



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

UNDERSTANDING HINDUDVESHHA IN THE GLOBALISING WORLD



Date : 1st April 2023

Venue : Speaker Hall, Constitution Club of India

Jointly Organised by

**World Hindu Council
of America (VHPA)**

**Kashi Foundation
New Delhi**

**Hindu University
of America**

**Uttamjan Family Trust
New Delhi**

Supported by | Prof. K K Mittal Memorial Foundation

Concept Note

Hindudvesha, more popularly known by its cognate term, Hinduphobia, refers to a pervasive discourse that denigrates Hindu Dharma by relentlessly demonizing it. Its accusatory rhetoric posits that there is something fundamentally wrong, evil, and demonic about Hindu Dharma and its followers. This discourse is generated in the academia, infiltrates educational curricula, and is carried forward by the global media, so much so that it dominates the public square today.

Linking Hinduism with backwardness and primitivity, hierarchy and oppression, this discourse freezes Hindu Dharma in time as obsolete and irrelevant and continues to produce a form of incontestable “received knowledge” about the Hindus. The narrative structure of Hindudvesha, which projects the Western culture as axiomatically superior, can be traced back to the Christian theological understanding of ‘heathen’ religions as inherently false, and advanced by generations of Western social scientists and their numerous native collaborators, i.e., ‘intellectual sepoys’ – both in India and abroad.

While the harsh racial and religious overtones of the colonial period have softened somewhat in the post-colonial era, the metamorphosis is only superficial. A variety of Western intellectual frameworks of thought is being brought to bear on a mission that has largely remained the same, i.e., complete ethnocide of the Hindu society and absorption of its essence into other, preferably Abrahamic or Secular traditions.

In recent times, Hindudvesha has taken on a more visible and vocal Hinduphobic form. The full spectrum of anti-Hindu behavior now ranges from desecration of Hindu sacred sites, aggressive and coercive proselytization of Hindu populations, calls for destroying Hinduism in the guise of Dismantling Global Hindutva, and targeted violence against individuals and institutions.

Unfortunately, a large cross-section of the Hindu society remains unaware and/or apathetic to the clear and present danger that this anti-Hindu sentiment poses to their physical and material well-being, making it challenging to engage the Hindu society in developing effective responses to this threat. Hindus over the centuries have learnt to turn a blind eye towards the gathering storms until danger visits their doorstep and focus their energies on more immediate concerns.

Purpose of this Conference

The conference aims to raise the awareness of the global Hindu society about the growing threat to the Hindu culture and civilization, from the rising tide of Hindudvesha around the world. In addition, it hopes to engage the intellectual community in studying this phenomenon and developing an effective narrative and capacity to counter it.

During this one-day conference, our eminent speakers and panelists will discuss the historical roots of Hindudvesha, its transformation in contemporary times, and how it manifests itself to the detriment of the global Hindu community.

Organizational Backgrounds

Established in 1970, **World Hindu Council of America (VHPA)** is the oldest non-for-profit Hindu organization in the United States of America with the vision to achieve “a dynamic, vibrant Hindu Society inspired by the eternal values of Dharma, and the lofty ideal of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.” It runs numerous programs including educations for youth to ensure inter-generational continuity of the eternal Hindu values, advocacy initiatives to protect the interests of Hindu Americans, to dispel misconceptions about Hindu Dharma in the West, and humanitarian programs to help society at large.

Among its many activities is **Hindudvesha.Org**, an initiative it runs jointly with **Dharma Civilization Foundation (DCF)**, also a US-based nonprofit Hindu organization. **Hindudvesha.Org** aims to explore and expose the sustained and pervasive denigrating narrative about Hindu Dharma and Hindu society (also known as **Hinduphobia**) through research, analysis and education.

Hindu University of America (HUA) was established in 1989 and was authorized in 1993 to provide students with a unique academic environment to explore the knowledge systems rooted in and emerging from Vedic thought i.e. the philosophies, traditions, culture, and civilization that has come to be called Hinduism in the popular imagination.

The **Kashi Foundation** is a Non-Governmental Organisation. We aim to promote and propagate the Culture, Knowledge, Tourism, and Heritage of the oldest living city in the World, Kashi. We are also doing rigorous study and research about Kashi/ Varanasi/ Banaras to help our society and world objectively analyze the past and present of the city.

Kashi Foundation works with academicians, researchers, thinkers, domain experts, activists, and policymakers for a multi-dimensional reflection of the Kashi region. This vast diversity of our experts helps us to ensure the best quality research and analysis of various dimensions of Kashi. Since 2013, KF (Previously Kashi Study Circle) has been engaged in public discourse on issues related to the glorious past and current situation of the city.

Prof. Mittal started a family foundation named after his parents **shri Janakidas mittal** and **smt. Uttami Devi** as **Uttamjan family trust** to preserve and promote Hinduism in its widest form including buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism as the tradition of Hindu nationalism and promote **prof. Mittal's** thoughts on the same. The foundation is managed by his family preserving his memories, his works and his relations with various organisations. The foundation majorly focuses on promoting the scholarly works of people working in the same area of study. Academically as well as socially.

09:30AM-11:00 AM – INAUGURAL SESSION

11:00AM-11:30 AM – TEA BREAK

11:30 AM - 01:00 PM – HINDUDVESHA IN HISTORICAL & CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT

The roots of Hindudvesha phenomenon can be traced back to Bharat's colonial history. From the invading hordes of the Islamic zealots to the Portuguese Christian missionaries to the British Anglicans and the European academics, Marxists and Neo-Capitalists, myriad of actors has played their respective parts in trying to eliminate our physical and cultural existence.

While Bharat's colonialization by foreign powers ended in the middle of the 20th century, the framework of denigrating narrative developed during the colonial era has continued to flourish. The overt racial slurs of James Mill and his ilk have been replaced with a slightly more politically correct discourse about Hindus and Hindu Dharma. However, the aim has not changed, i.e., the absorption of the essence of Hindu traditions into Abrahamic or secular frameworks. The anti-Hindu narrative developed by the academia is quickly picked up by the news and social media and propagated/amplified at the speed of the internet.

This panel will attempt to examine the phenomenon of building and propagating the anti-Hindu narrative in our times and will discuss its impact on the Hindu society at large.

01:00PM-02:00 PM – LUNCH

02:00 AM - 03:30 PM – DEVELOPING COUNTER-NARRATIVE: ROLE OF ACADEMICS

As noted in the 1st Technical Sessions, the Western academia plays a major role in building the anti-Hindu narrative. Their efforts are aided by scholars of Bhartiya origin, typical under the influence of leftist/nihilistic ideologies or seduced by lucrative offers of fellowships at “prestigious” institutions like Oxford, Harvard, and Stanford etc.

Raising the awareness of the ethnocidal role played by the western academics and their native “intellectual sepoys” is the primary focus of this panel, with the ultimate goal of attracting some scholars to join in the effort to build a counter-narrative to the fight the pervasive phenomenon of Hindudvesha.

03:30 PM - 05:00 PM – VALEDICTORY SESSION

K K MEMORIAL LECTURE

05:00 PM-05:30 PM – HIGH TEA

*Email : kaashifoundation@gmail.com, kalyan.viswanathan@hua.edu,
jai.bansal@vhp-america.org, Contact No. : 9990130800, 9958854192*