

HINDU UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA

A Unique Dimension of Hindu Thought and Traditions

NEWSLETTER - May, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lecture on Lord Jagannath, Devotional Bhajans and Odissi Dance
June 3rd, 4 to 6pm at HUA

Lecture on Lord Jagannath
by Chinmayee Satpathy

Title of Lecture

**"Universal Significance of Jagannath Consciousness and Its Dissemination
in the Contemporary World."**

Sri Jagannath is the Lord of the Universe. He is the 'Supreme Deity' of Sanatan Dharma - the most ancient religion of the world. He is "Purusottama (Supreme Man)" in Veda and Sat-Chit-Ananda Swarupa (True-Sense-Happiness) in Upanishads. Sri Jagannath Culture is the super synthesis of all religions like Buddhism, Jainism, Shaktijm which have been merged within the grand spectrum of Jagannath Consciousness. It preaches essential human values and principles and promotes traditional knowledge and the best spiritual practices which need to be disseminated in wider forums. Shri Jagannath Dham at Puri is one of the four important Dhamas or Hindu Pilgrimage Centers of India established by Jagatguru Sankaracharya in the 9th Century.



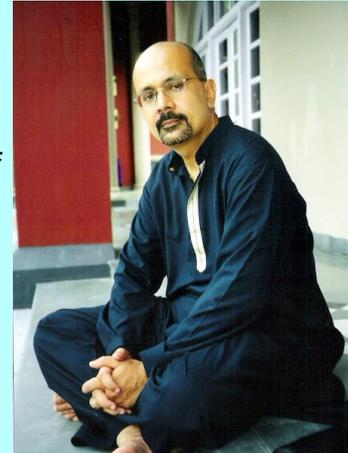


Dr. Chinmayee Satpathy is a distinguished scholar, researcher and academician of Odisha, India. Presently she is a Fulbright Fellow in the United States. As a Tagore Fellow of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, she researched Sri Jagannath Culture and has organized national conferences and published many articles on Jagannath Culture in reputed journals and books. She was a Postdoctoral Fellow of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, and a UNESCO Fellow to the University of South Florida (USF), Tampa, Florida, USA in 2007-08. Dr Satpathy was awarded a Doctorate Degree in Sociology from Utkal University, Odisha in 2006.

Devotional Bhajans

by Shri Kiron Senapati

Mr. Kiron Senapati was born in Puri, India, the Land of Jagannath and has been singing Bhajans (soul music) for over 30+ years. It was indeed a calling to sing the praise of Lord Krishna that led him to produce the first Bhajan CD in 1993, followed by two additional Bhajan CDs in 2003 and 2008. He has been guided by two famous musicians: late Shri Akshaya Mohanty and Padmashri Anup Jalota. Kiron lives in Tampa, and besides working as an engineer during the daytime, he sings Bhajans in Temples, at religious gatherings, funerals, and where ever he is called to sing the glory of Lord Krishna.



Odissi Dance

by Spruha Kar



Spruha Kar has been involved with dance since she was six years old. She performs Odissi Dance, which is a major ancient Indian classical dance that expresses religious stories and spiritual ideas.

[Upcoming Events](#)

ONGOING EVENTS

Sri Aurobindo Study Circle

The Sri Aurobindo Study Circle meets at HUA each month to discuss his life and philosophy.

[Ongoing Events](#)

PAST EVENTS

Sri Aurobindo Conference at HUA

International Conference on Relevance of Sri Aurobindo and the Grand Visions of the Ancient Indian Wisdom



The Mahatma Gandhi Center for Non-Violence, Human Rights and World Peace at the Hindu University of America, Orlando, USA, organized a two-day international conference on May 4 and 5, 2017, on the theme ***"Relevance of Sri Aurobindo and the Grand Visions of the Ancient Indian Wisdom."*** Speakers from India and the US participated in the conference and focused on various aspects of Sri Aurobindo's philosophy and its relevance for the contemporary world.

The two-day conference aimed at a discussion of Sri Aurobindo's perspectives on the intersection of spirituality and practicality towards a better organization of human life and society. The deliberations positioned Sri Aurobindo's ideas in theoretical and policy debates on individual, state, society and world. Sri Aurobindo's seminal contribution cannot be confined to a particular discipline as his genius touched almost every branch of human knowledge. It is, hence, impossible to cover all of his ideas and philosophy in a single conference. The conference covered some aspects of Sri Aurobindo's philosophy and its applicability to contemporary problems. Despite the profundity of his philosophy and its wider implications, Sri Aurobindo and his ideas are relatively less known in the West, and there have been few events to make an in-depth study of his philosophy. The conference was a step towards filling this gap.

