



Hindu University of America

A Unique Dimension of Hindu Thought and Traditions

Newsletter

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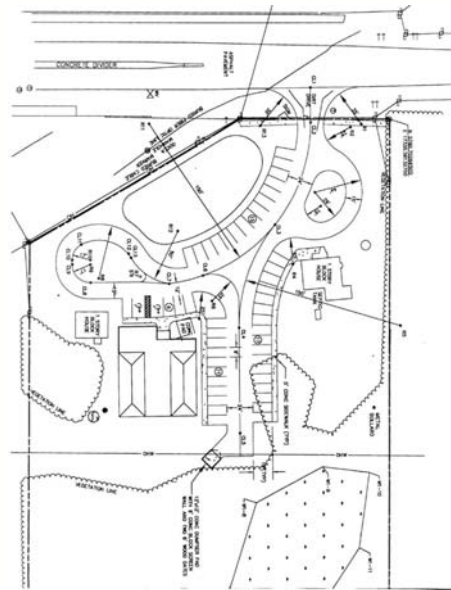
Highlights

- HU Campus Construction
- Essentials of Hinduism
- New President at HU
- Research into the Role of Sanskrit in Computer Applications

We are very excited about the expansion of main campus slated for completion by the end of June.

- Suresh Gupta

HU Campus Construction Begins



Phase I of the construction plan has commenced on the Main campus of Hindu University. Initial construction spans on one acre of land. Two classrooms, a library, a yoga-meditation classroom hall and two faculty offices are being built in this phase. Director of HU overseeing the construction Mr. Suresh Gupta said “We are very excited about the expansion of main campus slated for completion by the end of June”.



New President at Hindu University

Hindu University is delighted to have Prof. Gupta leading the university development. Professor Kuldip Chand Gupta has been a Member of Board of Directors of Hindu University since 1992 and is the first Founding Patron of the University. He has been a Professor at University of Colorado since 1983. Dr. Gupta received his B.Sc., B.E., M.E. and Ph.D. degrees in India.

He is an author of eight books and has contributed chapters to two handbooks, an encyclopedia and two other edited book volumes. Professor Gupta has published more than 240 research papers and holds four patents. He is a Fellow of the IEEE (USA) and a Life Fellow of IETE (India). He is a recipient of IEEE-MTTS Distinguished Educator Award, IEEE Third

Millennium Medal, a member of the ADCOM for the MTT Society of IEEE, chair of the IEEE MTT-S standing committee on Education, and a member of IEEE-EAB Committee on Continuing Education. He is the founding editor of an International Journal published by John Wiley since 1991. He is an Associate Editor and on the editorial boards of several international journals. He is listed in Who’s Who in America, Who’s Who in the World, Who’s Who in Engineering, and Who’s Who in American Education. Dr. Gupta is known for his articles on “Future of Higher Education” and on “Concept

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A Message from the President ...

Namaste and Greetings from Hindu University! In this first Newsletter column since assuming the responsibility of the University in January 2003, I would like to thank all of my colleagues and friends who helped me in this transition from technology education to spiritual education. As mentioned in "Interview with Prof. Gupta" elsewhere in this issue, the Hindu University project is dearest to me and I consider it my honor and privilege to be able to dedicate my total effort for this cause. This is an exciting time period in the development of Hindu University and our immediate plans include:

HU's immediate plans include:
Academic Building, More Faculty, and Web Courses

- Construction of an academic wing housing two class-rooms, a yoga-meditation hall, two faculty offices, and other amenities.
- Additions to current faculty for handling complete instruction in our degree programs in Hinduism, Yoga Education, and Yoga Philosophy and Meditation.
- Implementation of web-based courses starting with our core course on Hinduism.

Through this Newsletter column, I appeal for your enhanced participation in HU activities as students, as faculty, as volunteers, and as supporters and well-wishers. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, suggestions and advice.

- Kuldip C. Gupta

From Editor's Desk ...

Please contribute articles to HU Newsletter.



