

Report WAVES Conference 2020

'Impact of Vedic Wisdom on the World Today' was the theme of this year Waves conference. This was the 14th in the series of bi-annual conferences for WAVES International, and the 24th in the series of annual conferences for WAVES India organised on Dec. 25, 26 & 27, 2020 and Jan. 1, 2, 3 & 31, 2021. This joint conference was in collaboration with SVYASA, Bengaluru and sponsored by Hindu Students Council, USA.

The conference concluded in three phases and had utilized a virtual online format, which was a first for WAVES. It was attended by over 600 remote attendees, which is quite a bit more than in person at WAVES conferences. There were about 100 academic papers presented by scholars from various disciplines in 21 sessions. The papers were delivered in Sanskrit, Hindi, Kannada, and English languages.

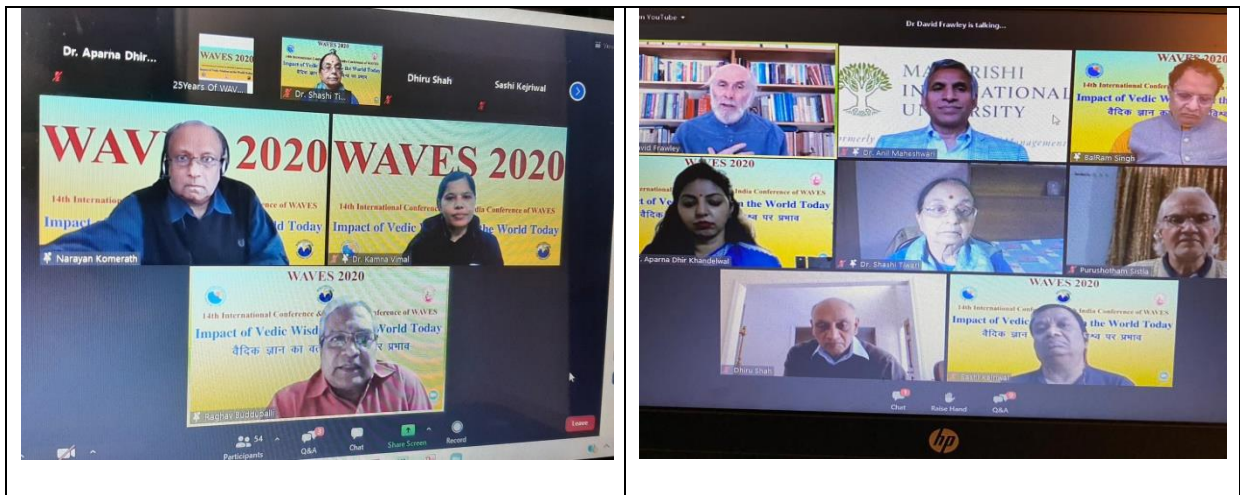
WAVES conference 2020 was inaugurated on December 25th, 2020 with Vedic invocation and WAVES Kulgeet. Inaugural sessions were graced by the following guests- Professor Ramesh C. Bharadwaj, Head, Sanskrit Dept, Delhi University & Director, Gandhi Bhawan, University of Delhi; Dr. Meera Dwivedi, Associate Prof., Sanskrit Department, University of Delhi; Prof. Bhaskarnath Bhattacharyya, Director, SVS, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata & Vice-President, WAVES, India; and Dr. B.R. Ramakrishna, Vice Chancellor, S-VYASA University, Bengaluru. The conference started with an introduction by Prof. Shashi Tiwari, President, WAVES, India and Welcome Address by Shri Dhiru Shah, Director & Treasurer, WAVES International, Atlanta, USA. E-souvenir (*Smarika*) of WAVES 2020 and recently released books by WAVES members -Prof. Bal Ram Singh, Prof. Shashi Tiwari, and Dr. Anita Khurana were also released in the Inaugural session.



