

BRAHMA BHARATI

A Quarterly Publication of Brahman Samaj of North America

December 2006

Volume 8 Number 4

Editor: Surendra Nath Pandey, Ph.D.



BSNA ELECTION RESULT

The Nomination & Election Committee (NEC) is pleased to announce that the new Executive Committee (EC) has been elected for the term **2007-2009**. As per election guidelines, the deadline to submit the nominations was August 15, 2006. Since only one nomination for the office of the president was submitted by the deadline, no ballots were mailed, and the sole nominee with his team is declared elected.

The following list contains names and contact information of the new BSNA officers; the newly elected Executive Committee takes office on January 1, 2007 for the three-year term ending December 31, 2009:

President:
Mr. Purushottam Sharma

PSharma@mail.com
248-719-0096
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Executive Vice President:
Dr. Umesh Shukla

shuklafamily@earthlink.net
908-431-9845
Belle Mead, NJ

Vice President:
Mr. Bharat B. Mohla

mohla01@aol.com
916-933-6339
El Dorado Hills, CA

Vice President:

Mrs. Rita G. Pandey
ritagpandey@hotmail.com
905-680-1952
St Catharines, ON, Canada

General Secretary:

Dr. Om P. Sharma
omsharma@patmedia.net 908-359-3348
Skillman, NJ

Treasurer:

Mr. Shri Niwas Sharma
sniwas@verizon.net 732-817-0202
Morganville, NJ

Assistant Treasurer:

Dr. Ajay K. Pandey
ajaykp@yahoo.com 248-656-4144
Rochester Hills, MI

Members of the 2006 Nominations & Election Committee: **Mr. Nitin Purohit, Dr. Satish Misra, and Dr. Surendra Pandey (Chair)**.

Executive Committee

President

Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla

Executive Vice President

Mr. Purushottam Sharma

Vice Presidents

Mrs. Renu Sharma

Mr. Lila Dhar Mishra

General Secretary

Dr. Umesh Shukla

Treasurer

Dr. Om Sharma (NJ)

Assistant Treasurer &

Editor, *Brhmakulum*

Dr. Arvind Sharma

Editor, *Brahma Vani*

Dr. Surendra N. Pandey

Editor, *Brahma Bharati*

Dr. Surendra N. Pandey

Editor, *Homepage*

Dr. Tej Pandey

President Youth Group

Mr. Ankur Misra

Convention Director

Dr. Satish Misra

Board of Trustees

Dr. Shri Kant Mishra,

Chairman

Dr. Shiva Bajpai

Dr. Lakshmi Shanker Dubey

Dr. Onkar P. Dwivedi

Mr. Mahendra Pal Misra

Dr. Satchidanand Mishra

Mr. Kanwal Prashar

Dr. Dharam P. Salwan

Mr. Jagar Sharma

Mr. Madan Lal Sharma

Dr. Suresh C. Tiwari

Dr. Janeshwar Upadhyay

WORLD BRAHMAN CONVENTION

May 26-27, 2007

Deadlines to remember

To organize a session, contact Program Committee Chair (Dr. Shyam Shukla) by – **January 31, 2007**

To perform in the Cultural Program, contact Mrs. Manisha Tewari by **January 31, 2007**.

Early registration (at discounted rate), the form with check must reach Mr. Shri Niwas Sharma, the Treasurer by – **March 31, 2007**

Submission of advertisements, articles and abstracts of paper presentation for publication in *Brahma Vani* must reach Dr. Surendra Pandey by – **April 15, 2007**.

See details & guidelines on pages 6 through 11



Dear Fellow Brahman:

This is the last issue of the year. We are utilizing this edition to disseminate the results of the election for the Executive Committee of the BSNA. The results were also included in the last issue which was electronic only version. As usual, this issue will also be posted on

the BSNA home page along with the prior issues.

The second major item included in this issue is the information about the World Brahman Convention 2007 (WBC-2007). The WBC-2007 will be held jointly with the World Brahman Organization (WBO) as its 4th biennial convention and Brahman Samaj of North America (BSNA) as its 13th annual convention. It will be held in Washington DC area on May 26-27, 2007. WBC is held every other year in different countries. Prior conventions were held in U.S.A., India, and U.K., respectively. As in the past conventions, WBC is expected to attract Brahman form all over the world, giving us an excellent opportunity to meet the Brahman Diasporas.

