

TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

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(Please print these pages and bring them with you.)

1. Please be patient and gentle with the organizers and their helpers (especially student volunteers). When it comes to practical matters at the venue of the 17th WSC, we are essentially a committee of five local organizers, assisted by a few student volunteers, looking after the needs of 600+ persons.

The additional volunteers available on 07-14 July will do their best to guide and help you, but not all of them will know the immediate local situation or will have the power to make decisions. Many of them will have come to the UBC campus for the first time out of their love and respect for Sanskrit. Please bear in mind that we all have to make this Conference successful and pleasant collectively.

2. Given the above reality, we would appreciate it if you would read this document completely and carefully, mark, if necessary, the parts that apply to you and reduce the number of questions you may need to ask, especially on the first two days. If anything is unclear, do ask upon arrival at the Conference venues. Also, share the answers you get with other Conference participants as widely as you can.

स्वागतं, संस्कृतात्मानो, यथा-शक्ति यतामहे । परिषत्-फल-लाभार्थं सर्वेषां भवतां वयम् ॥१॥
यत्र कार्य-परिष्कारो शक्यस् तत् सूच्यतां मुदा । किंतु विस्मरणीयं न, 'कार्यं नैकस्य कस्यचित्' ॥२॥
भवत्-साहाय्य-निर्वर्त्यम् एतत् संमेलनं ननु । वस्तुतो नात्र सेव्योऽस्ति, न वा कश्चन सेवकः ॥३॥

3. ESSENTIAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Tel **1-604-822-5188**. Only for urgent issues not answered in Conference literature and only during normal office hours: No need to press 1 if you are calling from the Metro Vancouver area.

Tel **604-822-2222**. UBC Campus Security Services. Open 24 hours. Office at 2133 East Mall on campus.

Tel **911**. Police/Fire/ Emergency (for example, health related)

Be ready with the main words you wish to convey (including your address, residence name, room number, etc.). Anticipate being required to spell your name slowly and clearly.

Depending on the time of the day or night, the reception desk, if any, at your residence **may** also help you by providing telephone access **for short local calls**.

4. Please observe queues. Move away from the tables concerned as soon as you have been served tea or coffee. Let others approach the servers without any obstruction.(There will be areas nearby for you to sit, rest or converse.) If there are any students going to Summer school classes, keep the way clear for them.

स्थेयं पङ्क्तिषु युष्माभिः सर्वदाभीष्ट-सिद्धये । पङ्क्ति-भङ्गे विलम्बः स्यात्, सेवकानां च संभ्रमः ॥४॥

5. We were aware that travel to Vancouver would be relatively expensive, especially during school holidays and in the season of good weather when the visitors and sight-seers from the U.S.A. and Europe flock to British Columbia. Therefore, we have tried to save you as much money as we could on accommodation, food, and commuting. Almost all Conference activities will take place on the campus within 10-15 minutes of walking. You just need comfortable footwear and an early start from your residences.

There will be signs on the way. On the first one or two days even a few volunteers may guide you from your residence to Chan Centre where Conference inauguration will take place and to Buchanan Building wings where papers will be presented.

On the other days, please plan to arrive at least five minutes earlier for all programs that interest you.

6. We hope that every day you will try to expand your horizons by listening to at least some papers that do not fall in your area of expertise. At the same time we are aware that you may wish to explore the beautiful city of Vancouver by going to its beaches, parks and gardens. This you can easily do by using buses and local trains to Vancouver proper, North Vancouver, and West Vancouver, as well as suburbs such as Burnaby, New Westminister, Richmond, etc. Various passes (one-day, weekly, weekend, etc.) that lead to significant fare savings are available for this purpose. The same pass works on the buses as on the local trains. The former are known for their punctuality and helpful drivers. In both, there are internal displays to inform you about the imminent stops, but the bus drivers will, additionally, announce the name of your get-down stop if you request them to do so. Just sit on the nearby seats. The trains (Expo Line, Canada Line, Millennium Line) are unmanned, but human assistance is available on their stations. Between 10 am and 4:00 pm the public transport is rarely crowded. General information about both the buses and the local trains can best be had by visiting the Translink website at <https://tripplanning.translink.ca> or by calling **604-953-3333**.

7. Taxis accept both cash and credit card payments. They can be called by dialing 604-681-1111 (Yellow), 604-681-3201 (Black Top) or 604-831-1111 (McClure's). The driver starts the metre after he/she has come to your location and picked you up.

8. Food from several countries is easily available in various Vancouver restaurants, as well as in scores of restaurants in its suburbs. All major schools of Chinese cooking are represented. In Indian cooking, most restaurants serve Punjabi food, but a few serving excellent South Indian food are also there. For example, Dosa Hut, 7233 Fraser St., Vancouver, T 604-566-3111; Dosa Corner, 8248 Fraser St, Vancouver; As particularly near to the UBC campus, you may also try the tasty wraps and soups of Planet Veg, 1941 Cornwall Avenue, Vancouver T 604-734-1001. If you are open to different vegetarian tastes, almost every restaurant can serve you at least two vegearian dishes. Greek and Italian restaurants are particularly suited to do that.

9. Many entries, transactions, etc. at the Conference will take place swiftly and the line-ups will move forward fast if your badges and tickets are easily accessible for showing. Wearing your badges on the body while coming to attend the events is, therefore, advised.

