



BRAHMA BHARATI

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Editor: Anjana Bhargava

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|---|-------------------------------|
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President Message

Dear BSNA families:

This is the first issue of Brahma Bharati for the year 2009. I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a great year. This year again your Organization sponsored Ekal Vidyas (One Teacher Schools). On behalf of the Executive Committee I thank all the members who either sponsored a new Vidyalay or renewed their support for another year.

After an unexpectedly long delay your EC is very close to have the BSNA members data, password protected, on our web page. Our web page www.bsna.org is also getting a face-lift. My thanks to Mr. Raga Misra and Dr. Ajay Pandey for their hard work.

Your EC has worked very hard to arrange for the Annual Convention. We explored many possibilities including a 3-4 nights cruise to Bahamas, Hilton Head Resort Island. These were coming very expensive. Finally we discussed the possibility of having the convention in the east coast, as logically this was the east coast turn. Mr. Mahendra Misra and Dr. Om Sharma explored the possibilities and Mahendra Ji kindly agreed to be the Convention Director and host the convention in PA-NJ-NY area on July 3-5, 2009. Mahendra Ji has worked very hard in negotiating with a hotel and forming different committees. I request the tri state area members to please contact Mahendra Misra if you could support and help for a successful Convention. The detailed information is printed else where in BB.

BSNA would be awarding scholarships to the deserving students of BSNA members pursuing the University education. Please ask your youngster to apply for this. The application form is printed in this issue of BB.

Three new members are approved by the EC for Board of Trustees effective February 1. These members are Dr. Rudra Prakash, Mr. Sunil Pathak and Dr. Ramendra Pandey. My congratulations to them. I am looking forward to working with them. The three out going members of BOT whose term expired on January 31 are Dr Shiva Bajpai, Dr. Dharam Pal Salwan and Dr. Jameswar Upadhyay. The EC thanks you for your support and continuing guidance to BSNA.

BSNA EC is indebted to the members of the Host Chapters for their support and hard work to a successful Annual Convention. See you all at the Convention.

Purushottam Sharma
BSNA President

WELCOME
NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS
Mr. Sunil Pathak, Dr. Ramendra Pandey
and
Dr. Rudra Prakash

Rudra Prakash was born and brought up in Mahoba, UP. He received pre-medical and medical (MBBS) education in Kanpur, UP. He later completed MD in psychiatry from King George's Medical College, Lucknow. After teaching and practicing there, Dr. Prakash moved to the US in 1980. He was retrained in psychiatry at Vanderbilt University. With his family, he has been enjoying his home away from home in Brentwood, a suburb of



Dr. Rudra Prakash

Nashville in TN. He practices at the VA Medical Center, and is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Prakash has held various leadership positions in several professional and community organizations, received several teaching awards, has many publications and remains active in clinical research. Dr. Prakash, a distinguished fellow of American Psychiatric Association, is a strong advocate of mental health. He is also actively involved in Indo American Psychiatric Association and American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin.

Dr. Prakash is married to Reeta Misra, M.D., a pediatric endocrinologist who hails from Kanpur and is also graduate of GSVM Medical College, Kanpur and King George's Medical College, Lucknow. They are proud parents of a daughter, Richa Misra, M.D., an internist who practices in Boston. Her husband, Raja Ramachandran, a graduate of the Wharton's management and technology program will complete his MBA from HBS this summer. Dr. Prakash and Dr. Reeta Misra are also blessed with a grand son, Rohan, and will soon be blessed with a grand daughter.

Dr. Prakash, a life member of the BSNA nearly since its inception, is an avid tennis player, enjoys movies, traveling, and reading and writing poetry.

Los Angeles Chapter News

An international conference sponsored by Nalanda International organization (www.nalandainternational.org) on the Sindhu-Sarasvati Valley Civilization was held at the Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, on Feb. 21/22, 2009.

The aim of the conference was to discuss, reconsider and reconstruct a shared identity of the Sindhu (Indus) and Sarasvati cultures using archaeological and other scientific evidences as well as Vedic literature. It brought together archaeologists, linguists, anthropologists, historians, religious specialists and geneticists to help understand the nature of the interrelation between the Indus/Sindhu Civilization and the Sarasvati Civilization from about 3000 B.C to 1000 B.C.

Our chapter member Dr. Shiva Bajpai chaired a well received session "*Cultural Continuities: Origins and Migrations*". The discussion included: Did a single civilization extend from Iran through Afghanistan to India? Who were these people? Did they include the Vedic Aryans, also referred to as the Indo- Aryans, Indo-Iranians, or Indo-Europeans? Did these people comprise an indigenous continuity or did they migrate from outside the subcontinent (Southern Russia, Afghanistan, or Iran)? Are linguistic findings more convincing than archaeological remains? How does the scientific evidence of the drying-up of the river Sarasvati play a role in the interpretation of the history and chronology of the civilization? Furthermore, how does the genetic evidence corroborate with the archaeological evidence especially regarding the antiquity of the "Indian gene"?