For the first time, convention organizers are inviting members to plan and organize a session related to the convention theme or on one of the topics listed in the details. Please read the guidelines carefully and, if interested, get started on planning the session immediately keeping all deadlines in mind. WBO has been expanding rapidly as many new Brahman organizations from all around the world are coming under the WBO umbrella with the main objective of universal Brahman unity. The list of all Brahman organizations that have made a commitment to affiliate with the WBO is included in this issue. Members of the affiliate organizations are very enthusiastic about attending the convention and also taking active part in organizing a session.

I am taking this opportunity to extend my best wishes to you and your family for a very happy, prosperous and peaceful new year 2007.

Surendra Nath Pandey

pandeyns@yahoo.com (Phone: 229-883-1687)

2303 W. Alberson Dr.,
Albany, GA 31721-2043 USA

AUSTRALIA:

1. Brahman Samaj of Australia
(President: Shri Arvind Misra)

INDIA:

2. Akhil Bharatiy Brahman Mahasabha
(President: Shri Mahesh Datt Sharma)
3. All India Kanyakubja Board
(President: Shri Dharani Dhar Trivedi)
4. Brahman International
(President: Achrya Prbhakar Mishra)
5. Gujarat Brahman Samaj
(President: Shri Jagdish Dave)
6. Chhattisgarh Brahman Samaj
(President: Dr. Prakash Narayan Shukla)
7. Sarayuparin Brahman Sabha of Bhopal
(President: Shri Rajani Kant Shukla)

MAURITIUS:

8. Shri Sanatan Dharmiya Brahman Mahasabha
(President: Shri Damodar Toolsee)
9. Akhil Sanatan Dharmic Brahman Mandal
(President: Shri Gopal Sharma)

NEPAL:

10. Brahman Samaj of Nepal
(President: Shri Ramagya Chaturbedi)

THE NETHERLANDS:

11. Brahman Samaj of Holland
(President: Pt. Anand Shukla Kalapnat)
12. Brahman Mahasabha of Holland
(President: Pt. Vishnu Mahadew Panday)

NEW ZEALAND:

13. Shree Sanatan Dharm Purohit Brahman
Mahasabha of New Zealand (Inc).
(President: Shri Jagdish Prasad Maharaj)

NORTH AMERICA (USA AND CANADA):

14. Brahman Samaj of North America
(President: Dr. Shyam N. Shukla)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

15. Brahman Samaj of United Arab Emirates
(President: Mr. Vijay Kumar Tripathi)

UNITED KINGDOM

16. Brahman Samaj of United Kingdom
(Under process, President: Mr. R. N. Pathak)

For latest information on convention and other news of BSNA, and for all past publications, please visit:
<http://www.bsna.org>

PROFILES OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:

Dr. Umesh Shukla



Dr. Umesh Shukla was born in Unnao district in U.P., India. His father was a principal of a school in Bombay. Dr. Shukla received his early education in Bombay. He earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Pharmacy from the University of Bombay, and a Ph.D. in Clinical Pharmacology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1985.

Dr. Shukla's professional career includes a research scientist position at Bristol Myers Company in Syracuse, NY; a Senior Director in Clinical Research at Aventis Pharmaceuticals in Bridgewater, NJ; and his current position as a Senior Director of Experimental Medicine at Johnson & Johnson Co. He has made significant contributions in the development of several new drugs for the treatment of infections, depression, cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. He has received President's achievement awards for his contribution to the development of new drugs.

Among his civic involvement, he was a United Way volunteer, Secretary and Trustee of U.P. Association of Mid Atlantic Area (UPAMA), and contributor to the construction of an Ashram in Naimisharanya as well as Principal's office in a school for deaf and blind run by Jyoti foundation Bithur (near Kanpur, UP) in India. He has been running Asha Charitable Trust in India to help educate children in villages and maintenance of temples.

Dr. Shukla is married to Prabha of Kanpur. She has a Masters degree in psychology and works at Bristol-Myers Squibb Federal Credit Union. They have two sons Devesh, a graduate of University of Maryland employed as a financial analyst at Bloomberg Company, and Hirsh a sophomore at Cornell University.

The Shukla family has completed pilgrimage to Haridwar, Rishikesh, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Yamunotri, Gangotri, Vaishnava devi, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Naimisharanya, Ujjain, Nasik, Rameshwaram, Meenakshi temple in Madurai, Shirdi, Puttaparthi, etc.