Sri Aurobindo argued that human society has evolved throughout history and is destined to move towards better organization of life. His aphorism 'All Life is Yoga' is in consonance with his evolutionary philosophy and Integral Yoga that encompass every aspect of human life and society, the onward march of which does not stop at the present transitory formations. Sri Aurobindo did not deny relevance of the transitory formations, but emphasized that they have to be transcended as they are not the culmination in the evolution. Applying this evolutionary logic, neither the individual nor the groups and organizations created by individuals are the culmination of human evolution. Following Advaita Vedanta, Sri Aurobindo believed that there is a fundamental unity as the very basis of existence and at the foundation of all things, and it is the Nature that moves to realize this unity. He termed the Veda as a record of "inner experience and the suggestions of the intuitive mind," which is beyond "mankind's ordinary perceptions and daily activities." Similarly, he described

the Upanishads, the waning or lost knowledge recovered by Rishis through "meditation and spiritual experience" or recovery of the old truths in new forms by Rishis who used the Vedic Word as "a seed of thought and vision." For him, the Veda symbolizes, "the struggle between spiritual powers of Light and Darkness, Truth and Falsehood, Knowledge and Ignorance, Death and Immortality." He expressed dissatisfaction that the modern individual, busy with his mundane life and outward activities, has decreasing interest in this ancient wisdom.

The inter-disciplinary conference brought together scholars from diverse fields and featured academic presentations, chanting of hymns and smile meditation. **Shri Braham Aggarwal**, Chairman, Hindu University of America, inaugurated the conference and read the message of Dr. Karan Singh, the noted Sri Aurobindo Scholar and Indian Parliamentarian. The prominent guests in the conference included **Shri Suresh Gupta**, CEO, Park Square Homes, **Shri M. P. Rama** of JHM Hotels and **Shri Manohar Shinde** of Dharma Civilization Foundation. The inaugural address was delivered by **Dr. Anand Reddy** of Sri Aurobindo Center for Advanced Research, and the Keynote addresses were delivered by **Richard Hartz**, **Rand Hicks**, **Debashish Banerjee** and **Michel Danino**. In his message, Dr. Karan Singh wrote, "Sri Aurobindo felt that India had a spiritual message which was urgently needed in the world of the twentieth century, in fact that he was destined to lead mankind up the next step of spiritual evolution, and one of the reasons why he was so adamant that the political goal should be nothing less than complete independence. It was his conviction that then alone could India fulfil her true destiny in the broader international community."



There were twenty-six speakers in the conference representing academic institutions, think tanks, non-governmental organizations and business houses. From India, scholars from places like Chennai, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Shantiniketan, Goa, Ambala, Pondicherry participated in the conference. Scholars from institutes like University of Western Florida, Southern New Hampshire University, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Pondicherry, Auroville, Integral Knowledge Study Center Pensacola, Madras Institute of Development Studies Chennai, Visva Bharati, National Institute of Technology Goa, Sohan Lal DAV College, Sri Aurobindo Institute of Education in Human Values Bangalore, Sardar Patel University, Valencia college, University of Central Florida and Hindu University of America participated in the conference. The speakers focused on a diverse range of topics including integral Yoga, poetry, education, ideal human unity, philosophy and global age, psychic being, Aryan invasion theory, Vedanta, Confucianism, pragmatism and spirituality, Sri Aurobindo's metaphysics and Western philosophies of mind, Bhagwat Gita, Savitri, Sri Aurobindo's Saptas Chatustaya, Sri Aurobindo's vision of India's resurgence, science and spirituality, inner healing and life divine, child education, rebirth, and Sanatana Dharma.

Participants unanimously agreed that relevance of Sri Aurobindo for the contemporary world is undisputable. There is a need for an in-depth study of philosophy of Sri Aurobindo and its potential to address problems at the levels of individual, society and the world. Though the conference explored theoretical aspects of Sri Aurobindo's philosophy, it emphasized its practical application in day-to-day life. The two-day conference ended with the resolve to continue the learning

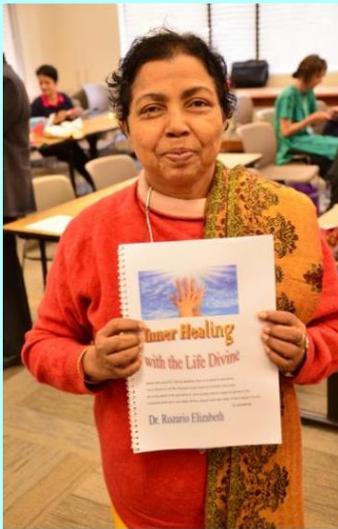
experience.

