



Introduction

2019 has been an amazing year for Infinity Foundation. Infinity Foundation completed 25 exciting years of serving and protecting Dharma, against all odds and under very challenging circumstances. We have successfully managed to challenge the existing global discourse which is negative towards India and Hinduphobic. At the same time we have propagated and reinforced a very positive narrative about India, Hinduism and Dharma, based on India's contribution to science, technology, mind sciences, architecture, mathematics, astronomy, linguistics, computer science and other fields.

At the helm of Infinity Foundation, Rajiv Malhotra has successfully navigated the challenges in the representation of Indian knowledge and culture, and through his deep knowledge, profound insights and path-breaking books has established a very viable Swadeshi alternative to the western schools of thoughts which tend to have a biased and unsympathetic view of India and her cultural assets. By coining original vocabulary like Breaking India, mutual respect, reversing the gaze and many others, Rajiv has brought to the forefront numerous challenges facing India society both within and outside India.

2019 has been another phenomenal year for Infinity Foundation, with original research, numerous game-changing

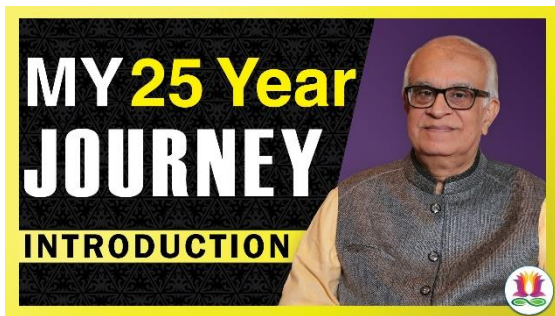
discussions, conferences and academic initiatives. Important people across disciplines like industrialist and philanthropist Mohandas Pai, vice Chairman of Niti Aayog, Rajiv Kumar, British media personality Katie Hopkins, prominent Swamis and gurus across the world, were interviewed and participated in lively debates.

We ran a very impactful campaign on the plight of Hindus in countries around the world. We showcased to the world a very innovative way to do a vakyartha sadas highlighting how views of contemporary western indologists like Sheldon Pollock can also be debated and debunked. Romila Thapar despite repeated appeals from us, has declined to do an interview with Rajiv Malhotra. Therefore, a purvapaksha of Thapar's views on history was done by Rajiv after going through various videos where she talks of her stance on various issues. Her views were played out and Rajiv then offered his counterpoint to them. This was one of the highlights of the year gone by as such a comprehensive critique of Thapar's work has not been undertaken by anyone at least in the video format.

In this report, we will highlight some of the important discussions, debates and analysis in 2019. The report will also discuss the impact of the two very important Swadeshi Indology conferences that were held in 2019.



25 Year Journey of Infinity Foundation



In this lecture delivered at the Waves Conferences in Dallas, Rajiv Malhotra gives an overview of his journey in Infinity Foundation over the last 25 years.

- As a philanthropist, funding the academia
- As a scholar producing his own scholarship
- As an Institution builder, developing a Swadeshi School of Thought.

Infinity Foundation started out by funding top academic institutions like Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, and many others. One of the outcomes of this was that it helped understand the inner workings such institutions and their unwillingness to explore ideas outside the mainstream narrative.

This motivated Rajiv to produce his own scholarship and he became a very successful research author, challenging many established intellectual equilibriums concerning India.

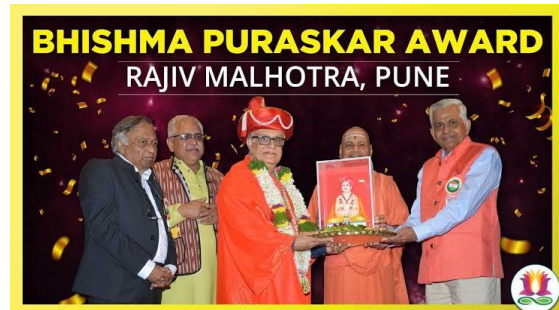
Rajiv then talks about how things stand today and about his quest to develop a new indigenous school of thought which next generation of scholars can build upon.

Rajiv describes how the latest challenges are on account of insiders who are

emotional rather than competent. He concludes by suggesting the way forward.

Video: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)

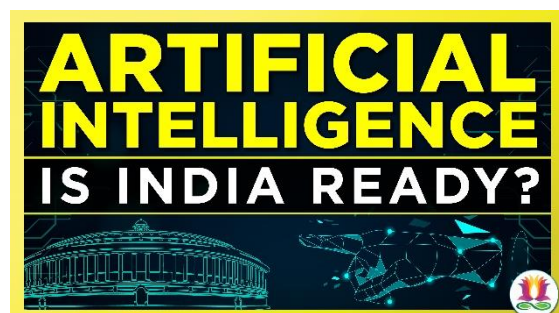
Bhishma Puraskar Award



Rajiv Malhotra received the prestigious Bhishma Puraskar Award for his exemplary work in the field of civilizational studies and Indology. Swami Govinda Dev Giri Maharaj, head of Sant Shri Gyaneshwar Gurukul, Padma Bhushan Awardee Dr. Vijay Bhatkar and Dr Nitin Karmalkar, Vice Chancellor of SPPU, Pune appreciated the work done by Rajiv Malhotra and Infinity Foundation. [Video](#).

