

Vedic Sciences Retreat/Workshop

Despite great progress in modern science and even greater progress in technology over the past century, the world still faces serious problems related to environment, health, and climatic change to the extent of danger to human existence. A knowledge system has crept in the society that is leading to unsustainable developments.

While current scientific tenor in practice emphasizes objectivity and homogeneity, it does suffer from several conceptual limitations, including focus on gross nature of the matter, too much emphasis on deductive way of learning, commercially driven science and technology, and ego centric system of advancement. Several fundamental science concepts, such as origin of life, evolution, origin of matter, nature of time and space, and integrated theory of multi-phenomenon remain unresolved, and need out of box approaches.

The basic tenets of Vedic thoughts are to pursue the truth in rational, intellectual, and intuitive ways, but most importantly from and through the level of objectivity at an individual level which is self monitored yet transparent. This alone makes observations in Vedas likely to contain concepts with more universal truth than what has been possible in scientific exploration so far.

The need of the time is to express some of the thoughts in Vedic texts in scientific language for the benefit of the humanity. A Retreat/Workshop on this effort is therefore warranted to initiate the process.

Following is the premise for this retreat for those of us who will be participating:

1. That we have determined and have convinced ourselves that there are quantitative and physical manifestations of Vedic ideas which we have individually identified to the extent that we feel comfortable discussing it in modern scientific language.
2. That we are willing to take time from our busy schedule to draft a textbook type of chapter on our area of work, incorporating specifically the Sanskrit textual reference and its English and scientific meanings.
3. That we are willing to outline and explain every minute assumption, hypothesis, and mathematical, chemical, physical, and biological processes employed in making our derivations.

4. That we are willing to make a comprehensive classroom type presentation to all of us, and perhaps a few more mainstream scientists and philosophers who could critique our work.
5. That we are willing to put together a book incorporating these chapters for publication. This book will become a resource of scholarship for future reference of this type of work.

The retreat/workshop on November 6-9, 2009 at the Center for Indic Studies, UMass Dartmouth will be including the following individuals:

1. Dr. Raju Chidamaram, Alexandria, VA
2. Dr. Vinod Deshmukh, Emeritus Associate Professor, University of Florida
3. Mr. Ravi Jatavallabhulla, St Paul, MN
4. Dr. Subhash Kak, Oklahoma State University
5. Dr. MG Prasad, Stevens Institute of Technology
6. Dr. Lothar Schafer, University of Arkansas
7. Dr. Bal Ram Singh, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Selected additional scholars will be invited to the workshop as audience and commentators, but main focus would be develop the ideas of presenters further and evaluate them for their robustness.