

Living Dharma

Nurturing World Citizenship

International conference | Vijayadashami
20 October 2026 | Amsterdam

A meeting of Dharmic wisdom, scholarship and public life,
exploring how shared responsibility becomes everyday action.

INFORMATION FOR INVITED GUESTS

Dialogue across academia and communities

Living Dharma brings together scholars, community representatives, educators, students and practitioners to explore ethical living, belonging and responsible world citizenship. The conference connects Hindu perspectives with research, intercultural dialogue and practical experience.

IN PERSON

Tuesday, 20 October 2026
12:00-19:00 CEST

Free admission · Registration required

VENUE

NU Building, Theatre 1
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Also online: 19 October, 12:00 to 20 October, 12:00 CEST.

All Amsterdam times in this brochure use Central European Summer Time (UTC+2).

School of Religion and Theology · Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

livingdharma2026.omrise.net

An afternoon of ideas and dialogue

Join the research showcase and informal lunch from 12:00. Registration for the main programme begins at 13:15; the formal opening is at 13:40.

12:00-13:00	Research showcase tour & informal lunch Guided presentation of publications, current research, Hindu Seminary courses and selected OMRISE articles.
13:15-13:40	Registration & welcome Check in and continue to the main plenary.
13:40-14:20	Opening ceremony & cultural welcome Ceremonial lamp lighting, Vedic Swastivachan (by Sukhada) followed by a classical dance tribute (by Ashwini Pathak). Opening blessings (approximately 13:40-14:00) include Girish Momaya of MERU Netherlands.
14:20-15:00	Keynote: Living Dharma in a Changing World By Sharda Nandram, author of Rethinking the University. Exploring how dharma can guide the creation, validation and responsible use of knowledge in a changing world.
15:00-15:45	Living Dharma - a Research Perspective By Puneet K. Bindlish.
15:45-16:15	Dharmic Organisations Showcase & coffee-tea break Meet dharmic organisations.
16:15-17:15	Parallel workshops & paper presentations Choose one participatory session. Final room allocations will be announced.
17:15-17:35	Plenary reflections & concluding vote of thanks With Sharda Nandram.
17:45-18:00	Cultural programme By Saumya Shukla. A shared celebration of culture and artistic expression.
18:00-19:00	Naivedyam Enjoy a culinary tour of sattvic temple-prasad varieties, celebrating recipes from across the Indian subcontinent - a shared table of gratitude, tradition and community.

Ways to participate

PARALLEL SESSIONS | 20 OCTOBER, 16:15-17:15

Sanskrit, Youth Identity and Cultural Belonging

Dr Sukhada | English

Living Dharma Hackathon

Puneet K. Bindlish | English

Dussehra Within: Choosing Dharma

Monique Baidjnath-Badloe | Bilingual Dutch/English

Meditation for Everyday Life

Nuthan Manohar | English

Yoga for Everyday Well-being

Ameya Krishna | English

Ayurveda for Everyday Well-being

Dr. Anita C. Nanhoe | Dutch

Living Dharma and World Peace

Girish Momaya | MERU Netherlands | English

You are Divine: An experiential introduction to the nondual philosophy of Vedanta

Brahmachari Somesh Chaitanya | English

Final workshop rooms will be announced. Please indicate your preferred session when registering.

SPICA Quest showcase | 15:45-16:15 | Dutch

Vaishnavi Ramlochan Tewarie and Melisa Ulug | Lobby Square

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING | 55 MINUTES

Be at Home Wherever You Are

Based on Prof. Sharda Nandram's book: migration stories connecting India, Suriname and the Netherlands through resilience and belonging.

Theatre 1: 12:00-12:55 Dutch | 16:15-17:15 English

Theatre 6: 15:45-16:45 Hindi | 16:45-17:45 Dutch

GLOBAL ONLINE PROGRAMME | 19-20 OCTOBER

19 October 12:00 to 20 October 12:00 CEST/CAT: 19 confirmed sessions across two tracks. The Special track on Living Dharma - Spirituality in Management includes Living Dharma and Neurosciences with Dr. Chandra Shekhar Mayanil, moderated by Ankur Joshi (19 October, 22:00-23:30). Ramakrishna Hosur joins Epistemic Dharma and Scientific Education in a University in the main track.

Explore the online programme and international timetable

We look forward to welcoming you

VENUE AND ATTENDANCE

New University Building (NU), Theatre 1
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
De Boelelaan 1111, 1081 HV Amsterdam, the Netherlands



Register for the conference

Admission is free. Registration supports planning for seating, catering and workshop capacity. For attendance arrangements or questions about your visit, please contact the organising team.

PROGRAMME AND ATTENDANCE ENQUIRIES

Puneet K. Bindlish · Assistant Professor, Lived Religion and Society

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For overseas visitor guidance, accommodation information and practical arrangements:

Gunjan Joshi · g.joshi@vu.nl

BEYOND THE CONFERENCE

Planned outcomes include recordings and summaries of talks and discussions, an OMRISE special issue on Living Dharma, and a tentative edited volume in the Higher Education Management, Economics and Policy book series. Publication plans remain subject to development and confirmation.

OMRISE magazine

Conference videos

PARTNERS, COLLABORATORS AND WELL-WISHERS

