SPEAKER PROFILES

HINDU ORGANIZATIONAL CONFERENCE, WHC2018@Chicago

Prof Guna Magesan

Coordinator, Hindu Organizational Conference, World Hindu Congress 2018

Till recently, Prof Guna Magesan was the Vice Chancellor of Institute of Advanced Research in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. He is now the Director, International Operations, Manushyaa Blossom Pvt Ltd (a startup Siddha Pharmaceutical company) and a full-time volunteer for World Hindu Congress. In 2014, he was the CEO of World Hindu Economic Forum. Previously, he was the Professor and Head of Environmental Science Dept in Fiji National University. Prior to that, he was a Senior Scientist with New Zealand Govt. His work on Hindu-Maori relations is well recognized. He is the General Secretary, Vishva Hindu Parishad of New Zealand.

Sushri Ami Patel

Program Co-Chair, Hindu Mandir Executive Conference Canada

Sushri Ami Patel is a management professional experienced in banking, retail and manufacturing industries. She has an executive MBA from Western University, Canada. She is the program co-chair for Hindu Mandir Executives conference, an initiative of VHPA. She mentors youth, facilitates and organizes youth camps and family retreats, under the direction of All World Gayarti Pariwar. She is the Area Director, Toastmasters International, promoting communication and leadership skills. She is a volunteer to promote education and awareness of diversity and inclusion in Toronto.

Shri Sanjay Tripathi

Executive Director for Pacific region, HSS, USA

Shri Sanjay Tripathi is an IT professional with over 25 years of experience. He has interests in pharma manufacturing and he is the Director of Pharmanova Healthcare in Ghana. He is an advisor to Dharma Civilization Foundation, an initiative in the academic domain in mainstream US Universities towards Hindu Dharma. Sanjay is the lead community coordinator for California Textbook Movement. He has been involved with CA Textbook issue since 2005 and held the program lead for CA Textbook Reform at Hindu Community Institute. He is Executive Director for Pacific region, HSS, USA.

SESSION 1: Mandir and Culture: Serving the needs of Hindu Community (Fri, 7 Sept: 2.30)

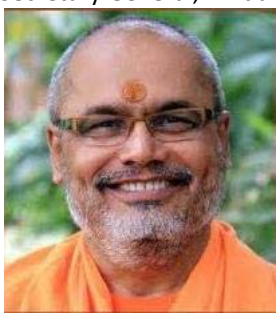
Dr Srilekha Reddy Palle

Representative, Durga Temple of Virginia, USA

Dr Srilekha Reddy Palle received her doctorate from Boston University. She was the vice president of South Asian Public health association and is a member of American healthcare executives. Dr. Palle was the past president of Durga temple of Virginia, the first temple of Bhagwati Durga built in USA. During her tenure at Durga temple, she successfully launched several programs for youth, senior citizens and conducted community outreach programs. She is currently playing an active role in American Hindu coalition.

Swami Paramatmananda Saraswati

Secretary General, Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha, Bharat



Swami Paramatmananda Saraswatiji is a senior disciple of PP Swami Dayananda Saraswati and founder of Arsha Vidya Mandir in Rajkot, Gujarat. For the past 30 years, Swamiji has been teaching Vedanta in a traditional way, blending with modern examples, for easy understanding. Swamiji is Secretary General for Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha. Pujya Swamiji has represented Hindu Dharma at more than 15 international conferences.

Sadhu Chanchalapathi Dasa

Akshaya Patra Foundation, Bharat

Sadhu Chanchalapathi Dasa is the Vice Chairman and Trustee, Akshaya Patra Foundation; Senior Vice President, ISKCON-Bangalore. He joined the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for a Masters program in ECE. In 1984 he became a monk and missionary member of ISKCON, Bangalore. He travels and lectures extensively on ancient Vedic spirituality as well as the intersection of science and spirituality. He has played a lead role in the making of 3D animated TV serial *Little Krishna*, which became a prime time show on the Nickelodeon Channel in Bharat.