नाम-पट्टी सदा स्वीयां सुदृश्यां धत्त सत्रगाः। तथा निमंत्रणा-पत्रं हस्त-लभ्यं समस्तु वः ॥५॥

10. The importance of sticking to the announced times has been emphasized in all WSCs since the one held at Leiden. If a change becomes unavoidable, every effort will be made to publicize it. You should, if possible, see the Conference website on each day between 09 to 13 July and also pay attention to the notices that may be put up near the rooms chosen for paper reading. If a paper reader does not turn up in the first five minutes of a session, the persons assembled in the assigned room may

discuss the topic of the paper or its larger context for 20-25 minutes, until the time for the next announced paper arrives. If the announced moderator is not present on time, the first available announced paper presenter should take his/her place until the pre-selected moderator arrives.

प्रस्तुतिः शोध-पत्रस्य त्रिंशत्-मिनिट-सीमिता । मर्यादियम् अनुल्लङ्घ्या लक्ष्मणस्येव बाणजा ॥६॥
 उपस्थातुम् अशक्तश् चेद् अध्यक्षः पूर्व-निश्चितः । वहेद् अध्यक्षता-भारं प्रथमः पत्र-वाचकः ॥७॥
 परिवृत्तिः क्रमे न स्याद् यथा कार्यस्य साधने । तथा प्रयतितं । सा तु स्याद् दुष्परिहरा क्वचित् ॥८॥
 अतो विशेषतो दृश्याः फलकाः सूचनावहाः । आयोजकैः कृताः सम्यक् श्रोतव्या घोषणास् तथा ॥९॥

11. The moderators should not hesitate to impose a time-limit even on senior paper presenters, and the latter should honour a junior moderator's signals to close in continuation of the tradition upheld in *putrakā iti hovāca śísur āṅgirasah kavīh*. (Mānava-dharma-śāstra 2.151)

बालोऽपि नावमन्तव्यः सभाध्यक्षः प्रपण्डितैः । सभा-काले स -उद्धोऽस्ति, स -प्रकाण्डं, स -तल्लजः ॥
 (Recall Amara-kośa 1.268: *matalikā macarcikā prakāṇdam uddha-tallajau*)

12. Vancouverites are used to hearing different ways of speaking English. Usually they also take initiative in helping visitors. However, it makes things easy if travellers speak slowly and clearly or request that they should be spoken to slowly and clearly.

13. Manageable and highly enjoyable excursions have been arranged for Saturday, July 14. If your travel itinerary permits, you should also think of reserving a trip to the capital of British Columbia, Victoria and the world-famous Butchart Gardens which are near it. Google "Butchart Gardens" and "Pacific Coach Lines" for further guidance in this respect.

Typically, a Pacific Coach Lines bus will take you from a point in Vancouver, board the ferry going to Shwartz Bay on Vancouver Island, give you a 1.5 hour sea ride and then, again picking you up, transport you to Butchart Gardens. The driver will give you a tour of the Gardens and sometime past noon drop you near the Parliament Building or Provincial Museum. From there you can walk to other attractions and at about 6:00/7:00 pm take the return bus to Vancouver, not to miss the glorious sunset on the Pacific Ocean.

You can buy food on the ferry, in Butchart Gardens or in Victoria and come back to your room in Vancouver for a restful night, unless you wish to spend a night or two in Victoria.

I give these details because I do not wish that you would later regret that you came so near to a truly memorable place and did not see it.

14. In Vancouver, it is common to have a significant drop in temperature as you move from a sunny area to a shady area, as the day turns into evening or night, and as one moves closer to a large body of water. Please keep a shawl, light sweater and a scarf in your purse or Conference bag. Layered clothing will be better than single pieces of heavy warm clothing. Also, bring with you shoes in which you can walk comfortably.

15. If Canadian currency is easily available in your country, please convert your local currency into CAD there. Exchange booths do exist at Vancouver International Airport. However, in most countries it

is less expensive to convert currencies at the exchange shops in the cities than at the airports. So, depending on the time of your arrival, take your large amounts to shops like Money Mart for conversion (google for addresses). For moderate amounts, use of ATM machines can also work in your favour. Also, although many shops will accept American paper currency, they will go only by their pre-set, generally higher, rates.

16. Vancouver has clean and sweet drinkable water available throughout the day. You can drink it right off the tap. No need to purchase or carry around bottled water.

17. If you cannot finish the food served in a restaurant, you can request packing of the left-over and take it to your residence for a later meal. This is as commonly done as ordering take-home food without extra charge.

18. The access to most stacks of books in UBC libraries is free. You have to obtain an identity card and pay a fee only to take books out of a library.

19. Sanskrit-related books are available in three libraries near to the Conference venue: Asian Library in the Asian Centre (original Indic language texts), Koerner Library (studies and translations of Indic language texts in English and other European languages) and Barber Library (secondary texts more likely to be needed by students and general public).

20. PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS: Indian Summer Festival events, July 6-15. See www.indiansummerfest.ca.

21. EVENING CULTURAL EVENTS: In addition to the ones known from number 20 above, there will be the Kuṭiyāttam performance by the Nepathya troupe on the first day of the Conference, recital by Dr. Padma Sugavanam, lectures on Yoga, etc., and music and dance performances by local artists.

In short, the 17th WSC will be an homage as advised by the late Prof. V. Raghavan, the first president of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies:

धर्मो ब्रह्म रसो नाम शिवं सत्यं च सुन्दरम् । या त्रिधा तत्त्वम् ऊचे तां संस्कृत-प्रतिभां नुमः ॥