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## Community Condemns



## Attacks

Strongly condemning the bomb attacks in Mumbai, Hindus of Greater Houston, a group representing Hindus of all backgrounds, called for justice to be done in this case and in all others where innocent people suffer from the actions of terrorists. Representatives of several local and national organizations attended a prayer service at the Keshav Smruti for the souls of the innocent people killed, for the speedy recovery of those injured, and for strength of the affected families. *Story on page 28*

An international panel of erudite Hindu scholars and enlightened masters from all over the globe presented their ideology on the Vedic message of promoting world peace at *Vedic Ideas for Global Harmony and Peace*, hosted by World Association for Vedic Studies WAVES.  
*Story on page 27/29*



## WAVES

## Ripple Effect

### Community Cover Story

## The Ripple Effect — WAVES Roll Wisdom onto Texan Shores

By KALYANI GIRI

HOUSTON – With a comprehensive nine-point plan, respected savant Swami Vidyadhisnanda Giri clearly outlined his vision of the roles and responsibilities of India and the US in ensuring the preservation of the Sanskrit language which he hailed as the 'blueprint of the consciousness of the whole cosmos, and the epitome of perfection'. In his rousing keynote address to a capacity audience at the inaugural session of the Sixth Biennial World Association of Vedic Studies (WAVES) conference, he exhorted gatherers to support the establishment of Chairs of Sanskrit at universities in this country. Sanskrit, he added, would resonate as the mother language that birthed all world languages, and that the institution of such a chair would draw diverse participation regardless of race or religion.

The swami's theories and research, along with those of Hindu thinkers in the exalted ilk of Dr. David Frawley, Dr. S. Kalyanaraman, and Professor Hal. W. French, to name a few, were presented at the WAVES conference held at the Univer-



Above: Members of the Hindu Students Council with panelists (seated in middle row, from left) Surendra Dwivedi, David Frawley, Swami Vidyadhisnanda Giri and Janak Dave at a down-to-earth youth forum that gave young people the platform to express their concerns and speak candidly to the panel of scholars. Photos: Vijay Pallod  
 Photo on page 25: From left, Swami Vidyadhisnanda Giri, Swami Jyotirmayananda, David Frawley, Jugai Malani, Surendra Dwivedi, Subhash Gupta, Janak Dave, Bal Ram Singh and Satish Misra

sity of Houston (UoH) on July 8-10. The event, themed *Vedic Ideas for Global Harmony and Peace in the Modern Context* drew an international delegation from India, Nepal, the Caribbean Islands, Canada, Europe, and from several cities within the USA.

In his welcome address, Chairman of WAVES Board of Directors, Dr. Surendra Nath Dwivedi, told attendees that the theme for the conference was more timelier than ever.

"Many conflicts arise from

differences in religion, race, political opinion, or other beliefs. The greatest impediment to peace is ignorance," said Dr. Dwivedi.

Over 150 scholars participated in the three day study on the various fields of archeology, Ayurveda, Vedanta, Sanskrit, Hindu history and heritage, science and astrology, Hindu scriptures and epics, and yoga. The aim of WAVES is to foster greater understanding of Vedic and Indian studies.

In a series of parallel ses-

sions scholars expounded their strategies on specific subjects. The biases and distortions demeaning the identity and ancestry of Hindus in 6th grade social science textbooks in the US were addressed, and reform initiatives discussed.

The ongoing violence against Hindus, and the forced exportation of Hindu minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh, and the persecution of Kashmiri Pandits were described in a paper presented by the Hindu American Foundation (HAF) executive council member Sheetal Shah. She told of HAF's 2005 report on Hindu Human Rights. Attendees were informed on HAF's ongoing dialogue with congressional leaders on Capitol Hill on issues facing Hindus here and in the diaspora. The unsubstantiated theory that the Aryans brought Hinduism to India, the stereotypical depiction of the Hindu social order, the myth that Hinduism taught that women were inferior to men, were also subjects for panel discussions.