JNU Lecture

Rajiv Malhotra delivered a lecture at JNU where he touched upon a number of important issues that the youth of today must understand and address.



Today Artificial intelligence is poised to replace most of the jobs the youth are aspiring to get. USA and China have 80%



share of new technologies between them. He asked the young people in the audience to reflect on their future and assess their readiness to face this challenge. He stresses on the urgent need for decolonization. While China controls the study of its civilization, the study of India remains colonized and is directly or indirectly controlled by the West even now. Sanskrit scholars in India have failed to counter the biases of Western scholars of Sanskrit, despite many efforts by Infinity Foundation and others.

Rajiv explains the inapplicability of Left/Right categories to Indian society, and challenge the youth of JNU to rise above such dichotomies. Only then can they lead India's youth to tackle the massive challenges facing their generation. Videos: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)

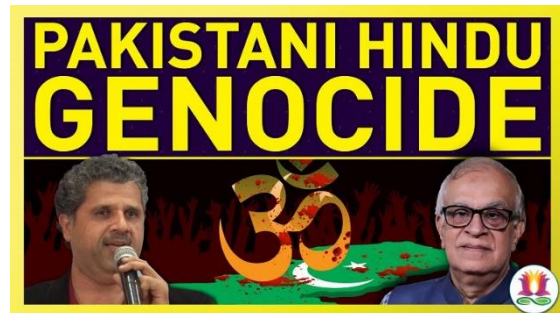
Hindu Lives Matter

In this very important series under #HinduLivesMatter, Rajiv Malhotra explores the sad plight of Hindus as minorities in different countries. Minority Hindus face severe persecution, often state-sponsored. Yet such incidents are not reported in main-stream media, either in India or abroad. This series assumes great significance especially in the context of the debate surrounding the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019, which makes it easier for Hindu from Pakistan, Bhutan and Bangladesh to get Indian citizenship.

Pakistani Hindu Genocide

Rajiv Malhotra and Dr. Omendra Ratnu discuss the shocking plight of Hindus in

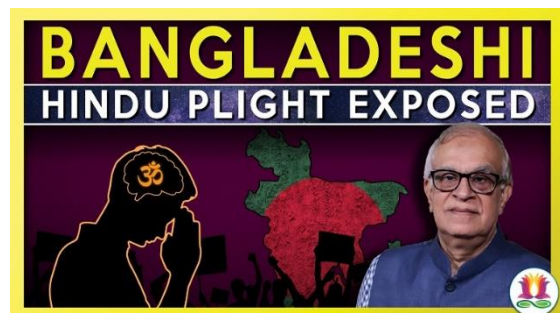
Pakistan and those few who manage to cross over into India as refugees. [Video](#)



Bhutan Ethnic Cleansing of Hindus

Leaders from Bhutanese Hindus living as refugees in USA explain the history of their ethnic cleansing by the Bhutan government, and the challenges they face in USA to practice Hindu dharma. [Video](#).

Plight of Hindus in Bangladesh



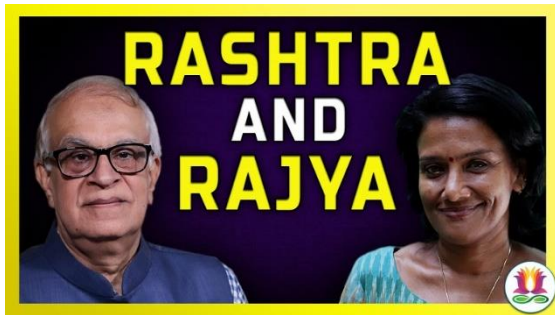
Swami Shuvananda of Swami Advaitananda Mission explains the shocking plight of Hindus in Bangladesh in the face of ever-increasing Islamization and intolerance towards minorities. [Video](#).

Call for Help by Sri Lanka Hindus

Swami Sachithananthan of Sri Lanka has been connected with Infinity Foundation's work and explains the help needed by Hindus in Sri Lanka. [Video](#).

Rajya is Strong, Where is the Rashtra?





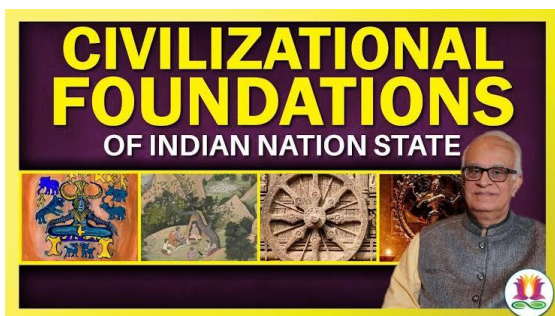
On the historic occasion of Modi 2.0, Rajiv evaluates the opportunities and existential risks that Bharat faces. He identifies 4 key challenges that need to be addressed:

- bureaucratic mediocrity
- digital and social media colonization
- internal and external threats
- development of human capital

In this very engaging discussion with Vijaya Vishwanathan, Rajiv provides a framework for solving these issues. [Video](#)

Civilizational Foundations of Indian Nation State

In this lecture delivered to 300 plus IAS trainee officers at the LBSNAA campus in Mussorie on, Rajiv Malhotra outlines the civilizational foundations of the modern nation state of India.