Dr. D. Aurobinda Mahapatra
Director, Mahatma Gandhi Center for Non-Violence, Human Rights and World Peace
Hindu University of America
Orlando, FL 32811

[Sri AurobindoConferenceSummary](#)

Conference Presenter

Dr. Rozario Elizabeth from Thiruvananthapuram, India



Rozario with her publication ***"Inner Healing with the Life Divine."***

"When the psychic being awakes then it is able to perceive the influence of the disease even before it enters the body. Not only does one perceive it, one knows which organ is going to be attacked and one can keep off the attack with the help of the Higher Power." - Sri Aurobindo

Rozario guiding everyone with her "smile meditation" and the use of sound to heal .



Feedback from Conference Participants:

"It was an excellent seminar throughout and I was enriched by new thoughts which came from various speakers."

"It was an enriching experience for me. I learned a lot from the speakers across the globe. I thank Prof. Aurobinda and his team for everything from the beginning till the end."

"Excellent conference, with so many wise scholars! I would recommend for another multi-day conference to have workshops placed in-between lectures."

"Good variety! Lots of info on the Saint Sri Aurobindo - a man ahead of his time."

"All the presentations were very informative and educative. The deliberations of participants and interactive question answer sessions were interesting."

"I suggest that you add a course on Sri Aurobindo's Yoga Sadhana with reference to "The Practice of Integral Yoga" by J. K. Mukherjee including Sadhana for the vital, Sadhana for the mental, physical, work etc."

"Arranging speakers via Skype was really amazing and thoughtful. Every moment went on peacefully which was ideal."

"Excellent input of useful and learning information from very learned individuals."

"In a nutshell, conferences like it must be organized, knowledge must be multiplied from individual to individual, group to group and country to country."

Talk at the University of Tampa, (UT) Tampa, FL



HUA professor, Dr. D. Aurobinda Mahapatra, gave a talk on Human Rights Day at The University of Tampa. The general topic was Conflict and Peace. He spoke about ***"Contested Borders, Refugees and Human Security: A Case Study of***

Kashmir."

[Past Events](#)

Sri Aurobindo Study Circle

The Sri Aurobindo Study Circle met and saw videos of The Mother, including a very intense interview with Satprem, who translated many of her works, and who shared his views about the failure of society and the success of moving into higher states of consciousness. The group also saw an amazing video of Auroville, "The City of Dawn" as envisioned by The Mother.



[Past Events](#)

MORE HUA NEWS

Presentation by HU Emeritus Vice-President

HU Emeritus Vice-President, Abhinav Dwivedi, gave a presentation on Hinduism for the Interfaith Council of Central Florida. The Council is coordinating public talks on "Faith Traditions Today" to increase awareness and tolerance of different religions.

[Interfaith Council](#)



Donation to HUA



HUA continues to enjoy the beautiful 20 volume set of the *"Illustrated World Buddhist Arts"* given by the International Buddhist Progress Society, Orlando, FL. It was donated to the library when HU Emeritus Vice-President, Abhinav Dwivedi, represented HUA at a special ceremony.

[Orlando Buddhism](#)

New Hindu Chaplaincy Program

In this exciting new program, HUA presents the first Training Course for Certification as a Hindu Chaplain.



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Hindu University of America, in conjunction with Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America, is pleased to present the first Training Course for American Hindu Leaders seeking to become Certified Hindu Chaplains.

The Certification is comprised of two courses:

HNP 6201	Introduction to Hindu Chaplaincy	\$500.
HNP 6202	Pastoral and Spiritual Counseling Basics	\$500.

For more information please see: [Hindu Chaplaincy Program \(basic level\)](#)

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[Hindu Chaplaincy Program](#)

HUA Faculty



Swami Sarvaananda, Ph.D. is a Board Certified Chaplain (BCC) through the Association of Professional Chaplains. She spent 15 years in medical and hospice chaplaincy and is currently on the Board of Trustees of Satchidananda Ashram. She is active in many national chaplaincy as well as community projects on and off the ashram.

[Hindu Chaplaincy Program](#)

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