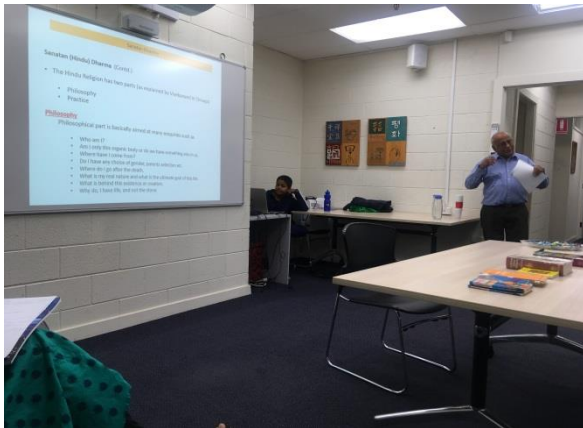


The first of the series of lectures on Hindu Dharma was successfully organised under the aegis of HOTA on Saturday 30 April 2018.

The audience included executive members of three organisations Adelaide Nepal, BAPS Swaminarayan Temple and Vaishnav Sangh of Adelaide. We also had three academic researchers and three young students among the attendees.

That topic was **History of Hindu Dharma** where the speaker Shri Kewal Suri ji, did an excellent job of putting the pieces together for the documented history of our religion, packing 5000 years of history in a 90 minute interactive presentation.



In particular, the graphs and tables showing the timeline of Sanatan Dharma were very well received.

The participants found the information about the modern history of Dharma also very intriguing and eye opening.

The participants thanked Shri Kewal Suri ji for sharing his in depth research and interacted actively throughout the session.

Some questions that were asked by participants included:

1. The documented history puts known history of Hindu Dharma at 3000 BCE but it is widely believed that Shri Ram existed during 5000 BCE. Why is there a disparity?
2. Did Krishna exist?
3. Were Gods introduced in our Dharma after Vedas?
4. What were Shrutis and what was the origin of Vedas?
5. Are the stories in Puranas real or myths? Any evidence of the same?
6. 'The Heart of India' by Nirad Chaudhary has explained several Hindu practices such as cow worship. Are his statements true or was Nirad an Anglophile?
7. How is Hindu concept of 'Yugas' explained in terms of the known history that is only 5000 years old and appearance of Homo sapiens 200,000 years ago?
8. Did Ramayan and Mahabharat reflect true stories and when these events occurred?
9. Relationship between Shrimad Bhagwatam and Bhagwat Gita.
10. Why are there several versions of Ramayana?
11. Importance of Vedas in modern times.

This session is intended to be a conversation starter so that the Hindu community in South Australia can collectively and proactively create an information resource pool for us and our future generations.

The participants were requested to suggest future topics and forward questions that they may have. We are in the process of setting up a research group who would then find the answers of all such questions and share it with everyone.

The next topics planned are:

May 2018 *History and relevance of Vedas in modern times* by Shri Raghu Ramachandran
June 2018 *Philosophy of Hindu Dharma* by Shri Kewal Suri