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INDIAN
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

SDGs through Hindu Worldviews: Spiritual Care in a VUCA–BANI World

February 25th- 26th, 2026, IIT (BHU), Varanasi

International symposium for scholars, students, and practitioners



About the Symposium

As part of the SPARC Project (P2485) jointly undertaken by the Department of Humanistic Studies, IIT (BHU), Varanasi and the School of Religion and Theology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, this international symposium brings together scholars, practitioners, and students to explore intersections of Spiritual Care, Indian Knowledge Systems, Hindu Worldviews, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a world shaped simultaneously by VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, Ambiguity) and BANI (Brittle, Anxious, Non-linear, Incomprehensible) conditions.

Anchored in the pluralistic and integrative spirit of Hindu worldviews, the symposium explores how indigenous philosophies can foster sustainability and collective well-being amid global uncertainty. Focusing on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality), it re-envisioned spiritual care through ancient wisdom and modern aspirations.

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We invite papers aligned with the following themes (indicative, not exhaustive)

- Indian Knowledge Systems, Hindu Worldview and Development:** Concept of Dharma, Karma, Yoga, and others in dialogue with sustainability, rituals and traditional practices, oral and folk literature.
- Literary perspectives and practices in Spiritual Care:** Practices of resilience, care, and sustainability; role of faith-based and interfaith initiatives.
- VUCA-BANI Coping Mechanisms:** Community and diaspora strategies for navigating disruptions, uncertainty, and complexity.
- Cross-Cultural and Interdisciplinary Approaches:** Culinary practices, customs for health care, education, ecological ethics, security and inter-religious harmony.

Last day of abstract submission: **25th January**

Intimation of Acceptance: **10th February**

Participation Mode: Hybrid mode
NO TA/DA will be provided

Registration fees:

Research Scholars: Rs 1000

Faculty members: Rs 1500



Scan to submit abstract

Organised by: Department of Humanisitc Studies, IIT (BHU)

Conveners:

Dr Swasti Mishra, IIT (BHU), India

Prof. Ajit K Mishra, IIT (BHU), India

Collaborators:

Prof. Sharda Nandram, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands

Dr Puneet Bindlish, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands

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