



# Hindu University of America

A Unique Dimension of Hindu Thought and Traditions

## Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 1

July 1998

### Highlights

- Six classes to be offered in Colorado in Fall '98
- First article in the series "What is Hinduism?"
- Professor Shridhar joins HU in Florida!

*HU is working  
towards  
"Spirituality  
through  
Education"...*

### HU Center Inaugurated in Colorado

Littleton (CO), March 14, 1998: In a public meeting held at the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of Rockies, Hindu University of America announced the extension of its activities in this geographical area by inaugurating and launching of the activities of a regional center of the University in Colorado. Dr. Deendayal Khandelwal, Chairman Board of Directors of Hindu University, addressed the community and two other directors of the university (Dr. Ram Prakash Agarwal and Prof. K.C. Gupta) participated in the meeting. Other speakers included Hiralal Khatri, Ved Nanda, Chaitanya Kabir, Nawal Sharma, Saroj Goel and Usha Gupta.

Colorado Center of Hindu University (CCHU)

will organize regular classes, intensive courses, tutorials/discussion groups for correspondence courses, seminars and other academic activities related to the mission of Hindu University. The Center will provide an interface between local students, faculty, volunteers, and donors and the University headquarters in Florida. Local resources will be developed and the necessary funds raised for operation of this Center in Colorado.

Hindu University of America has been incorporated in Florida as a religious educational institution and authorized by Florida Department of Education to offer graduate (master and doctoral) programs in Hinduism, Medita-

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### HU Sponsors WAVES Conference

Hindu University of America is sponsoring the International Conference on New Perspectives on Vedic & Ancient Indian Civilization (Archaeology, History, Science & Philosophy) organized by World Association for Vedic Studies, Inc. (WAVES). This conference will be held at San Fernando Valley Japanese-American Community Center in Pacoima (California) on August 7-9, 1998. The conference is the second in a series of biennial conferences on studies related to ancient India and Vedic civilization. The first 'International Conference on Revisiting Indus-Sarasvati Civilization & Ancient India' was held in Atlanta (GA), in October 1996. Hindu University had sponsored that conference.

In the conference next month, academics and scholars have been invited to submit papers on Archaeology & Anthropology; History & Social Sciences; Language, Literature & Linguistics; Science & Technology; Ayurveda, Health & Martial Arts; Vedas & Upanishads;

Smrities; Puranas; Epics - Ramayan & Mahabharat; Contemporary Works & Issues; Philosophy; Dharma-shastras, Ethics & Rituals; Agriculture, Plant Sci. & Ecology; Women; etc. The conference is organized in the format of mini symposia. The symposia and their Organizers are: *Hindu Response to the Challenges of the Next Millennium*, Professor Klaus Klostermaier; *Gods & Demons of Vedic Tradition*, Professor Rama Nath Sharma; *Social Organization and Order in Vedic & Ancient India*, Professor Jyotopaul Chaudhuri; *Ayurveda & Health: Issues in Complementary Medicine*, Professor Kant Mishra; *Ancient Indian Science: Concepts & Chronology*, Professor Subhash Kak; *Hindu Identity*, Professor S. S. Rama Rao Pappu; *Art in Ancient India*, Professor Robert L. Brown; and *Vedic Texts*, Rayalu Vishwanadha.

### Inside this issue:

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## From the Editor's Desk...

### *Features to be included in forthcoming issues:*

- *Readers forum*
- *Book reviews*
- *Questions and answers*

### *Please contribute articles to HU Newsletter. The deadline for next issue is September 1, 1998.*

After its incorporation in Florida on Vijayadashmi day, October 10, 1989; Hindu University published its first newsletter in January 1990. Since then HU Newsletters have been issued aperiodically. The most recent issue was in April 1996. The key objective of Newsletters circulated so far has been to publish information related to HU growth and activities.

Few weeks back, Colorado Center of HU volunteered to take over the responsibility of publishing HU Newsletter on a regular basis every quarter. At the same time it was decided to expand the scope of the Newsletter to include short articles of general interest on topics related to HU. In particular, we plan to bring out a series of articles on the theme of "What is Hinduism?". The first of these series is the article on "Three Pillars of Hinduism and their Relevance to Modern Times" by Professor Pundrik C. Mehta appearing in this issue. Your suggestions for other topics in this series are most welcome. If you would like to contribute an article on this theme, please contact one of the editors.