In a conference paper "*Sapta-Sindhu: Geographical Identification and Archaeological Evidences*" Bajpai JI stated that the Vedic Sapta Sindhu, old Persian Hapta-Hindu, Greek Indus/India, and the Chinese Yin-tu was the first name of the country of the Sindhu-Sarasvati Civilizations and it covered the vast region from the Kubua (Kabul) River in the west to the Ganga River in the east. The overlapping of the Vedic and Harappan civilization in space and time resolves the dilemma of an entirely literary Vedic culture contrasted with an exclusively archaeological Harappan culture.

He predicts that we are now at the threshold of correctly writing the new history of early India/South Asia and, by extension, providing the basis for a new approach to the larger Eurasian Aryan question. Dr. Shiva G. Bajpai is Professor Emeritus of History and former Director, Asian Studies, California State University, Northridge. He is co-author of *A Historical Atlas of India* and author of many articles on various aspects of ancient Indian history and

culture including those contributed to *Hindi Encyclopedia (Vishvakosha)* and *Encyclopedia of Asian History*. Los Angeles Chapter celebrated Holi festival at Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Riverside on March 15 (Sunday) at 11:30 AM. Please refer www.lakshminarayan.com, 9292 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503 for a list of daily activities at this temple and driving direction to the temple.

Reported by
Raga Misra
President, Los Angeles Chapter

Virginia Chapter News BSNA DIWALI MEETING

VIRGINIA BRAHMAN SAMAJ OF NORTH AMERICA (VA-BSNA) was held on November 30, 2008. It started around 12:30 PM. President, Dr. Janeshwar Upadhyay, welcome every one and although every one knew each other, however, Dr. Upadhyay introduced those who were relatively new.

PRAYER: Dr. Upadhyay lead every one into a brief prayer. He asked the youth, meaning of prayer and the reason for prayer. He explained to the audience that prayer is the invocation of deity energy principle of God and the main reason for prayer is to reduce ego to increase divine energy in in Self. Although desired material goods may be achieved by prayer but selfless prayer is most effective. He also explained the physical and mental benefit of different prayer postures and meaning of Tikka on fore head as Budhi Puja, Supreme intelligence worship, residing in every Body-Temple. He also explained the meaning GURU as remover of darkness (ignorance).

BRAHMAN: We talked briefly about meaning of "Brahman" and their duties. Dr. Upadhyay explained that who knows Brahma (Supreme) or have the ability and interest to know Him, in addition, who does God' work like teaching and helping other people, regardless of caste or religion, in prayer and good karma to relieve pain and suffering in life is a Brahman.

After this brief discussion, Mrs. Purnima Upadhyay asked us to take lunch. We had a delicious lunch. After lunch, we continued with the discussion.

SERVICE: It was decided that we will collect clothes, shoes, blankets and send it to India to be distributed among the poor families. On the question of cost of sending, Dr. Dharendra Pandey offered three to four hundred dollars or more towards its cost of delivery.

There was unanimous decision to request BSNA EC to create a matrimonial web site, like bsna.org. shadi or something like that where youth themselves can put their information, photo, etc and access to other's information

and communicate with each other.

MEMBERSHIP: Mr. and Mrs. Suman and Manju Singha who had become members more than a year ago but due to some unavoidable transaction problem, it was not confirmed, Therefore, they paid membership again and became life members during this meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS: It was decided that in 2009, the Holi meeting will be at Dr. D.K. And Sneh Pandey's house in Hampton, June-July picnic in Richmond under the leadership of Shri Upendra Pandey Ji and Diwali meeting will be at Dr. Upadhyay and Mrs. Upadhyay's residence in Colonial Heights, VA. Meeting adjourned around 6 PM with tea, snacks and laughter.

With Love and Regards,
Janeshwar Upadhyay, President, VA-BSNA

Sacramento Chapter News



You are invited to join us for fun and food at the Sacramento Chapter members' meeting and **Board Members Election** at Elk Grove Park in Elk Grove, CA Sunday April 26, 2009 - Starting Time 11:00 a.m.

Please send the nominations to Vijay Bhargava at bharfam4@sbcglobal.net or (916) 939-9233

For further information contact

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Pardeep Sharma (President) | 530-792-7191 |
| Bharat Mohla (Vice-president) | 916-933-6339 |
| Prem Sidhar (Boad Member) | 916-689-4775 |
| Manohar Ratti (Treasurer) | 916-681-7681 |

Message from Sacramento Chapter President

I would like to cordially invite you all to attend upcoming BSNA Annual Convention to be held in New Jersey from July 3-5, 2009. I am excited about this year convention, as like previous ones, this one will be fun-filled and memorable! The Convention Organization Committee is working tirelessly to make this convention enjoyable for all.