He talks about how there are at least two major competing narratives in India; one is secular democracy with its ideas of constitution, judiciary, government

borrowed from the west. The second is the very old Indian idea of who we are, which is built on the Vedic foundational heritage and which assimilated other ideas as it evolved through the times. He says that if there is no consensus on the civilizational impact on the modern narrative, then it is time to see what guides the modern nation state. [Video](#).

Discussion with Katie Hopkins



In this path-breaking discussion with noted British media personality Katie Hopkins, Rajiv Malhotra and Katie discuss how Islam is changing the very character of Britain and Europe by attacking its core Christian values and secular ideals. Rajiv Malhotra coins the term “Breaking Britain” to describe the forces who are trying to dismantle Britain from within. Katie accepts the terminology and says that the antithetical forces include globalists, Islamists and feminists. They discuss the future of Europe, and the importance of India and Hinduism as a force to counter the rise of terrorism and violence globally. They agree that UK and India must collaborate. [Video](#).

Indian Grand Narrative

Rajiv Malhotra and Mohandas Pai engage in an animated discussion on what it means to have a grand narrative for India



with special focus on how Breaking India forces operate in various domains to fragment and break down this grand narrative.



They discuss how the Breaking Indian forces deny the existence of any overarching grand narrative and prefer a balkanized India. They talk about some of the strategies used to create conflicts and sub identities which is then exploited to create a divisive narrative. [Video](#)

Breaking India Forces in Tamil Nadu

In this exciting 6 part series, Rajiv Malhotra and Prof Vaidyanathan discuss the different breaking India forces operating in Tamil Nadu.



The first episode talks about Dravidian politics and its foremost exponent, EV Ramasamy. They discuss how Dravidian movement started as pro-British, evolved to be anti-Brahmin, anti-National and now secessionist and poses a great danger to India's unity.

Next the role of the Church in proselytizing and promoting anti-national activities is analyzed. The Church dominates the Film industry, TV Channels thereby promoting anti-Hindu movies, biased TV shows and so on.

Prof Vaidyanathan explains how Muslims gained a strong foothold during the Jallikattu issue in Tamil Nadu. Their atrocities against Hindus is not reported in the media as journalists are afraid to speak out.

Prof Vaidyanathan explains how Naxalites are playing a significant role in hindering the developmental activities of the state. Under the guise of activism, Naxalites are influencing students in colleges and universities, which is a huge cause for concern. Many people believe LTTE to be defeated although its activities are very active in TN.

Finally, activists serve as the unifying medium for all BI forces. Their only aim is to promote anti-national activities and therefore are ready to collaborate with all BI forces. Video: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)

Discussion with Swami Chidanandapuri



Swami Chidanandapuri, Mathadipathi of Advaita Ashram, Kolathur, Kozhikkode and Rajiv Malhotra had an interesting



conversation on various issues confronting Hindu society.

They discussed the phenomenon of growing political and demographic Islamization of Kerala, radicalization of Muslim youth and the influence of ISIS and other terrorist organizations. An important problem today is on account of Hindu gurus today who neither like to take on problems in the real world, nor conduct clinical purvapaksha of opponents. Such an attitude does not augur well for the future of Hindus.

The Sabarimala verdict of 2018 was discussed. Rajiv Malhotra touches upon the fact that Supreme Court did not have an expert on the temple traditions while preparing the judgement. Rajiv talks about opportunistic Hindus who are becoming overnight activists without doing the required tapasya. The role of media and politicians in propagating an anti-Hindu narrative is also discussed.

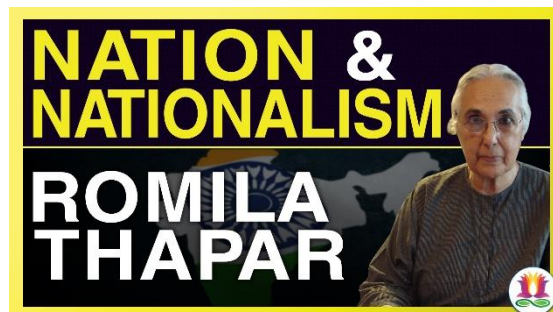
They examine the concept of daana in the Hindu tradition and show how it is different from charity which is transactional in nature. They examine the issue of NGOs and organizations which step in to help during natural calamities but have vested interests and agendas.

Video: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)

Decolonizing Romila Thapar

In a game-changing 5 part series Rajiv Malhotra analyzes and critiques some of key positions held by eminent historian Prof Romila Thapar on various issues of national and cultural importance. In each episode, clips from her various lectures

and interviews are used to present her position on specific issues. Then Rajiv responds to her ideas and offers his counter-point.