Other regular features to be included in the forthcoming issues of this Newsletter include: i) Readers' Forum – This will include letters to Editors, comments on articles appearing in the Newsletter, and very short articles intended to provoke constructive discussion on items related to Hindu University activities. ii) Book Reviews – This will include reviews of recently published books, articles, audio/video cassettes, CD ROMs and other materials within the scope of HU activities. Reviews of earlier publications, books and articles that are

now considered classic, may also be included. iii) Questions and Answers – Questions from readers on topics of common interest and related to HU activities will be entertained and responded by panels of experts and scholars on specific topics. We are in the process of setting up panels in various areas like: Hindu Dharma, Philosophies, Ayurveda, Yoga and Meditation, Divine Music, Jyotish, and Vastu Shastra. If you would like to volunteer on one of these panels, please let one of the editors know.

We would like the Newsletter to be a forum for informal exchange of views, as well as an organ for 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 plan to publish the Newsletter quarterly in July, October, January and April. The articles, letters, reviews, etc. intended for publication need to be received one month ahead of the publication date. The deadline for the material for the next issue is September 1, 1998. Electronic submission of the material is preferred. Please send an e-mail to the addresses given below for details.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kuldip Gupta  
Ganesh Subbarayan

Hindu University Newsletter is published quarterly by Colorado Center of HU on behalf of the Hindu University of America. Editing and publication is handled by a committee which, at present, consists of Kuldip Gupta, Saswati Mahapatra, Ajay Sreenivas, Ganesh Subbarayan, and J. Vivekanandan.

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## Three Pillars of Hinduism and their Relevance to Modern Times

Pundrik C. Mehta  
Professor, Hindu University of America

*Summary: There are two levels of Reality. The fleeting phenomenal Reality, of which a normal person is aware, is superimposed on the permanent and imperishable Reality. Through reason and logic Western philosophy discovers laws governing it and by practical application of these laws, this marvelous technical civilization has come into being. The Hindu philosophy seeks a permanent answer to life and its problems and through yoga and meditation discovers Man's imperishable Self. Since Man participates in both Realities, both are relevant, and for a holistic life there should be an amalgam of Western science and Hindu wisdom.*

### Two levels of Reality

As we know, there are two levels of Reality. One that is phenomenal is ephemeral, and of which alone a normal person is aware. This Reality which is the entire creation, is in a state of flux. It subsists because there is another deeper permanent and imperishable Reality that upholds it or acts as its substratum. In other words, the fleeting phenomenal Reality is superimposed on the permanent and imperishable Reality. Therefore the 'Isha-Upanisad' begins with the words, 'Isavasyam idam sarvam yet kincit jagtyam jagat', that is Isha or 'Brahman' which is this permanent principle, upholds the fleeting Reality. Thus from the point of consciousness at this permanent and imperishable Reality, the phenomenal Reality seems illusion or "Maya".

### Reality through reason

Western philosophy is in search of Reality through reason. Reasoning with its logic reveals the laws that govern this fleeting phenomenal Reality. It ends up in discovering the laws governing the phenomenal world and leads to science. The practical application of these laws has brought about this marvelous technological civilization.

### Reality through meditation

The other imperishable Reality is beyond the

mind and is contacted by the great Sages and Seers at deep levels of consciousness through meditation. Therefore the Taittiriya Upanisad says 'Yato vacho nivartante aprapya manasa saha'; which means 'the imperishable Reality is that from which speech along with the mind falls back unable to comprehend'. Vedas are repository of this wisdom of the Sages. This wisdom, when put down in rational terms, became the philosophy of the Hindus. Thus while the aim of Hindu philosophy is to discover and identify with the permanent and imperishable aspect of man, called "Atman", the aim of Western philosophy is to discover the laws of nature which rule the phenomenal Reality. Man partakes of both levels of Reality. Therefore the two approaches are complementary and needed by man for a holistic life.

### Sabda-Pramana – The first pillar

Thus for the Western Philosophy, 'pramana,' meaning the proximate means of valid knowledge, are perception and inference. Since perception and inference are the parameters for reasoning to function, reasoning cannot reveal truths that are not contained within perception and inference. Hindu Philosophy is based on the experience and testimony of Saints and Sages and therefore relies on their word about the nature of Reality and how to realize it. It is therefore called "sabda-pramana" or the pramana of the word. Thus the first pillar of Hindu (which includes Jainism and Buddhism), is "Sabda-Pramana".

### Body, emotions and mind

For the Hindus understanding this permanent and imperishable Reality, is wisdom. They have found that body, emotions and the mind are in a state of flux, but the one who notices their fleeting character is the permanent Self within. To find that permanent Self, which they call 'Atman', is wisdom. From this they reason that the permanent Self is hidden under the three fleeting principles of body, emotions and mind. Therefore, body, emotions and mind are the principles that hide Reality, not reveal it. Hence all attempts to find Reality through them are in vain.

