

DHARMA CON

2026

Canada's Premier Youth
Leadership Conference

Information Deck

03.10.2026



A LOOK BACK

DharmaCon 2025

In a single day, DharmaCon 2025 became the largest Pan-Canadian youth leadership conference ever held for Hindu youth and community allies. Here is a glimpse of what we built together.

300+

**YOUTH IN
ATTENDANCE**

60+

**SPEAKERS &
MENTORS**

100+

**COMMUNITY
ORGS**

85%

**FULL-DAY
RETENTION**



"Led by youth, for youth, with initiative, creative freedom, and strong cross-regional collaboration, ensuring programming truly reflected the voices of Hindu youth across Canada."

— DharmaCon 2025 Post-Event Debrief

DharmaCon 2025 was the first of its kind Youth leadership conference in Canada.

And it is only the beginning.

VOICES THAT SHAPED THE ROOM

DharmaCon 2025

DharmaCon 2025 brought together some of Canada's most accomplished professionals, advocates, and community leaders, spanning corporate, political, and civic life.

Featured Speakers



Raj Vishwanathan
CFO, Scotiabank



John Zerucelli
MP, Secretary of State



Deepak Anand
MPP, Mississauga Malton



Juanita Nathan
MP, Pickering ON



Dipika Damerla
Councillor, Mississauga



Shuv Majumdar
MP, Calgary Heritage



Dr. Aditya Jha
Innovation Leader



Shikha Kasal
Director, K2 Group



Shawn Binda
Hindu Lifestyle



Shivani Gupta
Director, Crown Group



Chandra Arya
Former MP, Nepean

VOICES THAT SHAPED THE ROOM

DharmaCon 2025



Yudhisthir Dhanraj
Spiritual Leader



Katpana Nagendra
Tamil Rights Activist



Shikha Dhingra
ISCKON Durham



Ranjani Saigal
TheHinduGrandma



Rohan Sethi
Partner, KPMG



Jay Bhosale
CEO, Tech Mahindra

Along with many young speakers!

Represented By

Our 2025 mentors and speakers came from some of Canada's most respected institutions and organizations, bringing real-world experience from the boardroom, legislature, courtroom, and beyond directly to our attendees.

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada



**300+ attendees. 60+ mentors and speakers. 5 provinces. Year one of
Canada's Premier Youth Leadership Conference.**

THE OPPORTUNITY

What are we Building?

DharmaCon, Canada's premier youth leadership conference, is a one-day national summit bringing together young Canadians, mentors, professionals, and community organizations from coast to coast. In 2025, we proved it could be done. In 2026, we are building the infrastructure to make it last.



Why Now?

A generation of young Canadians is ready to lead, but the infrastructure to support, connect, and sustain that leadership has not kept pace. DharmaCon exists to close that gap. In 2025 alone, **15% of attendees** left with plans to **become more civically active** and **20% expressed interest in volunteering**. That is not enthusiasm; that is **momentum**. And momentum, if not caught and channelled, dissipates.

What DharmaCon 2026 Will Look Like

Where year one proved the concept, year two establishes the institution. We are expanding our speaker roster, deepening programming across corporate, political, and community tracks, and extending our national reach. The goal is not simply a larger conference, it is a more powerful one that moves young Hindu Canadians into rooms where decisions are made, and gives them the tools to lead when they get there.

About the Organizer

The Hindu Students Council is the largest Pan-Hindu student organization in North America. Founded in 1991, HSC supports students and young professionals at major universities across the continent, offering opportunities rooted in Hindu culture that promote personal growth, well-being, and empowerment. DharmaCon is HSC's flagship national initiative, delivered in partnership with community organizations.

www.hindustudentscouncil.org

THE EXPERIENCE

What will the day look Like?

A single day, engineered for impact. From boardrooms to ballots to belief, DharmaCon 2026 brings together the conversations that matter most to young Hindu Canadians today. Every session is built with intention; not just to inform, but to move you. This isn't a conference you sit through; it's one you leave changed by.