BSNA conventions are educational and provide networking opportunities within your own community. Attending a BSNA convention benefits the whole family, especially, the youth and children who make new friends and develop long term relationships. Please encourage your children to attend these conventions by setting example and providing the opportunity.

Pardeep Sharma – Sacramento Chapter President

Message from 2009 BSNA Convention Director

The convention committee after a hard search and talking to several hotels has selected **Wyndham Hotel in Princeton, New Jersey** as the venue for the 15th BSNA Convention to be held from **July 3 to July 5, 2009**. We are all aware of the hard economic time, we are going through. However life goes on. Hard economic time is also affecting the hospitality industry and we were able to get the hotel at a very reasonable price. We at the convention committee are sure you would like your stay at the hotel.

In hard times, hate crimes increase against minorities and it is more important now than ever that we all actively participate in Indian Organizations at local and national level.

Our focus in the convention is on youth and we seek their active participation. We also seek their input in designing the convention program.

The convention theme is **Brahmans as Communicators**. Being educators/leaders in the society Brahmans were good communicators. Those who had studied Bhagwat Gita know that the best communicator to walk on the earth was Lord Krishna in Mahabharat.

Miscommunication or lack of it causes lot of problems at work and at home.

No celebration is possible without the guests. NJ, NY, and PA chapters are looking forward to welcome you all at the convention.

Mahendra Misra
Convention Director

Upcoming Festivals/Vrat & Tyohar - 2009

CHAITRA, VAISHAKH, JAIYASHTH & AASHAAD (SHUKL PAKSH):

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Nav Samvat (2066) Aarambh: | March 27 |
| Navraatra: | March 27 – April 3 |
| Durga Ashtami & Shri Ram Navmi: | April 3 |
| Shri Parshuram Jayanti: | |
| Akshaya Tritya: | April 26 |
| Nirjalaa Ekaadashi: | June 3 |
| Rath Yaatraa (Puri): | June 24 |
| Guru Poornima: | July 6 |

SHRAVAN (KRISHNA PAKSH):

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Hariyali Amavasya: | July 21 |
| SHRAVAN (SHUKL PAKSH): | |
| Nag Panchami: | July 26 |
| Raksha Bandhan: | August 5 |

BHADRAPAD & AASHWIN (KRISHNA PAKSH):

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Shri Krishna Janamashtami: | August 13 |
| Shradh: | September 5 – 18 |

AASHWIN (SHUKL PAKSH):

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Shardiya Navraatra: | September 19 – 27 |
| Vijay Dashmi (Dushehra): | September 28 |

“भारत”

(By Tilak Sharma)

क्या हुआ है तुझे मेरे प्यारे भारत महान
कहां चली गई है तुम्हारी खडती हुई शान

भखने आगे था किसी जमाने में
अख न जाने क्यों पिछड़ गया है
क्यों ढगता है ऐंसे गुमशुदा तू
जैसे खच्चा मां से खिछड़ गया है
उठ जाग करले कुछ अपनी तरफ ध्यान
क्या हुआ है तुझे मेरे प्यारे भारत महान

आए दिन हो रहे हैं तुम पर
तरह तरह के अत्याचार
कैसे बह रहा है गुमशुम हो कर
दूसरों के कठोर व्यवहार
तुम्हारी अहिंसा को भमझते हैं कायरता का प्रमाण
क्या हुआ है तुझे मेरे प्यारे भारत महान

“जिसकी लाठी उसकी भैंस “
अपनी ही कहापत भूल गया
गांधी जी के पथ पर चल कर
अपनी रक्षा करना भूल गया
कातों के भूत आतों से नहीं मानते यह है फरमान
क्या हुआ है तुझे मेरे प्यारे भारत महान

इतनी हिम्मत खड़ी दुश्मन की
घर के भीतर आकर मार गया
कमा देख तुम्हारी लाचारी को
तू किस्मत के आगे हाब गया
कख तक तू बहता रहेगा ऐंसा यह अपमान
क्या हुआ है तुझे मेरे प्यारे भारत महान

कई खार रिक्फोटों में
मरे गरीब हजार
हंगामा हो गया दुनिया में
अमरीकी मरे जख चार
गरीबों को पूछे नहीं आमीनों की है शान
क्या हुआ है तुझे मेरे प्यारे भारत महान

पो जमाना गया दूसरी गाल देते थे
जख कोई एक थप्पड़ मारे
आज कल एक थप्पड़ के खदले
दोगुने नहीं तीन गुना मारे
“तिलक” सदा के लिए करो खदं दुश्मन की खुषान
क्या हुआ है तुझे मेरे प्यारे भारत महान
कहां चली गई है तुम्हारी खडती हुई शाद

Message from Youth Group President

Dear Youth,

Hi! I wanted to take a few minutes to invite you all to the upcoming convention this July. For those of you who have not attended a Brahman Samaj convention, you are missing out! Last year the youth had so much fun getting to know each other and spending the weekend together. From this event, I made so many friends and I am glad I had an opportunity to attend the Convention. For the parents that are reading this, please inform your children about this convention.