Brothers & Sisters, Namaste. I am delighted to serve as the editor for the HU Newsletter. The format of this issue is a combination of the news items related to HU activities and brief articles of general interest to the readers. Readers forum, book review and other features are planned to be included in the forthcoming issues of this Newsletter.

We like the Newsletter to be a forum for informal exchange of views, as well as an organ for the dissemination of news about HU plans and activities. Your help and cooperation are needed for developing this Newsletter.

Please come forward with your suggestions, comments, and advice. Contribute by writing for the forthcoming issues of the Newsletter. We are also thankful to the contributors of this issue and others who have submitted their articles. We are thankful to Swami Harshananda from Ramakrishna Mutt, Bangalore, India for graciously permitting us to reprint some of his articles to be published in forthcoming issues.

-Guru Prasad

newsletter@hindu-university.edu

HU's Vision Statement

"Hindu University of America is a world class institution of learning and research in Hindu thought and traditions allowing unfolding of spiritual dimension of human beings"

HU Speakers Bureau has been setup with a mission to deliver public lectures in schools, colleges about Hindu culture. Please contact the Editor for details.

Hindu University Newsletter is published by Hindu University of America. Editing and publication is handled by a committee which, at present, consists of Guru Prasad and B.V. Venkata Krishna Sastry. Views and opinions expressed by authors are not necessarily of Hindu University.

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The Hindu University of America admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the University. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic or other University Administered programs.

Sanskrit – a key to speech related issues in computer applications

Dr. Sastry is a faculty member at HU. This article is based on his recent research paper at AVOIS Conference Spring 2003 at San Jose, California.

“To create technology that makes it possible for every one in the world to interact with computers via a natural spoken language”- is the visualized industry goal which drives the promotion of ‘speech-related technologies.’ The success of the ‘internet revolution’ is dependent on achieving this technology solution. Industrial and technological researches are focused on the design and development of human-centered systems that are aimed at integrating humans, computational devices and other artifacts in a seamless manner, leaving the unique capabilities of each to satisfy the system level requirements. Such technology solutions, providing conversational interfaces, will enable the users to converse with machines in much the same way that individuals communicate with one another and will play a fundamental role in facilitating our move towards an information-based society. The applications will be in the areas of IVR (Interactive Voice Response in telephony), TTS (Text to Speech), TR (Text Readers), speech recognition processes, Voice over Internet, robotics, AI, etc.

The existing standards and software for the goal of speech solutions over internet, covering a industrial design and research spanning about thirty years in the west, are based on a design philosophy and standards which use (i) a ‘non-agglutinating, isolated Latin language character set’ and (ii) a ‘technique of program scripting using programming languages constructed on this character set.’ This has been the basis for the development of the standards promulgated.

The solutions based on this approach

have worked well as long as the multilingual and speech related issues did not become critical. The vast databases and applications built on ‘character-oriented text-based instructions through the programming languages’ have served the society in many areas.

When the application of the computers extended their service to the global scenario that demands the ‘multilingual’ environment and speech related solutions, the limitations of the ‘character-based design’ started showing up. The industry and the standards started providing the add-on, ad hoc upgrading depending upon the needs, within the paradigm of the character-based design. Similarly in the speech area also, solutions were offered in a very limited way.

Our ability to replicate our own minds in a machine is limited by our incomplete knowledge of how our own minds work. The ultimate goal for speech synthesis, as with all AI applications, is to make it pass the Turing Test - a blindfolded user shouldn't be able to tell whether he/she is talking to a human or a machine.

Mr. Acero (a senior researcher at Microsoft) believes he knows how to get there: "I'm interested in using what I've learned in speech synthesis to modify speech recognition," he says. "Ultimately the right model might just be the same for both synthesis and recognition." After all, he notes, our brains perform these functions simultaneously. This is a distant recognition of the ‘integrated nature of the sound-script language’ nature of the ‘speech’.

It is acknowledged that the Indic language identified as the ‘**Vedic Sanskrit**’ is the most ancient human language which continues to have a living tradition in India, and was in it’s final shape thousands of years ago. Sanskrit uses a non-roman script called ‘devanagari.’