Dr Siva Subramanian

Founder, Shiva Vishnu Temple, USA

Dr Siva Subramanian is a Professor at Georgetown University. He does research in Pediatrics, Public Health and Clinical Trials. Their current projects are infant mortality reduction, facial Recognition Technology for the Detection of Genetic Abnormalities study, Neonatal Ethics and neonatal palliative care. He also teaches Pediatrics, Neonatology and religious traditions in Health Care and complementary and alternative medicine. Dr Subramanian is the founder of Sri Siva Vishnu Temple, Co founder of the Association of Hindu Jain Temples of Metropolitan Washington DC and the Council on Hindu Temples of USA.

Shri Joseph Emmett

Vedanta Institute Houston, USA

Shri Joseph Emmett is the Director, Vedanta Institute Houston, USA. Since 1996, he has been a student of Swami Parthasarathy, and graduated after full-time, three-year residential course at Vedanta Academy. He has spent over a decade in Bharat, at the ashram, deepening his knowledge. He offers Beyond Business seminars for management teams and leadership groups such as Young President's Organization. He also speaks at universities, schools and cultural organizations. He taught for a semester at Pomona College near Los Angeles. He has been the Vedanta faculty-in-residence at Ananda-in the Himalayas, and Calamigos Guest Ranch in Malibu.

SESSION 2: Human Rights Violation Around the World (Fri, 7 Sept: 4.15 - 5.30 pm)

Padma Bhushan Ved Prakash Nanda

Professor, University of Denver, USA

Prof Ved Prakash Nanda is a Distinguished Professor and Director of the Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law at the University of Denver, where a Ved Nanda Professorship has also been established. He holds leadership positions in numerous international organizations, has authored or co-authored 24 books, and has received numerous national and international awards, the latest being the 2018 American Bar Association International Law Award, and Padma Bhushan from the Government of Bharat. He is a regular commentator in both the electronic and print media.

Shri Sradhanand Sital

Chairperson, Global Human Rights Defence, The Netherlands

Shri Sradhanand Sital is the Chairperson of Global Human Rights Defence (GHRD) based in Netherlands. GHRD is an international human rights organization with the objective of promoting human rights for those areas where severe violations have victimized relatively large populations. He was awarded the 2012 Suryadatta National Award for Global Public Service.

Shri Sitangshu Guha

Leader, BHBCUC USA, USA

Shri Sitangshu Guha is a columnist, a former college professor, and a Human Rights defender. Guha is a Bangladeshi immigrant in USA. He plays a pivotal role against persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh. He has campaigned worldwide and reached out to global Human Rights institutions advocating injustices committed against the Hindus in a pluralistic democracy and to save Bangladesh from the grasp of militant Islamists. Guha compiled and published several books. He lectured at the UN on 13th May 2003.

Dr Ajay Tejasvi Narasimhan

Expert, International politics and leadership

Dr Ajay Tejasvi Narasimhan is an international politics and leadership expert. He has a Ph.D. in Political Science from Claremont Graduate University and holds a Master's degree in Foreign Policy from Georgetown University. He has an M.S. in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Southern California. He has published several articles on the topics of leadership, state fragility and development results. He has worked at the World Bank Group for the past 15 years, and worked closely with 42 governments, assisting and supporting their reforms for good governance and collaborative leadership. He is a senior volunteer with the global Art of Living Foundation.

SESSION 3: Collaboration Between and Within Linguistic/Cultural Organizations

(Sat, 8 Sept: 9.30 - 10.45 am)

Shri Sanjay Tripathi

Executive Director for Pacific region, HSS, USA

Shri Sanjay Tripathi is an IT professional with over 25 years of experience. He has interests in pharma manufacturing and he is the Director of Pharmanova Healthcare in Ghana. He is an advisor to Dharma Civilization Foundation, an initiative in the academic domain in mainstream US Universities towards Hindu Dharma. Sanjay is the lead community coordinator for California Textbook Movement. He has been involved with CA Textbook issue since 2005 and held the program lead for CA Textbook Reform at Hindu Community Institute. He is Executive Director for Pacific region, HSS, USA.

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Dr Harinath Policherla

President, Telangana American Telugu Association, USA

Dr Harinath Policherla is the President of Telangana American Telugu Association (TATA). He is also the Co-Chair, Advisory council of TATA. He is a neurologist by profession. He specializes as clinical neuro physiologist, sleep specialist, neuro rehabilitation specialist. He has special interests in the film industry as a film producer, director and actor. He has acted in 11 Telugu, 4 English and 3 Kannada films. He has won a number of awards which include National Award for the movie *HOPE*. Golden Nandi award for the movie *Chandrahaas*.