On another note, if anyone has any ideas of something that we can do to make the youth group better and stronger. Please feel free to let me know. I am always ready to hear your ideas. Thank you and hope to see you all soon!
Aradhna Sharma

WHO IS A MAHATMA?

In India there are so many people, in different religious sects, who claim to be a mahatma and one is so confused that it is difficult to know their reality. Indeed our Scriptures have very clearly delineated what a mahatma is. Literally "mahatma" means great soul. The word santa and sadhu are synonymous. Lord Krishna has also clearly described what a mahatma is:

१) बहूनाम् जन्मनामन्ते ज्ञानवान्नाम् प्रपद्यते
वासुदेवः सर्वमिति स महात्मा सुदुर्लभः भ.गी.७-१९

"After many births and deaths, one who through transcendental knowledge actually understands Me (Lord Krishna) as the all pervading Supreme Personality of Godhead, surrenders unto Me. He indeed is a rare great soul (mahatma)."

२) महात्मानस्तु माम् पार्थ दैवीं प्रकृतिमाश्रिताः
भजन्त्यनन्यमनसो ज्ञात्वा भूतादिमव्ययम् भग्.गी.९-१३

"A mahatma is a great soul who is under the control of divine nature (and not material nature) by virtue of surrendering to Me (Lord Krishna). **He is always engaged in glorifying My personal transcendental features as name, form, pastimes (leela) transcendental qualities etc.** He knows Me as the Personality of Godhead original and inexhaustible. "One should understand that a mahatma is neither an impersonalist nor is he attracted to any other form of the Lord (like Maha-Vishnu, the four armed form etc). The word *maam* means here the two armed form of Krishna only, then what to speak about demigods (devata) or human beings etc. This is the meaning of the word, *ananyamanso* also.

३) सततं कीर्तयन्तो माम् यतन्तश्च दृढव्रताः
नमस्यन्तश्च माम् भक्त्या नित्ययुक्त्या उपासते. भग.गी.९-१४

"With devotion he bows down before Me, and is always engaged in My services (like, *shravanma, kirtanam vishnoh smaranam, pada sevanam etc.* Bhagavatam 7-5-23,24)." The word *dradavaratah* has been explained by His Divine Grace A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, as one who follows certain rules and regulations like observing fast on Ekadashi, the Lord's birthdays etc. These qualities are promoted by great acharyas as a means to develop association with the Lord. One should not forget that Lord Chaitanya Maha Prabhu (an incarnation of Lord Krishna) advised even His mother to observe Ekadashi fast." However, one should find these rules very simple and not difficult at all as said in the Bh.G.9-2, *susukham kartumavyayam*, meaning very easily performed by all, may be a brahmachari, householder or sannyasi. This very clearly defines the qualities of a mahatma.

There are various qualities and symptoms of a mahatma described throughout the Vedic Scriptures

and only a few are listed below from Shri Ramcharitmanas

सन्तु के लच्छन सुनु भ्राता, अग्नित श्रुति पुगन विख्याता
पर उपकार वचन मन काया, सन्त सहज स्वभाव खगराया
सन्त सहहि दुःख परहित लागी, पर दुःख हेतु असन्त अभागी
सन्त हृदय नवनीत समाना कविन्ह कछो पर कछो न जाना,
निज सन्ताप दूवहि नवनीता, पर सन्ताप सन्त सुपुनीता.
संत असंतन्हि कै अस करनी, जिमि कुठार चन्दन आचरनी
काटय परसु मलय सुनु भाई, निज गुन देहि सुगन्ध बसाई
कोमल चित दीनन पर दाया, मन बच क्रम मम भगति अमाया
मुद मंगलमय सन्त समाजू, जो जग जंगम तीरथ राजू
अन्याभिलाषिता शून्यम् ज्ञान कर्मादि अनावृतम्
आनुकूल्येन कृष्णानुशीलनम् भक्ति उत्तमः

तृणादपि शुनिचेन , तरोरपि सहिष्णुना

अमानिना मानदेय कीर्तनीया सदा हरिः. (भक्ति रसामृत सिन्धु)

"A mahatma, sadhu, or santa has full understanding that every thing is a manifestation of the Supreme Lord directly or indirectly (सर्वं खलु इदम् ब्रह्म नेह नानास्ति किञ्चन).