Years of indepth research and the discovery of over 2000 archeological sites along the banks of the long-extinct Vedic

river Sarasvati preceded the scholarly Dr. S. Kalyanaraman's presentation of his report, *Vedic River Sarasvati for a National Water Grid*. With the aid of pictures and a map released by NASA, he charted the route the revived river will take in three years time. Averaging 6 kilometers in width, Sarasvati will wind her way through Ahmedabad. Continuing on the theme of water, Swami Vidyadhisnanda, a graduate of Cal Tech and India's famed Indian Institute of Technology, in his talk on *The Environmental Synergy of Natural Altars* showed how all naturally manifested altars in India are linked through a complex underground cave system. He augmented his speech with compelling photographs and said he hoped NASA would undertake research on the phenomenon. Yoga as a tool for treating patients with breast cancer was another informative paper of modern relevance delivered by Houston-based Dr. Kavita Chandwani. Yoga's stress-relieving techniques could improve the quality of life, build the immune system, and lengthen the chance of sur-

– Continued on pages 29



Community-Cover Story

The Ripple Effect — WAVES Roll Wisdom onto Texan Shores

Continued from page 27  
 vival. Dr. Narayanan Kome-  
 rath of the School of Aerospace  
 Engineering, Georgia Institute of  
 Technology, reported on his  
 findings on micro-electrical  
 power generation using eco-  
 nomic variable wind turbines  
 in every village in India. Dr.  
 Howard Beckman, founder of  
 the Vedic Cultural Fellowship  
 in New Mexico, told of the heal-  
 ing power of light waves and  
 color spectrum vibrations in his  
 paper *The Divine Vedic Science  
 of Healing with Light*.

Pivotal to the theme of the  
 conference were the many dia-  
 logues and deliberations held  
 to emphasize the age-old prin-  
 ciples of Sanatana Dharma  
 (eternal organizing principles)  
 to promote global harmony.  
 The talks invited wide audi-  
 ence participation.

“Dharma is a series of oper-  
 ating principles that cannot be  
 confined to religion,” Dr. Kal-  
 yanaraman told gatherers.

Philosopher and exponent of  
 Hindustani Classical music,  
 Professor Guy Beck, told of  
 Hindu sacred music’s role in  
 promoting world peace.

“Music crosses cultural  
 boundaries and helps overcome  
 initial obstacles of language.  
 This process would foster  
 deeper appreciation of Vedic  
 and Hindu ideals and cultural  
 traditions,” said Professor  
 Beck.

Understanding of the holy  
 Vedas is rooted in the scientific  
 Sanskrit language, realized  
 master Swami Vidyadhisha-  
 nanda Giri.

“It’s usage even in simple  
 form allows us to revisit our  
 ancient roots,” he added, call-  
 ing for propagation of the lan-  
 guage. He urged gatherers to  
 support research on the use of  
 Sanskrit in artificial intelli-  
 gence and as a computer-level  
 language in the west.

For India, his mandate



Children enact a scene from Indian mythology during the cultural program segment of WAVES

called for the continued oral  
 tradition of Sanskrit in Vedic  
 schools and for the Sanskrit  
 language curriculum to be rein-  
 stated at school and university  
 levels. He asked that *acharyas*  
 from esoteric lineages of the  
 Vedas be given credibility and  
 support. Sanskrit manuscripts  
 should be preserved and trans-  
 lated. The swami also called for  
 the support and institutional-  
 ization of the keeper of family  
 lineage trees. He asked that  
 official channels correct the his-  
 torical timelines, which could  
 be referenced in the Puranas.  
 He had one more request of  
 India.

“Revive ancient Puranic  
 temples that have self-manif-  
 ested altars, don’t build new  
 temples. Nurture and protect  
 the ones already in existence,”  
 Swami Vidyadhishananda  
 added.