Shri Balaji Rajagopalan

Tamil Entrepreneur & BATS Board of Director, USA

Shri Balaji Rajagopalan is the founder and CEO of Decision Minds, a global organization providing cognitive analytics and artificial intelligence solutions. He is a successful entrepreneur with deep interest in Hindu culture, and he actively supports many temples, religious, socio-cultural and non-profit organizations. He understands Tamil Dravidian politics and does proper articulation of it. A very good example of his activism came during Sri Andal issue where he took lead it in the Tamil community in US. He is actively engaged through Bharati Tamil Sangam (BATS) and other organizations.

Shri Anil Deshpande

Former Member, Board of Trustees, Association of Kannada Kootas of America, USA

Shri Anil Deshpande has been a community volunteer since his student days while his Masters from Indian Institute of Science Bangalore. He serves as Vice President Technology for Sewa International. He was the President of Kannada Koota in Chicago Chapter in 2010. He has served on the Board of Directors of AKKA in 2010 and 2011. AKKA stands for Association of Kannada Kootas of America - a non-profit, Educational, Linguistic and Cultural Organization; to integrate, coordinate, network and unite the activities of all Kannadigas and Kannada Kootas for promotion and preservation of Kannada language and culture in North America.

Dr Vasudev Patel

Medical doctor and community volunteer, USA

Dr Vasudev Patel is a medical professional from Bharat. In 1980, he joined his father's medical practice in Mehsana, Gujarat. He is a community volunteer and is associated with both profit and non-profit organizations. He took an initiative action to motivate doctors and lawyers' group in Atlanta to help the needy Indian community a free basic primary care and a legal aid. He is also an entrepreneur and involved in diversified businesses in USA. He was a key player to arrange a live talk with Chief Minister of Gujarat and Gujarati NRI community more than 6 times in last 12 years in month of MAY under a Gujarat Din Celebrations.

Shri Avinash Padhye

President, Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal, USA

Shri Avinash Padhye is the president, Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal (BMM), an umbrella organization for more than 65 Mandals across North America. He is proud that BMM initiative "Marathi Shala" is thriving 68 schools across North America with strong volunteer support. He has a strong passion for Marathi literature. He is an Electrical Engineer by profession and has roots in Printing Industry. He started his own print business in Bharat before migrating to USA.

Shri Judhajit Senmazumdar

Bengali Association, USA

Shri Judhajit Senmazumdar is an IT and social entrepreneur based in Silicon Valley. He is the chief adviser to Kolkata based i-Initiate, skill development premier in West Bengal. Judhajit brings over two decades of experience in Dharmic activism and has time and again championed the cause of Hindu Human rights in West Bengal and Bangladesh. He is also North America's chief co-coordinator of "Naba Banga", a movement with a mission towards new and vibrant West Bengal. He is a graduate of NIT Tircuchirapally and his schooling is from Kolkata's Ramkrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Narendrapur.

Shri Sukhi Chahal

Founder and Chairman, Punjab Foundation, USA

Shri Sukhi Chahal is Founder & Chairman of Punjab Foundation which provides educational support for 500+ underprivileged, children with special needs in Punjab. He is actively involved with the Sikh Community and plays a role in building bridges among the Hindu and Sikh community. He is President of Information technology and Unified Communications consulting company in the Silicon Valley. He attended UC Berkeley for computer and Stanford for management related courses. He held senior management, engineering and consulting positions in Silicon Valley.

SESSION 4: Operational mechanism for Hindus to reach the unreached areas

(Sat, 8 Sept: 11.15 - 12.30 pm)

BK Ushaben

Brahma Kumari World Spiritual University, Bharat

Ushaben is with Brahma Kumaris since 1974. Implementing the spiritual teachings and practical meditation, she experienced a great change, and realizing the benefits she dedicated herself. At present, she is based at the Global Headquarters of Brahma Kumaris. She is a Rajyoga meditation teacher, a management trainer and a motivational speaker. She has completed research on the great epics of Bharat. Her guidance encourages people to overcome mental stress, anxiety, addictions and low self-esteem. BK Ushaben has been felicitated with "Hall of Fame" award.

