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Past Gen. Coord.

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Publication

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Prasad

Om Dhingra 
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Liaison

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Ramesh Malhan
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Madhu Gupta 
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Rashmi Gandhi 
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Renu Garg
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Website Coords.

Shivam Viswanathan
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Vijay Nangia 
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Youth Coords.

Alyssa Shraff 
Aadi Pandit

अप्रैल २०२१ April 2021

हिन्दू सत्संग समाचार

Hindu Satsang Samachar

www.HinduSatsang.org

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Hindu Satsang Updates

By Shivam Viswanathan

Pranaam to all Satsangis!

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful Spring weather. Most of you have probably had the COVID-19 shot already, or are going to have it soon. We are praying and hoping to be able to put this all behind us, so that we can move on with our lives as usual. Despite the difficult situation, Hindu Satsang has continued to conduct most of our programs online. In fact, we just had our executive committee member elections, or I should say 'random selections' in March. Subsequently, the members were assigned portfolios in a meeting held on Sunday, April 11. More details about the new committee members on page 3 of this newsletter. You can see the new executive committee members on the left pane of this page.

Hindu Satsang's annual **Ramayana Quiz** will be held virtually in May this year. Please register as soon as possible to receive more details.

We had two young talents as guest singer and speaker in the month of March. You can find congregation updates on page 8. This month we have **Shri. Acharya Narendra ji** as our guest singer and speaker. He will be doing katha and bhajans on the occasion of Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti. More details about our guest on the last page.

The following are some main Hindu festivals coming up in the next 30 days, our best wishes to you all:

Hanuman Jayanti (Tuesday, April 27), **Mother's Day** (Sunday, May 9), **Akshay Tritiya** and **Parashuram Jayanti** (Friday, May 14).

Hoping to see you all on Sunday, April 25th during the congregation. Please stay safe and take care.



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& Anniversaries

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- Guest speaker &
singer

IN
THIS ISSUE



Happy Birthday Month to our Satsangis born in April



Akansha Kataria	Arjun Pandey	Arnav Sabharwal	Arushi Joshi	Avishkar Trivedi
Bhavna Sharma	Brij Sharma	Daljit Sabharwal	Dhruv Dhawan	Gurmeet Kaur
Harish Arora	Indu Wadhawa	Isha Sharma	Jason Gupta	Mamta Shah
Mansi Sabharwal	Neha Khetarpal	Pramila Joshi	Prem Garg	Rajshree Ambegaoker
Rama Kapoor	Ravisha Saini	Reena Salgia	Sanjeev Dhawan	Sanjiv Avashia
Sanjiv Pandey	Serena Malhan	Shalini Trivedi	Sita Sharma	Surabhi Garg
Vandita Rastogi	Vinod Malhotra	जन्मदिन की शुभ कामनाएँ		



Happy Anniversary Month

Adarsh & Sudhir Gupta	Manju & Rajiv Goel	Neelam & Pradeep Goel	Payal & Vikas Dhingra	Renu & Nand Prakash Garg	Rupal & Vikas Upadhyay
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Laughter is the Best Medicine

Husband to wife (during corona working-from-home days): *When I said "I will do anything for you", I meant that I will bring moon & stars to you and kill dragons for you ... I did not mean to do dishes or vacuum.*



To many more years of laughing with and at each other's jokes and keeping each other healthy and young at heart!

Happy Anniversary!!



Hindu Satsang's
Website address:
HinduSatsang.org

Hindu Satsang's
Facebook page:
[facebook.com/
HinduSatsangUSA](https://facebook.com/HinduSatsangUSA)

Please Like & Follow
for latest updates. You
are always welcome to
send articles and
feedbacks.

Hindu Satsang New Committee Members By Shivam Viswanathan

Let me start off by thanking all the outgoing members of the Hindu Satsang committee. Members of our previous committees performed exceptionally well during a very challenging time in our lives. They all carried on for an additional year since there were no elections in the previous year (2020).

A big thanks to the following outgoing members for their commitment, contribution, and hard work:

Uma Aggarwal, Priya Viswanathan, Subhash Sharma, Manju Kalra, Shubh Malhan, Nand Parkash Garg, Divya Grover, Amitabh Gupta, Kanchan Pandey and Shammi Wahi

We cannot thank them enough, and we hope they will consider serving this organization again in the near future.

