

Centre for Hindu Studies

University of Delhi

Concept Note of the One-Day National Conference

Date: 02 April 2024

Timing: 10 am- 5.30 pm

Inaugural Session: 10.30- 11.35 am

Venue: Conference Centre, University of Delhi

1) Name of the Conference:

Hindu Studies at University of Delhi: Understanding Hindu Dharma and 'Hindu-ness'

2) Concept Note:

The University of Delhi, standing tall for over a hundred years as a symbol of academic brilliance, now seeks to embark on a new scholarly endeavour of civilisational significance. The University under the dynamic leadership of the honourable Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof.Yogesh Singh, in a groundbreaking step, has formally established an independent Centre for Hindu Studies, capable of running full-fledged courses and offering a Master's degree to begin with. This is a decision of immense cultural and academic importance and is bound to have far-reaching epistemological and civilisational reverberations as we stand witness to a moment of vital turnaround in history.

It is well-known that academia shapes up the psyche of the people. Worldwide, several reputed colleges and universities have had dedicated centres to explore the epistemics of the Hindu Dharma and Jnana, and even Bhartiya institutions have long-established centres for the study of other religions. But, the Bharatiya Jnana Parampara, beginning the colonial era has remained largely neglected in the academic institutions at its own home. However, the contribution of the Bharatiya Bodha and Darshana to the material and spiritual progress of humankind knows no bounds. The absence of a systematised environment of indigenous research into our intellectual tradition has largely left it in the monopoly of those ill-equipped to theorise about it.

Therefore, the beginning of this Centre at the University of Delhi is one of such relevant steps to preserve and disseminate the gems of our civilisational history. The guiding light of this newfound Centre is to nurture batches of young, bright, scrutinising scholars given the task of unearthing what has hitherto been obscure and locating them in the right historical and epistemological context and debunking its willful, or otherwise, misappropriation and misunderstanding.

We understand that the relevance of any discipline lies in its inventiveness. So, we have tried to streamline our curricula with fields of contemporary relevance and introduced courses in Computer Science, Commerce, and Political Science, among others, too. We intend to take this further and design our courses so that they not only appeal to the scholar within us but also prepare us well for the increasingly competitive techno-commercial times of today.

This conference is a signal of our stepping out into the larger universe of students, teachers, researchers, and academicians for invigorating brainstorming sessions on topics that could facilitate a new renaissance of the Bharatiya consciousness. The conference aims to impart foundational knowledge through a range of topics related to Hindu Dharma and ‘Hindu-ness’- with sessions on terminologies to understanding Vangmaya to the contemporaneity of the Dharmic Sanatana value system.

3 a) Relevance of the Conference in Terms of Academic Objectives:

We propose a conference to explore the formal inclusion of Hindu Studies as an academic discipline within the University. The conference is expected to achieve the following academic objectives:

- Spreading knowledge about the Centre for Hindu Studies at the University of Delhi:
Since the centre has been newly set up, we need to spread the word about its establishment and proper functioning. Our vision is to make it a melting pot for all sorts of ideas that could aid in the proper dissemination of Hindu thought and tradition. This conference provides us an opportunity to give a call to the academic world to come and interact with us.
- In-depth Exploration:
The conference will unite scholars, researchers, and educators for wide-ranging discussions on what constitutes the Hindu identity and the diverse aspects of ‘Hindu-ness’, viz., the epistemological, scientific, historical, philosophical, literary, aesthetic aspects and their contemporary as well as long term relevance.
- Comprehensive Learning Opportunities for the Students:

The conference intends to disseminate the idea that the introduction of Hindu Studies as a discipline promises the students a fuller appreciation of their cultural heritage by aiding their rootedness in the 'Bharatiya Jnana Parampara', and, thus, creates a more holistic learning environment.

b) Expected Outcome of the Conference:

We intend to publish the transcripts of the addresses made at this conference in between the covers of a book/magazine dedicated exclusively to the conference. The book could also feature contributions in the form of written articles on the relevant topic from those interested. It would help in circulating knowledge about the chosen topics and, also, facilitate a platform for a regular exchange of ideas on matters of topical relevance.

Dr. Perna Malhotra, Jt. Director, Centre for Hindu Studies

Convener and Organising Secretary

For details: Mob. + 91-9868 981 489

Email: office@hindustudies.du.ac.in

Centre for Hindu Studies

National Conference on *Hindu Studies at University of Delhi: Understanding Hindu Dharma and Hinduness*

02 April 2024 09.00 am- 5.00 pm

Conference Centre, Near University Gate # 4, University of Delhi

Conference Schedule

09:30-10:30 am	Registration
10:30-11:35 am	Inaugural Session Manglacharan and Lighting of the lamp Kulgeet Centre for Hindu Studies Video Inaugural address by Prof. Yogesh Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi Keynote address by Swami Vigyananand Ji (Founder and Global Chairman, World Hindu Foundation) Guests of Honour Prof. Balaram Pani (Dean of Colleges, University of Delhi) Prof. Shri Prakash Singh (Director of South Campus, University of Delhi)
11:35-11:50 am	Tea Break
11:50-01:20 pm	Technical Session I Chair: Swami Vigyananand Ji (Founder and Global Chairman, World Hindu Foundation) Speakers: Adv. Monika Arora (Advocate Supreme Court and High Court) <i>Shivoham in the Constitution of Bharat (Sanatana in Samvidhan)</i> Prof. Nachiketa Tiwari (Professor, IIT Kanpur) <i>Jnana: The Foundation of Hindu Civilisation</i> Shri Prafulla Ketkar (Editor, Organiser) <i>Presenting Hinduness to the Contemporary World</i>
01:20-02:00 pm	Lunch
02:00-03:30 pm	Technical Session II

	<p>Chair: Dr. K. Ratnabali (Dean Academics, University of Delhi)</p> <p>Speakers: Shri Chandru Ramesh (Author, Researcher) <i>Mahabharata: A Myth or Itihasa</i></p> <p>Shri Neeraj Atri (Author) <i>Unshackling the History of Hindus</i></p> <p>Prof. Kapil Kumar (Eminent Historian, Author) & Dr. Sandili Maharaj-Ramdial <i>The Psyche of Hindu Resistance: Past, Present and Future</i></p>
<p>03:30-03:50 pm</p>	<p>Musical Break</p>
<p>03:50-05:00 pm</p>	<p>Valedictory Session</p> <p>Chief Guest Shri Balbir Punj, Former Rajya Sabha Member and Veteran Journalist</p> <p>Guests of Honour Shri Anoop Lather, Chairperson, Culture Council, University of Delhi Prof. Dinesh Khattar, Principal, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi</p>