(... continued on pg. 7)

This is the distant recognition of the ‘integrated nature of the sound-script language’ nature of the ‘speech’. This is embedded in Vedic Sanskrit ...



... ‘Vedic Sanskrit’ is the most ancient human language which continues to have a living tradition in India’

New President at HU ...Contd. from pg. 1

Modules for Web-based Education,” and delivered a “Key Note Address” on this theme at an international conference on e-learning in Europe. Professor Gupta is a Life Member of

ISKCON and has been on Advisory Board for Colorado temple of ISKCON. He was on the founding Board of Trustees of Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of Rockies.

Essentials of Hinduism: Shri Abhinav Dwivedi

(Excerpts from a talk delivered at a Hindu camp in Tampa, FL on 26th January 2003. Shri Abhinav Dwivedi is a member of the Board of Directors of Hindu University)

“Hinduism celebrates life in all its expressions; it strives for liberty at all levels for all and reaches for the ultimate goal of perfection ...”



“Hinduism is all inclusive and since it is all-inclusive, it has never bothered to give any particular name to itself...others gave it.”

“Hinduism’s essence cannot be grasped intellectually or through logic, debate, or analysis, or listing a set of Do’s and Don’ts. The essence is too dynamic, ...”

Over 200 years ago, in the preamble of U.S. Declaration of Independence used the following phrase: “...all men are created equal... and are endowed with certain inalienable rights of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness...” Hinduism is thousands of years old and its essence can also be summed up as “life, liberty and pursuit of perfection.” Hinduism celebrates life in all its expressions; it strives for liberty at all levels for all and reaches for the ultimate goal of perfection.

We are going to discuss Essentials of Hinduism. Before we talk of essentials, let us briefly review what Hinduism is. What are its outward characteristics? How does it look to an outsider who is a non-Hindu, or who has only a superficial understanding of it?

We are all Hindus here; born in the 20th century, modern independent India, which is secular, democratic and progressive - an India made up of dozens of languages, hundred of dialects, innumerable customs, practices, beliefs; many casts, trades, professions, many religious systems, spiritual practices. If we travel from the north to the south, or east to west, we will find as if we have traveled to different nations. But underneath this vast continent of apparent contradictions, there is a fabric which holds all together. All people, all customs, all beliefs, all practices are held together by invisible threads crisscrossing, and a weaving a beautiful canopy called Hinduism.

On the surface Hinduism as practiced in different parts of India, and of the world looks quite dissimilar, even contradictory. It seems vast, it seems ancient, and it seems impenetrable to outsiders and confusing to all who come from a fixed frame of mind. Even pseudo-secular Hindus who look everything from a western mindset feel the same bewilderment.

What are visible characteristics of Hinduism?

Hinduism is ancient, very ancient. Even at the time of VedaVyasa and Shri Krishna it was already ancient. Stories of Hinduism prevailing at that time were compiled into PURANAS. The word “Puranas” means

ancient stories.

There is no single founder of Hinduism, but there are innumerable contributors, and the list is growing. New contributors continue to add to its collective wisdom from time to time. Ramakrishna and Vivekananda, Aurobindo and Raman Maharshi are just some of the latest contributors who have joined the ancient rishis.

Similarly, Hinduism is not based on just one holy book. Over a period of time a vast storehouse of books has come into existence. Take away any holy book of Hinduism and it is not diminished in the slightest.

Similarly, take away any contributor and still the essence of Hinduism remains the same. There is no one philosophic system; nor is there a single God but a multiplicity of them. Each one providing its own unique view, and complimenting where others are lacking.

Hinduism is all inclusive and since it is all-inclusive, it has never bothered to give any particular name to itself...others gave it “Hinduism.” Even it refuses to give any definitive name to the ultimate reality. It just simply calls it THAT (*TAT*) - neither he nor she! It has understood long ago that any attempt to name the ultimate reality means putting an artificial limits on it. Hinduism refuses to be bound in any limitations one can think of. It defies all definitions, because to define is to limit, to bound, and to separate.