This 7 days conferences had 10 academic sessions, 3 special sessions, 3 panel discussions and 1 youth session along with inaugural & valedictory sessions. Research papers presented by professors, college teachers, research scholars and high school students were based on Vedas to extract learning in the areas of Hydrology, Plant biology, Health and wellbeing, Music therapy, education, astrology, morality, consciousness etc.

Few of the keynote speeches by Vedic scholars of international repute are worth mentioning such as Padma Shri **Dr. Subhash Kak** delivered talk on '*The Challenges that faced the Study of Ancient India*' said that ancient Indian principles are distorted first by westerner academicians. But now its damage is done by some modern Indian scholars also due to many reasons. Today, we see, that Indian research standard is going from low to lower side. Padmabhushan, **Dr. David Frawley** from USA talked on '*Relevance of Vedantic Knowledge for Coming Century*'. He said, 'As mind consciousness too has many levels. Like mind we

don't know much about consciousness. Modern equipment cannot help to know it. Though meditation we can reach up to Self-realization. Meditation works like a mirror where Self can reflect. Thus we can go to inner essence beyond body and mind. Veda is knowledge and Yoga is its practice. Apart from this, **Dr. Melukote Sridhar**, Registrar, SVYASA delivered an informational finding on his research on *'The concept of Rtam (cosmic law/order) as described in the Rig Veda and the Upanishads'*. While delivering talk on *'Transcendence: Blissful Living through Reading Vedic Literature'*, **Dr. Anil Maheshwari** of Maharishi University of Management, Iowa, gave a very informative talk on Transcendental Meditation and its various benefits. **Dr. Raj Vedam** of Houston delivered the results of his research on the various Purana stories, and how they relayed important scientific concepts in many scientific fields like evolution, astronomy, astro physics, etc., that were way ahead of their time. **Dr. S. Rammohan & Dr. S. Kalyanaraman** from Chennai talked about the *'Formation & Essential Unity of Bhāratiya Bhāṣā'*. **Prof. Narayanan Komerath**, Director, Board, WAVES International, & Former Professor of Aerospace Engineering, Atlanta narrated his vision on *'A Technology Countdown Approach to Historical Timelines;'* and **Shri Jeffrey Armstrong (Kavindra Rishi)**, Founder of Vedic Academy of Sciences & Arts (VASA), Vancouver, Canada discussed his views on *'Decolonizing the Gita: English Words that Undermine Sanatan Dharma Culture that Need to Go'*.



In panel discussions, there were discussions on *'A Discussion on Understanding Ayurveda'*, *'A Discussion on Vedic Chronology'*, and *'वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् "इत्यस्य अध्वन्तर्जालं कोरोणाकालेऽन्वर्थता'*. Ayurveda panel was composed of five top experts from the field namely- Dr. CM Achyuta, Dr. Parixit Shevde, Dr. Madhuri Patil, Dr. Aniruddha Joshi, Mitra Desai, and was moderated by Shri Nilesk Oak, Director, Board, WAVES International. This panel discussion was centred on discussing factual information on Ayurveda while pointing out some common misunderstandings about the field. The foundational role of Ayurveda in modern medicine was discussed, along with future possibilities. Chronology panel was moderated by Prof. Bal Ram Singh, Director, WAVES International and have discussion done by Er. Nilesh Nilkanth Oak, Arun Kumar Upadhyay, Dr.S. Kalyanaraman, Prof. Narahari Achar. They all shared their views on of Chronology of the Vedic timelines, a field of study that has seen a huge number of new information come to light, which has the potential to significantly change the field of historical timelines, and bring about a totally new understanding of the historical events of the past, especially for the Vedic events. The last panel was in Sanskrit language having young panelists from Sanskrit background.