03 OCT 2026

08:00 AM - 4:30 PM

08:00 - 09:00 AM

Registration & Networking

09:00 - 09:15 AM

Opening Remarks

09:15 - 9:30 AM

Keynote: Academic Leader

9:30 - 9:45 AM

Keynote: Corporate Leader

9:45 - 10:45 PM

Panel 1 — Your Seat at the Table

How young leaders climb, negotiate, and lead in Canadian business.

10:45 - 11:45 PM

Panel 2 — Power in Politics

What it takes for youth to break into power and drive real change.

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Panel 3 — Common Ground

Faith, identity, and allyship. What really unites us as religious minorities, and where the real work still lies.

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Networking Roundtables organized in Zones by Industry

4:00 - 4:30 PM

Awards and Closing

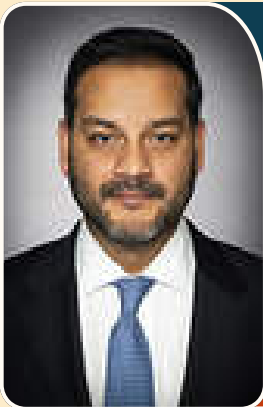
THE TEAM

Who You Would Be Working With

DharmaCon is led by a dedicated team of young organizers supported by established community advisors. The Advisor's Circle is a small, selective group of established leaders who provide strategic guidance and mentorship directly to the DharmaCon leadership team — their presence signals that the next generation is ready to lead.

Current Advisor's Circle Members

Providing ongoing mentorship, strategic guidance, and organizational support to the leadership team.



Shuvaloy Majumdar
MP, Calgary Heritage

Shuvaloy Majumdar is a Member of Parliament for Calgary Heritage, and the Shadow Minister for US-Canada Relations with a background in foreign policy, national security, and public policy leadership. Drawing from his Bengali heritage, he brings a values-driven perspective on governance, human rights, and leadership in public service.



Shivani Gupta
Director, Crown Group

Shivani Gupta is Director at Crown Group of Hotels and Prudent Law, with leadership experience spanning hospitality, business, and legal services. A University of Toronto alumna and Canada India Foundation board member, she champions entrepreneurship, community engagement, and dharmic leadership.



Gauri Madhurie
Musician and Director, Triveni Mandir

Gauri Dhanraj is a Guyanese-Canadian Bharatanatyam dancer, Indian classical musician, and Executive Director of the Brampton Triveni Mandir. A Berklee College of Music alumna currently completing her master's in ethnomusicology at the University of Toronto. She weaves cultural leadership with arts education, inspiring over 200 students in music and dance.



Shawn Binda
Influencer, TheHinduLifestyle

Shawn Binda is a prominent Trinidadian-Canadian influencer and advocate behind the influential channel TheHinduLifestyle. A radiology professional in Ontario hospitals, he leverages his platform and grassroots engagement to amplify Hindu perspectives, explore media representation, and empower youth to authentically embody dharmic values online.



Nicole Dason
Business & Community Leader

Nicole Dason is a bilingual executive and civic leader with deep expertise in banking, consulting, political and educational advocacy. Currently serving as Senior Advisor at CJPAC, her background includes as a former VP at TD, alongside roles at Deloitte and CIBC. Recognized as an emerging community leader, Nicole serves on the boards of Adath Israel Synagogue, Hillcrest Progressive School, and Na'amat Canada.



Sathish Bala
CEO, Schoolio and DESIFEST

Sathish Bala is a technology entrepreneur, founder and CEO of Schoolio, and creator of Canada's largest South Asian urban music festival, DESIFEST. Through Bala Group Inc., he mentors and invests in early-stage founders while advancing innovation, education, and inclusive entrepreneurship.

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Dr. Yudhisthir Dhanraj
Spiritual Leader, Triveni Mandir

Dr. Yudhisthir Dhanraj, a proud Guyanese-Canadian Sanskrit scholar, serves as the Spiritual Leader of Brampton Triveni Mandir. Having earned his Ph.D. through advanced studies in Varanasi, India, he actively guides several national Hindu organizations to foster education, spiritual development, and community leadership throughout Canada.



Piragal Thiru
Public Administration Leader

A recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, Piragal Thiru is a public administration leader serving with the City of Vaughan and a faculty member at York University. With over two decades in public policy and governance, he has contributed extensively to civic life as a former OLP candidate, former CTC board member, and member of the York Regional Police Chief's Advisory Council.