At the same time, to help aspirants at different levels of development, it has given thousands of names to give hints of *TAT*. One can take one of the hints as a stepping-stone and progress higher and higher.

Hinduism’s essence cannot be grasped intellectually or through logic, debate, or analysis, or listing a set of Do’s and Don’ts. The essence is too dynamic, and profound and is to be excavated through experience. That’s why so many branches of yoga and meditation have been developed. Each working with different parts of our being. This is one reason the West is confused. In fact, no experience can truly be defined. One can only describe how sugar tastes to some one who has already tasted some sweet thing.

(Article to continue in the next Issue)

Why I joined Hindu University ? - Marion E. Uselding

On February 6th, Professor Dr. Gupta asked me why I had joined Hindu University of America (HUA), and would I be willing to write something on it for HU Newsletter. Of course, I feel very happy to do it, for it gives me a chance to glorify Him who alone warrants glorification.....You see, dear reader, I did not choose to join this school; much rather, I was chosen, compelled, if you will, to follow this path.

The Prompter? Sri Sathya Sai Baba
His meaning for me? The Lord Incarnate,
Krishna-Come-Again
The Poorna Avatar of this Kali Yuga
Sri Sathya Sai – the Darling of my life,
My God and my All!

Why so inflamed?
So lunatically enamored, with One Who
Asked no permission to make me His Own;
Whose Love makes me fuse my will unto His;
Whose every wish becomes my command;
This One Who wants me to serve by
Helping others to help themselves.

Through the path of Yoga
the lifting of veils,
the killing of illusions,
and awakening to Truth.
The path of Yoga – as a Ph.D.,

to help them see
what it means to be free
in education
business
social work
economics
politics
prison system
families

the list is long,
and my heart is strong
to conquer the throng
of cynics and unbelievers
So He asked, “would you play,
For life is quite gay,
The part of helping your brothers allay
Their fears and sorrow,
For a better tomorrow
And hearts all filled with love?”

“ I shall not delay!”
I hurried to say
to Him Who prepares the way,
“let not my mind sway
from the path, that You say,
my Lord, is the best:
the school of HU-A!!!

(Marion E. Uselding is a doctoral student at HU and is a Sathya Sai Baba devotee. She practices spiritual healing and performs healing prayers.)

Why did you join HU?

- One of the students answers that by writing a free style poem....



The path of Yoga – as a Ph.D., to help see what it means to be free ...

Interview with Prof. Gupta

Why did you choose to come to HU?

For the last four decades, I have been heavily involved with technology education as a professor in Electrical Communication Engineering in five different countries in three continents. Having reached the professional zenith in that area, I have come to recognize fully that the technology is NOT a solution for the key problems faced by humanity today. As all of us have the experience of problems that arise from stressful living, lack of environmental concerns, competitiveness, lack of mutual trust, and lack of ethics.

Our system of education today (engineering education being a part of that),

does not help a student in handling these issues. What we need is a learning environment for recognition of true purpose of life, for spiritual growth, and for learning to live in harmony with our environment and other inhabitants.

The current mission of Hindu University is to supplement the traditional education elsewhere with the courses, instructions and experiential experiences that helps individuals to grow spiritual aspects of one's total well being. It is this understanding of the need for what Hindu University is trying to do, that has brought me here from Colorado. Broadmindedness of Hindu tradition (...continued on pg.6)

What we need is a learning environment for recognition of true purpose of life, for spiritual growth, and for learning to live harmony with environment ...

Summer Intensive Course on “Spiritual Linguistics”

For more details please contact HU or visit www.hindu-university.edu

Course Instructor:	Dr. B.V. VenkataKrishna Sastry
Course schedule:	Monday June 16 to Saturday June 21, 2003.
Course Fees:	\$300 (Tuition) & \$25 (for admission to HU)
Academic Credits:	3 credit-hours

What is Spiritual Linguistics?