Here is a quick introduction to our **New Committee Members**:

General Coordinator

Our new General Coordinator is **Sh. Kamal Gupta**. He has very fond memories of his long association with Hindu Satsang. In his professional life, he is an executive coach and a management consultant. He is famous for the scrumptious pakodas he makes on Mother's Day picnics. His pakodas have been code named as 'Kamkoda' (patent pending).
Past General Coordinator

Past General Coordinator

Last term's general coordinator - **Sh. Hersh Sabharwal** will be our Past General Coordinator. Hersh ji helmed this position for two years (2018-2020). Before taking over the General Coordinator's post, he was a Special Events coordinator (2017-2018).

Hersh ji has been with Hindu Satsang for the last 30 years & has actively participated in its activities. He is a 2nd Generation Hindu Satsang member, proud father of Anushka Sabharwal (Active 3rd generation Hindu Satsang Participant). Hersh ji is a pharmaceutical professional for two decades. He believes in being the change he wishes to see in the world and that it is better to give than to receive.

Publication Coordinator

While **Shivam Viswanathan** is the new Publication Coordinator, but he has been involved with publications for the past 3 years (since 2017). Shivam is an IT Director by profession, also volunteers with several organizations. He is a board member of IPPC, organizes programs for District 204, and also a soccer coach with Naperville Park District, conducts after-school programming classes to name a few. Shivam is also engaged with the maintenance of websites for few non-profit organizations including Hindu Satsang's website.

Property Coordinator

Smt. Jyotsna Vyas is now in charge of Hindu Satsang's invaluable *property*. Jyotsna ji has been a member of Hindu Satsang since its inception. She considers Hindu Satsang as her family. She has enjoyed Satsang activities and experienced a lot of love from its members.

Prasad Coordinator

Sh. Om Dhingra has taken over the Prasad (food) coordination. He has always been and will continue to be the link between Hindu Satsang and HTGC temple.

Om ji has been involved with Hindu Satsang since 1977. He has served as Special Event Coordinator for Satsang with Smt. Rashmi Ji in the '80s. Sponsored Prasad once a year for Hindu Satsang and contributed financially towards Satsang's Ramlila at the temple. He is a current trustee and past secretary of the Hindu Temple Of Greater Chicago (HTGC).

Continued on the next page [page 4] ...

(continued from the previous page ...)

Om ji is a Pharmacy graduate from Panjab University, Chandigarh, practiced Pharmacy since 1975 in the Chicagoland area, owned 8 pharmacies, sold to CVS, and is retired from the Pharmacy profession.

Om ji has received numerous local, state, and national awards in the field of Pharmacy. He served Du Page Pharmacists Association, Indian Pharmacists Association, and Illinois Pharmacists Association, as president, secretary, and board member.

Dhingra family established everlasting Scholarships for Pharmacy students at UIC and Midwestern University in Chicagoland.

Liaison Coordinators

Dr. Subhash Pandey and **Sh. Ramesh Malhan** have taken over the role of Liaison Coordination, they will be inviting guest speakers and singers for our monthly congregation.

Dr. Subhash Pandey has been involved with Hindu Satsang for the last several years. He has served as General Coordinator in the past. He also served as Special Event Coordinator and Liaison Coordinator several times. He will serve again as Liaison Coordinator in Satsang's current Executive Committee. In his professional life, he is a Professor, chairs the Joseph A Flaherty endowed in Psychiatry, and Director of Alcohol Research Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Sh. Ramesh Malhan ji is a priest by heart and a scientist by profession. He has been a President of Hari Om Mandir (Hindu Society of Metropolitan Chicago), and General Coordinator of Hindu Satsang, President of United Punjabis of America, and a board member of Arya Samaj of Chicagoland. Have been associated with Hindu Satsang for more than 40 years.

Education Coordinators:

Major responsibilities are Hindu Satsang's Sunday School, Mother's day picnic, scholarships, events like Ramlila, Youth Festival, etc..

Sh. Daljit Sabharwal has served as General Coordinator, Publication coordinator, and Liaison Coordinator of Hindu Satsang, Founder Member & President of International Ramayana Institute of North America (IRINA), Trustee, Joint Secretary, and Religious Chair of HTGC. He loves to sing bhajans, like his name suggests, conquers everyone's heart with his melodious voice. He always makes himself available to support religious and humanitarian activities. This will be the first time we have two generations in our committee at the same time - Hersh and his father Daljit ji, and in a few years, Hersh's daughter Anushka will also join them.

Sh. Vineet Rajput has taken the position of Education Coordinator. Vineet and Pramila have been involved with Hindu Satsang for over 15 years. Their kids attended Hindu Satsang Sunday School and Pramila has been teaching in Hindi School. Vineet is dedicated to the cause of education and has also been an Education Coordinator in the past.