Prof Thapar considers Indian nationalism a British product. Rajiv shows how the conclusions would be different if traditional categories of rashtra and desh were used.

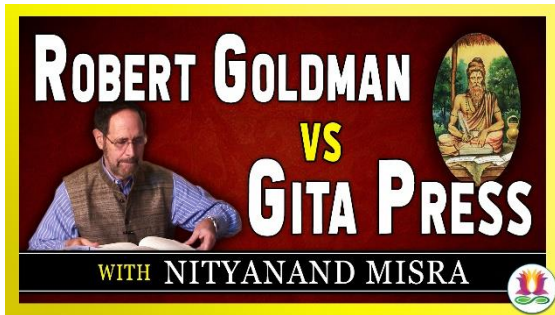
She claims that History departments at JNU and similar institutions use critical thinking and Social Sciences methodologies which are objective. She criticizes the BJP governments for suppressing intellectual freedom. She insists that Hindus believe in the Aryan Race theory, and their modern ideas originated in Italian Fascism. She claims Muslim rulers were good for India, and many even sponsored Sanskrit studies. She dismisses the claims of Somnath temple destruction by citing spurious arguments. Rajiv gives his rebuttals to all these points and invites her to debate.

Video: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)

Discussion with Nityanand Misra

Robert Goldman is considered the most prestigious Sanskrit scholar of the past 50 years in the Western academy. In a path-breaking 3-part series, Nityanand Misra dissects Goldman's translations of Ramayana.

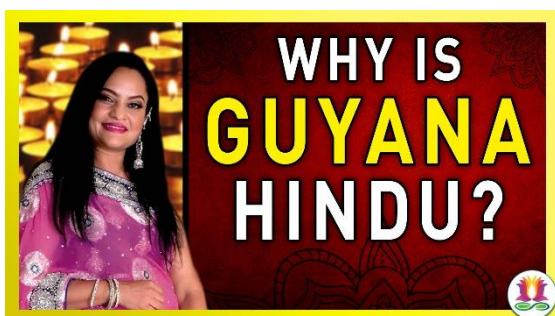




Goldman's Ramayana translations are used worldwide as the standard interpretation by English speaking academics. The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (part of Ministry of External Affairs) gave Goldman the highest Sanskrit award in 2017. Nityanand Misra gives detailed evidence that Robert Goldman mistranslated Sanskrit to allege prostitution in the Ramayana. Audrey Truschke uses this false translation to make her Hinduphobic case before her students and on social media.

Nityanand Misra demonstrates that these are not innocent errors but manipulations to distort the basic foundations of the tradition. He shows that Gita Press' translation is far superior. Episodes: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

Discussion with Vindhya Persaud, MP, Republic of Guyana



In this discussion, Vindhya Persaud explains how Hinduism, especially Ramayana and Bhagavad Gita, helped the Indian indentured laborers survive in Guyana for 175 years of extreme hardship.

This illustrates the positive role of collective identity in securing a community's self-esteem and survival.

Good leaders stuck their necks out over many generations and resisted pressures and inducements to sell out. This courageous leadership helped the Hindu community's preservation of rituals/festivals as a method of collective survival and engagement with the mainstream. [Video](#).

Discussion with Professor Vaidyanathan



Rajiv Malhotra and Prof Vaidyanathan discussed a wide range of issues in a very lively and interesting 6-part series. Some of the issues discussed were:

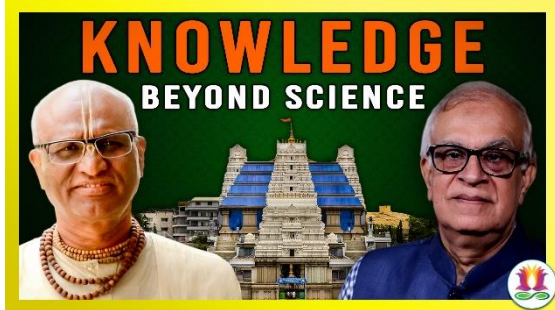
- Critique of Modi government
- small businesses as backbone of economy,
- "make in India" program,
- family values, jati and social issue
- Demonetization /black economy and GST
- Europe's family crisis, fertility, demographics, Islamic immigration, de-Christianization.
- Islam vs Modernity, the nexus of Left-Islam, Localization vs Globalization.
- Indian versus China
- Breaking India Forces
- Moronization of the masses



- Temple control and RTE

Video: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)

Conversations with Madhu Pandit Dasa



In this important series of conversations with Madhu Pandit Dasa, President of ISKCON-Bengaluru and Chairman of Akshay Patra Foundation, Rajiv Malhotra discusses a wide range of issues like the nature of Ultimate Reality, significance of Hare Krishna mantra and analysis of the Sabarimala controversy from a Vaishnava perspective. After this, they had private discussions on important collaborations which are now under way. Videos: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

Discussion with Mohandas Pai



In this very engaging discussion with Mohandas Pai just before the 2019 general elections, a lot of important issues were discussed. Mohandas states that the 2014 election was a fight against a corrupt establishment. The 2019 election is defined as Modi versus the Rest. The Rest

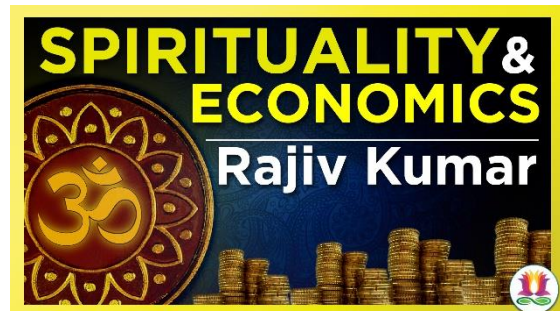
are unified only by hatred for Modi, and they lack a positive idea of India.