Dr. Shukla, a BSNA life member, was NJ chapter president in 2002-03, and is currently the BSNA General Secretary. He was the convention director for the 10th annual BSNA convention held in East Windsor, NJ.

VICE PRESIDENT:

Mrs. Rita Pandey

Mrs. Rita Pandey was born in Agra, India but grew up in Canada. She is a graduate of St. Francis Xavier University and University of Western Ontario, Canada. Currently, she is a teacher in the elementary school system within the District School Board of Niagara.

PRESIDENT:

Mr. Purushottam Sharma, M.Sc. (Physics), D.A.B.M.P.



Mr. Sharma was born in U.P. (near Bulandshahr) and grew up in New Delhi. He obtained his B.Sc. and

M.Sc. degrees in nuclear physics from Agra University. He worked at the Bhabha Atomic Research Center, Trombay, Bombay as a scientific officer for 9 years. There he published many reports and papers on radiation hazards and control. Mr. Sharma and family moved to Canada in 1970. He completed his graduate studies in medical physics in 1972 and subsequently worked as the Director of Medical Physics at the Thunder Bay Regional Cancer Center of Ontario Cancer Research and Treatment Foundation. For 15 years, while in Thunder Bay, Canada, Mr. Sharma was the President of the India-Canada Association, and a prominent figure in the Indian Community.

Mr. Sharma moved to Michigan in 1988. He worked as Clinical Director of Medical Physics at the Department of Radiation Oncology of William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, Michigan from where he retired recently. Professionally Mr. Sharma is certified by the American Board of Medical Physicist and the Canadian College of Physicist in Medicine. Mr. Sharma is working part time as a Board Certified Medical Physicist and is an emeritus member of American Association of Physicist in Medicine and American College of Medical Physics.

Mr. Sharma is a well-respected member of the Indian community in southeastern Michigan and is very much involved with the Bhartiya Temple of Troy, Michigan. He has been a member of the BSNA Executive Committee, executive Vice President, past president of Michigan Chapter and the Regional Coordinator of the Midwest USA (R3). Mr. Sharma is also a life member of several religious and cultural organizations.

His wife Mrs. Kusum Sharma is an accountant and currently a mother and homemaker, residing in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. They have two sons; the elder, Vikas, LLB, MBA, is the director with the mergers and acquisitions group of the investment bank Scotia Capitals, Toronto, Canada. He is married to Manisha, a chartered accountant and MBA. They both have three children, Karina, Naveen and Annika. The younger son, Vinay, MD, FRCP(C), is a radiation oncologist at Bethesda Memorial Hospital in Boynton Beach, Florida. He is married to Priya M.A., MBA. They are both blessed with two children, Meghna and Annish.



Mrs. Pandey also volunteers with literacy councils, helping adults to read and write, and is a strong supporter of multiculturalism in her community. She is also on the board of Mayor's Committee on Culture and Race relations, which believes in inclusion of all cultures. Her

family has been a pioneer supporter of the Hindu Samaj and Temple in Niagara Region. She gives some time to other causes that she feels deeply about – Save the Children Canada and Hospice Niagara.

Mrs. Rita Pandey is married to Dr. Anil Kumar Pandey, and they have two children, Sachin and Neeraj. The Pandeys are BSNA life members and are avid supporters of BSNA. Mrs. Pandey served as the Convention Treasurer for the BSNA's Eighth Annual Convention held in Toronto in 2002. Pandey family members have taken active part in other conventions including her children participating in social programs, serving as a moderator in plenary session.

Mrs. Pandey says, "I look forward to being an active part of this great organization, a fraternity of rich heritage and learning more about the significance of my societal background."

**VICE PRESIDENT:
Mr. Bharat Mohla**

Mr. Mohla was born in a Brahmin family in Ludhiana, Punjab. After graduating from Punjab University in Chandigarh, he started a printing company in Ludhiana. He sold his business in 1976 to move to the United States. He attended New York University where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. Mr. Mohla relocated to California where he took a job with Control Data Corporation as a Systems Engineer. Since 1986 he has been working as a Software Engineer with Intel Corporation, a leading manufacturer of computer, networking and communications products.

Mr. Mohla currently resides in El Dorado Hills, California with his wife Archana, and their two children, Ruchika and Ankit. Ruchika is currently completing an M.S. at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and Ankit is in his third year at Folsom High School.