He loves or respects every one and so is kind to all even to those who try to harm him; like sandalwood tree which when cut into pieces imparts its scent into the very axe which cuts it. They are willing to accept others miseries to relieve them from suffering. (A well known example is that of Sai baba of Shirdi who accepted hemiplegia from one of his followers). Contrary to the demoniacs who are ready to accept their own suffering if needed to make others suffer and induce pain, a mahatma is extremely kind to others. They are selfless servants of society, never desiring respect for themselves but always respectful to others. They consider themselves as insignificant as a straw and tolerant like a tree. **They are always engaged in the service of the Lord,** and distribute spiritual knowledge to society at no cost. The aura of spiritual energy that spreads out of them, purifies the minds of the sinful people and helps to convert them into a sinless personality. In this way they are like walking holy rivers and places of pilgrimage"

The Scriptures, therefore, say,

बड़े भाग्य पाइव सत्संगा, बिनहिं प्रयास होइ भव भंगा

सन्त विशुद्ध मिलहिंपुनि तेही, राम कृपाकर चितवहिं

जेही.(श्रीरामचरितमानस)

"One is very fortunate to get the association of the mahatmas because it is only through the mercy of the Lord that one gets this association by which ones life is so molded that he can get the most difficult liberation from this endless cycle of material births and death and can go back to the spiritual planets". They are the greatest assets of human society." **Thus according to Bhagavat-Gita any one without these qualities can not be rubberstamped as a Mahatma, which is the practice of modern times.**

by

Dr. Laxmi Narayan Chaturvedi M.D.

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**PEOPLE
IN
THE
NEWS**

GIVING BACK » BY PAUL WALDIE

Man of letters honours homeland, mentors

The donor Onkar Dwivedi

THE GIFT: \$217,000 and climbing

THE CAUSE: Building a school and hospital in India

Onkar Dwivedi jokes that when he arrived in Ottawa from India in 1963 to study at Carleton University, he scored top marks in a course on Canadian government even though he couldn't spell the name of outgoing Prime Minister John Diefenbaker.

Despite the spelling error, Mr. Dwivedi went on to a distinguished academic career, writing 35 books, receiving the Order of Canada and teaching at University of Guelph for more than 40 years. He has also received numerous awards and honorary degrees.

But academics are only part

of Mr. Dwivedi's life. Together with his wife, Sarla, he has helped establish a junior high school and a hospital in two small communities in India, including Bindki where he grew up. He funded both largely from book royalties, lecture fees and by selling his cottage in Northern Ontario in 2000.

The junior high school started in 1985 and now has more than 270 students. It is named after John Meisel, a professor who taught Mr. Dwivedi while he was pursuing his doctorate at Queen's University.

"He was my guru," Mr. Dwivedi recalled.

The hospital is in Bithoor, near Kanpur, which is south-east of New Delhi. It is named after his mother, Sushila Devi



Prof. Onkar Dwivedi.

a poet who died in 2005.

The 25-bed facility and walk-in clinic specializes in cataract surgeries for women. It officially opened last November and has already performed 60 operations and plans to do

1,000 annually.

While Mr. Dwivedi, 72, has done most of the funding on his own, he has received substantial support from the Guelph Lions Club, which contributed \$20,000 for equipment, and some private donors. He has also set up a charitable foundation and hopes to organize more formal fundraising in India and Canada.

But his real motivation has always been to give something back to India and Canada.

"This country has given me so much, so this is how I express my gratitude," he said from his home in Guelph. "Others can do it too. I think the world would be in better shape."

» pwaldie@globeandmail.com

Dr. Shri Kant Mishra



Congratulations!

Mr. Hari Sharma The BSNA Executive Committee has formally appointed Mr. Hari Sharma as a Treasurer of BSNA effective immediately. EC's decision was unanimous. As a treasurer Mr. Hari Sharma is the member of the core EC and expected to attend the monthly Teleconferences.

Mr. Hari Sharma is a life member of BSNA and has been the president of New Jersey Chapter since 2006. He was born in Haryana state and received his M.Sc. degree in physics from Punjab University Chandigarh. He obtained his Masters in Nuclear Engineering from Polytechnic University of New York and an MBA from Monmouth University in New Jersey. He recently retired as a Senior Nuclear Engineer from Exelon Corporation after 28 years of service. He has been very active in BSNA activities for the past 6 years and is the current cultural program director for the upcoming BSNA convention scheduled for July 3-5, 2009.

Dr. Shri Kant Mishra Receives AINA Award

Dr. Shri Kant Mishra has been selected as a recipient of the Association of Indian Neurologists in America (AINA) Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his dedication in helping neurologists of Indian origin excel in the field of neurology. A life member of BSNA, Dr. Mishra has served on a number of BSNA committees including the Chair of Board of Trustees, and recipient of "Brahma Shiromani Puraskar", a highest award of BSNA. Dr. Mishra is currently Chair of the BOT of World Brahman Organization. Congratulations Dr. Mishra, BSNA and WBO families are very proud of you and your achievements

Condolences!