With strong participation  
 from the BAPS Swaminarayan  
 Sanstha, the youth forum gave  
 young people the platform to  
 express their concerns and  
 speak candidly to a panel of  
 scholars. Swami Vidyadhisha-  
 nanda Giri, Dr. David Frawley,  
 BAPS’s Janak Dave, and  
 Hindu University of Florida’s  
 Professor Subhas Tiwari dis-  
 pensed practical advice on the

Dharmic way of life and offered  
 down-to-earth answers on pre-  
 serving a hoary cultural heri-  
 tage in the diaspora. Respond-  
 ing to a question on Hindu iden-  
 tity, Prof. Tiwari told youth  
 that the teachings are be-  
 queathed by parents to every  
 generation.

“Upholding certain values  
 starts at Self. You have to live  
 dharmically and spiritually in  
 tune, it has to be a direct expe-  
 rience. A house cannot be built  
 on false premises, thoughts  
 must be in tune with deeds,”  
 said Prof. Tiwari. He added  
 that studying the scriptures  
 will help reclaim the past and  
 generate pride in heritage.

“For reference points you  
 have to understand who the  
 wise ones are and seek their  
 help,” he said.

Whether it is family, or a  
 tough career that keeps one  
 centred, whatever done the  
 dharmic way will always pro-  
 duce better results, suggested  
 Dr. David Frawley. Because  
 being in harmony with the uni-  
 verse fulfills a greater purpose  
 in uplifting society, he added.

Another question from  
 youth was how to preserve  
 India’s contribution to math,  
 the sciences, etc, when one has  
 no knowledge of her contribu-

tion. The simple answer was —  
 it comes down to self-respon-  
 sibility to educate ones self.  
 Janak Dave suggested that  
 parents make more effort to  
 keep the vernacular language  
 alive in the home.

Kirsten Jones and Ravi  
 Pinjala, students at Rice Uni-  
 versity and the University of  
 Texas respectively, found that  
 the knowledge gained at the  
 youth symposium was deep  
 and inspiring.

“It was great as it addressed  
 several burning issues relevant  
 to us and made it easy to par-  
 ticipate,” said Kirsten and Ravi  
 in a joint statement.

Local attorney Jai Sharma  
 can’t wait for the next confer-  
 ence.

“The keynote lectures were  
 thought-provoking and I learnt  
 a lot,” Sharma enthused.

Guest visiting from India,  
 Balakrishna Surat, felt hon-  
 ored to be amidst knowledge-  
 able Hindus.

“I feel an eagerness to be  
 more involved in future. To be

more responsible to my heri-  
 tage,” said Surat.

A speaker at the symposium  
 Dr. Abhinav Dwivedi of the  
 Hindu University was excited  
 that so many voices spoke up  
 against the false depiction of  
 Hinduism in the California  
 textbooks case.

“I am also glad that we spoke  
 about the many misconcep-  
 tions about Hinduism that  
 even Hindus have,” Dr. Dwi-  
 vedi added.

Young volunteer with Sewa  
 International, Hemendra Pal,  
 deemed the conference ‘en-  
 lightening’.

Prof. Subhas Tiwari com-  
 mended the effort that went  
 into planning the event.

“It was very positive. Of  
 course there were too many  
 changes made at the last  
 minute in scheduling, and  
 rooms were not assigned. But  
 we have to recognize the sin-  
 cere effort,” he said.

WAVES has developed  
 projects promoting Hindu/  
 Vedic studies involving com-  
 munity participation globally.

At the WAVES conference  
 banquet and cultural program  
 held on Sunday night, scholars  
 were awarded plaques in recog-  
 nition of their work. Houston  
 Chapter President of WAVES,  
 Subhash Gupta, thanked de-  
 legates and guests for attending  
 the event. He also recognized  
 volunteers who worked tire-  
 lessly to facilitate the confer-  
 ence in this city.

The WAVES 2008 confer-  
 ence will take place in Orlando,  
 Florida.

For more information visit  
[www.wavesinternational.net](http://www.wavesinternational.net)

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