A life member of BSNA, Mr. Mohla has made very significant contribution to BSNA by working toward enhancing its image in the community. He has played an active role as a member of the Sacramento Chapter for the past six years, assisting in the organization of numerous functions. As an individual who is very proud of his heritage, he is excited to promote the Indian culture and preserve its rich traditions among future generations.

GENERAL SECRETARY:

Dr. Om P. Sharma



Dr. Om Sharma was born in Suroth (Fatehsingh Pura), Rajasthan to Mrs. Sushila Sharma and Pt. B.L. Sharma. Dr. Sharma obtained his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in biological

sciences and a Ph.D. degree in Reproductive Endocrinology/Physiology in 1984 from the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

Dr. Sharma is married to Manju Sharma of Brahmbad, Rajasthan. She earned her B.A. from the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, B.S. from the Rutgers University, NJ and M.S. (PA-C) from the Seton Hall University, NJ. She is employed as a Physician Assistant in Caldwell, NJ. They are proud parents of Himanshu who is a senior in High School, a gifted child, a voracious reader, an avid violin player, has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, and an active volunteer in several activities.

After getting his Ph.D. degree in 1984, Dr. Sharma joined as a teaching and research faculty at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi. He was awarded a fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany to advance his research work at the Max Planck Institute. Subsequently, he moved to the Johns Hopkins University Medical School, Baltimore and University of Virginia Medical School, Charlottesville on research and teaching faculty positions. In 1993 Dr. Sharma moved to the Pharmaceutical industry and progressed to the current position of Director of Clinical Research and Drug Development at Johnson & Johnson, Raritan, NJ. Dr. Sharma has led to the development of several drug entities in the areas of women's health (oral contraceptives, HRT, pre-term labor), urology (BPH, urinary incontinence, overactive bladder), endocrinology and metabolism (diabetes, metabolic syndrome), allergy, asthma, analgesics, oncology, CNS, cardiovascular, and dermatology. He is a member of several international and national scientific organizations.

The Sharma family has been actively involved in various community activities. Dr. Sharma was a Vice President of the Indian Association in Charlottesville, VA, Assistant Scout Master in Parsippany, NJ and Vice President, Executive Committee of Shri Sanatan Mandir in Parsippany, NJ. The Sharma family helped in running a Sunday school for the children of Indian origin in Parsippany, NJ for many years. They were involved in organizing a nine-day Shri Ram Katha discourse by Shri Ramesh Bhai Oza in NJ in 2000. Dr. Sharma and his family also helped in organizing the 10th annual convention of BSNA held in East Windsor, NJ.

The Sharmas are life members of BSNA. Dr. Om Sharma has been the treasurer of BSNA since 2004, serving as chair of finance committee, and a member of the editorial board of Brahma Vani.



**TREASURER:
Mr. Shri Niwas
Sharma**

Mr. Shri Niwas Sharma was born in a small village in District Rohtak (Kundal) of Haryana State. His Grandfather was a Headmaster in Ambala and taught in the same school for 40 years before retirement and performed social work in the village throughout his life. His father was a senior officer in Comptroller & Auditor General's Office. He is retired and lives in New Delhi.

Shri Niwas Sharma graduated from Delhi University and worked for an International Trading House in New Delhi as an Office Manager. Mr. Sharma was selected and posted in New York Office in 1977 as Deputy Manager. He worked for 18 years in one of the top 10 law firms of New York City before retirement in July 2006.

Shri Niwas Sharma has been married to Sumitra from Haryana for the last 44 years. They have two sons: Yogesh and Ajay. Yogesh is a graduate of Rutgers University in computer science and holds a Masters degree from New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). Yogesh is married to Pratima. Yogesh and Pratima are blessed with two daughters (Kajal and Shruti). Yogesh and Pratima are life members of BSNA. Pratima is currently the President of NJ Chapter of BSNA. Ajay graduated from NJIT. He is married to Shalini and they have been blessed with two beautiful daughters (Sunayna and Anjali). Ajay has been working as Senior Engineer for CONED.

Shri Niwas Sharma has been a life member of BSNA. The Sharma family members helped in organizing the 10th BSNA Annual Convention held in NJ. He has been very supportive of any cause for uplifting the BSNA's image and always ready to help in promoting the Hindu culture.



