

The 19th World Sanskrit Conference

December 17 – 21, 2024 • Kathmandu, Nepal

www.nepalworldsanskrit.org



First Circular and Call for Abstracts

We are delighted to announce that, as agreed by the International Association of Sanskrit Studies (IASS) at the 17th World Sanskrit Conference (Vancouver, Canada, 2018), the 19th World Sanskrit Conference will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal from December 17 to December 21, 2024. The 19th WSC will mark the safe return from the necessity of virtual meetings, induced by the pandemic, to the tradition of travelling to the conference venue to meet, in person, prominent Indologists and Sanskrit scholars from all over the world. It shall also be the fifth World Sanskrit Conference to be held in South Asia and the first ever to be held in Nepal – a land that has preserved some of the oldest Sanskrit manuscripts, inscriptions, and ancient monuments, where Mount Everest stands tall amid the Himalayas, where the Śākyamuni Buddha was born, and some of the greatest Sanskrit traditions flourished and thrived for centuries. And as such, we are most eager to welcome you to Kathmandu, the heart of the country and the crux of the culture that flourished north of the Gangetic plains throughout the ages.





General Information

The 19th World Sanskrit Conference (WSC) will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from the 17th to the 21st of December, 2024. The conference will adhere to the standard *modus operandi* followed by the preceding conferences: there shall be 22 regular thematic sections, and each section will have its Conveners, who will be in charge of evaluating and promoting individual papers for presentation at the conference and nominating the session chairs. Moreover, the Conveners will eventually oversee the selection and edition of papers for publication in the conference proceedings.

For up-to-date information, please make sure to visit the conference website (www.nepalworldsanskrit.org) from time to time. We also recommend joining the conference mailing list, a feature that is available on the website.

Call for Papers and Panel Submissions

WSC2024 invites individual papers to be presented in one of the 22 regular sections. We are also calling for proposals for special panels. Interested scholars are welcome to submit either an abstract for an individual paper to a regular section or to propose a special panel of four to six participants through the conference website at www.nepalworldsanskrit.org. **The deadline for panel proposals is 31 December 2023, and the deadline for individual paper abstracts is 15 March 2024.** Successful panel proposals will be announced in the Second Circular. Scholars will be invited to submit abstracts to these special panels after that date.

Each paper will be allotted a time of 20 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes for discussion. Papers may be delivered in English or Sanskrit. We encourage scholars who are presenting a paper in Sanskrit to provide a summary in English.

Key Dates and Deadlines

Please note that these dates are tentative and may be subject to change. In order to receive up-to-date information, please be sure to visit the conference website, where the latest circular emails will be uploaded.

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| First circular and call for papers | 5 September 2023 |
| Special panel proposal deadline | 31 December 2023 |
| Special panel acceptance notification | 15 February 2024 |
| Individual paper abstract deadline | 15 March 2024 |
| Individual paper acceptance notification | 15 June 2024 |
| Early registration rate closes | 31 July 2024 |
| Final registration for presenters | 15 September 2024 |
| Conference opens | 17 December 2024 |

All participants who plan to present a paper must pay their registration fee by 15 September 2024, or their paper will be cancelled. Last-minute registration will be available only for non-presenting participants and guests.

Regular Sections

Each subject area (section) will have its Conveners – experts who will be in charge of promoting and evaluating the abstract submissions, and nominating session chairs. The names of the Conveners will be announced in the next circular.

