

14th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE *on* **SPIRITUALITY AND CONSCIOUSNESS FOR HUMAN WELL - BEING IN THE ERA OF GLOBAL CRISES**

6th & 7th February, 2027 | Venue : SMS, Varanasi

SELECTED
PAPERS SHALL BE
CONSIDERED FOR
PUBLICATION IN A
SCOPUS-INDEXED
JOURNAL

3

BEST PAPER
AWARDS



SPIRITUAL
TOUR OF
VARANASI &
AYODHYA



Conference Secretariat

Centre for Spiritualism and Human Enrichment

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14th International Conference on Spirituality and Consciousness for Human Well-Being in the Era of Global Crises

(February 6th and 7th, 2027)



About School of Management Sciences

The School of Management Sciences was established in 1995 as an institution of higher learning in Varanasi, one of the most ancient cities of the world and the cultural and spiritual capital of India. SMS strives to provide top-quality management and technical education to students and help them become skilful along with excellent human beings, full of ethical and moral attributes.

SMS, Varanasi, an autonomous college, is approved by the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Ministry of Education, Government of India, New Delhi; affiliated with Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow, and Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi; and is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) under Sections 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act. SMS, Varanasi has been accredited with an 'A' Grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The Institute offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including MBA, MCA, M.Com. BBA, BCA, B.Com. (Hons.), and B.A. (Hons.) in Mass Communication.

School of Management Sciences (SMS) offers a vibrant future-ready academic environment with one of the region's finest modern campuses. Spread across lush green surroundings, the campus is equipped with seamless Wi-Fi connectivity, centrally air-conditioned classrooms, and eight state-of-the-art computer laboratories. Committed to academic excellence and holistic development, SMS delivers a dynamic, industry-responsive curriculum enriched with experiential learning opportunities, research, innovation, and global engagement. The Institute strives to nurture competent professionals and responsible leaders by fostering ethical values, critical thinking, and a spirit of lifelong learning. This commitment has positioned SMS as a distinguished centre for higher education, intellectual discourse, and meaningful collaboration among academia, industry, policymakers, and society.

Centre For Spiritualism and Human Enrichment

Founded in 2003 at the School of Management Sciences, the Centre for Spiritualism and Human Enrichment (CSHE) serves as a pioneering platform dedicated to advancing the integration of spiritual wisdom with contemporary management thought. Through value-based education, research, and scholarly engagement, the Centre seeks to foster human enrichment and promote holistic approaches to leadership, organisational excellence, and societal well-being.

Over the years, the Centre has emerged as a leading forum for promoting dialogue on spirituality, ethical leadership, human values, and holistic well-being in addressing contemporary individual, organisational, and societal challenges. It has consistently advanced spiritual wisdom through organising numerous national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, and academic deliberations. The Centre has made significant scholarly contributions through the publication of books and conference proceedings that disseminate knowledge at the intersection of spirituality, management, and human development. Among its flagship initiatives is *Purushartha: A Journal of Management, Ethics and Spirituality*, an internationally recognised, Scopus-indexed Q1 journal (Elsevier) with a strong global readership and academic impact.

Committed to expanding access to knowledge, the Centre also develops and disseminates high-quality, freely accessible digital learning resources, fostering wider engagement with the principles of spirituality, ethics, and human enrichment across diverse communities.

About the Conference

Spirituality and Consciousness for Human Well-Being in the Era of Global Crises

The increasing prevalence of global crises, including climate change, pandemics, geopolitical conflicts, mental health challenges, technological disruptions, social inequalities, and economic uncertainties, has underscored the need for holistic approaches to human well-being. Spirituality and consciousness offer transformative pathways for cultivating resilience, ethical leadership, sustainable living, and collective flourishing.

At its core, spirituality provides a framework for meaning that extends beyond material success, helping people confront the deeper questions of purpose that become especially urgent during uncertain times. Spirituality is best understood as an inner resource - a lens through which individuals, communities, and institutions can relate to purpose, interconnection, and impermanence, enabling them to face crises with steadiness rather than fear. This resonates across the many worlds this conference brings together: for educators and policymakers shaping systems, for spiritual leaders and civil society actors working directly with communities, and for management professionals and psychologists seeking sustainable models of leadership and care.