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*Both the Imperishable Reality and the phenomenal reality are needed for a holistic life...*

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*Words of experienced saints and sages (about the nature of Reality and how to realize it) form the first pillar of Hinduism...*

## A Message from Dr. Khandelwal

*HU campus facility is being setup in Orlando, Florida...*

Landmarks and turning points are the hallmarks in the lives of the individuals and the organizations. We at Hindu University of America are at another turning point in the unfoldment of this pride of Hindus. We are in the process of acquiring a small facility and rebuilding it to provide the nucleus of the first University owned campus facility to start our real growth. The building and site plans are being prepared. If all goes well, we may be ready for the Bhoomi Pooja ceremony in September 1998. We would like to see your presence at the celebration.

*HU needs more founding patrons*

This is happening through the contributions of a few farsighted persons who could appreciate the need and the role of such an institution at this early stage in its evolution. The group of people includes our Founding Patrons, each of whom has contributed at least \$10,000, and a few who have supported us either in kind or indirectly. Our sincere thanks to all of them. May God keep on inspiring them to help the mankind through various avenues that they may come across. For your giving pleasure, let me also mention that Hindu University of America is a federal tax-exempt organization and as such, all your donations are tax deductible. We would like our prospective Founding Patrons to know that we still need some more. Currently we have only ten fully paid Founding Patrons and we have the provision for a total of 108. Donations in any amount play an important role in our functioning and growth. One simple request to all donors: please make sure that whatever you donate, it come from your heart and not under any kind of pressure, social or otherwise.

*Increased number of students and two new centers mark the growth of HU...*

Our modus operandi of slow but steady progress in the work of Hindu University is continuing. Number of students has significantly increased over the last year. Two new centers in Boulder, CO and Houston, TX are coming up very well. We closed our Tarpon Springs, FL Center and are in the process of establishing it in Orlando, FL. For the summer 1998, ten courses were offered in Orlando. Regular classes have been going on in Boulder and Houston, where local teaching resources are available.

*True purpose of education is not only to bring out the best, but also to endow the students with an understanding of true aim and significance of human life*

With respect to faculty, two major steps have been taken 1) an advertisement in Hindu and

Hindustan Times in India and 2) joining of Prof Prem Chand Shridhar as the resident professor. In response to our advertisements in India, we have received over 300 applications. Some of the candidates are very attractive. We have made and are now in the process of making offers to some of them. We hope to have 2-3 faculty members supporting our work on an almost full time basis. This will add new wings to your institution. In this very critical area of faculty development, if you have ideas or suggestions, we would like to hear from you. With respect to faculty, please keep a few things in mind: 1) We would like to maintain highest possible academic standards. 2) Effectiveness of communication in English in the American environment (and to Americans) is essential. 3) Spirit of serving the cause should be supreme.

For your inspiration and pride in Hindu University of America, let me share with you a relevant event. Mr. P.B. Saint-Hillaire (Pavitra), Director, Sri Aurobindo International Center of Education, presented a collective Memorandum in 1965 to the Education Commission, Government of India. He started by saying "In the right view of things, the true purpose of education is not only to bring out of the child the best and the noblest that he is capable of, but also to endow him with an understanding of the true aim and significance of human life so as to provide him with a lasting source of inspiration when he enters and faces the world at the end of his academic training" and concluded the presentation with "Such is the basis that we, ... would wish should be given to education in this country (India). India is in a unique position in this respect and we believe she has a great future before her, a future which is also a promise of the past." Elsewhere, he has also said, "In India we have the inheritance of this treasure of spiritual wisdom. Let the object of our education be to open it before us, to give us the power to make the true use of it in our life, and offer it to the rest of the world when the time comes, as our contribution to its eternal welfare."

**A few visionaries can pave the road for many to support later for the continuing**

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**growth. We invite you to come forward and be that visionary.**

*Dr. Deendayal Khandelwal is the Chairman Board of Directors of Hindu University. A doctorate from University of Michigan, Dr Khandelwal took an early retirement at the peak of his career in aerospace industry to volunteer*

*his full time to the cause of Hindu University. In addition to all his administrative responsibilities, he teaches a course on "Practice of Hinduism" for HU students.*

## HU Center...

(Continued from page 1)

tion and Yoga Philosophy, Hindu Philosophies, Yoga Education, and Ayurvedic Sciences. Masters programs in Divine Music and Jyotish (Vedic Astrology) have been added recently. Hindu University has been conducting classes, intensive courses and correspondence courses since 1993. Most of these courses have been offered in Florida.