Sh. Jug Uppal has been a part of Hindu Satsang from its inscription and has handled various portfolio positions over the years. For many years Jug ji and his wife Madhu ji have been strong pillars of the Hindu Satsang organization.

Finance

Dr. Madhu Gupta along with her husband Dr. Mahesh Gupta has been involved with Hindu Satsang for the last 5 years. She is a current executive committee member managing Satsang's finances for the past two years. She will continue this role again this year. Currently, she is a Research Professor at The University of Chicago after taking early retirement from the University of Illinois. Her husband has also served Hindu Satsang as Liaison in the past.

Continued on the next page [Page 5] ...

Special Events Coordinators

RG Square i.e. Smt. Renu Garg and Smt. Rashmi Gandhi will be in charge of organizing special events. Special events include the Hindu Satsang picnic, the Janmashtami program, and the Hindu Satsang stall in HTGS's Gresham Mela to raise money for HTGC.

Rashmi ji is well known as Lata Mangeshkar of Hindu Satsang. Early this year, she passed her 6th-year vocal exam for her Visharad degree with distinction. Rashmi ji joined Hindu Satsang in 1985 with her family. Her first portfolio was the Special Events Coordinator. After four years, in 1989, she became the General Coordinator. Since then, she has been the Liaison quite a few times. She worked for Schaumburg School Dist. 54 for 20 years as a bilingual Kindergarten teacher and as an ESL teacher. She was an ambassador for India in Schaumburg schools doing assemblies about India. She was a cultural secretary for Gujrat Samaj for 10 years. She was also involved with Jain Samaj, teaching Bhakti Sangeet. She teaches Ramayana on Zoom to HTGC students and teaches music to neighborhood kids and adults. Her heart and soul are always into whatever she does.

Smt. Renu Garg has been a very active member of Hindu Satsang along with her husband Sh. Nand Parkash ji.

Smt. Renu Garg has been an active member of Hindu Satsang since 1996 and has also served as General Coordinator in the past. She holds a master's degree in Computer Science and currently working as an IT professional in Corporate America. She is filled with excitement as she takes on a new portfolio as Special Events Coordinator.

Youth Coordinators, Alyssa Shroff and Aadi Pandit, who have done an amazing job so far, will continue as youth coordinators until the completion of the current academic year. New youth coordinators will be selected at the beginning of the 2021-22 academic year.

Member Photos on the next page [Page 6] ...

What can we learn from Mahabharata about fighting a formidable enemy like COVID-19?

Ashwatthama became very angry when his father Dronacharya was killed by the Pandava army in the Mahabharata war. Ashwatthama in his anger shot a dreadful arrow called "Narayana Astra" (नारायण अस्त्र) on the Pandava army. No one had the ability to face this powerful weapon. It could burn people and immediately destroy those who had weapons in their hand, or looked aggressive, or were seen trying to fight. Lord Krishna ordered his army to leave their weapons and remain calm and quiet with folded hands. And said, "*Do not even bring the thought of fighting to mind as that would destroy you*".

When targeted, the Pandava hero Bhima refused to surrender because he believed that surrendering is an act of cowardice. He attacked the downpour of fiery arrows. The Narayana weapon concentrated its fiery shower on Bhima, and he got exhausted very quickly. However, Bhima was not killed because Krishna and his Pandava brothers restrained him at the right moment.

Narayana Astra gradually calmed down on its own when its time expired. In this way, the Pandava army got rescued from certain devastation.

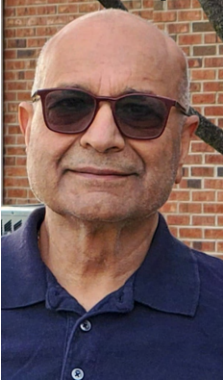
It is more than just attacks and counterattacks that make a battle. Some battles are won by staying put, remaining calm and following the orders. In today's trying times, in order to escape the wrath of the COVID-19 virus,

we all need to follow the orders, stop going out for some time, remain calm, stay in our homes and keep good thoughts in mind, and let the bad time pass.