Consciousness

Consciousness, the capacity for reflective self-awareness enables individuals to recognise and transcend habitual patterns of thought and bias, creating the possibility for mindful, ethical, and transformative choices.

This has direct bearing on well-being, since much psychological distress and unsustainable behaviour arise not from a lack of information but from unexamined mental conditioning. Long before modern psychology explored these ideas, contemplative traditions had already developed sophisticated frameworks for working with the mind.

Patanjali's Yoga Sutra expresses this with precision:

Whether one engages as a researcher, practitioner, policymaker, or spiritual guide, the understanding that consciousness is not fixed but can be consciously cultivated provides a unifying foundation for dialogue across disciplines, professions, and cultural traditions.

नास्ति बुद्धिरयुक्तस्य न चायुक्तस्य भावना ।
न चाभावयतः शान्तिरशान्तस्य कुतः सुखम् ॥ 66 ॥

(Bhagavad Gita 2.66)

But an undisciplined person who has not controlled the mind and senses can neither have a resolute intellect nor steady contemplation on consciousness. For one who never unites the mind with the inner self, there is no peace; and how can one who lacks peace be happy?

Human Well-Being:

Most contemporary frameworks in policy, institutions, and public discourse continue to measure well-being through economic and infrastructural markers: GDP, healthcare access, disaster readiness etc. A more complete understanding of well-being, however, must also account for its psychological, social, and existential dimensions: belonging, purpose, and inner stability. Traditions of thought across cultures offer an expansive vision of this idea, captured in the ancient invocation.

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः ।
सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः ॥

(Sarve bhavantu sukhinah, sarve santu niramayah)

(Brihadnayaaka Upanishad 1.4.14)

May all be happy, may all be free from illness

This reframes well-being as a collective condition rather than a purely individual pursuit - a perspective with direct relevance for leaders, policymakers, educators, and community actors alike, each working to build environments where well-being isn't siloed but shared.

Era of Global Crises

The present era is defined by a convergence of interconnected global challenges - climate change, pandemics, ecological degradation, geopolitical uncertainty, and an unprecedented rise in mental health concerns. What distinguishes this moment is not merely the scale of these crises, but their simultaneity and interdependence, placing extraordinary cognitive, emotional, and ethical demands on individuals, communities, institutions, and societies worldwide. In this context, spirituality, consciousness, and well-being are no longer peripheral or abstract ideals; they emerge as essential foundations for resilience, responsible leadership, and sustainable human flourishing.

Addressing these complex challenges demands the very plurality of perspectives that this conference seeks to bring together: scholars and students advancing new knowledge; spiritual leaders and civil society contributing lived wisdom and ethical insight; and policymakers, management professionals, and practitioners translating ideas into meaningful action. Through this dialogue, the conference aspires to foster resilience that is embedded not only in policies, technologies, and institutions, but also in the consciousness, character, and capacities of the people who sustain them.

Chapter 6, verse 17 of the Bhagavad Gita says

युक्ताहारविहारस्य युक्तचेष्टस्य कर्मसु । युक्तस्वप्नावबोधस्य योगो भवति दुःखहा ॥:

This shloka talks about maintaining a balance in life, in comfort and effort, in work and sleep, and indulgence and restriction. It says that those who can walk the fine line between excess and just enough can remove their problems and worries with the practice of Yoga.

This 14th edition of the conference seeks to explore how spirituality and consciousness can contribute to individual flourishing, ethical leadership, organisational resilience, societal harmony, and sustainable development. It welcomes interdisciplinary perspectives from management, psychology, education, health sciences, philosophy, neuroscience, environmental studies, and public policy for meaningful exchange and scholarly engagement.

Conference Objectives

The conference aims to achieve several key objectives that will foster meaningful discourse and collaboration across disciplines. These objectives include:

- To provide an international interdisciplinary platform for discussion on spirituality, consciousness, and human well-being.
- To examine the role of spiritual and consciousness-based approaches in responding to global crises.
- To encourage dialogue between Indian knowledge traditions and contemporary academic, social, and managerial thought.
- To explore practical pathways for integrating spirituality and human values with education, leadership, governance, health, and social life.
- To promote original research, conceptual inquiry, and case-based reflection on well-being and crisis response.
- To strengthen academic and institutional networks around spirituality, consciousness, and human enrichment.

