Transdisciplinary Studies, NJIT
Campus, Newark, New Jersey, USA.
“Management of Hypertension through integrated Thirumoolar Yoga and Siddha way of life style
modification therapy.”

Session IX- Charlton College of Business Room 248

Relationship between Grammar and Philosophy Chair: K. Ramasubramanian, IIT Bombay

V. Raja Bandaru, Sanskrit Academy of Princeton, NJ
“The philosophy in Paninian Grammar”

Madhu Jhaveri, Emeritus Professor, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, MA
“Process of constructing new words in Sanskrit”

Anil Kumar Arya, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
“Philosophy in naming Prominent Characters of Mahabharata”

Sonmati Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
“Theory of Negation in Indian Philosophical Context”

4:00 – 4:30 PM TEA/COFFEE BREAK – Charlton College of Business Lobby

4:30 – 5:30 PM

Session X - Vedantic Darshana Debate: CCB Room 149

Theme: Shankara’s Advaita vs. Dvaita Vedanta of Ananda Tirtha Madhvacaraya

Moderator: Bal Ram Singh, Institute of Advanced Sciences, North Dartmouth, MA

Debaters:

Jeffrey Armstrong, VASA, Canada
Adarasupally Nataraju, Assam University
Raghwendra P. Singh, JNU, New Delhi

Session XI - Panel Discussion 1: CCB Room 248

Theme: Creative Approaches to Bhagawad Gita

Moderator: Satya Parayitam, UMass Dartmouth, MA

Panelists:

Douglas Allen, University of Maine
Ishvar Bhai Patel, North Dartmouth, MA
Swami Yogatmananda, Vedanta Society of Providence, RI

5:45 – 7:15 PM Cultural Program –Gr. VI – 153 Recital Hall
Performers:
Shuchita Rao
Radha Rao
Christopher Pereji
Rishab Mathur
Bhima Karma
Shekhar Shastri
Koyel Ghosal
Rajesh Pai

7:30 - 8:30 PM DINNER – MacLEAN CAMPUS CENTER

SATURDAY, August 12, 2017

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Conference Registration Desk Open –Woodland Commons Lobby

8:00 – 9:00 AM Breakfast – Woodland Commons Lobby

8:30 - 8:45 AM Vedic Chanting – Conference Hall
Invocation – K. Ramasubramanian, IIT Bombay

8:45 - 11:00 AM **Plenary Session II**
Chair: Rajeev Srinivasan, India

Douglas Allen, University of Maine
“Is Gandhi a Vedantist?”

Krishnamurti Ramasubramanian, IIT Bombay
“Conception of Space and Time in Vedanta and Physical Sciences”

Narayanan Komerath, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta
“A Search for the Truth: Representing Sanatan Dharma to a Global Audience”

11:00 - 11:15 AM

TEA/COFFEE BREAK – WOODLAND LOBBY

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Session XII- Woodland Commons Conference Room 1

Vedanta and Management

Chair: Madhusudan Jhaveri, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Satya Parayitam and Partha Chen, Dartmouth, MA
“Bhagavad Gita and Transformational Leadership”

Sunita Singh Sengupta, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi
“Vedic Foundations of Indian Management”

Session XIII- Woodland Commons Conference Room 3

**Vedanta and Sciences
Chair: Tridib K. Roy, UMass Dartmouth**

Raj Kumar, Institute of Advanced Sciences, North Dartmouth, MA
“Vedic Perspectives on the Origin of the Universe and Life”

Tomaj Javidtash, Washington, DC
“A Homomorphism Between Vedantic Metaphysics and Quantum Physics”

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12:30 – 1:30 PM

LUNCH BREAK – WOODLAND LOBBY

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1:45 - 3:15 PM

Session XIV- Woodland Commons Conference Room 1

**Vedanta and Consciousness Studies – II
Chair: Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra, Hindu University of America**

Pratibha Gramann
“Ancient Roots of Consciousness”

Murty Hari
“Vedantic Solution to the Modern Scientific ‘Hard Problem’ of Consciousness”

Session XV- Woodland Commons Conference Room 3

**Rig Veda and Upanishad
Chair: Raja Bandaru, Sanskrit Academy of Princeton, NJ**

Satya Pruthvi Rajeshwara Sharma Kandala
“Rig Veda and its application in real life”

Anne Melfi
“Practical Vedanta in the Rig Veda”

3:15 – 3:30 PM

TEA/COFFEE BREAK – WOODLAND LOBBY

3:30 - 5:30 PM

Session XVI- Woodland Commons Conference Room 1

Vedantic Influence in Other Fields

Chair: Hari Ram Mishra, JNU, New Delhi

Veda Shrivah, Albany, NY

“Comparative Translations of the Vedas”

Sandhya Gupta, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

“The significance of purushartha and Ayurveda in holistic health”

Richa Sharma, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

“Debate as a Pedagogic Tool”

Yogendra Bhardwaj, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

“Vedanta and Sufism”

Session XVII- Woodland Commons Conference Room 3

Vedanta and Other Knowledge Systems

Chair: Dr. Kaushal Panwar, University of Delhi

Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra, Hindu University of America

“A Vedanta Perspective on International Politics”

Pooja Singh, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

“Nyaya-Vaisheshika Darshana”

Astha, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

“Spirituality and Science Fine Arts/Architecture”

5:45PM

VALEDICTORY SESSION –WOODLAND COMMONS

Chair – David Scharf, Maharishi University, Fairfield, IA

5:45 -5:55 PM

Vedic chanting and invocation

5:55-6:15 PM

Valedictory Address – Bal Ram Singh, Institute of Advanced Sciences

6:15 – 6:25 PM Vote of Thanks – Sukalyan Sengupta, Center for Indic Studies, UMass Dartmouth

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6:30-7:30 PM

DINNER – WOODLAND LOBBY

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SUNDAY, August 13, 2017

8- 9 A.M

BREAKFAST – WOODLAND LOBBY

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Public Discussion

The Way Ahead

Moderator: Prof. Raghwendra Pratap Singh, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

11:00 AM LUNCH; Tour to Boston

Conference Sponsors:

We are grateful to the following sponsors for their generous support, without which this conference could not have been possible.

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