Spiritual linguistics is a study of how the normal universal human ‘Speech activity’ can be skillfully utilized for the benefit of spiritual advancement and emotional refinement. ...

Spiritual linguistics is a study of how the normal universal human ‘Speech activity’ (distinguished from the specificity of ‘language’ used in speech activity) can be skillfully utilized for the benefit of spiritual advancement and emotional refinement. The following are the benefits of such a transformation: a) spiritual advancement (through a *realization* of the ‘soul’ and ‘consciousness’ elements in speech); b) emotional refinement and culturing (through the *recognition* of the speech act as a process influenced by mind & emotions); c) a value system and a lifestyle for worldly success with the integrated benefits of stress-free communication (through the *practice* of the techniques which make ‘the activity of speech’ a penance, yoga, sacrifice, worship); and d) techniques to *control and regulate* the expressive surge of anger, lust, greed and contempt through speech which would eventually lead to better human relations and family peace. These techniques of spiritual linguistics represent progress from ‘*body-yoga*’ to the advanced levels of ‘*mind-intellect-soul integration yoga*.’

This course provides an introduction to the theoretical foundations and diverse practical aspects of spiritual linguistics, along with guided experience sessions in some of these techniques. Instructor’s notes and handouts will be provided during the study sessions.

Interview with the new President ...Contd. from pg. 5

permeates beyond the ritual practices followed by Hindus at personal levels. The essence of Hindu thought is characterized by mottos like: “*One universal reality is called by various names by learned,*” “*The entire universe is one family,*” “*Let noble thoughts come to us from all directions,*” and “*Let us enhance the spirituality in universe.*” These mottos, adopted by Hindu University, allow a unique environment to be created for exploring the commonality of various faiths and traditions for welfare of mankind unrestricted by the artificial boundaries created by us. Exploring this possibility is another factor for my move to HU.

What is the relationship between your background in Engineering and HU Education?

For past few years, one of my education related activities has been to emphasize the need for web-based learning environment for asynchronous, self-paced, learner-centered, continued life-long learning. I have

been a strong advocate of use of CD-ROM based concept maps and concept modules for RF and microwave education. Looking at the kind of spiritual education that Hindu University is trying to provide, it becomes clear that these techniques are ideally suitable for creating a learning environment at Hindu University also. Another motivation for me to come here is to help to create this kind of learning environment.

How long have you associated with Hindu University?

Since 1986, I have associated myself with various activities of Hindu University of America as the top priority activity in my spare time. Being not satisfied what I had been able to contribute in that manner, I decided to correct my priorities for the rest of my life by putting HU activities as the top priority, and relegate the engineering education activities to “time-available” basis. This has led me to move from University of Colorado to Hindu University of America.

CD-ROM based concept maps and modules ...are ideally suitable for creating a distance-learning environment at HU...

Recent Donors – Thank You

In its current state of development, HU needs generous contributions from all of its well-wishers. All contributors will be recognized. No donation is too small. Donors providing \$10,000 or more have permanent recognition as Founding Patrons of Hindu University.

Our recent donors include:

Braham Aggarwal; Rakesh Shreedhar ; Balram Advani; Nirmala Vijayarajan; Hindu World; Rajiv Varma; India Culture; Rajeshwari Rajan; Madan & Rasma Mathrani; Netra & Laximant Sukhatanka; Radhakrishnan Mundayat; Kashmira Bhavsar; Janardan J. Bhatt; Alpha Tech; Piyush Sukhadia; Frank Bondurant; Subramanian Shankar; Ramesh Bhutada; Mansurali Kamrudin; Nawal Sharma; Juhi Vikram Sarin; Kuldip & Usha Gupta; Sunil Khatri; Rana Tiwari; Anu Kiebach; Vijay K. Pallod; Ved Kayasthi; Yogi Amrit Desai, Park Square Homes; and Lincoln Mortgage Corporation.

Mr. Braham R. Aggarwal, current Chair of HU Board of Directors, is also the most generous donor for HU project.