Thematic Clusters

In an increasingly fragmented global environment marked by conflict, ecological distress, technological anxiety, social alienation, and mental health concerns, through its thematic clusters, the conference offers not merely philosophical reflection on spirituality and consciousness, but practical and transformative pathways for restoring human balance, resilience, ethical clarity, and collective well-being.

Track 1: Foundations of Consciousness, Spirituality, and Well-Being

- Conceptual foundations of spirituality and consciousness
- Human flourishing, meaning, and purpose in life
- Subjective well-being, inner balance, and emotional wellness
- Happiness studies and positive psychology
- Comparative perspectives on well-being across cultures and traditions
- Civic consciousness

Track 2: Mental Health, Mindfulness, and Integrative Healing

- Psychological resilience and coping during crises
- Spiritual approaches to stress, anxiety, and burnout
- Trauma, healing, and post-crisis recovery
- Neuroscience of contemplation and spiritual experiences
- Meditation, attention, and emotional regulation
- Mind-body-spirit approaches to health
- Preventive healthcare and spiritual practices
- Healing traditions and integrative wellness
- Conscious living for physical and mental health

Track 3: Indian Knowledge Systems and Indigenous Wisdom Traditions

- Indic perspectives on self, consciousness, and well-being
- Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, Yoga, and Vedantic insights
- Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Sufi, and other wisdom traditions
- Indian philosophy and holistic living
- Comparative spirituality and global wisdom traditions
- Traditional knowledge systems for contemporary challenges

Track 4: Conscious Leadership, Governance, and Value-Based Organizations

- Mindful, ethical, and spiritual leadership
- Spiritual intelligence in management
- Workplace well-being and value-based organizations
- Responsible public leadership and inclusive development
- Value-based governance and ethical public administration
- Compassion, trust, and integrity in institutions
- Spiritual entrepreneurship and ESG integration

Track 5: Holistic Education, Pedagogy, and Human Potential

- Holistic and value-based education
- Consciousness in pedagogy and curriculum design
- Character development and moral education
- Social-emotional learning (SEL) and mindfulness in education
- Role of educators and institutions in human development
- Unlocking human potential and building future-ready learning ecosystems

Track 6: Technology, Innovation, and Digital Well-Being

- Artificial intelligence, ethics, and consciousness
- Digital overload and psychological well-being
- Attention economy and mindful technology use
- Responsible innovation and future consciousness
- Technology-mediated life, virtual reality, and human identity
- Digital well-being and conscious technology design
- Human-centred innovation and emerging technologies

Track 7: Ecological Consciousness, Planetary Health, and Sustainability

- Spiritual ecology and environmental ethics
- Conscious consumption, well-being economics, and sustainable lifestyles
- Human–nature relationships across knowledge traditions
- Climate change, ecological responsibility, and well-being
- Circular economy and planetary health
- Ecological consciousness for sustainable development
- Indigenous ecological wisdom and environmental stewardship

Track 8: Peace, Social Harmony, and Compassionate Communities

- Interfaith dialogue, cooperation, and shared ethical values
- Pluralism, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence
- Religion, spirituality, and peace-building

- Faith-based approaches to conflict resolution and reconciliation
- Conflict transformation and human solidarity
- Social cohesion, migration, and cultural identity
- Compassion, empathy, and collective healing
- Community well-being and social responsibility

Track 9: Youth, Identity, and Navigating Futures in a Changing World

- Youth aspirations and existential concerns
- Identity, purpose, and sense of belonging
- Spirituality and youth mental well-being
- Navigating global uncertainty through conscious living
- Cultural resilience and youth community empowerment
- Ethical innovation and social entrepreneurship led by youth
- Building future-ready, resilient societies

The given sub-themes are not exhaustive. Any topic in CONSONANCE with the main theme may be considered for participation.

Registration Fee

Category	Registration Up to 31st October, 2026	Registration After 31st October, 2026
Academicians	INR 3500/-	INR 4000/-
Industry Delegates	INR 4000/-	INR 5000/-
Research Scholars/Students	INR 1500/-	INR 2000/-
SMS Alumni	INR 1500/-	INR 2000/-
Foreign National	USD 200/-	USD 250/-

The Registration fee will include the participation fee, conference kit, Conference Souvenir and conference meals.

Mode of Payment

Payment of Registration charges shall be made either through a DD in favour of “**Convenor, School of Management Sciences**” payable at Varanasi (India) or through electronic transfer/ UPI in the account whose details are given below. Participants are requested to retain the registration receipt to produce at the registration counter at the venue.