**ASSISTANT TREASURER:
Dr. Ajay Pandey**

Dr. Ajay Pandey, a founding member of BSNA, hails from a small village, named Bedani Kala, in Palamu district of former Bihar, and now part of the newly formed state of Jharkhand. After graduating from Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi, and after a brief stint at Bokaro Steel Plant, Dr. Pandey moved to USA and obtained an MS (in Mechanical Engineering) from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA and a Ph.D. (in Engineering Mechanics) from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. After working for eight years at NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA, he joined General Motors Corporation in Detroit,

Michigan. He also completed his MBA from India University Kelly School of Management.

Currently, he is involved in automotive engine design and research in the power train group of General Motors and lives in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

Dr. Pandey's wife Madhu comes from a Tiwari family from Ariyar village in district Jaunpur, UP. Mrs. Pandey's education took place in Jamshedpur and Bombay in India and then in Saginaw, Michigan. She is currently employed in the field of information technology with Pramsys, Inc. The Pandey's are blessed with three children: Priyanka (18), Saurabh (16) and Rahul (14). Priyanka started her freshman year in the fall of 2006 at Michigan State University, Lansing, Michigan, and plans to pursue a medical career. Saurabh and Rahul are attending 12th and 10th grades, respectively, at Stoney Creek High School in Rochester, MI.

Dr. Pandey is very active in social and community affairs. He volunteers his time for coaching little league soccer. He is an area coordinator for A World in Motion Program of Society of Automotive Engineers, which has collaborated with local school to help generate math and science in US schools. Whole family regularly participates in community festival and volunteers to help these events successful. Learning and teaching of cultural values are of highest priority to every member of Pandey family.

Dr. Pandey has been a founding member of BSNA and also a life member. He helped organize the 2006 BSNA Annual Convention in Detroit, Michigan by use of modern technology and steering activities oriented towards youth of BSNA.

CHAPTER NEWS

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

The NJ Chapter held its meeting on November 4, 2006 to celebrate Deepawali at the residence of Drs. Manju and Kamal Misra. Elections were also held during this meeting to elect Chapter officers for the next term starting on January 1, 2007. Nominations were sought in advance from the NJ Chapter members. All the members were contacted via e-mails and personal calls and invited to participate in the celebration for Deepawali and the election of the chapter officers. A total of about 20 families from New Jersey, New York and PA participated in the meeting. The program started with light snacks followed by Lakshami puja (performed under the guidance of Dr. Naresh Sharma), prayers, and family introductions.

Dr. Umesh Shukla and Dr. Om Sharma provided information on the upcoming 4th World Brahman Convention (WBC-2007) to be held in Washington, DC from May 26-27, 2007. Copies of Brahma Vani 2006 and Brhmakulum were distributed to the members who did not attend the 2006 annual convention and did not receive them earlier.

Subsequently chapter elections were held and the following people were elected unanimously:

Chapter President Mr. Hari Sharma
Vice President Mrs. Karuna Sharma
Secretary Mr. Anupam Choubey
Treasurer Dr. Kamal Misra
Cultural Coordinator Mr. Hemant Sharma and
Dr. Naresh Sharma
Youth Coordinator Mr. Prasun Mishra and
Mr. Praveen Misra

Multiple talented people presented a very entertaining program followed by a sumptuous dinner and socializing. All participants enjoyed the entire evening, and expressed their sincere thanks to the hosts and organizers of the event.

Submitted by Dr. Om Sharma (NJ)

OUR CONDOLENCE

To Mrs. Pratima Sharma (NJ Chapter President) at the loss of her father who left for heavenly abode on 21st October. He spent his last days in Gurgaon, India. May the Lord almighty grant eternal peace to the departed soul.

SOUTHERN ONTARIO CHAPTER

Southern Ontario Chapter held its meeting on September 17, 2006 to elect Executive Committee for the next term (2007- 2009). Following are the members of the new Executive Committee.

