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#### Hindu Satsang Updates By Priya Viswanathan

Pranaam to all Satsangis! I hope that everyone is doing well. This year, due to COVID-19 situation, Hindu Satsang will be broadcasting the Annual Children's Ramlila online over Zoom on Sunday, October 25th 2020 at 5pm. We will have our regular congregation also on Sunday morning at 10 am over the Zoom link, please see more details on page 6. Last month, on September 27th, we had our guest singer Sh. Kamlesh Mehta and guest speaker Smt. Trupti Maniar joining us all the way from Rajkot in Gujarat, India. Please find more details about last congregation on page 4.

For the congregation on Sunday, October 25th, our guest speaker will be Acharaya Hari Prasad ji and the guest singer is Sh. Raju Bankapur. Please find more details about our guests and congregation meeting details and agenda on the page 6 of this newsletter.

If you know someone who can be our guest singer or guest speaker for our future congregations, please contact Smt. Rashmi Gandhi ji or Smt. Shubh Malhan ji and let them know.

Wish you all a very Happy Dussehra (Sunday, October 25th), Karva Chauth (Wednesday, November 4th), Diwali (Saturday, November 14), Bhai Dooj (Monday, November 16th), Chhath Puja (Friday, November 20th).

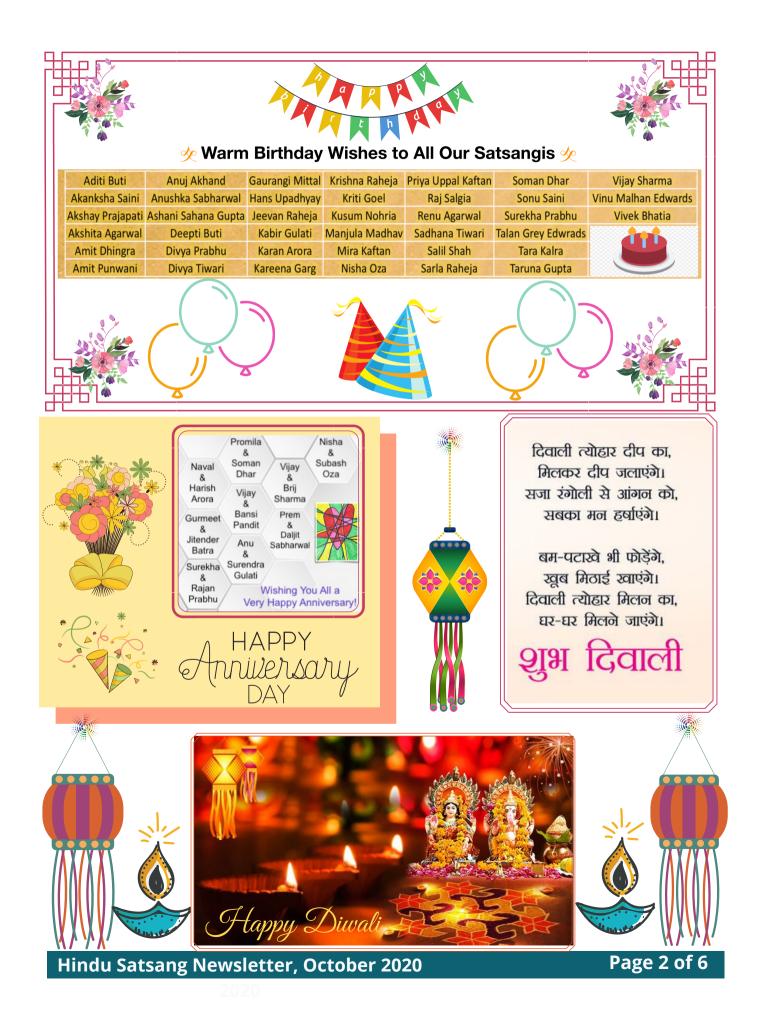
Till we meet (virtually) again, Om Shanti!