We are saddened to hear that the beloved father, Shri Babu Lal Ji Sharma, of our executive vice-president Dr. Om Sharma of NJ passed away unexpectedly. He was living in Rajasthan, India and was only 79 years old. Our heart felt condolences to the family. We pray to our Lord Ishvara for his soul to rest in peace and to give strength to the family members to bear such a loss

A Great Tragedy!

Avishek Dube, 25 years, the only son of Shri Ajoy Dube, past president of BSNA Los Angeles chapter was killed in a car accident on 7 March 2009. Avishek was completing his PhD at the University of California, Irvine. We share this grief and express our heartfelt condolences.



**BRAHMAN SAMAJ OF NORTH AMERICA
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

**Wyndham Princeton Forrestal Hotel & Conference Center
900 Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro, NJ 09536
(609) 936-4200; www.wyndhamprincetonforrestal.com**

July 3 – 5, 2009

Early Registration by April 30, 2009

| | |
|--|--------|
| Two persons (with 1 night hotel): | \$449* |
| One person (with 1 night hotel room): | \$299* |
| Child (5 yrs and older staying with adults): | \$99* |
| Children under age 5 Yr: | free |

Registration after April 30: Add \$50 per person

Registration after May 31: Add \$75 per person

The rate for children remains at \$99 per child

*Rates are listed on per room basis including lodging for Saturday night. Two persons rates are for couples or two adults sharing one room; Child rate: dependent children sharing the room with adults/parents.

- Registration fee includes parking, hotel accommodation for one night (Saturday, July 4th), meals and refreshment for Saturday & Sunday, one registration packet, and admission to all convention programs. Dinner/refreshment included for those guests arriving Friday afternoon and staying Friday night at the Convention hotel.
- Rooms are available for special rate of US\$91 per night (incl. taxes) for three nights before or after the convention if booked at least 35 days in advance through BSNA.
- Only vegetarian food and non-alcoholic beverages are served at the convention.
- Registration starts Friday afternoon. Regular convention programs start with breakfast on Saturday morning and end with lunch on Sunday.
- The business meeting of the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee and Chapter Presidents is scheduled on Friday late afternoon.
- **Cancellation Policy:** A cancellation fee of \$100 will be charged if notified in writing before May 30, 2009, for each registration. Full credit will be given to BSNA life members toward the registration fee for the next BSNA convention if notified before May 30, 2009.

For Additional Information Please Contact (Call or E-mail)

Convention Director: Mr. Mahendra Misra

Phone: 610-539-6073, mahendramisra@hotmail.com.
Mr. Purushottam Sharma, 248-853-4076; psharma@mail.com
Dr. Om Sharma, 908-359-3348; hmosharma@gmail.com
Mr. Jagar Sharma, 516-503-0871; jagarsharma@hotmail.com
Mr. Nitin Purohit, 248-318-0598; climatek@aol.com
Mrs. Rita Pandey, 905-680-1952; ritagpandey@hotmail.com
Mr. Bharat Mohla, 916-939-6339; Mohla01@aol.com
Dr. Ramendra Pandey, 908-722-6808; rpandey1993@gmail.com
Dr. Ram Tiwari, 732-469-2342;
Dr. Gopesh Sharma, 703-356-0821; docsharma@aol.com

Cultural Programs Director: Mr. Hari Sharma

Phone: 732-409-3523, sharmafam@optonline.com
Mr. Pardeep Sharma, 530-792-7191; hum5@msn.com
Mr. Raga Misra, 909-987-0186; ragamisra@yahoo.com
Mrs. Mamta tiwari, 301-774-6365; tiwarip@bah.com
Dr. Satish Misra, 301-340-2983; satish_misra@hotmail.com
Dr. Shri Kant Mishra, 818-981 9659; shrimishra@msn.com
Dr. Shyam N. Shukla, 510-770-1218; shuklas@comcast.net
Dr. Anil Sharma, 215-736-1352, Email: sharmaa102@aol.com
Dr. Sangam Mishra (India) +91-294-2526570,
mishrasangam@hotmail.com

Please complete the Registration Form (next page) and mail with your payment to

Dr. Anil Sharma at 12 Sandy Drive, Yardley, PA 19067

Phone: (215)-736-1352, Email: sharmaa102@aol.com



BRAHMAN SAMAJ OF NORTH AMERICA FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

July 3 – 5, 2009

(Visit www.BSNA.org for More Information and Updates)

MEMBER'S NAME: -----

ADDRESS: -----

PHONE: -----EMAIL: -----

| NAME | Relationship to the member | Age of single children/youth (optional) | Interested in performing in the cultural programs | Interested in helping out at the convention |
|------|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| | Member | | | |
| | Spouse | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Please refer to the Convention Announcement (previous page) for the rates, and fill in the fees below as appropriate.