Mohandas and Rajiv agreed that Indian identity is not to be found in Delhi. Modi is a much better representative of the real India than Nehru was. Just like China is becoming rich and discovering its old heritage, so also India must invest in heritage to build national identity. They agree that the Culture Ministry has not performed adequately and must improve.

Mohandas highlights some of the key projects that need to be done in the next 5-year term: Justice for all through courts

- development of human capital by revamping HRD to build highly qualified work force
- creation of a labor-intensive ecosystem
- urbanizing small towns so the masses have quality of life and employment efficiency. Videos: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

Discussion with Rajiv Kumar



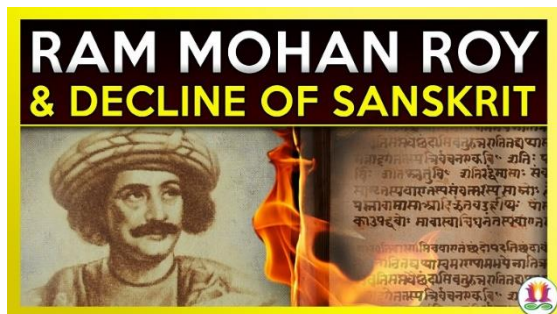
Dr. Rajiv Kumar, the vice-chairman of the NITI Aayog, which is responsible for planning economic development, is asked by Rajiv Malhotra to reconcile the individual's spiritual anand with the materialistic benchmarks used in economics. They discuss whether a spiritual nation can protect itself from



others who are hostile and materialistic. They discuss the importance of upgrading the minds of our people, our national grand narrative, and the quality of governance especially in HRD and Culture.

Another issue which is touched upon is if caste reservations can be replaced by affirmative action based on individual economic needs. This conversation concludes with a constructive way forward. Video: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

The Decline of Sanskrit

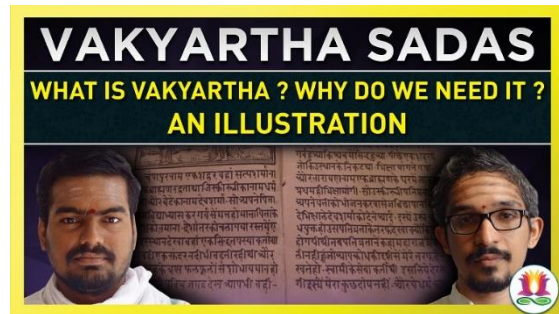


This provocative Q&A discusses some of Ram Mohan Roy's disturbing side. People blame Lord Macaulay for masterminding the replacement of Sanskrit with the Anglicization of India. Rajiv shows that it was Ram Mohan Roy who championed this change 12 years before Macaulay took it up. Rajiv explains how we must transcend regional identities like "Punjabi", "Tamilian", etc. The Rashtra must come first. [Video](#).

Vakyartha Sadas

Vakyartha Sadas are events where traditional scholars of Shastras engage in scholarly debate on various issues pertaining to Indian knowledge systems. One such event was organized during the Second Swadeshi Indology conference in Feb 2017 at Indira Gandhi National Centre

for the Arts. Senior scholars of Madras Sanskrit College debated and responded to the various positions propagated by eminent Western Indologist Sheldon Pollock, by deconstructing and exposing flaws in his arguments. Eminent Sanskrit scholar Professor A.S Aravamudan summarized the proceedings.



The entire debate was in Sanskrit and these powerful, path-breaking, innovative series of videos have now been made available along with English subtitles. In a special address, Brahmasri Mani Dravid Sastry speaks in Hindi on the nature of traditional pedagogy. Video: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)

Hindu Intervention at Stanford



In this lively and interesting conversation, Siddhartha, a 19 year old, explains how he has successfully negotiated important policy changes at Stanford University to serve his Hindu lifestyle.