Sagar Bhatnagar
Healthcare Strategy, Trillium Health Partners

Sagar Bhatnagar is a healthcare strategy leader at Trillium Health Partners, driving innovation at the intersection of artificial intelligence and health system transformation. A former Canadian Armed Forces Reservist, he combines experience in consulting, entrepreneurship, and healthcare leadership while mentoring entrepreneurs and advancing innovation in the Hindu community.



Dipika Damerla
Ward 7 Councillor, Mississauga

Dipika is Mississauga City Councillor for Ward 7 and former Ontario Cabinet Minister, having served as MPP for Mississauga East-Cooksville for seven years. With experience in government, corporate banking, and community advocacy, she brings a strong commitment to public service and grassroots leadership. Dipika is a 2026 Mayoral Candidate from Mississauga.



Kundan Joshi
AI Entrepreneur & Tech Leader

Kundan Joshi is the Founder and CEO of TheAppLabb and AI Labb, leading AI and digital transformation for 750+ enterprises across North America. Founder of the Canada AI Alliance and Canada India Tech Council, he is an award-winning entrepreneur and thought leader shaping the future of AI, technology, and global business.

THE TEAM

Who You Would Be Working With

The Patrons Council is a community of supporters who champion DharmaCon within their networks and lend their support to help the mission grow — valued for their reach and goodwill rather than strategic involvement.

Current Patron's Council Members

Lending their credibility, reach, and goodwill to champion DharmaCon's mission within their networks.



Dr. V.I. Lakshmanan (OC)
Scientist and President SVBF

Dr. V. I. Lakshmanan is an internationally recognized scientist, entrepreneur, and CEO of Process Research ORTECH with over four decades of leadership in sustainable technology. Honored with the Order of Canada, the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, he serves as President of the Sringeri Vidya Bharati Foundation and is Past Chair of the Canada India Foundation.



Shikha Dhingra
ISKCON North America

Shikha Dhingra is a Gold Medalist in Human Resource Management and Chief Operating Officer – Global Sales & Operations at Seagull Maritime Agencies, with experience spanning consulting, youth development, and international trade. A dedicated ISKCON practitioner and scholar, she leads ISKCON Durham, building programs that engage youth, families, and the broader Hindu community through spiritual education and outreach.



Pt. Roopnath Sharma
President, Hindu Federation

Pt. Sharma is the Founder and Spiritual Leader of Mississauga Ram Mandir, President of the Canadian Multi-faith Federation and plays a key role in several Hindu organizations. Combining decades of corporate leadership in IT and consulting with lifelong spiritual service, he is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his outstanding community contributions.



Dr. Aditya Jha (OC)
CEO, dgMarket International

Dr. Aditya Jha is an Order of Canada recipient, serial tech entrepreneur, and holder of an Honorary Doctorate from Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU). Having founded global technology ventures like Isopia Inc. and dgMarket International, he uses his business leadership and the POA Foundation to advance innovation, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship in underserved communities.



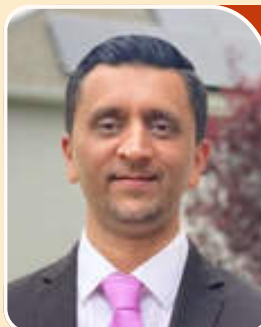
Vinod Vyas
Partner Partho Tech, Director CNCH

Vinod is a serial entrepreneur, Founder & Senior Partner of Partho Technologies, and board member of the Canadian National Council of Hindus. With over 30 years of experience spanning technology, marketing, entertainment, and digital transformation, he has led innovative public-sector solutions across North America while bringing a cross-industry perspective on entrepreneurship.



Mark Waldman
CEO and Founder of CJPAC

Mark Waldman is CEO of the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC), with extensive experience in political advocacy, business development, strategic planning, and operations. An MBA graduate of York University's Schulich School of Business, he brings a strong background in organizational leadership and community engagement.



Nikunj Trivedi
President and Founder of CoHNA

Nikunj Trivedi is President and Co-Founder of the Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA), advancing Hindu advocacy, representation, and civil rights across the US and Canada. With nearly two decades of community leadership, he leads National Hindu Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill and brings extensive experience in banking and financial services.