FEE: Adults: [] One: [] Two; US\$ _____
 Dependents(s) over age 5, # _____ X \$99/Child US\$ _____
 Additional Room(s), Number of rooms _____
 Number of nights _____ Dates _____ @ \$91/night US\$ _____

BSNA Membership dues*** US\$ _____

Voluntary donation for the convention: (The convention fee is subsidized. Voluntary donations are requested to offset the deficit.) US\$ _____

TOTAL US\$ _____

*****BSNA Membership Rate in US Dollars: \$35 yearly; \$350 life; \$1000 Benefactor; \$5000 Patron.**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BSNA, AND MAIL TO:

Dr. Anil Sharma at 12 Sandy Drive, Yardley, PA 19067
 Phone; (215)-736-1352; Email: sharmaa102@aol.com

COMMENTS _____
SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

BSNA is a Not-For-Profit organization registered in the State of New York,

An Appeal from the Convention Organizing Committee and the Editor of Brahma Vani

After thirteen successful, exciting and great volumes of the Convention souvenir magazine *Brahma Vani* (BV), we are embarking on the 14th edition commemorating the 15th Annual Convention to be held on **July 3-5, 2009 at Princeton, New Jersey**. Our goal is to publish yet another volume that we all can be proud of, and keep it forever for our children to read and cherish. To accomplish this, we need your help in the following areas:

Youth Editorial Board – We need youth volunteers to serve on the youth editorial board, and to solicit articles from the youth group. We publish articles from youth on a variety of topics including their understanding of *Sanatan Dharma*, Hindu scriptures, memorable experience while traveling to India, their accomplishments, etc.

Editorial Board – We need adults who are willing to devote time for reviewing the articles submitted for publication in BV, and also to solicit articles from members and others relevant to BSNA members. If you can assist with the editorial activity, please let us know.

Articles – Please submit articles on the convention theme or topics of interest listed on the convention flyer, or on any relevant topic on Sanatan Dharma, Vedic values, Hindu scriptures and articles of historical significance to BSNA members. Submit the articles early so that the editorial board has enough time to review them. Again, we would like to see articles from our youth. Please plan ahead for the articles. It is very difficult to accommodate the last minute rush. The first preference is given to the theme related articles. If space permits, we would include other articles. Please also submit articles related to reflection, first person types of pieces that make up popular reading, especially from our youth, which could include experiences at our conventions, visit to India, meeting a unique Brahman, or their marriage, etc. Please see the guidelines for submitting articles under a separate heading.

Fund Raising: is an important component of BV. Please plan ahead for getting greetings and advertisements. If we make a commitment to sponsor at least a quarter page, we would reach the milestone. You can become a sponsor for the youth section by donating as little as \$50. Congratulatory messages with the photographs of the youth on their graduation

and other accomplishments have been quite popular. Please note that the chapters are reimbursed 20% of the advertisement revenue coming from their chapters to support their chapter activities.

The deadline for articles and ads in Brahma Vani is May 16, 2009.

For further information and contribution, please contact Mrs. Anjana Bhargava, **Chief Editor** or any member of the convention organizing committee.

Advertisements and Convention Sponsorships

Brahman Samaj of North America is a non-profit organization, approved under the IRS section 503 (c), as a Social, Cultural and Religious organization. The organization has about 600 members and has been holding its annual conventions during the month of July every year, except in 2007 when the convention was held in May with World Brahman Organization. BSNA is an affiliate organization of WBO, hence, as in the past, several foreign delegates are expected to attend BSNA's annual convention in 2009.

Brahma Vani is published as the souvenir magazine for the BSNA annual convention. The publication costs and part of the convention costs are supported by the advertisements and generous donations from individuals and businesses.

The advertisement rates and/or suggested donations for this year are:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Full page - color | \$ 1,000+* |
| Full page - black/white | \$ 500 |
| Half page -black/white | \$ 300 |
| Quarter page -black/white | \$ 200 |

***The color pages start at \$1,000 per page depending on the location.**

Each advertiser will receive a copy of the publication along with a receipt and a letter of acknowledgment.

CONVENTION SPONSORSHIP RATES

SILVER SPONSOR \$1,500

- A full-page COLOR advertisement in Brahma Vani.
- Worldwide distribution of Brahma Vani to over 1,000 readers.
- Identification as a Sponsor in media release.

- Opportunity to place gift items in the delegates' gift pack.

GOLD SPONSOR \$2,500

- All of the Silver Sponsor benefits plus:
- Free attendance at the Convention for a family of up to five members.
- Free membership for one year.
- Identification as a Sponsor in media releases and the Opening Ceremonies.