Videos in Hindi (Dubbed)



In 2019, we started providing Rajiv Malhotra's English videos with Hindi dubbing, under the brand "देश विदेश का सन्देश". This initiative was undertaken to address the needs of a large demography who are more conversant with Hindi than English. The Hindi videos have received good response. List of some of the Hindi-dubbed videos are:

- [सौम्य शक्ति की भरपाई](#) (English)
- [अमेरिका का भगवाकरण](#) (English)
- [मुस्लिम और भारत की महागाथा](#) (English)
- [अंतर्धार्मिक बैठकों का पाखंड](#) (English)
- [शास्त्र और भारतीय महागाथा](#) (English)
- [भारतीय मस्तिष्क विज्ञान पर मेरे 25 वर्षों का शोध](#) (English)
- [धार्मिक विचारधाराएं](#) (English)
- [राधाकृष्ण मेमोरियल व्याख्यान: "भारतीय महागाथा"](#) (English)
- [भारतीय ज्ञान निर्यात: अतीत और भविष्य](#) (English)
- [भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था का मूल्यांकन - प्रोफेसर वैद्यनाथन \(भाग 1/6\)](#) (English)
- [विमूढीकरण, जीएसटी और काला धन - प्रोफेसर वैद्यनाथन \(भाग 2/6\)](#) (English)

- [यूरोप संकट - प्रोफेसर वैद्यनाथन \(भाग 3/6\)](#) (English)
- [चीन और भारत / जीवंत बहस - प्रोफेसर वैद्यनाथन \(भाग 4/6\)](#) (English)
- [भारत विखंडन / मूल्यांकन - प्रोफेसर वैद्यनाथन \(भाग 5/6\)](#) (English)
- [मोदी की आलोचना \(भाग 6/6\)](#) (English)
- [संस्कृति और आर्थिक सशक्तीकरण](#) (English)
- [अमेरिकी सेना में हिन्दू धर्म](#) (English)
- [गयाना हिंदू क्यों है ?](#) (English)
- [शिक्षाजगत का वि-उपनिवेशीकरण](#) (English)
- [भूमित विशेषज्ञों से मेरी मुठभेड़](#) (English)
- ["मैं एक स्वाभिमानी हिंदू क्यों हूँ" / सूरीनाम के उपराष्ट्रपति](#) (English)
- [मनोवैज्ञानिक युद्ध में विजय: मोहनदास पाई के साथ बातचीत](#) (English)

Other Episodes

- [Sabarimala: Faith under Attack](#)
- [Subhash Kak on AI and Consciousness](#)
- [Dr Subramanian Swamy's Election Strategy for 2019](#)
- [Globalizing the RSS/Mohan Bhagwat](#)
- [Hindus without Defense/Mohan Bhagwat](#)
- [Open Challenge to Devdutt Pattanaik](#)
- [From Naxalite to Dharma / Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog](#)
- [Hindu Music Compromised: Presented by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and IGNC](#)
- [Jallianwala Bagh: British Regret](#)
- [Western Influence on Hinduism Today](#)
- [Interview with Sree Iyer, PGurus](#)



- [R. Jagannathan \(Swarajya\) conversation with Rajiv Malhotra](#)
- [Hinduism in Latin America](#)
- [Hindus In Ghana: The Struggle for Identity](#)
- [Hindus & Minority Rights](#)
- [Itihasa is not Mythology](#)
- [ISKCON Bangalore Tour](#)
- [Vedic Contributions to American Grand Narrative](#)
- [Hindu Intervention at Stanford](#)
- [Decolonizing Delhi University](#)
- [State of Hindu Media](#)

Current Projects

In the regional language front we are continuing with our efforts to provide Hindi and other regional language subtitles of both current as well as older videos released by Infinity Foundation.

Full video transcripts in different Indian languages are now available for easy reference. Rajiv Malhotra's academic writings are being translated into various Indian languages. All these are being made available in Rajivmalhotraregional.com website.

Projects supported by your donations

1. Stipends for top scholars
2. Book printing
3. Research Assistants for new books
4. Conferences with high impact

5. Video production for the mainstream
6. Translations/transcriptions of our articles & videos into Indian languages
7. Hindi dubbing of videos
8. General fund for institutional expenses.

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You will be among the first to know about new uploads, the completion of new regional language subtitles and stay connected with all the other important work that Infinity Foundation is doing!



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Swadeshi Indology Conference - 5

“Karnāṭaka Śāstrīya Saṅgīta: Its Past, Present and Future”



The **fifth Swadeshi Indology Conference** titled “Karnāṭaka Śāstrīya Saṅgīta: Its Past, Present and Future” was organized by Infinity Foundation India in collaboration with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru and Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts - Regional Centre, Bengaluru. The day-long conference was held at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru on Saturday, **30th March 2019**. Its objective was to reaffirm the *Sanātana Dhārmic* roots of the Karnatic music heritage and the centrality of *bhakti* therein, in the wake of the various disruptive narratives afoot aiming to delink its sacred aspect, and projecting it not only as a mere secular art but also delineating its sacredness as the very tool of oppression.

An auspicious beginning to the conference was made by the Nāgasvara recital of **Viduṣī Prabhavati** and **Vidvān Palanivel**. The conference was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by Paramapūjya Śrī **Yadugiri Yatirāja Jīyar Swāmiji**, Padma Bhushan awardee **Dr. R. Nagaswamy**, Śrī **Mohandas Pai** and **Dr. Sumathi Krishnan**. Śrī Mohandas Pai, Chairman of Manipal

Global Education and a philanthropist, gave a rousing address regarding cultural appropriation and the multiple dimensions of attacks on our civilization. Dr. Sumathi Krishnan, Secretary of the Madras Music Academy, set the tone of the academic event by giving a very balanced view on tradition in the context of our music and brought in issues in a subtle manner. Finally, *pūjya* Swāmiji put into perspective the onslaughts that are happening on *Sanātana Dharma* as well as the divine art of Karnatic music, with particular reference to the turn they have taken in the past few decades. His *āśīrvacana* boded well for this undertaking by a few scholars to stand up to the distortions that are happening *in the name of artistic freedom*.