Name of the Account : CONVENOR, SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES
Account Number : 408002010007420
Bank Name : UNION BANK OF INDIA
Address : Chetganj Branch, Hathua Market, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
IFSC Code : UBIN0540803
SWIFT Code : UBININBBVRN
(For foreign wire transfers)
Branch Code : 540803



Guidelines for papers

- The abstract of not more than 350 words, excluding title and references, should be sent by **31st October, 2026**. The track under which the abstract should be considered should be clearly mentioned.
- After the acceptance of the abstract contributors are required to send the full Paper with 3000-5000 words including tables and figures by **November 20th, 2026**. The text should be double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font with a 1.5-inch margin on all sides
- The cover page should contain the title of the paper, the author's name and a brief profile along with their email IDs and contact numbers.
- The author's name should not appear anywhere in the paper except on the cover page. It facilitates the blind review process.
- The author should submit one separate sheet with an abstract, a summary of the paper and keywords, along with the full paper.
- References should be cited at the end of the paper in APA 7th format. This list should mention only those sources cited in the text of the paper.
- All the tables and figures must have captions and should be serially numbered.
- The author will certify that the material is unpublished and original. It is the responsibility of the author to obtain permission to reprint previously published material with copyright restrictions.
- Correspondence and proofs for correction will be sent to the first-named author.
- **The selected papers will be published in a book bearing an ISBN.**
- Participants may submit their abstract and full Paper online at www.icon.smsvaranasi.com or by mail to icon2027@smsvaranasi.com. The paper ID generated thereafter will be used for all future references.

Selected papers will be published in the form of an ISBN edited book

Particulars	Abstracts	Full Paper
Length	350 words excluding title & references	3500- 5000 words, including title, references, tables and figures
Margins from all sides	1.5 inch	1.5 inch
Font	Times New Roman, 12 points	Times New Roman, 12 points
Spacing between lines	Double	Double
Title Page	Title, Author(s), affiliation(s), sub-theme under which abstract should be considered, contact details	Title, Author(s), affiliation(s), sub-theme under which paper has been sent, contact details
Keywords	Maximum Five	Maximum Five

Conference Sessions

The conference will comprise the following four sessions:

- Inaugural Session
- Plenary Sessions
- Technical Sessions
- Valedictory Session

Spiritual Tour of Varanasi & Ayodhya

This tour provides participants a unique opportunity to experience the spiritual essence of two of India's most revered cities, Varanasi and Ayodhya. Known as the spiritual and cultural heart of India, Varanasi is famous for its ancient temples, sacred Ghats along the River Ganges, and its vibrant tradition of mysticism, philosophy, and Hinduism. The tour includes visits to significant sites, iconic Hindu temples, and various locations of spiritual learning.

In addition to Varanasi, the tour will take participants to Ayodhya, an ancient city revered as the birthplace of Lord Rama and an important pilgrimage site for followers of Hinduism. Here, participants can immerse themselves in the spiritual ambience of temples and heritage sites that showcase Ayodhya's deep cultural and religious legacy.

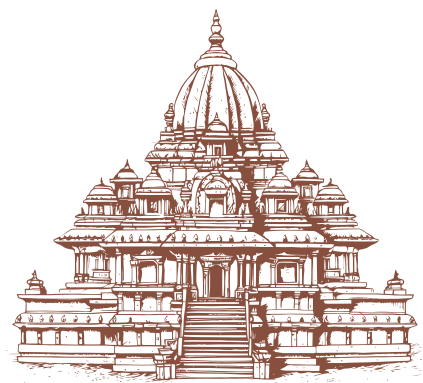
This combined tour offers a profound exploration of India's spiritual heritage, allowing participants to witness rituals, traditions, and the timeless wisdom of these sacred cities.

- **Indian Nationals** : **INR 3000/-**
- **Foreign Nationals** : **USD 75/-**

Important Dates

Abstract Submission	31st October 2026
Communication of Abstract Acceptance	10th November 2026
Full-length paper Submission	20th November 2026
Communication of Full-length paper Acceptance	30th November 2026

Authors are requested to submit abstracts and full papers by clicking the button '**Online Paper Submission**' on the conference website www.icon.smsvaranasi.com



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