

## Report of WAVES Program held on 06/05/2024

World Association for Vedic Studies (WAVES International), USA, and Wider Association for Vedic Studies (WAVES, India) in the WAVES 2024 Webinar Series organized its Talk No 4 and Dr. Bhu Dev Sharma Memorial Lecture, Third, titled “Basis and Purpose of Shri Rāma’s Birth”, (श्रीरामकेजन्मकेआधारएवंउद्देश्य), on 6th May 2024.

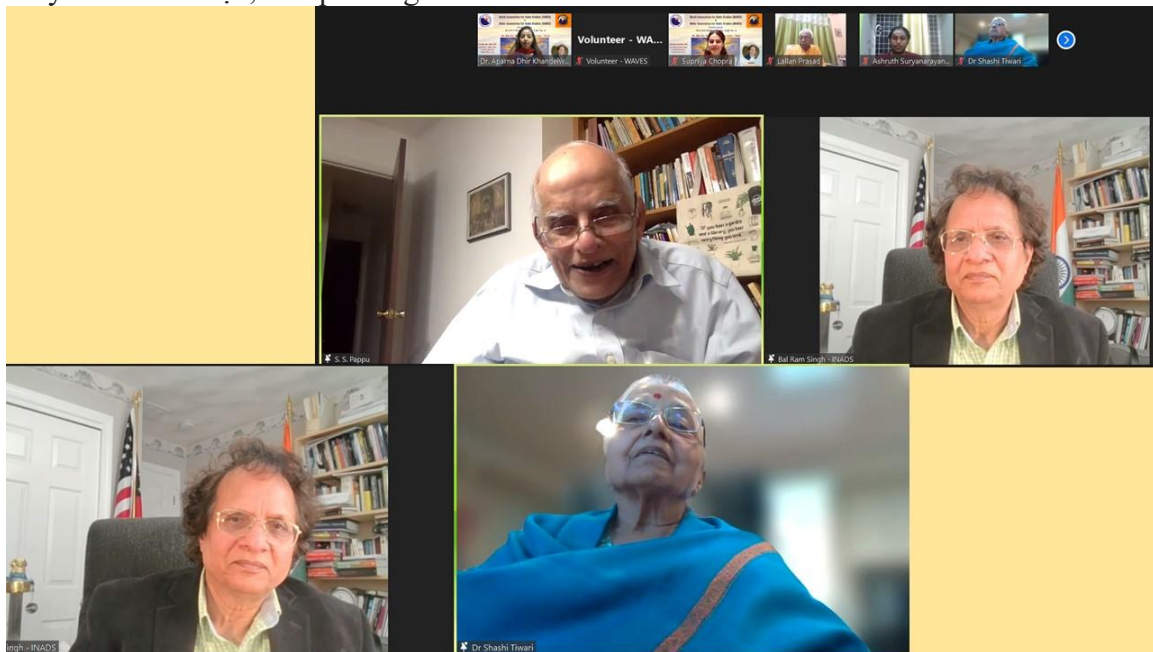
Dr. Aparna Dhir Khandelwal, Secretary, WAVES, India, moderated the program. The inaugural session commenced by playing the auspicious WAVES Kulgeet, “*Vedādhyayana hai lakṣya hamārā,*” to set a positive and uplifting atmosphere for the audience.



Board Member of WAVES-USA. In his talk, he provided a far and wide, comprehensive overview of the historical context, timeline, scientific, social, linguistic, and geographical aspects of Shri Rāma’s life journey, emphasizing a logical and scientific approach to understanding the basis of his birth, the purpose of his life, and why we should uphold his values. Dr. Singh explored the *jivanmulyas* of Shri Rāma that make him a revered figure, bringing the concept of *Rāma-Rajya*. Dr. Singh emphasized that keeping one’s word, as embodied by Shri Rāma, is the basis of science, enlightenment, and welfare for all. “*Raghukula Riti sadachali Ai, Prana jahu, barubachanuna jai*” (Ayodhya Kand 27.4)

These concepts are well explained in Dr. Bal Ram Singh's book "A Different Take: An NRI View of India in the Tradition of Ram, Krishna and Gandhi"

In recognition of Dr. Bhu Dev Sharma's life journey, learned Professor Dr. S. Rama Rao Pappu was invited to offer his views on the given talk and the occasion. His association goes back to the founder of WAVES, Dr. Bhu Dev Sharma, from before the inception of the Academic Multidisciplinary Society. Prof. Pappu summed up his point: "Why is Rāma popular? because he is a kind of moral exemplar, a paradigmatic individual. The lesson of Rāmāyaṇa is what is possible to Rāma who is born like a human, suffered as a human, and that is possible for every other human being." This relates to Dr. Bal Ram Singh's finding that "Essentially, Ram does not have failures in life, despite many failures: *Rājayābhiṣek*, death of his father, *Sītā-haraṇ*, *nāgpaś*, inability to kill Rāvaṇa, vanquishing of Sita."



Subsequently, the President of WAVES India, Prof. Shashi Tiwari delivered her insightful viewpoints. The topic for the talk was chosen by her, based on Dr. Bal Ram Singh's most recent article on the subject, which was published in the South Asian Times. She thanked Dr. Singh for

giving the memorial talk and expressed Dr. Bhu Dev Sharma's strong relationship with WAVES International and WAVES India. She further emphasized the importance of this program being conducted jointly by both WAVES organizations. Regarding the talk, she focused on Dr. Singh's two significant findings, which basically inspired her to organize the talk.

She said, "All the stories which were given before the birth of Rāma, especially in Tulsidasa's Ramcharitra Manas, stories about Shatrupa, Narad, Shravan Kumar, Jay Vijay... are all related to his birth, and because he takes birth, all these stories will be fulfilled." She further added that Dr. Bal Ram Singh remarkably manages to add the dimensions of time and space to these stories, which adds great value to the subject. Secondly, she spoke on the topic of "Power," Shri Rāma was not seated on the throne of Ayodhyā when he killed Rāvaṇa and demolished his army of Rākśasas. Thus, Shri Rāma, without any worldly power, established Dharma, his purpose, and the reasons for his birth as Rāma.



Dr. Lallan Prasad, Former Professor of Business Economics at the University of Delhi, Board Member of WAVES India, and a close friend of Prof. Bhu Dev Sharma, was invited for his

remarks on the program. He reflected on the talk: “In the present context, Shri Rāma’s birth is relevant because of the purpose for which his birth happened; that purpose exists even today. Like the forthcoming *avatār* Kalki, which is set to fight the evil forces and remove them, this is the continuous process of History.” In essence, the cause was Rāvaṇa, who threatened the *Ṛṣī* and *Dharmic* followers, and thus, his destruction became the original purpose of Rāma’s birth. This relates to the battle of good vs. evil, which has been going on since time immemorial.

Nearing the end of the program, Dr. Asha L. Panday, whose research area is Rāmāyaṇa, asked a question, which she described as a query that has been bothering her for a while: “Were the four brothers born at the same time? Prof. Lallan Prasad answered her question, “The answer lies in Valmiki Rāmāyaṇa; there was a time gap in their births; first came Rāma, then Bharat, Laxman and lastly, Śatrugan, their dates are not given.”

Lastly, Dr. Aparna concluded the session and expressed collective gratitude on behalf of WAVES to all scholars and guests for their support and participation in the event, wishing the same for all future endeavors.

**To watch the video, visit our YouTube channel: @wavesblog**

**Link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zOyBxDU3F4>**

Report by Supriya Chopra