🙏 नमस्ते

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Hindu Satsang's Website address: <u>HinduSatsang.org</u> Hindu Satsang's Facebook page: <u>facebook.com/HinduS</u> <u>atsangUSA/</u> Please *Like & Follow* for latest updates. Let us know if you have any feedback at: <u>kpriya10@yahoo.com</u>

# Hindu Satsang Newsletter, October 2020





#### By: Shivam Viswanathan

Vishnu's 7th avatar - Shri Ram, the eldest son of Dashrath and the prince of Ayodhya, won the hand of the beautiful princess Sita, daughter of King Janak. Shri Ram was exiled along with his wife Sita and his brother Laksman for 14 years by the plotting of his stepmother Kaikeyi. In the forest, Sita was abducted by Lanka's powerful but arrogant King Ravan. Shri Ram gathered an army of vanaras and bears to search for his wife. The allies attacked Lanka, killed Ravana, and rescued Sita. After the couple's triumphant return to Ayodhya, Rama's righteous rule inaugurated a golden age for all mankind.

# **Quiz Time** - Now is the time for some questions about Vishnu's 7th Avatar - Shri Ram:

1. Name two characters who appear in Ramayan, as well as in Mahabharat.

2. During Ram and Sita's grand marriage ceremony, brothers of Shri Ram -Lakshman, Bharat, and Shatrughan also got married to Sita's sisters and cousins. What were their names?

3. Though the original is believed to be the work of sage Valmiki, there are also other versions written by many other saints and Veda pundits such as the great Awadhi poet, Goswami Tulsidas. What was the name of the Ramayan written by Sant Tulsidas?

4. What was Valmiki's livelihood while growing up, well before he started writing Ramayan?

5. What festival do we celebrate 20 days after Dussehra, to commemorate the triumphant return of Shri Ram to Ayodhya?

#### Answers to Shri Ram Quiz

1. Parashuram (Vishnu's 6th avatar) and Hanuman. There are seven people who are immortal according to Hindu texts, they are called chiranjeevis (चिरंजीवी). Both Hanuman and Parashuram are chiranjeevis, which enabled them to be present during the two distant events in history.

2. During Ram and Sita's grand marriage ceremony, brothers of Shri Ram -Lakshman, Bharat and Shatrughan were also married to Sita's sister - Urmila, and cousins Mandavi, and Shuddhakirti respectively.

3. Ramcharitmanas (literally means "Lake of deeds of Ram"). It was written by Sant Goswami Tulsidas in 1633. He wanted the story of Shri Ram to be available to the general public. At that time, not many people could understand Sanskrit, hence they could not read the original Ramayan. That is why Tulsidas wrote Ramcharitmanas in Awadhi language.

4. When Valmiki grew up, he became a hunter like his foster father but also took to being a bandit to supplement his livelihood. Once it so happened he met the Maharishi Narada and tried to rob him. However, Narada converted him into a 'Brahmarishi' or religious scholar. He narrated the story of Rama (Ramayana) to him and asked him to write it down for posterity. Valmiki did penance for many years and an ant-hill grew around him. Hence his new name 'Valmiki' which in Sanskrit means an anthill. Valmiki was not his birth name. His actual name was Ratnakara, which was given by his birth parents.

5. We celebrate Diwali to commemorate the triumphant return of Shri Ram to Ayodhya (this year it is on Saturday, November 14th). Wish you all a very Happy Diwali!

#### Hindu Satsang Newsletter, October 2020

#### September 27, 2020 Congregation Update - Convener: Smt. Rashmi Gandhi

The convener for congregation for the month of September was Smt. Rashmi Gandhi. The Vedic Sandhya was done by Sh. Ramesh Malhan. Satsangi Bhajan singers were Gitesh Shah, Subhash Sharma, Kanchan Pandey, Rashmi Gandhi, Surendra & Jyotsna Salgia. Our guest singer Sh. Kamlesh Mehta joined us all the way from Rajkot, Gujarat. He mesmerized the audience with his melodious bhajans. Then our guest speaker, Trupti Maniar, who is also from Rajkot gave an enlightening speech about mind is 'Karmabandhan', and mind is also a 'Moksha marg'. Her speech gave a new understanding about the topic and was well received by everyone. Hersh made the monthly announcements. Rashmi Gandhi, Kanchan Pandey and Subhash Sharma led the Aarti. Smt. Rashmi Gandhi ji also sang the original version of Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram.



Click here to register for HTGC's Zoom link to watch our Ramlila and Ravan Dahan. <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/meet</u> <u>ing/register/tZAvcu6vqzloGNDc</u> <u>96FBNLYdTiewXxTpb9oL</u>

### HINDU SATSANG'S CHILDREN'S RAMLILA



You are invited to the Annual Children's Ramlila organized by your own Hindu Satsang. As this event will be broadcasted online through Zoom, both by HTGC and Hindu Satsang, please feel free to invite all your friends and family from anywhere in the world. Program details are at the end of the newsletter.