Here are the 22 regular sections:

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| 1. Veda, वेदः | 13. Religious Studies, धर्मविमर्शः |
| 2. Linguistics, भाषाशास्त्रम् | 14. Philosophy, दर्शनानि, तत्त्वशास्त्रम् |
| 3. Vyākaraṇa, व्याकरणम् | 15. Vaiṣṇavism and Śaivism, वैष्णवमतं शैवमतं च |
| 4. Epics, रामायणं महाभारतं च | 16. Sanskrit and Regional Languages, संस्कृतं प्रदेशभाषाश्च |
| 5. Purāṇas, पुराणानि | 17. Sanskrit Pedagogy, संस्कृतशिक्षाशास्त्रम् |
| 6. Tantra Studies, आगमास्तन्त्रं च | 18. Modern Sanskrit Writings, आधुनिकं संस्कृतसाहित्यम् |
| 7. Ritual Studies, विध्यनुष्ठानविमर्शः | 19. Law and Society, धर्मशास्त्रमर्थशास्त्रं च |
| 8. Poetry, Drama and Aesthetics, काव्यमलङ्कारश्च | 20. Manuscriptology, पाण्डुलिपिविज्ञानम् |
| 9. History, Art and Architecture, Epigraphy, इतिहासः कलाः स्थापत्यमभिलेखशास्त्रं च | 21. Computational Sanskrit and Digital Humanities, संस्कृतं विज्ञानतान्त्रिकी च |
| 10. Buddhist Studies, बौद्धविद्या | 22. Yoga and Āyurveda, योगायुर्वेदौ |
| 11. Jaina Studies, जैनविद्या | |
| 12. Scientific Literature, वैज्ञानिकं वाङ्मयम् | |

Registration Fees

The Organizing Committee has been working to keep the registration fees as low as possible. At the moment, we are unable to announce the registration fees and other price values, but they will be announced as soon as we are able to finalize our anticipated costs. **The registration will open in early 2024**, and there will be discounted rates for **early-bird registration**. All confirmed presenters will be required to pay the registration fees before the 15th of September, 2024, to avoid cancellation of papers.



IASS membership

The **International Association for Sanskrit Studies (IASS)** is the governing body that oversees the organization of the triennial World Sanskrit Conferences. For this reason, the conference registration will also be an occasion to purchase the renewal of their membership (for old members) and to gain membership of the IASS (for newcomers). Further details of this process will be made available in future announcements.

To learn more about the International Association of Sanskrit Studies, please visit the website: <https://www.sanskritassociation.org/index.php>



Travel and visa

The Government of Nepal provides visa on arrival to *almost* all foreign nationals. Moreover, Indian Nationals do not need a visa to enter Nepal.

However, there is a list of 12 countries, whose citizens must have obtained a visa from their local Nepali Embassy/Consulate/Visa Office *prior* to their departure for Nepal. Hence, we request you to check the Nepali Government's official website to see whether your country falls on the list (<https://www.immigration.gov.np/page/visa-on-arrival>). **If your country is not on the list, it means that you are eligible for a visa on arrival**, which can be easily obtained upon landing at the International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal. The simple steps to obtain the visa have been described here: <https://www.immigration.gov.np/page/visa-on-arrival>.

As soon as your abstract has been accepted, we will be able to provide a letter of confirmation, which will help you secure travel funds and serve as documentation for the visa.

Travel grants

Travel to Nepal is, comparatively, not too expensive. However, we regret to inform you that, due to our limited budget, the World Sanskrit Conference is unable to provide travel grants to the attendees. Therefore, we urge the participants to seek travel assistance and grants from their respective institutions or from governmental or international granting agencies.



Accommodation in Kathmandu

We have been negotiating with various hotels and guest-houses near the conference venue, in order to provide reasonable rates to the participants. Further details, including a list of possible accommodations at a walking distance from the conference, will be communicated in future announcements. Please be sure to check the conference website (www.nepalworldsanskrit.org) for up-to-date information.



Poetic Symposium, Scholarly Disputations, and Excursions

According to the World Sanskrit Conference traditions, we shall be organizing the कविसमवायः (Poetic Symposium) and the शास्त्रचर्चा (Scholarly Disputations). Furthermore, we have been planning various excursions to temples, old town-squares, manuscript archives, and a potential sightseeing of the mountains! Specific details will be provided in eventual circular letters.

Contact us

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We and the Himalayas look forward to welcoming you in Nepal!



Organizers

Secretariat

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Prakash Sapkota
Aanandavardhan Nyaupane

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