Sanskrit in computer applications...Contd. from pg. 3

The Devanagari script is used by many other Indian languages, like Hindi which is the national language of India. The philosophy and grammar of Vedic Sanskrit provides the guidelines in the formation of the concept of 'integrated sound-script language.' The grammar of Sanskrit language authored by Panini (circa 500BC) and the related living tradition is available even to this day. The linguistic design and philosophy of this language is developed purely on the 'human linguistic communication mode, especially in the speech aspect'. There is a well laid down rule base, which can be adopted in to the 'speech mode of communication of any language of the world, irrespective of the script they intend to use.'

Based on the research work carried out at Hindu University of America, a recommendation has been made for the consideration of incorporating the language and the phoneme value of the character as an integrated part on the model of the hu-

man communication paradigm for speech communication with computers. This needs to be specified in the standards of UNICODE and related ISOs. For this purpose the Vedic Sanskrit language can serve as a model human language.

The benefits of this integrated approach based on the paradigm of Vedic Sanskrit language are multifold. The devices and the utilities will have a reference from the human linguistic standards perspective in contrast to the industry specific standards. The multilingual and speech applications related to products and services can have reach a larger user base and become simple-to-use in a cost effective way. In the space exploration of planets beyond Earth, this may help us to recognize the origin of life and carry out intelligent communication with beings beyond our 'Earth' where we are living, as tradition informs that Vedic Sanskrit is the Universal cosmic language in these planets (recognized as divinities).

Based on the research at HU, a recommendation is made for incorporating the language and the phoneme value of the character for speech communication with computers.

Fall 2003 Courses at HU

1. HUC 5001 – Principles of Hinduism; Every Monday and Wednesday; (6:00 – 7:15 pm)
2. HUC 5002 –Practices of Hinduism; Every Monday and Wednesday ; (7:30 – 8:45 pm);
3. HUC 5003 -Basic Sanskrit; Every Tuesday and Thursday (7:30 – 8:45 pm)
4. HIN 5900 – The Message of Bhagavad Geeta - An Independent Study; Meetings on Thursdays; (4:30 – 5:45 pm)
5. HIN 5009 – Basic Hindu Scriptures; Every Tuesday and Thursday; (6:00 – 7:15 pm)
6. YMP 5003 – Principles & Practices of Yoga Meditation (An Independent Study); Meetings on Tuesdays (4:30 – 5:45 pm)
7. HIN 5900 - Creative Sanskrit Composition (An Independent Study); Meeting timings to be decided.

ON CAMPUS CLASSES Start in the week of September 1, 2003. These courses are also available in distance-education mode. All the above are 3 credit-hours courses. Class timings may be adjusted to suit students convenience.



Hindu University of America

A Unique Dimension of Hindu Thought and Traditions

Newsletter

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Visit us on the Web: <http://www.hindu-university.edu>

- I would like to be on your mailing list to receive HU Newsletter and other information.
- I would like to participate in the planning and implementation activities as a volunteer for the University.
- I am interested in studying at the Hindu University. Please send me an application form.
- I am proud to support this project on "Spirituality through Education" with a tax-deductible donation of \$_____ (make your check payable to *Hindu University of America*).
The Hindu University of America is a federal tax-exempt non-profit organization (Tax I.D. # 59-2977691).

Please return this form to:

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Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip-Code: _____
E-mail: _____ Tel. # _____

The mission of the Hindu University of America is to provide for learning, research and training in a broad spectrum of topics related to Vedic/Hindu culture including religions, philosophies, practices etc. The University aims to promote the catholicity of Hinduism, and to establish harmony among Eastern religious thoughts and modern sciences, thereby contributing to better human understanding and global peace. The University is committed to a comprehensive and liberal education with a broad curriculum at baccalaureate, masters and doctoral levels in various areas related to Hindu religions, philosophies and culture providing the students with a practical Vedic base for their spiritual growth. The University fulfills the growing need of modern western society to obtain authentic and unbiased understanding of the vast and rich heritage of Hindu culture, traditions, philosophy, etc.