

Grand Inauguration of the 19th World Sanskrit Conference in

Kathmandu, Nepal

The 19th World Sanskrit Conference was inaugurated on June 26, 2025, in Kathmandu, Nepal's capital, with great splendor and dignity. Professor Kashinath Nyaupane, Chair of the Conference, warmly welcomed Sanskrit scholars, researchers, and enthusiasts from around the world.

The event received substantial support from the Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Over 200 faculty members and research scholars from the university are actively participating in this prestigious global gathering.

Inspirational Opening Address

In the keynote address, Professor Srinivasa Varakhedi, Vice-Chancellor of Central Sanskrit University, highlighted the cultural and literary significance of the occasion, noting that June 26, 2025, marks the first day of the month of Ashadha in the Sanskrit literary calendar. Referencing Kalidasa's masterpiece *Meghaduta*, he remarked that just as the cloud messenger carried a message from Ramagiri Ashram to the Himalayas, this conference, held in the foothills of the Himalayas, sends a global message through Sanskrit. He described the event as a gathering of numerous "Abhinava Kalidasas," symbolizing modern scholars inspired by Kalidasa.





Professor Varakhedi drew a parallel between the five-faced (Panchamukhi) manifestation of Lord Shiva at the nearby Pashupatinath Temple and five dimensions of knowledge: *shruta* (heard wisdom), *drishta* (seen knowledge), *mata* (opinion/understanding), *prapta* (acquired skill), and *krita* (practical application). He emphasized that

these facets—Vedic, philosophical, shastric, artistic, and artificial intelligence (AI)—must be harmonized in today’s world. He added: “For the ethical and meaningful use of artificial intelligence, natural intelligence (*akritrima buddhi*) is essential, and Sanskrit study best nurtures this intelligence.” He urged attendees to integrate Sanskrit into all spheres of life.

Insights from Eminent Speakers

Param Pujya Shri Narayana Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji, in his benedictory address, linked national development to the progress of native languages, citing examples of China, Germany, and France. He advocated for Sanskrit as a foundation for India’s and the world’s progress, aligning with the vision of India as a *Vishwaguru* (Global Teacher).

Nepal’s President, Shri Ramchandra Paudel, emphasized the global recognition of Sanskrit’s cultural value. Quoting a famous Sanskrit verse

*Etad-deśa-prasūtasya sakāśād-agrajanmanaḥ ।
svam svam caritraṃ śikṣeran pṛthivyāṃ sarva-mānavāḥ ॥*

(“Let all people on earth learn their noble character from the great souls born in this land.”) He called for collective efforts to preserve and promote Sanskrit heritage.

Professor Deepti Tripathi, Session President, stressed the importance of inclusive dialogue:

“Inviting critics and skeptics to such conferences, alongside enthusiasts, fosters constructive dialogue and dispels misconceptions.”

Cultural Performances and Participation

The inauguration featured a vibrant cultural program with classical music and dance-dramas. The vice-chancellor and faculty of Nepal Sanskrit University played a pivotal role in ensuring the event’s success.

The conference hosts approximately 5,000 delegates, including Sanskrit scholars, researchers, vice-chancellors, and academicians from across the globe, making it a historic moment for the global Sanskrit community.