A short but very focused and hard-hitting **keynote address** was delivered by **Śrī Rajiv Malhotra** via a video recording, where he threw light upon how the Bhakti performing arts of our culture are being systematically desacralized and hijacked by alien-colonial forces and the role of our own scholars/artists in aiding the same. A scholarly plenary session by **Dr. R Nagaswamy** (renowned historian, archaeologist and epigraphist) traced the origins of Karnāṭaka Saṅgīta.



The academic sessions had a total of **8 paper presentations** which covered the various aspects of the classical musical form. The first session saw three papers being presented under the expert chairing of **Dr. T S Sathyavathi**, the reputed musician and musicologist. The first paper by senior scholar **Dr. Korada Subrahmanyam** on the philosophy underlying Śrī Tyāgarāja's *kṛti*-s brought out the aspects of *bhakti* and deep spirituality therein, while also offering rebuttals to the allegations of casteism and oppression made regarding the celebrated *vāggeyakāra*. The paper by Viduṣī **Gayathri Girish** focused on the essential philosophy in Muttusvāmi Dīkṣita's *kṛti*-s, presenting their inherent *sanātana dhārmic* character and also elucidated the divine personality of the composer. The final paper presentation of the session by Viduṣī **Vrinda Acharya** was effective in conveying the non-translatable nature of several key concepts related to our music. She compared them with the popular equivalents used and showed their inadequacy, making a strong case for retaining the original terms. The session concluded with a summing up by the chair, Dr. T S Sathyavathi who gave a touching analogy of a body sans life, when our classical music is divested of its *sanātana dhārmic* nature.

Under the able chairing by **Śrī N S Krishnamurthy**, Former Director of AIR and reputed scholar, the second academic session saw **Dr. Radha Bhaskar**, the musician, musicologist and organizer of repute, discussing the topic of how far is too far in experimentation. She

methodically dealt with the various levels in experimentation, discussed what constitutes a legitimate experiment that is in tune with the core values of our music, and what would be really crossing the rubicon. The next presentation by **Śrī Aravind Brahmakal**, of Ranjani Fine Arts, provided a patron's point of view, suggesting the various ways in which a Karnatic musician can be encouraged to undertake music as a full-time profession, so as to retain it in its purest form without being allured to distort the same. The session concluded with the Śrī N S Krishnamurthy's perceptive remarks on the papers presented.

An interesting but focused **plenary discussion** took place under the able moderation of Dr. Radha Bhaskar, with **Dr. T S Sathyavathi, Śrī N S Krishnamurthy, Vidvān Melkāveri Balaji** and **Śrī Lalitharam**. The questions such as the status of Nāgasvara artists, the hard but *dhārmic* decisions to be taken by professional artistes, and the focus of today's music were discussed, which were very well received by the audience.

The **final academic session** took on the momentous question of appropriation of the Karnatic music heritage and the allegations on the heritage done by the musician Vidvān T M Krishna. **Prof. K S Kannan**, the Academic Director of Swadeshi Indology, chaired the session. **Śrī Jataayu**, the famous blogger on Hindu culture and Tamil literature, gave an in-depth view on the Christian attempts of appropriation of Karnāṭaka Saṅgīta, dwelling on the works of Vedanāyagam



Śāstriyār and Abraham Paṇḍitar in detail. The second presentation by **Dr. V B Arathi** dealt with a fitting refutation to the allegation of the Karnatic music field being a 'Bastion of Brahminical Patriarchy', which she handled by raising some fundamental questions about the two parts of the topic. The final paper by **Dr. V Ramanathan** of IIT-BHU was a fairly detailed critique of Śrī T M Krishna's book '*A Southern Music – The Karnatic Story*', questioning the flawed methodology followed and the drastic conclusions that are drawn. The final session concluded with the Prof. K S Kannan's remarks on the three papers.

Audience involvement and participation in the form of Q&A made all sessions lively and interactive.

The **valedictory session** was a brief one, with **Śrī V Nagaraj**, Secretary of the Mythic Society (which is partnering with IFI to bring out the conference proceedings) and **Dr. Deepti Navaratna**, Director of IGNC - Regional Centre, Bengaluru, delivering short addresses summing-up the day's proceedings. This was followed by the Vote of Thanks delivered by Prof. Kannan, concluding the day's events.

