

2nd World Hindu Congress

Sumantrite Suvikrante

VENUE: Westin Hotel, Chicago, USA
SEPTEMBER 7, 8, 9 (FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY) 2018

HOTA

Theme: Sanghe Sakti Kaliyuge
(Organization is Strength)

The Hindu Organisational Conference brings together a vast array of Hindu organizations, including temples, associations, and institutions to share best practices, experiences, resources, and ideas. The session also provides a platform to discuss challenges and opportunities for generating inclusive prosperity ethically and effectively. The guiding theme of the conference is "*Sanghe Shakti Kaliyuge*", which means "*Organization is Strength*".

FRIDAY – 7 SEPTEMBER

2.00 – 2.30 p.m.	Introductory Remarks - Coordinator Prof. Guna Magesan, Coordinator, HOTA conference	
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	SESSION 1: Mandir and Culture: Serving the needs of Hindu Community Chairperson: Dr Srilekha Reddy Palle, USA	
	Temples have sustained Hindu Dharma through time immemorial and are a central force that nourishes the growth of the community in which they exist. Mandirs, as we prefer calling them, are derived from the words man which symbolizes inner-self and dir which means dwelling place. In this session, we will explore further how sustainable and independent temples as a nuclei serve and can continue to address the growing needs of the community with the appropriate fit, form and function for the environment and the people in that community. A strategic vision for the programs, the creation, planning and effective execution of these programs can be the magnetic force that can attract youth, individual, family and community by creating a positive impact.	
2.30 – 2.40 p.m.	Introducing the Session by Chairperson	
2.40 – 2.50 p.m.	Freeing temples from Government clutches	Swami Paramatmananda Saraswati Acharya Sabha, Bharat
2.50 – 3.00 p.m.	How a Temple initiated the largest mid-day meal program in the world	Sadhu Chanchalpathi Dasa Akshaya Patra Foundation, Bharat
3.00 – 3.10 p.m.	Temple Conceptualization and Functions	Dr Siva Subramanian Shiva Vishnu Temple, USA
3.10 – 3.20 p.m.	Spiritual but not religious (SBNR)	Shri Joseph Emmett Vedanta Institute Houston, USA
3.20 – 3.45 p.m.	Question and Answers	
4.15 – 5.30 p.m.	SESSION 2: Human rights violation around the world Chairperson: Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Global Head, Art of Living Foundation	
	Hindu community has been on the receiving end for sometime in various parts of the world, such as in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and in West Asian countries, and Gypsies in Europe. As a billion society, it is our responsibility to help our Hindu brothers and sisters in these countries, so that they get fair treatment and can live with dignity. Network Hindu organizations actively addressing these issues e.g. HAF, GHRD.	
4.15 – 4.25 p.m.	Introducing the Session by Chairperson	
4.25 – 4.35 p.m.	Defending Hindu Human Rights	Shri Sradhanand Sital Global Hindu Rights Defence, Netherlands

4.35 – 4.45 p.m.	Influencing Government Policies in Eastern Europe	Prof Ved Prakash Nanda Denver University, Denver, USA
4.45 – 4.55 p.m.	Fighting for Hindus in Bangladesh	Shri Sitangshu Guha Bangladesh
4.55 – 5.05 p.m.	Pakistani Hindus: A Genocide Forgotten	Dr. Omendra Singh Ratnu Jaipur, Rajasthan, Bharat
5.05 – 5.30 p.m.	Question and Answers	
SATURDAY – 8 SEPTEMBER		
9.00 – 9.30 a.m.	Getting together	
9.30 – 10.45 a.m.	Session 3. Collaboration Between and Within Linguistic/Cultural Organizations Chairperson: Shri Sanjay Tripathi, California, USA; Ami Patel, Canada	
	To promote positive inter community bonding and interactions for better understanding and common good of Hindu society, significant challenges need to be addressed. There are a number of linguistic organizations that claim they are only cultural organizations even though their membership is mostly Hindu. There is fragmentation not limited just to linguistic line but is deeper within the same linguistic group. For example, create a collaborative platform of Linguistic Organizations to strengthen Hindu society, and stem further fragmentation and exploitation of these communities by political parties and other religious groups. Often inter community conflicts are engineered for various reasons. The goal of this panel is to share their strengths and challenges on this safe space platform created through HOTA and come up with creative ways in which to engage these organizations that will be mutually beneficial.	
9.30 – 9.40 a.m.	Introducing the Session by Chairperson	
9.40 – 10.40 a.m.	Panel Discussion, Question and Answers Panelists: 1. Telugu - Shri Harinath Policherla - TATA 2. Tamil - Shri Balaji Rajagopalan 3. Kannada - Shri Amarnath Gowda 4. Gujarati - Shri Vasudev Patel 5. Marathi - Shri Avinash Padhye 6. Punjabi 7. Bengali - Shri Judhajit Senmazumdar, USA 8. Nepali -	
10.40 – 10.45 a.m.	Conclusions of the Panel Discussion	
10.45 – 11.15 a.m.	Break	
11.15 – 12.30 p.m.	SESSION 4: Operational mechanism for Hindus to reach the unreached areas Chairperson: BK Ushaben Naik, Rajasthan	
	Over the past several centuries, the Hindu Diaspora has spread across the globe forming communities overtime yet there are many unreached areas such as South America, Africa and Eastern Europe. Most of these unreached areas belonged to various indigenous tribes with ancient tradition, culture and heritage. Many of these groups have been either converted to Islam or Christianity. It has been noted that some of these groups continue to practice their ancient traditions although they have been converted. In the present times, there is a revival of these ancient practices and they are looking towards our Hindu community because of similarities. This presents an opportunity which will be further explored in this session with the challenge to develop operational mechanisms and find means to assimilate resources for Hindus to reach these unreached areas.	
11.15 – 11.25 a.m.	Introducing the Session by Chairperson	