All these panel discussion sessions and keynote speeches had a very lively Q and A session followed after. Also, there was good participation from the audience which brought up some additional good information on the topics, and raised some thought provoking questions. Apart from pure Sanskrit-texts research based papers, few papers were presented by scientists those were focused on interdisciplinary research approaches. Such as- ‘World Water Challenges and Remedies by Integrating Modern Technologies with Vedic Wisdom’ by Prof. Ram Gopal, Jodhpur; ‘Was there Cognition before the Big Bang?’ by Sanjeev Prasad, Delhi; ‘The Creation of the Universe and the Origin of Life in Vedic Hymns– A Scientific Analysis’ by Dr. S.P.S. Chauhan, Delhi; ‘Plant Biology Knowledge Revealed in the Veda- Samhitās, Brāhmaṇās, Āraṇyakās and Upaniṣads’ by Dr. Raghava Boddupalli, Bangalore; ‘Revisiting Eternity And Universality of Elements of Basic Goodness in the Context of Indian Philosophy : Sanatana Dharma’ by Dr. R. S. Kaushal, Delhi; ‘Hydrotherapy Practices in Ancient India’ by Dr. Sujatha KJ & Dr. Manjunath NK Bangalore to name few.

The sessions were chaired by eminent scholars like Prof. Bhaskarnath Bhattacharyya, Director, SVS, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata & Vice-President, WAVES, India; Professor Bhu Dev Sharma, Mathematician and Founder President, WAVES; Prof. R.P. Singh, Department of Philosophy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi; Prof. Lallan Prasad, Former Dean, Business Economics, Delhi University; Prof. Narayanan Komerath, Former Professor of Aerospace Engineering, Atlanta, Georgia (USA); Prof. Bal Ram Singh, Director, WAVES International & Director, Institute of Advance Sciences, Dartmouth, MA, USA; Prof. Naval Kishore Bhabhra, Head, Hindi, Govt. College, Ajmer; Prof. (Dr.) Ram Gopal, President, WAVES, Jodhpur, Raj. Chapter; Director, DRDO; Dr. Anil K. Maheshwari, Prof. of Management, Maharishi International University, USA; Shri Dhiru Shah, Director & Treasurer, WAVES International, Atlanta, USA; Dr. Chand Bhardwaj, Scientist & Technologist, Delhi; and Professor C.L. Prabhakar, Director, Nadaveda Adhyayana Kendra, Bengaluru. The sessions were well coordinated by co-chairs and young moderators.



With the valedictory address on ‘Pluralistic Perspective on Toleration in Religions: A Philosophical Reflection’ by Prof. Raghendra Pratap Singh, Centre for Philosophy, JNU, Delhi the valedictory session on January 3rd, 2021 started. Apart from Shri Jeffrey Armstrong, Founder of Vedic Academy of Sciences & Arts (VASA), Vancouver, Canada and Dr. Manjunath N.K., Director of Research & International Affairs, S-VYASA University, Bengaluru; Prof. (Dr.) Diwakar Sukul, CPsychol, Chartered Clinical Psychologist; The Kamkus Clinic, Harley Street from London, UK was the Guest of honour in the session. In

this session, Prof. Bal Ram Singh, Scientist & Director, INADS, USA gave a visionary presentation on ‘WAVES Looking Ahead’.

The phase 3 of WAVES 2020 comprised of 23 papers all researched and presented by younger researchers. Few of the presentations are like ‘*Kanyadaan : A feminist ritual or a noble tradition?*’ by Sansdhita Anand, Texas; ‘*Salvation vs Moksha/Liberation - Differing beliefs by different religions about ways of attaining the ideal end state. A comparative analysis*’ by Vishal Thyagarajan, Texas; ‘*Punarjanam - What happens after death? Depends on who you ask. A comparison of how different philosophies regard events after death*’ by Sangkarshan Singh, Texas to mention few. ‘*Artificial Intelligence and how it will affect India and its civilization in a big way*’ by Mr. Rajiv Malhotra of the Infinity Foundation gave the keynote speech in this session.

The virtual conference continued for 7 days via Zoom, and telecasted live on WAVES Facebook, YouTube, and other social sites. Conference was enthusiastically attended by many learned and young scholars from different parts of the India and USA. Under the esteemed guidance of conference coordinators Shri Sashi Kejriwal, President, WAVES International and Prof. Shashi Tiwari, President WAVES, India the conference concluded on a successful note.
