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The **संवाAD** Project

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National Interfaith Summit

The Samvaad National Interfaith Summit is a day-long virtual conference on interfaith work, with a special emphasis on dialogue. With the core theme being interfaith explorations, the sub-themes that the Summit will explore include:

- Need for dialogue in the current context
- Relevance of interfaith content in mainstream education
- Bridge-builders in the history of the sub-continent

Descriptions of the sub-themes

Need for dialogue in the current context

While dialogue has been a major facet of Indic philosophy and hence been practised in the subcontinent from ancient times, colonisation and the impact of modern religious and social practices have disconnected us from dialogue both in spirit and in practice. We have a lot of debates and opinions in every aspect of our lives: political, social, economic, and even personal. However, the ability to dialogue need to be reclaimed for us to engage in everyday peacebuilding.

Relevance of interfaith content in mainstream education

Faith is often associated directly with religion. However, we invest our faith in several ideas, persons, and things: faith therefore encompasses religion, capitalism, lifestyle, gender, class, caste, sexual orientation, political systems, etc. Very often, individuals do not have clarity on what their faith is, because it is not a matter of inquiry. This leads to personal and societal actions and choices coming from a deeply unconscious drive, justified later as practical compulsions. The case for interfaith education at all levels is in order to fuel the capacity for self-inquiry and co-living.

Bridge-builders in the history of the sub-continent

The Indian sub-continent has a rich history of bridge-builders that have inspired us to meld seemingly paradoxical spaces and stances. Kabir bridged the spiritual and the material, Gandhi bridged the political and the spiritual, Sai Baba bridged Hinduism and Islam, Andal bridged the worldly and beyond. And there are hundreds of others, even in our contemporary milieu doing this work. In times of polarisation, it is hugely energising to draw inspiration from these bridge-builders, and to invoke their teachings within ourselves and our current systems.

Invitation

Under the aegis of the US State Department and the US Consulate General, Mumbai, Seeds of Peace India has the opportunity to offer the Samvaad National Interfaith Summit as an open, free-of-cost opportunity for participants to attend. You are invited to participate and attend if you are:

- A university or school level educator
- A student (we encourage high school and university level students to attend, given the nature of content)
- A faith leader
- A journalist
- A policy or lawmaker/ legal professional
- A dialogue practitioner or a representative of a dialogue forum
- A peacebuilding organisation
- Any manner of civil society stakeholder in how faith shapes society
- A participant of The Samvaad Project (initiated by Seeds of Peace India in April 2021)
- A conscious citizen who is curious about faith and wants to participate actively in everyday peacebuilding

While the conference is India based and will cater to working hours in Indian Standard Time (IST), we are happy to receive participation from any part of the world since we believe this work is relevant across the globe.

Call for Papers, Workshops and Short-format talks

The Samvaad National Interfaith Summit is aimed at established and budding practitioners of interfaith work. We appreciate the foundation of academic lens as we work with this aim, and hope to curate content that bridges the gap between academe and practice. While none of these are paid assignments, we hope you will benefit from the exposure both online during the conference and in the future through the recordings accessed on our social media platforms. In this spirit, we invite proposals for the following:

Paper presentations (90 minutes)

Original papers related to the sub-themes are welcome to be submitted for the Summit. The timelines are as follows:

Abstract submission | 20 October 2021
Notification of acceptance | 25 October 2021
Full paper submission | 15 November 2021
Conference date | 11 December 2021

Paper submission guidelines

You are initially required to submit an abstract related to any of the Summit sub-themes. Please note the following regarding submission of abstracts:

- The last date for submitting an abstract is Wednesday, 20 October 2021.
- Please send in a brief author's biography with the abstract.