Swami B A Paramadvaiti

Founder and spiritual master of VRINDA, South America

Swami BA Paramadvaiti is the founder and spiritual master of VRINDA, an association of Vaisnava devotees of Bhagwan Krishna in the Gaudiya lineage of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. He is the founder of Vrindavan Institute for Vaisnava Culture and Studies; General Secretary of World Vaisnava Association; Representative of Vishva Hindu Parisad for South America; Inbound Yoga School and Oida Therapy Institute; Founder of Foundation of Ancient Wisdom. He was born in Germany but now lives a life as a traveling mendicant. He has rarely spends more than three days in a place for the last 20 or so years.

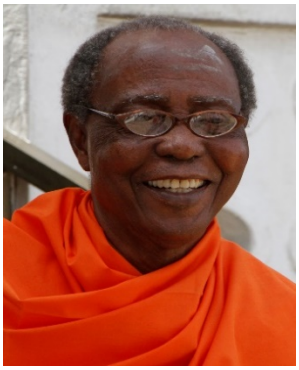
Swamini Hamsananda Giri

Italian Hindu Union - Sanatana Dharma Samgha, Italy

Swamini Hamsananda Giri, Gitananda Ashram, Italy, has devoted her life to the highest spiritual aims and to her Guru, H.H. Paramahamsa Guru Maharaj Swami Yogananda Ghiri. The protection of Dharma inspired her hard and passionate work for the Italian Hindu Union - Sanatana Dharma Samgha, towards granting the rights of the Hindu Communities in Italy. As the Vice President of the Italian Hindu Union, she gives voice to the Hindu communities in a constant dialogue with the Italian Government and its politicians, educational and religious institutions and media. She teaches Hindu philosophy, Sanskrit and yoga.

Swami Satyananda Saraswati

Hindu Monastery of Africa, Ghana



Swami Satyananda Saraswati is the Head of the Hindu Monastery of Africa. He became a disciple of Swami Ghananand Saraswati, the first Hindu monk from Ghana. Swami Satyananda is a Ghanaian who was born a catholic, became Hindu and has been working for the Hindu Dharma for over 35 years. Swamiji started his path into spiritualism at a tender age. After a successful career as an accountant, Swamiji renounced to live in the monastery. He helped his Guru to restructure the Monastery and to promote the teachings of Hindu Dharma.

Shri Anuttama Dasa
ISKCON, USA

Shri Anuttama Dasa is Minister of Communications for the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). He has served as a member of ISKCON's Governing Body Commission (GBC) since 1999 and was its Chairman in 2014. Dasa was initiated into the Vaishnava lineage by Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON's Founder-acarya, in Vrindavan, India, in 1976. Dasa also serves on the Executive Board of Religions for Peace USA, and as Board Member of the Religion Communicators Council.

SESSION 5: Responding to socio-cultural challenges before Hindu Society

(Sat, 8 Sept: 11.15 - 12.30 pm)

Pandit Ram Hardowar

Shri Surya Narayan Mandir, USA

Pt Ram Hardowar graduated from the University of Guyana, and worked as a geo-technical engineer. He learned the basics of Hindu Dharma from the late Dharmacharya Pt Lallman Shukla. Upon the passing of his father, Pandit Hardowar took over the mantle of Shri Surya Narayan Mandir. He is Director of Surya Narayan Seva Outreach Sangh, a non-profit organization to help the less fortunate in Guyana through medical and educational outreach as well as providing scholarships to deserving students.

Dr Ajay Shah

Convener, American Hindus Against Defamation, USA

Dr Ajay Shah is the Convener of American Hindus Against Defamation. He is the co-founder of Hindu Students Council; co-founder and CEO of HinduNet, the first Hindu website which initiated Hindu presence in the electronic media. He was the editor of the Hindu Vishwa and Jt General Secretary of VHPA. In 1990, Ajay wrote "Our Kashmir," - about the issues in Kashmir and its impact on Hindus. Dr Shah credits ABVP for giving him inspiration to work towards Hindu cause. He has doctorate in Chemistry and now volunteers his time as Adjunct Professor in Strategic Management at Amrita University School of Business.

