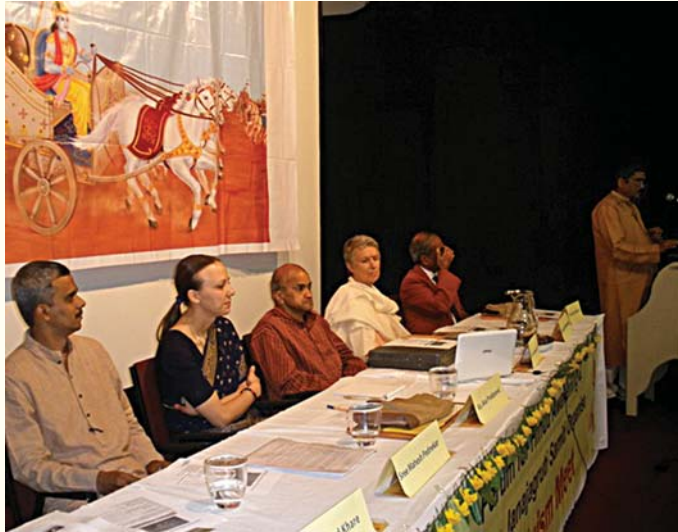


Hinduism Summit



The first ever Hinduism Summit in the EU was held by the Forum for Hindu Awakening and the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti at the Maharashtra Mandal in London, UK today. The aim of the Summit was to foster education about Hindu Dharma by bringing forth the unique science behind Hinduism concepts and practices, and bringing together Hindu leaders across the UK to spread the message of Hinduism.

This historic event was inaugurated as per Hindu tradition by the blowing of the conch, recitation of auspicious verses, lighting of an oil lamp and recitation of Vedic mantras by Swamini Atmaprakashanand Saraswatiji. The spiritual science behind all these actions was explained to the attendees.

130 enthusiastic people attended the Summit in person. Along with them about 60 people from around the world attended it, by watching the live broadcast over the internet. It was announced that the recording of this unique event would be available on the FHA website in a few days for those that could not attend.

The Hinduism Summit had the presence of many note-worthy Hindus from various organisations like Bajrang Dal UK, Swami Narayan Mandir, Overseas friends of BJP, VHP, Swadhyay Parivar, students from the National Hindu Students Forum UK, etc. It was characterised by the active participation of the younger generation of Hindus in the UK. It was seen at the Summit that people, young and old, were unified in their zeal to understand, live and preserve Dharma.

The media was also represented by the presence of members of Press.

At the Summit, the speakers were honoured by presenting them Sanatan Sanstha's Audio and Video CDs on the unique science behind Hinduism and spiritual practice, and the 'Vishwa Hindu Ratna' (Hindu Gem of the world) award. This award was presented to the speakers for their selfless and dedicated efforts for the cause of Hinduism.

There were thought provoking speeches, PowerPoint presentations and videos on Hindu practices like visiting a temple and the spiritual science underlying Hindu practices, research on the spiritual dimension, various challenges faced by Hinduism today such as denigration of Hindu Deities and Saints, and so on.

Jay Lakhani, the Director of Hindu Academy and Hindu Council UK, spoke regarding the multi-faceted Hinduism and how anybody is welcome to Hinduism, be it Buddhist, Christian or anyone with any other beliefs. Swami Ambikananda Sarwastiji, a disciple of Swami Venkatesananda and founder of the Traditional Yoga Association spoke of her acceptance of Hinduism as a conscious choice. Dr. H. V. Satyanarayana Sastry, a professor and an active proponent of the language Sanskrit, spoke about how

Hindus had the lowest crime rate in the UK; this reflected by the Hindu ideology and way of life, which believed in karma and how wrong karmic action can lead one to spiritual regression. Ana Prodanovic of the Spiritual Science Research Foundation shared about the role of the spiritual dimension and Saints in all aspects of life. Mahesh Pednekar of the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti spoke on knowing and peacefully protesting denigration of Hinduism concepts and symbols. Dr. Milind Khare of the Forum for Hindu Awakening spoke on how to understand, live and preserve Hinduism in today's busy times.

The Summit concluded with the singing of an *aarati* (Hindu devotional hymn) and a note of thanks for everyone that helped in organising the Summit. One highlight of the Summit was the lively question-answer session at the end. The attendees had many interesting questions and thoughts to share and the speakers responded to them enthusiastically.

The Forum for Hindu Awakening and Hindu Janajagruti Samiti are considering holding such Hinduism Summits in other parts of EU, to propagate the understanding, living and preserving of the spiritual science behind Hinduism concepts and practices. Visit www.forumforhinduawakening.org and www.hindujagruti.org for more information.

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