THE TEAM

Who You Would Be Working With

Dharmacon is powered by a vibrant team of enthusiastic young professionals who possess a robust background and a deep commitment to our mission.

Executive Team Mentors



Vijay Sappani
CEO Sappani Foundation & Ela Capital

A serial entrepreneur and angel investor, Vijay is best known for co-founding a multi-billion-dollar enterprise and for leading high-impact ventures across healthcare, technology, and the life sciences. Beyond business and philanthropy, he serves as a board member of the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and writes for several think tanks and media outlets. Vijay is also a devoted student and patron of Indo-Himalayan art, antiques, and temples.



Satish Thakkar
President, Excelsior Group

Satish Thakkar, recipient of the prestigious 2012 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, is the President of Excelsior Group and a Chartered Accountant with decades of leadership in real estate, finance, and entrepreneurship. A respected community leader, he actively advances Canada-India business relations while promoting Yoga, Ayurveda, and Hindu values across the Greater Toronto Area.

Executive Team



Khushi Jetley: Director
MA researcher at York University studying stroke rehabilitation.
Director, Hindu Students Council.
VP Fundraising, Women's Commission at the Ontario Liberal Party.



Shekhar Sharma: Director
University of Toronto alumnus and law graduate from the University of Windsor. Practices as a personal injury **lawyer** in the GTA.
Director, Hindu Students Council.



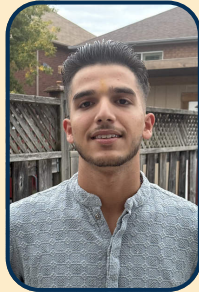
Devyam Jaitly: Co-Director
Margin Trading Analyst at the OTPP. Experience spanning politics, public service, and finance. Worked on **Parliament Hill** and supported federal and mayoral campaigns.



Suksham Sharma:
Marketing Head
Corporate Finance Associate at Bell Media, and **aspiring CPA**.
Regional Executive, Hindu Students Council. **Founder**, Lotus Social



Vishwa Patel: Outreach Lead
Interdisciplinary artist, **arts educator**, and **cultural programmer** with a BFA from OCAD University. **Regional Exec**, Hindu Students Council.



Devansh Jetley: Outreach Lead
2nd Year Computer Science Student at York University.
Regional Exec, Hindu Students Council. **Warrant Officer 2nd Class**, Royal Canadian Air Cadets

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Operations Team



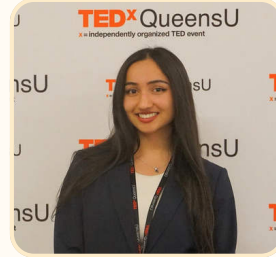
Aastha Gupta
Outreach Team



Abhinav Deshwar
Marketing Team



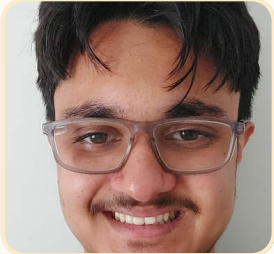
Amitesh Joshi
Outreach Team



Anisha Prahallad
Outreach Team



Ashmita Chouhan
Marketing Team



Bhavya Shah
Outreach Team



Gayatri Pathak
Website Team



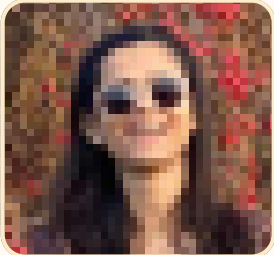
Ishaan Shetty
Outreach Team



Jasmini Mangrue
Marketing Team



Meenakshi Manoj
Marketing Team



Nischay Maan
Outreach Team



Prithish Oak
Marketing Team



Rishita Masiyava
Marketing Team



Shriram Vivek
Outreach Team



Shubham Kumar
Marketing Team

DharmaCon is more than a conference. It is a movement. And movements are built by community - by people who come together to learn, connect, lead, and shape the future. We hope you'll join us and be part of something bigger.

To express interest or learn more:

dharmacon@hindustudentscouncil.org