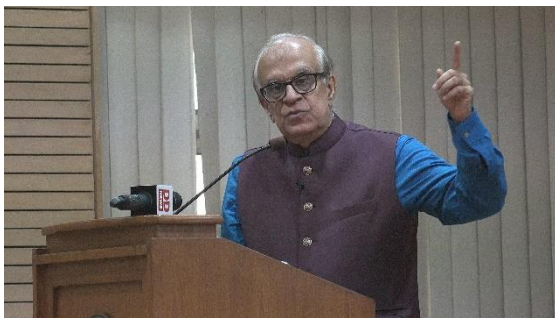




Swadeshi Indology Conference 6

Saraswati: A Paradigm Shift in Indology

The **sixth Swadeshi Indology conference** titled *Saraswati: A Paradigm Shift in Indology*, in association with the Bharat Patriot Foundation, was conducted at **Delhi University** on the **1 and 2 August 2019** and brought into highlight the key breakthroughs in research on the River Saraswati Civilization. **Sri Rajiv Malhotra chaired the inaugural session** of the conference and outlined the importance of the Aryan Invasion Debate, its historicity and continued consequences to the present times.



Major General Dr. G.D. Bakshi traced the structure and objectives of the seminar and **Shri Prahlad Singh Patel**, the Union Minister for Culture delivered the Inaugural Address. **Padma Bhushan B.B. Lal** spoke in his keynote address of the major milestones that have marked research into the Saraswati Civilization.

Dr. Vasanth Shinde in his talk presented the key points of his team's archaeological research at the burial sites of Rakhigarhi. Dr. Shinde outlined that DNA samples had been collected from the sites utmost care and were being subject to genome sequencing, which would have crucial consequences for the **identity of the Harappans**. He highlighted that the nature of artefacts collected point to the Harappan Civilization being Vedic in nature. The second session of the conference focused on **Satellite Imagery and Geological Evidence**.

Dr. **B.K Bhadra** from ISRO presented detailed **multi resolution satellite studies of the river Saraswati** in northern Haryana. He spoke of the specifics of the remote sensing techniques used to study the paleo channels of the river and related results and analysis. **Dr. A.R Chaudhury** in his paper *Monotonic Weakening of the Monsoons: Cause of Desiccation of Sarasvati?* presented research into the river system from **tectonic and seismic perspectives** including studies of lamination, analysis of the grains deposited by the river along the paleo belt.

The third session of the conference had **Padma Shri R.S. Bisht** present an overview of the archaeological work done on the subject and **points of convergence between Harappans and Rig Veda**. **Dr.**



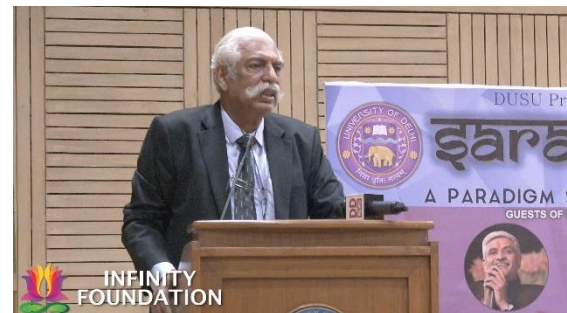
Sanjay Manjul presented his recent findings on the horse chariot unearthed during excavations as well as discovery of the oldest helmet in the world. The fourth session of the conference, on **DNA Mapping**, focused on results from DNA studies to address **questions related to the identities of the people of Sarasvati Civilization**.

Dr. Gyaneshwar Chaube presented his paper titled *The Question of Aryan Migration through the lens of Y-Chromosomal Haplogroup R1a*. Dr. Chaubey's conclusions pointed to the result that maternal gene-pool of Indians, including speakers of Indo-European and Dravidian languages, is nearly uniform. **Dr. Swarkar Sharma** presented his paper on *Indian Origin of Caste System and existence of Ancient Pre-Historic Content* that led to a deeper understanding of genetic origins of Indian civilization.

The fifth session of the conference focused on **Linguistic and Scriptural Evidence**. **Dr. Kalyanaraman** and **Dr. Rammohan** presented their paper on *The Indus Script: Linguistic and Scriptural Evidence about Saraswati in the Vedas*. Both the speakers highlighted the **role of the Sarasvati civilization in the Tin-Bronze metal revolution** of the 4th millennium BCE. **Manogna Sastry** and **Megh Kalyanasundaram** presented two papers - *Sarasvati in the Mahabharata: A study and*

Aryan problem from the perspective of textual evidence and linguistics.

In their first paper, the authors' presented their **database of 222 verses** of Sarasvatī from the BORI critical edition of the *Mahābhārata* and their results to **explore the possibility of a terminus ante quem for the Mahabharata**. In their second presentation, the authors highlighted the **important Indic assets which are at stake in the issue** i.e. the consequence that the earliest forms of Vedic culture and Sanskrit are not indigenous to India. Their paper examined issues with linguistics being the primary domain of study in the topic, specific problems in historical Indo-European linguistics while conducting a through a study of the terms *ārya* and *drāviḍa* in a range of Indic texts.



The **valedictory session** had **Major General Dr. Bakshi** brainstorm the way forward to take the findings presented over the course of the two days to public knowledge. He delivered the vote of thanks, bringing to conclusion the sixth Swadeshi Indology conference.