President: Mr. Anil Sharma,
anily2k@hotmail.com Tel. (905) 487-2645

Vice President: Mrs. Sheela Malaviya
SantoshMalaviya@hotmail.com Tel. (519) 658-5944

General Secretary: Mrs. Sarla Dwivedi
odwivedi@uoguelph.ca Tel. (519) 822-2534

Joint Secretary: Mrs. Jayanti Shukla
ankitashukla@hotmail.com Tel. (519) 624-7376

Executive Members:

Mr. Rajinder Dutt
rajdutt1@yahoo.com Tel. (905) 257-4479
Mr. Prem Chand (P.C.) Sharma
sharmacp@rogers.com Tel. (905) 794-0265

Submitted by: B.P. Pathak, President
Southern Ontario Chapter

An Appeal from the Convention Organizers and the Editor of *Brahma Vani*, the Souvenir Book

After eleven successful, exciting and great volumes of *Brahma Vani*, we are embarking on the 12th edition, which we hope to be even better than all previous ones. If we all pitch in, we will have a 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 who can serve on the youth editorial board. Please help us in recruiting those who have made an impact on BSNA, have published either in BB or BV, can help in obtaining articles and advertisements, have performed other meritorious services, and/or interested in serving BSNA as a member of the youth editorial board.

Editorial Board – 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. 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 Theme – The theme of this year's convention is **The Current Challenges: Global Brahman Unity and Preservation of Vedic Culture.**

Papers for presentations and publication are invited on the following topics or related to the convention theme in general:

- ❖ Global Unity And Effective Communication Among Brahmans
- ❖ Apathy of the Indian Government to Brahmans
- ❖ Plight of the Kashmiri Pundits
- ❖ Education of Children and Marriages of Daughters of Poor Brahmans
- ❖ Ways to Curbing Religious Conversion of Hindus
- ❖ Ayurvedic System of Medicine
- ❖ Astrology and Vastushastra

The first preference is given to the theme-related articles. If space permits, we would include other articles of interest to Brahmans. Please also submit articles related to reflection, first person types of pieces that make up popular reading, especially from our youth. Please encourage our youth to write about their experiences that bring out a Brahmanic (Vedic) value. This could include experiences at our conventions, visit to India, meeting a unique Brahman, or their marriage, etc.

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. This year you can sponsor the youth section by donating as little as \$50. Ads with family photographs have been quite popular, and we plan to continue this. 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 April 15, 2007.

Finally, we must avoid the last minute rush for both the ads and articles. This puts undue pressure on everybody (management, members of the editorial board, printer, etc.) to do a good job. Let us all work together in making this edition of Brahma Vani a memorable experience that can be cherished for years to come.

For further information and contribution, please contact Dr. Surendra Nath Pandey (Tel: 229-883-1687, E-mail: pandeyns@yahoo.com) or Dr. Satish Misra: Tel: (301) 340-2983 (Home); (301) 594-5665 (W); e-mail: satish_misra@hotmail.com

**Advertisements in Brahma Vani
Convention Sponsorships**

Brahman Samaj of North America is “Not for Profit organization”, approved under the IRS section 503, 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, for last twelve years. The 2007 convention is a special one since it is a joint convention of world wide Brahman organizations. It will be known as World Brahman Convention (WBC-2007). It combines the 4th World Brahman Convention and 13th Annual convention of Brahman Samaj of North America. The WBC-2007 will be held on **May 26-27** in Washington D.C. area at Crowne Plaza Hotel & Convention Center located in Herndon, VA, a short distance from Dulles International Airport. Because of worldwide participation, we expect an attendance of 300-400 members of various affiliate organizations of World Brahman Organizations of USA, India, UK and other Countries.

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 donations from individuals and businesses. The advertisement rates 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 COLOUR advertisement in Brahma Vani.
- Worldwide distribution of Brahma Vani to over 1,000 households.
- 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, Distinguished Speech, Dinner.
- 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.

**CONVENTION EVENT SPONSOR
\$500 PER EVENT**

You may elect to sponsor one or more of the following events of your choice:

- Youth Seminars
- Entertainment – Artists.
- Kavi-Sammelan (the Poets’ Corner)

Note: For publication in Brahma Vanim please forward electronically or camera-ready logo/artwork in Word Format by April 15, 2007.

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)

A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE HINDU CALENDAR

In the traditional Hindu calendar, a year consists of 12 months based on the number of days taken by the moon to travel once around the earth. This is approximately 29 solar days. Generally, the lunar month begins the first day after the new moon called amavasya. It is divided in two fortnights (pakshas). The first is of the waxing moon, known as Shukla Paksha, the bright fortnight, and the second one is of the waning moon, known as the Krishna Paksha, the dark fortnight.