PLATINUM SPONSOR \$3,500

- All of the Gold sponsor benefits plus:
- A full-page four-color advertisement: choice of outside back cover/inside front or back/ centerfold/ or another spot, subject to availability.
- Identification as a Sponsor in media releases and the Opening Ceremony.
- BSNA web site hot linked to your site for one year.
- Sign as the Presenting Organization, at the Registration Desk.
- Prominent display of banner, if provided by the sponsor, at the Convention.

EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Members may sponsor an event at the convention by making donations to defray the cost of the event. Please contact the Convention Director or any member of the Convention Organizing Committee.

*Note: For publication in Brahma Vani, please forward electronically logo or artwork in Word Format by **May 16, 2009**. Late submissions will not be accepted.*

*Full page size: 7.5" (width) x 10" (height);
Half page size: 7.5" (width) x 4.5" (height)
Quarter page size: 3.375" (width) x 4.5" (height)*

(All finished size)

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZING A SESSION

Proposals are accepted, depending on available time, from members for organizing session on topics of interest to BSNA members. Generally, a session is one-hour long with three to four presenters. The time for each speaker should be distributed accordingly, leaving a few minutes for question & answer. **If you**

are interested in organizing a session, please contact the Program Committee Chair, the Convention Director, or BSNA President for further information on scheduling a session **as early as possible but no later than April 30, 2009**

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS AND ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN BRAHMA VANI

- The **abstracts** of paper presentations must be no more than one page.
- Use standard fonts (Times New Roman, Century School Book or Arial), size 12.
- For quotations in Sanskrit, Hindi or other languages, please use most commonly used Devanagari fonts or send your font definition. If in doubt, please discuss with the Editor via e-mail or phone.
- Place the title in capital letters on top.
- Author's full name, city, state and E-mail address. (Optional –phone number)
- A brief bio and photo will be published if supplied.
- All of the above should fit in one standard page.
- Full **articles** must not exceed four pages including bio and photo.
- Photographs: Submit electronically. Non-returnable paper prints will be accepted.
- Please review your submissions very carefully for any spelling or content errors.
- Any quotations, citations must include full reference, including URL if extracted from a web site.

Please submit your articles, abstracts and photographs electronically to:

Mrs. Anjana Bhargava
Chief Editor, Brahma Vani
E-mail: abhargava@sco.ca.gov

Deadline: May 16, 2009

If interested in participating in the convention **cultural program**, please contact:

Mr. Hari Sharma, Cultural Program Director
732-409-3523, sharmafam@optonline.com

Deadline: June 1, 2009

Convention Committee Members
Dr. Ramendra Pandey; 908 722-6808
Mr. Hari Sharma; 732 409-3523
Mr. Jagar Sharma; 516-503-0871

BSNA Scholarship for the High School Students

Who can apply?

**Any high school senior whose family is member of BSNA
and have received admission to an undergraduate degree granting college within North America.
What is the scholarship amount? The Scholarship amount is \$500.**

- The scholarships will be granted to high school graduates going to college based on: (a) Grades, (b) participation in extra curricular activities, (c) participation in BSNA activities, (d) Needs, and any other criterion to be specified, and (e) an essay submitted by the candidate.
- The scholarship winners will be announced during the Annual Convention, generally held around July 4th every year, and their names and details will be published in Brahamvani and Brahma Bharati.

By Mahendra Misra, Chair BOT

Email Address: mahendramisra@hotmail.com

2009 BSNA SCHOLARSHIP FORM

| Name | Last | First |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------|
| Address | | |
| Email Address | | |
| Phone Number | | |
| Parents Address (If Different) | | |
| High School Name & Address | | |
| College Name & Address | | |
| Class Rank(If available) and GPA | | |
| Extra Curriculum Activities | | |
| List of BSNA Activities Participated | | |
| Attach Brief Bio Data with Photo | | |
| Attach Essay | Essay subject: "My Experiences of Keeping Brahman Values While Growing in America" | |

Mail form to: Mr. Mahendra Misra, 3008 Marna Court, Eagleville, PA 19403

Brahma Bharati is a publication of Brahman Samaj of North America (BSNA), a not-for-profit organization registered in the state of New York. It is sent to its members free of charge. It is also posted on the BSNA homepage (<http://www.bsna.org>). Members may send articles for publication (with a brief bio and photo) and/or comments to Mrs. Anjana **Bhargava** editor at: bharfam4@sbcglobal.net

Please send **change of address** information to:
Dr. Ajay Pandey, Brahmakulum (Directory) editor at: ajaykp@yahoo.com
(phone: 248-656-4144)

Other correspondence about BSNA should be sent to Mr. Prushottam Sharma, President at: psharma@mail.com
(Phone: 248-719-0096) or mailed to: BSNA, P.O. Box 716, Belle Mead, NJ 08502