Hindu Satsang New Committee Members 2021-2022

Kamal Gupta



Hersh Sabharwal



Shivam Viswanathan



Jyotsna Vyas



Om Dhingra



Dr. Subhash Pandey



Ramesh Malhan



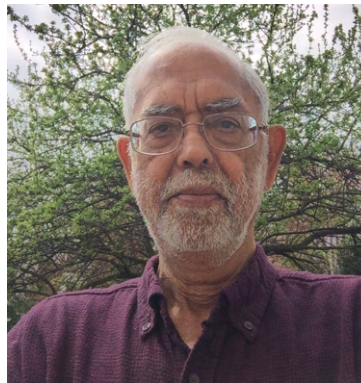
Vineet Rajput



Daljit Sabharwal



Jug Uppal



Dr. Madhu Gupta



Renu Garg



Rashmi Gandhi



**Youth Coordinators
Alyssa Shroff and Aadi Pandit**





Trivia about Akshay Tritiya



Akshay Tritiya is a day filled with the cosmic energy of ever-growing abundance. 'Akshay' means non-diminishing and everlasting, and 'Tritiya' refers to the third moon phase. Any project started on Akshay Tritiya day with good intention is bound to flourish. No 'Muhurat' is required to perform Graha Pravesh on Akshay Tritiya. Annadanam or donations on this day brings great benefits to the donors. It is believed that feeding a cow on this day will relieve one of his sins and doshas. Let us all celebrate this auspicious festival with tremendous enthusiasm and receive bountiful wealth, prosperity, and happiness.

Wish you all a Very Happy Akshay Tritiya!
This year Akshay Tritiya falls on May 14.

Here is a trivia about this festival, the questions are about the different events that occurred on the auspicious day of Akshay Tritiya. Answers are in the right column.

1. Which of the following sage's birthday falls on Akshay Tritiya?
a. Sage Viswamitra, b. Sage Parashurama,
c. Sage Ved Vyasa, d. Sage Kapila
2. When the Pandavas were in exile, what did Draupadi receive from Sri Krishna on the day of Akshay Tritiya?
3. What did Krishna get from his childhood friend Sudama on Akshay Tritiya?
4. Which river is believed to have come to Earth on Akshay Tritiya to purify mankind?
5. Akshay Tritiya day is considered to be the starting day of which of the four yuga?
a. Satya Yuga, b. Treta Yuga,
c. Kali Yuga d. Dvapara Yuga

6. In which temple the construction of the Rath for the annual Rath Yatra event starts on Akshay Tritiya?

7. Which of the following event is also associated with Akshay Tritiya:
- a. The Mahabharata war began on this day
 - b. Krishna imparted the Gita to Arjuna on this day
 - c. The Mahabharata war ended on this day
 - d. Ved Vyas and Lord Ganesha began writing the Mahabharata epic on this day

Trivia Answers:



1. It is the birthday of sage Parashurama, sixth of the Dashavataras (10 avatars) of Lord Vishnu.
2. Krishna presents Draupadi with Akshay Patra on Akshay Tritiya, during the exile of the Pandavas to the forest.

Here is the brief story:

Once the five Pandavas, (the five brothers from the Mahabharata epic) and their wife Draupadi were in exile. At that time a sage sent in a message that he is coming with his 400 disciples to have food with the Pandavas. Draupadi prayed to Sri Krishna as they did not have any food left to serve to the sages. Krishna came to their house, and he saw that there was only one grain of rice stuck to the pot. He picked that one grain of rice and ate it, and turned the pot into an Akshay Patra. Akshay Patra means that which never diminishes or unending.

When the saint came with his 400 disciples, Draupadi could serve food to all of them from the same Akshay Patra. The more she took from the pot, the more food would come from it.

3. Sri Krishna received puffed rice from his friend Sudama. This is how the story goes:

Continued on the next page [page 8] ...

(Trivia Answers, continued from the previous page ...)

During his schooling, Krishna had a poor friend, Sudama was his name. One day Sudama's wife said, 'We are living in such poverty and your friend Krishna is so rich. Why don't you go and get something from him? He is your close friend.'

Sudama reluctantly agreed and said, 'Okay, I'll go, but I can't go to a friend empty-handed. I have to take something'. He was so poor that he could not even afford a decent gift for his friend. So his wife packed three handfuls of puffed rice in a scarf and gave it to him. In his kingdom, Krishna welcomed Sudama with open arms, made him sit on his throne, and washed his feet. Sudama came to ask Krishna for a favor, but he was so overwhelmed with Krishna's love and affection that he could not ask for anything. Sudama would not even share his puffed rice with Krishna because he felt so insignificant and small in front of Krishna. When Sudama was trying to hide his gift, Krishna asked, 'Hey, why don't you give me what you have brought me?' Krishna took the rice, and he relished each grain of Sudama's puffed rice. Sudama left for home without asking Krishna for anything. When he reached home, he found his house flooded with riches and gold. This was one of the many events that happened on the day of Akshay Tritiya.