- Submissions must be in English (Paper presentations at the Summit may be in English or Hindi, if you can self-organise a Hindi-English translator for the benefit of the audience).
- The word limit for abstracts is 250-300 words. Include a summary of your proposed paper, 5 (five) key words, title of the paper, its purpose, methodology, analysis, conclusions and implications.
- Communication regarding acceptance/rejection of the submitted abstract will be sent to you via email by 25 October 2021.
- All abstracts need to be emailed to seedsofpeaceindia@gmail.com with the subject line 'Abstract for Paper Presentation at SNIS'

Style guidelines for papers

- The last date for full paper submission is Monday, 15 November 2021.
- Papers published previously in any journal or presented in any conference are not acceptable for the Samvaad National Interfaith Summit 2021. The accepted papers will be part of the Samvaad Handbook for Interfaith Facilitators that will be published by Seeds of Peace India and released during the Summit.
- Manuscripts must be double-spaced (including lengthy quotations, endnotes, references, tables, and appendix materials).
- Manuscripts should not exceed 15 pages (excluding abstract, references, tables and figures) in A4 size.
- The length of the paper should not exceed 4000 words.
- Margins must be at least one inch on all sides.
- Each table and figure must appear on a separate page, with its location indicated in the text (e.g., "Table I about here") on a separate line.
- On the cover page, provide the manuscript title, names of all authors, and all authors' professional titles, affiliations, and complete addresses, including phone number and email id. The cover page should also include any acknowledgements, credits, and grant information. To ensure anonymous review of the manuscript, do not include on any other pages any information that could identify authorship.
- Following the cover page, provide a page with the paper title and an abstract of no more than 250-300 words. The abstract should accompany five key words. Do not use footnotes; provide endnotes on a separate page immediately following the text, under the heading 'Notes'. Endnotes should offer significant statements, not merely cite references.
- Authors of manuscripts accepted for publication must supply camera-ready artwork for any figures accompanying their respective papers.
- All papers accepted for publication become the property of Seeds of Peace India.
- All papers need to be emailed to seedsofpeaceindia@gmail.com with the subject line 'Paper for Presentation at SNIS'

Workshops (90 minutes)

Invitations are also open for proposals for online workshops (using the Zoom platform) of 90 minutes. The workshops can address any of the sub-themes of the Summit. Please note the timelines related to workshops:

Proposal submission | 20 October 2021
Notification of acceptance | 25 October 2021
Final workshop design submission | 15 November 2021
Conference date | 11 December 2021

Workshop Proposal Guide

- The last date for submitting a workshop proposal is Wednesday, 20 October 2021.
- Proposal submissions must be in English (Workshops at the Summit may be in English or Hindi, if you can self-organise a Hindi-English translator for the benefit of the audience).
- The word limit for proposals is 250-300 words. Include the title of the workshops, the learning objectives, methodology and approach and intended impact on participants.
- Please send in a brief biography of the workshop facilitator(s) with the proposal.
- Communication regarding acceptance/rejection of the workshop proposal will be sent to you via email by 25 October 2021.
- All proposals need to be emailed to seedsofpeaceindia@gmail.com with the subject line 'Workshop Proposal for SNIS'

Short Format Talks (12-15 minutes)

You are required to submit a short-format talk proposal related to any of the Summit sub-themes. Please note the following regarding submission of proposals:

- The last date for submitting a short-format talk proposal is Wednesday, 20 Oct. 2021.
- Proposal submissions must be in English, as must be the talks themselves.
- The word limit for proposals is 250-300 words. Include the title of the talk and summarise the idea being explored.
- Please send in a brief biography of the speaker with the proposal.
- Communication regarding acceptance/rejection of the short-format talk proposal will be sent to you via email by 25 October 2021.
- If needed, the selected speakers may be coached with respect to speaking and presentation skills after the final script is submitted.
- All proposals need to be emailed to seedsofpeaceindia@gmail.com with the subject line 'Proposal for Short-Format Talk at SNIS'

Publication

Seeds of Peace India will be publishing a Samvaad Handbook for Interfaith Facilitators as a part of the Summit. The publication will include papers submitted for the Summit, session plans for interfaith dialogue co-created by participants of The Samvaad Project, and other resources authored, edited, and compiled by The Samvaad Project facilitators. If you are keen to contribute in terms of content to the publication, please reach us at

uchanda@seedsofpeace.org.

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

To participate in the Samvaad National Interfaith Summit on **11 December 2021**, please register your interest at <https://www.seedsofpeace.org/samvaad/>. You will be notified via email about the conference links.

For further enquiry, please contact **Rukmini Iyer**: rukmini@exult-solutions.com OR **Urmi Chanda**: uchanda@seedsofpeace.org