11.25 – 11.35 a.m.	Reaching to the South American community	Swami B A Paramadvaiti Peru; All South America
11.35 – 11.45 a.m.	Getting legal recognition of Hindu Dharma in Italian Government system	Swamini Hamsananda Giri Italy
11.45 – 11.55 a.m.	African community and Hindu thoughts	Swami Satyananda Saharaj Hindu Monastery, Ghana
11.55 – 12.05 p.m.	Reaching to Un-reached areas - Focusing on Central Asia	Bhakti Vijnana Goswami Maharaj Bhakti.Vijnana.Goswami@pamho.net
12.05 – 12.30 p.m.	Question and Answers	
12.30 – 2.00 p.m.	Lunch	
2.00 – 2.30 p.m.	Getting together	
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	SESSION 5: Challenges and Opportunities before the Hindu Society Chairperson: Pandit Ram Hardwar, Shri Surya Narayan Mandir, New York	
	Socio-cultural factors such as customs, lifestyles and values that characterize the Hindu society, although a norm in India, are an outlier in many parts of the world. Cultural aspects including concepts of education, language, law, religion, organizations, values and attitudes are all genuine socio-cultural challenges that arise outside of India. These challenges also present opportunities for Hindus to contribute positively to their adopted lands drawing upon the depth and richness of their ancestral heritage. In this session, common concerns will be explored to extract opportunities that can lead to the development of common frameworks and solutions that can be implemented.	
2.30 – 2.40 p.m.	Introducing the Session by Chairperson	
2.40 – 2.50 p.m.	Shaping Global Hindu Identity	Dr Ajay Shah VHP of America
2.50 – 3.00 p.m.	Challenge and opportunity before Hindu Society in Indonesia and support from the Global Hindu movement	Maj Gen (Rtd) Wisnu Bawa Tenya Chairman, PHDI, Indonesia
3.00 – 3.10 p.m.	Family: Incubator for Hindu Dharma	Shri Gaurang Nanavati Chinmaya Mission, Houston
3.10 – 3.20 p.m.	Digital Strategy - across spectrum - including preaching and teaching	Dr Krishna Giri Bharat
3.20 – 3.45 p.m.	Question and Answers	
3.45 – 4.15 p.m.	Break	
4.15 – 5.30 p.m.	SESSION 6: Global Hindus Making Global Impact Chairperson: Brahmachari Vrajvihari Sharan, USA	
	Over the course of Hindu history, noble Hindus emerge from the Hindu community that live the values of Hindu Dharma with such vigor and passion to "think collectively and act valiantly." In this session, let us get inspired by these phenomenal ideas that create a ground swell for social change and sustainability.	
4.15 – 4.25 p.m.	Introducing the Session by Chairperson	
4.25 – 4.35 p.m.	Govardhan Eco Village: Rural Development of Vedic Smart Villages	Shri Gauranga Das Bharat
4.35 – 4.45 p.m.	California Textbook Movement by Hindu community - A successful case study	Shri Sanjay Tripathi California, USA
4.45 – 4.55 p.m.	Hindu Activism in America and the model to be replicated across the world	Shri Satya Dosapati USA
4.55 – 5.30 p.m.	Question and Answers	