Prof I Ketut Widnya

Director General, Department of Hindu, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Republic of Indonesia

Prof I Ketut Widnya is the Director General, Department of Hindu, Ministry of Religious Affairs of Republic of Indonesia. He has worked as a journalist and served as editor of Karya Bhakti, a local newspaper in Bali. He completed his postgraduate education at the University of Delhi, Bharat. He has worked as lecturer at Institute Hindu Dharma Negeri (IHDN) Denpasar; Chairman, State Hindu Religion College Gde Pudja Mataram; Director, Doctoral Program in Religious Sciences, IHDN Denpasar. He was awarded with Indian Council of Cultural Relations Distinguished Alumni 2016 Award.

Acharya Sri Gaurang Nanavaty

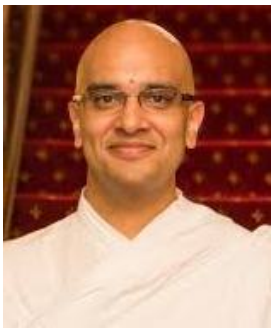
Chinmaya Mission, Houston, USA

Acharya Sri Gaurang Nanavaty is a dedicated Hindu leader in Chinmaya Mission Houston. He has enriched many lives with the wisdom of Vedanta. Inspired by Swami Chinmayananda, he undertook an intense study in the Vedanta Course in California. Since then, he has devoted himself to nourish the scriptural learning and cultural growth of thousands of families. He has been honored in “Jewels of Gujarat” as one of the most eminent global Gujarati personalities. He is a trustee of Chinmaya Viswavidyapeeth, and he is a Director of Chinmaya Mission West.

Session 6: Global Hindus Making Global Impact **(Sat, 8 Sept: 4.30 - 6.00 pm)**

Brahmachari Vrajvihari Sharan

Director, Hindu Life in Campus Ministry at Georgetown University, USA



Dr Sharan moved to Washington DC from London, UK to serve as the first full-time Director for Hindu Life in Campus Ministry at Georgetown University, making him the first Hindu monk to serve at a Catholic Institution. He is an adjunct Professor in the Department of Theology and Linguistics. His academic training is in Indology, Sanskrit Philology, Classical Indian Intellectual Systems, Indian Religious Traditions and Society, Medieval Braj Literature, and Vedānta. He is also an instructor of Hindu priests and holds the title of 'Yagyacharya' (Master in Hindu Rituals).

Shri Gauranga Das

Director, Govardhan Eco Village, Bharat

Shri Gauranga Das is the Director of Govardhan Eco Village, the only Bharatiya NGO to receive the United Nations Award in Sustainable Tourism from UNWTO. He also received the title of IGBC Fellow from Indian Green Building Council. Shri Das is the Global Duty Officer of ISKCON; Divisional Director of devotee care, temple development, systems and administration of ISKCON temples worldwide; and Trustee of ISKCON GBC College. He is an inspirational speaker and has spoken in conferences like TEDx and corporates like Google, Microsoft and Intel.

Shri Sanjay Tripathi

Executive Director for Pacific region, HSS, USA

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Shri Satyanaraya Dosapati

Hindu Activist, USA

Shri Satyanaraya Dosapati is US based activist with several successes: forcing Andhra Pradesh CM in 2007 to ban conversions inside Hindu temples; and bringing attention to the plight of backward caste minor girls in West Bengal being kidnapped and thrown into sexual slavery. He helped to organize All American Rally for Trump encouraging ethnic communities to support the Trump Presidential Election. He is well known for challenging 100 and 30 million-dollar lawsuits from Sonia Gandhi proxies in the US when he exposed her through newspaper advertisement. He received his Bachelors from IIT Chennai and is pursuing a career in telecom in US.

Shri Balabhadra Dasa

President, Vedic Friends Association, USA

Shri Balabhadra Dasa (Benny J Tillman) is the President of Vedic Friends Association. A direct disciple of His Divine Grace AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (Founder of the ISKCON), Balabhadra Dasa joined the Hare Krishna Movement in 1973 in Atlanta and has since travelled extensively in Bharat and other parts of the world practicing and teaching the ancient Vedic philosophy. Shri Dasa's specialization is engaging the youth in Dharmic activities in many of its dimensions. He is eager to work with like-minded people and organizations in serving their socio-spiritual needs.