However, in recent past there have been several activities of HU in Colorado area and these prompted HU to start regional Center here. Professor Chaitanya Kabir developed the curriculum for Masters program in Divine Music, which has been approved by Florida State Board of Education. Two courses in Divine Music were taught in Boulder in Fall 1997 semester and other two in Spring 1998 semester. Professor Alakananda Devi, who had earlier conducted Intensive Course in Ayurveda for Hindu University, taught two Ayurveda courses (on Shareer Vigyan – An Introduction to Ayurveda, and on Pulse Diagnostics) in Boulder in Spring 1998. Professor P.C. Mehta, the first faculty member to join Hindu University, and who has been teaching the core course on "Principles of Hinduism" as a correspondence course resides in Fort Collins (Colorado). Logo-Moto selection activities of Hindu University have been handled by Dr. Ajay Sreenivas who lives in Niwot (Colorado). K.C. Gupta, who is member of Board of Directors of Hindu University, lives in Boulder (Colorado). With all these ingredients of HU activities already existing in Colorado, the regional Center is likely to grow in a strong institution.

### **SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED CENTER**

- Mission of CCHU is to conduct HU ac-

tivities in Colorado area.

- Local administrative support for students in Colorado area: Once the local Center is fully operational it should not be necessary for local HU students to contact the HU head office directly.
- CCHU will organize classes to be conducted by HU faculty in local areas. These classes are for HU courses duly approved by appropriate curriculum development committee of HU.
- CCHU will invite HU Faculty (from local area or outside the local area) to teach intensive courses for students. Again, these courses are taught by HU faculty, visiting faculty or guest faculty on topics that are included in HU curriculum.
- CCHU will conduct tutorial classes or study groups for those HU students in local area who are taking HU courses by correspondence and who would like a group environment to complement their self-study efforts. Teaching assistants or group coordinators who conduct these tutorials or study groups will maintain a close interaction with the faculty member teaching the course.
- CCHU will organize seminars on topics related to HU activities.
- CCHU will help in publicizing HU activities in the local area.
- Collaboration with local institutions with similar objectives (such as Naropa Institute, Rocky Mountain Institute of Yoga and Ayurveda.)
- HU Center will help to locate individuals who could be appointed as HU faculty

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*The mission of the Colorado center is to conduct Hindu University activities in the geographical area...*

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*Colorado center will conduct HU classes in the local area. Six courses are planned to be offered in Fall '98.*

(Continued on page 7)

## Three Pillars of Hinduism...

(Continued from page 3)

*Belief in the theory of Karma is the second pillar of Hinduism.*

They then inquire as to how it is that one is unaware of one's own permanent Self within? The seriousness of this enquiry leads to the discovery that by identifying itself with the three ephemeral principles of body, emotions and mind, the permanent Self within has formulated ideas, ideals, values, process of becoming etc. All these notions, though relatively true, become fixations by being regarded as having permanent value, and thereby fashioning a psychological knot in the mind. To these are added, the desires of the senses, emotions and the subservient mind. This in its totality, is the psychological center within the mind. It is the identification with this center that obliterates one from knowing one's real Self. This center is held together by 'trishna' or desire. This center cumulatively is man's lower self. This is his so-called Ego. Man as he functions is no more than this ego.

*The basic purpose of yoga and meditation is the eradication of the ego, the psychological center. This leads to freedom from the prison of duality. This freedom or Mukti is the third pillar of Hinduism.*

This ego exists within the mind. Where is the objective reality? One is aware of it only through sensations in one's mind. Man interprets these sensations as coming from the outside objective world. Whether in fact there is an objective world which creates sensations within one's mind or whether the sensations within the mind are interpreted as the objective world are questions which are subjects of debate between philosophers. Without going into these questions, we can easily see that it is only in our mind that we are aware of these sensations about the objective reality. Therefore both subject and object are within one's mind. Thus man's life is no more than an interaction between the two, within his own mind.

### **Karma – The second pillar**

This also leads to the further corollary that the objective universe is directly related to the subject. As such, the objective universe changes along with the change in the subject or the ego. Thus the moment one acts through the ego, the objective universe changes for him in response to the nature of the action. This is the law of “Karma”. It is to be free from the bond-

age of “Karma” that the Gita enjoins “Nishkama Karma” or action without the desire for result. Therefore the second pillar of Hindu philosophy is the belief in the theory of “Karma”.

### **Mukti – The third pillar**

To be free from this subject-object prison of duality and come to Self-Knowledge, becomes the aim of life. This aim is achieved only by the eradication of this psychological center, or the ego. That is the basic purpose of Yoga that includes meditation. Religion is that which guides persons to this end. 'Jnana-marg' or the way of insight, burns up the ego; Bhakti or devotion leading to 'prapatti' or surrender, dissolves the ego. Thus the third pillar of Hindu philosophy is that the sole purpose of life is to attain “Mukti” or freedom from the prison of duality.