4. The sacred river Ganga.

5. Treta Yuga began on Akshay Tritiya (the day after Satya Yuga ended).

6. On the auspicious day of Akshay Tritiya every year, the construction of the new wooden Rath for the Rath Yatra in Puri Jagannath Temple begins.

7. D. Ved Vyas and Lord Ganesha began writing the Mahabharata epic on this day



A Brief Update:

Hindu Satsang congregation held on March 28, 2021

By: Shivam Viswanathan

On March 28, the Hindu Satsang congregation was started off with the invocation by Ramesh Malhan ji followed by some of Hindu Satsang's regular and surprise singers:

Sh. Subhash Sharma - Hey Mere Gurudev Karuna Sindhu Karuna Kijiye (हे मेरे गुरुदेव करुणा सिंधु करुणा कीजिए)

Smt. Kanchan Pandey - Hume Phir Is Dhara Par Gyan Ki Ganga Bahani Hai (हमे फिर इस धरा पर ज्ञान की गंगा बहानी है)

A patriotic song was sung by **Ramesh Malan ji** on the occasion of Shaheedi Diwas - Hum Us Desh Ke Wasi Hai Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai (हम उस देश के वासी है जिस देश में गंगा बहती है)

As it was Holi on the day of the congregation, **Rashmi ji** sang a colorful Holi song - Holi Khelen Yashoda No Lal (होली खेलें यशोदा नो लाल)

With Ram Navami approaching, **Nand Parkash ji** sang a Ram bhajan - Ram Naam Sukh Dai, Bhajan Kar Bhai, Yeh Mela do din ka - (राम नाम सुख दाई, भजन कर भाई, यह मेला दो दिन का)

We had the privilege of immersing ourselves in some divine bhajans sung by our young guest singer, **Vidhi Patel** and a few of those bhajans we had not heard before:

- Shyam ki chavi basi mere man main (श्याम की छवि बसी मेरे मन में)
- Bhajo Re Bhajo Sada Durga Bhavani (भजो रे भजो सदा दुर्गा भवानी)
- Ban ban dhoonedeeene jaoon (बन-बन दूंडन जाऊं)
- Parabhu Ke Charan Ghar Sumiran Karle - प्रभू के चरण घर सुमिरन करले
- Dekho Sakhi Kanhaiya Roke Tharo Hai Gali - देखो सखी कन्हैया रोके थारो है गली

This was followed by our young guest speaker **Zeel Sheth** who made us realize how insignificant we were in this huge universe where Earth just looks like a speck of dust. Her presentation was simply out of this world - no pun intended. Satsangis asked her many interesting questions, which she answered in a clear and concise way. She also spoke about future voyages into space.

Before concluding with aarti, the members were selected for the Hindu Satsang executive committee.



April 2021 Congregation Details

Congregation:

Date: Sunday, April 25th

Time: 10 am CST

Location: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87013160986?pwd=b0JYRDFhUEExJQksveVErUVVGcDdQZz09>

Please mark your calendar.

Congregation Agenda:

Convener: Sh. Kamal Gupta

10:00 am: Vedic Pooja

10:10 am: Bhajans by Satsangis

10:40 am: Guest Singer and speaker :

Sh. Acharya Narendra ji.

12:00 pm: Aarti



Thank you for your donations to Hindu Satsang, we appreciate your support.

Sh. Om and Smt. Kanan Dhingra: \$501

Sh. Dharamvir Punwani : \$204

Smt. Rashmi Gandhi: \$101

Smt. Usha D Wasan: \$101

Donations to Hindu Satsang can be made by contacting our Treasurer or General Coordinator.

Our guest singer and speaker

In April, we will be hosting guest singer and speaker Shri. Acharya Narendra ji. He has completed his Sangeet Visharad in vocal from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad. He has taken training from many luminaries like Pt. Bhim Sen Joshi, Pt. Pratap Narayan, music director Shraavan (Nadeem Shraavan), Sh. Anup Jalota to name a few.

Acharya Narendra is proficient in singing as well as composing and directing music. He has also traveled widely in and outside of India performing in stage shows with Swami Ramdev ji.

Topic: He will be talking about Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti with katha and bhajan. It will be an interesting session, so set your alarms, so you can join us this month on time. Please feel free to invite your friends and families to take advantage of such an opportunity to listen to such great artists and intellectuals.



Shri. Acharya Narendra ji.