The 12 lunar months are: Chaitra (March-April), Vaisakha (April-May), Jyeshtha (May-June), Ashada (June-July), Shraavan (July-August), Bhadrapad (August-September), Ashvin (September-October), Kartik (October-November), Margashirsha (November-December), Pausha (December-January), Magha (January-February), and Phalgun (February-March).

However, a lunar year falls short of the solar one by about 11 days. Because the dates of most festivals are decided according to the moon's position, it was realized that this difference would result in the dates varying widely over the years. For instance, Holi, which heralds the beginning of summer, would occur in the winter months, after a few years. To rectify this anomaly, an extra month, called adhika maas, is added to the lunar year every three years or so. This helps in maintaining parity with the solar year in which one solar month consists of the number of days taken by the sun to move from one sign of zodiac, or rashi to another as seen from the earth. There are 12 rashis. There are some complications with this system also but it is too complex to explain here.

According to the Hindu calendar, the year begins on the first day of the month of Chaitra (March-April) when the sun enters Mesha (Aries). This is the day after the spring equinox.

An interesting appendix to the calendar is the concept of the different eras used in India. Although the common reference of measuring time now is the birth of Jesus Christ, other references are also used which give rise to other eras. This may initially lead to some confusion. However, since dates can be calculated to corresponding eras, this is no longer a problem. Some of the important eras used in Indian context are:

1. **The Kali era:** According to the Hindu scriptures, time is divided into four yugas – Satya Yuga, Treta, Dvapera and Kali Yuga. The present time is believed to be Kali Yuga, the fourth part. It is believed to have begun with Lord Krishna's last day on earth, which corresponds to midnight between February 17 and 18, 3102 BC. Accordingly, this is the sixth millennium of the Kali era, in which the year 2000 AD corresponds with 5102. This reference of time is still used in religion and literature.

2007 DATES TO REMEMBER 2007 (Vikram Samvat 2063-64)	
Makar Sankranti	January 14
Vasant Panchami	January 23
Republic Day -India	January 26
Maha Shivaratri	February 16
Holi celebration day	March 4
Hindi New Year (Saka 1929)	March 19
Ramnavami	March 27
Hanuman Jayanti	April 2
Adhik Maas (Extra month --first of two Jyaistha)	Starts –May 3 Ends – May 31
Buddha Purnima	May 2
World Brahman Convention	May 26-27
Independence Day -USA	July 4
Independence Day -India	August 15
Raksha Bandhan	August 28
Krishna Janmashthami	September 4
Ganesh Chaturthi	September 15
Navratri begins	October 12
Vijay Dashami (Dusehra)	October 21
Sharad Purnima	October 25
Karwa Chauth	October 29
Deepavali	November 9
Vikram New Year (Samvat 2064)	November 10

2. **The Vikram era:** This is believed to have begun on the day of the coronation of King Vikramaditya. The year 2000 AD corresponds to Samvat 2057-58 of the Vikram era. The Vikram New Year starts on the first day of Kartik, the day after Diwali.

3. **The Saka era:** This era is believed to have begun with King Salivahana's accession to the throne. According to the Saka era, the year 2000 AD would be Saka 1922-23. Almost all astronomical writings in Sanskrit after 500 AD and the Indian government calendar follow the Saka era. The Saka New Year starts on the first day of Chaitra which falls sometime during March-April.

Note: Most present day scholars use abbreviations BCE (Before Current Era) and CE (Current Era) instead of BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini), respectively.

If you have not received copies of the 2006 edition of Brahmakulum (BSNA Directory) and/or Brahma Vani and would like one mailed to you, please send your request to: Dr. Om Sharma, (908) 359-3348, E-mail: omsharma@patmedia.net



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- ❖ Ayurvedic System of Medicine
- ❖ Astrology and Vastushastra

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Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla, Chair (shuklas@comcast.net), Dr. Surendra Nath Pandey (pandeyns@yahoo.com),
Dr. Satish Misra (satish_misra@hotmail.com), Mr. Purushottam Sharma (psharma@mail.com)

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The abstracts of all papers presented will be published in the convention souvenir issue, Brahma Vani. For a paper to be included in BV, it must be submitted via e-mail no later than **April 15, 2007**.

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- The abstracts 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 "Hindi Saral" font otherwise send your font definition also. If in doubt, please discuss with the Editor via e-mail or phone.
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