

## REPORT

### 'What have we gained in our quest to know Infinity?'

Webinar organized by WAVES

June 3, 2024

WAVES invited the renowned speaker Shri Rajiv Malhotra for the monthly webinar, where he gave a talk on the topic, '*What have we gained in our quest to know Infinity?*' He has strong ties with WAVES as a philanthropist and expressed his ongoing interest in WAVES and its objectives.



In his 40s, he left the corporate world to pursue deep research. His quest resulted in a first-of-its-kind Think Tank on Hindu Thought known as the 'Infinity Foundation.' His journey spans thirty years and entails "*the quest for infinity and applying that knowledge in the finite existence.*"

Mr. Malhotra spoke of having influential spiritual experiences, which led him to invest the rest of his life in investigating those experiences. Starting from funding related research at Harvard University and Jawaharlal Nehru University and discovering the deep bias that hinders

pure results, after a period of time, he, due to necessity, became a scholar, studying a wide spectrum from Indology and Shastras to Western thought, philosophy, religion, and politics. He established a school of thought by developing his way of thinking. Many volumes have been published, and many more are in the pipeline to establish "*A Current Vedic School of Thought*," rooted in Vedic Universalism: this, he asserted, is the new innovative thinking to resolve contemporary tribulations.

He emphasized the depth of Vedic Knowledge: "*It is vital to take into consideration the legacy of the Vedas. For instance, we recognize the need for a Vedic Framework for AI.*'

Further, he stated the three aims:

- 1) Knowledge: School of Thought, Research, Framework, and Discourse.
- 2) Human Resources: A team of Scholars and trained professionals to carry the '*Paramparā*' forward to the Future.
- 3) Institutional Resources: Vedic-friendly Education, introducing Vedic Social Sciences in Universities.



At the end of the talk, Prof. Shashi Tiwari, President of WAVES, India, discussed with Mr. Malhotra the significance of the two theories he had developed.

- 1) U-turn Theory, which explains the psychology of Westerners adopting and repurposing Hindu tradition, often without acknowledging the source.
- 2) The Being Different Theory insists on explaining why we are different and on accepting and preserving differences with mutual respect and understanding.

Prof. Tiwari described his book 'Being Different' as a thought-provoking and significant work for spreading knowledge.

One of the participants asked Mr. Malhotra about how it is possible to study AI in Silicon Valley through the Vedic Knowledge System.

*"Machine learning takes experience, data, and an algorithm that keeps increasing. This is a certain model of neurology and neuroscience; it is called Neural Networks. Our Sāṅkhya theories—ideas of mind, intelligence, and memory—are a framework of mind and intelligence, which can be the backbone for machine learning. I am heavily invested in and writing on this topic; it's a huge topic."* Mr. Malhotra responded.

Subsequently, Dr. Asha Lata Pandey requested Mr. Malhotra to elaborate on the various Frameworks, including Sanskrit's Non-translatability.

In his speech, he mentioned the terms '*Śakti*' and '*Prāṇa*,' emphasizing that these words do not have precise English equivalents and that English lacks the concepts of mantras and vibrations, which are prevalent in Sanskrit Philosophy. He stressed that each Sanskrit word has a purposeful sound and is not selected arbitrarily. Sanskrit's non-translatability is a Framework with its unique vocabulary, much like the 30 to 40 other Frameworks the Infinity Foundation has been evolving.

*"The importance of Sanskrit is not even known by our people; they believe that it is just another language. We aim to offer a certificate course in Sanskrit focusing on the study of Sanskrit philosophy; we are seeking partnerships with organizations for collaboration."*

Mr. Malhotra announced.



Dr. Aparna Dhir Khandelwal, the moderator, concluded the session and expressed gratitude on behalf of WAVES to Mr. Malhotra and all the attendees for their support and active participation in the event. The program was well-attended by scholars and students.

YouTube Link of the Talk:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/1HvvX47QIcl?si=velBifP1Ycss0gCr>

*Report by:*

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