As will be seen, these values are as relevant in modern times as they were in the hoary past. For a complete and holistic life, man needs to lead a life based on an amalgamation of Hindu and Western philosophy.

*Professor Mehta was the first to join Hindu University when its instructional activities began in 1993. He teaches “Principles of Hinduism,” which is one of the three core courses of HU. He has just completed a book on this subject. An attorney and barrister by training, Professor Mehta has been studying Hindu Philosophy, theosophy, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, etc., for about fifty years. Follower of Sri Anandmayi Ma, he has been writing and lecturing widely in these fields.*

**Three Ayurveda Courses in Fall '98 with Dr. Alaknanda Devi:** Basic Ayurveda, Ayurvedic Perspective of Human Body, and Ayurvedic Art of Clinical Assessment. Starting September 1, 1998 in Boulder, Colorado. Please see insert or call (303) 786-7437 for more information.

## HU Center...

(Continued from page 5)

members. Appointment of the faculty will be done by HU head office as per the rules and procedures formulated for this purpose.

CCHU Volunteers:

Bejoy Banerjee	Atul Goyal
Saroj Goel	K.C. Gupta
Laxman Hosmani	Abhay Kale
Hiralal Khatri	Akhil Kumar
Roop Mahajan	Promod Mahapatra
Kathy Nanda	Jairam Patel
R.S. Rao	Sanjay Singhal

Nawal Sharma	Ajay Sreenivas
Bimla Starzl	Ganesh Subbarayan
Kalyan Tadikonda	J. Vivekanandan

CCHU is looking for more volunteers for expanding its activities. In order to join the team, please contact any of the current volunteers listed above.

## Hindu University Logo

The Board of Directors (BOD) of Hindu University of America formally approved the final design (shown on the cover of this Newsletter) for university logo last year (1997). In doing so, the BOD declared Dilip Gohil and Sheila Sharma as the joint winners of the logo contest held in 1995. The final logo design adopted by HU is based on the entries from Gohil and Sharma. The BOD made the final choice based on the results of evaluation and recommendations of a panel of judges drawn from a cross section of artists, professionals, and academicians.

The logo design and the motto truly symbolize the mission of Hindu University of America. The “Om” appearing in the center of the logo is the traditional symbol of Sanatana Dharma and the first expression of God and beginning of Vedic civilization. It is made up of three semi-circles representing the trinity of Gods namely, Brahma, Vishnu, and Maheshwara. It also symbolizes concentration, meditation, and practice of self-discipline for higher education and realization that God is one.

The book is the symbol of the source of knowledge and the motto “sa ivUa ya ivmKtye” (“Sa Vidya Ya Vimuk-

taye” in Devanagiri script), literally meaning “knowledge is that which liberates” aptly describes the very purpose behind the mission of HU, that is to facilitate the path to salvation through knowledge.

The sun, the source of life in the universe is also represented in the logo. The graduated screen under the “Om” and the sun symbolize gradual transformation from darkness to light through knowledge and the rays represent the spreading of knowledge.

The BOD congratulates Mr. Dilip Gohil and Mrs. Sheila Sharma and expresses its sincere thanks to all those who submitted entries to the contest. The BOD also wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the members of the judging panel for their valuable time. Needless to say that their efforts show that they share in university’s mission and are among our well-wishers.

*This article is based on a press release dated November 1997 released on behalf of Hindu University by Dr. Ajay Sreenivas, Chair HU Logo-Moto Committee.*

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*“Knowledge is that which liberates” - the motto of HU aptly summarizes the mission of the University as “Spirituality through Education”*

**Three Divine Music Courses in Fall '98 with Professor R. Chaya Devi:** Swara-1: Basic Voice Training, Path of Music, Life as Music. Starting August 29, 1998 in Westminster, Colorado. Please see insert or call (303) 465-2823 for more information.



## **Hindu University of America**

*A Unique Dimension of Hindu Thought and Traditions*

HU 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 of the University.

I am interested in being a volunteer for the University and would like to have more information about the plans.

I am interested in studying at the Hindu University. Please send me a copy of the Handbook and an application form. A fee of \$5.00 is enclosed.

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).

Please return this form to:  
CCHU,  
4685 Pawnee Place,  
Boulder, Colorado 80303-3918

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
StreetAddress: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: Daytime: \_\_\_\_\_ Evenings: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Hindu University of America is a federal tax-exempt non-profit organization (tax I.D. # 59-2977691).*

**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.