This is one of the most favorite events of Hindu Satsang Sunday School students. For many students, this event provides many advantages and opportunities, like - their first exposure to acting, or speaking in front of audiences, that too in Hindi, kindle their interest in Ramayana, just to name a few. It is a great way to keep our kids in contact with our religion, culture, language and heritage.

This year, the Ramlila has been pre-recorded. All the kids stayed at home and performed their roles right in front of their laptops. This year was a different kind of experience but amazing nevertheless. You can watch the Hindu Satsang Children's Ramlila on Sunday, October 25th evening at 5pm. HTGC is planning to broadcast this play to all its visitors. Ramlila will be followed by fireworks and Ravan Dahan (burning the effigy of Ravan).



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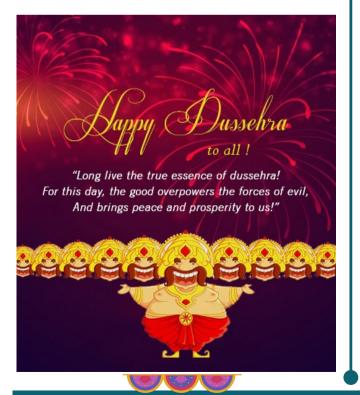
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Nand Parkash Garg: Om Dhingra:

Subhash Pandey: HTGC's Front Desk: 630-674-9794 630-972-0300

**Register at the following Zoom Link:** https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ tZAvcu6vqzIoGNDc96FBNLYdTiewXxTpb9oL

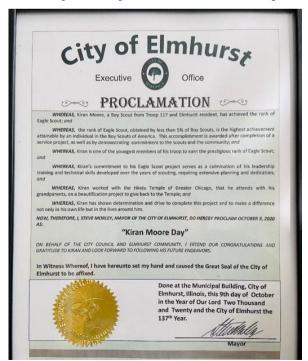


Congratulations Kiran Moore!!!



We would like to share a great achievement by Smt. Kala Didwania's grandson, Kiran Moore. Kiran lives in Elmhurst, he excelled in his Boy Scout and became an Eagle Scout to that extent that the Mayor of Elmhurst recognized Kiran's achievements.

Kiran had worked as a Boy Scout and did some charity work for Hindu Satsang also. Mayor of Elmhurst declared October 9, 2020 as "Kiran Moore Day". A very proud moment for all of us at Hindu Satsang.



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# October 2020 Congregation Details

#### **Congregation:**

Date: October 25 Time: 10 am CST. Location: Zoom online meeting

This congregation will be held online through Zoom. Please mark your calendar.



#### Zoom Meeting link:

## https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81940515247? pwd=bXljYkZtTmpscG81OGRpZ0tWNFZZUT09

Meeting ID: 819 4051 5247 Password: satsang You can also join by phone: +1(312) 626 - 6799 : Password: 118151

#### Agenda:

Convener: Sh. **Hersh Sabharwal** 10:00 am: Vedic Pooja 10:10 am: Bhajans by Satsangis 10:45 am: Guest singer: **Sh. Raju Bankapur** 11:00 am: Guest speaker: **Acharaya Hari Prasad ji** Topic: 'Keep your family ever blessed' some divine drops from the Vedas.

11:50 am: Announcements followed by 'Aarti' at noon.

Vijayadashmi or Dusshera is celebrated on the tenth day of the Hindu autumn lunar month of Ashvin. The first nine days are celebrated as Maha Navratri (nine nights).

The day marks the victory of Goddess Durga over such demons as Shumbh and Nishumbh. It is a day when devotees worship Goddess Shakti. Shakti represents strength, ability and courage. This day also celebrates the victory of Lord Rama over the demon king Ravana.

Dussehra is derived from Sanskrit Dasha-hara meaning "remover of bad fate" meaning remover of ten heads of Ravana's; and this festival is also referred to as Navratri and Durgotsav.

May Goddess Durga remove your bad fate and give you success & happiness in your endeavours! Happy Dussehra!





# **Guest Singer:**

**Sh. Raju Bankapur** is a very versatile singer and multi talented musician. Although a Telecommunications Engineering Manager by profession, his passion for music was so strong since childhood that he developed himself through self learning to become a wellknown professional musician & singer in Chicago for the past 20 years. He not only has developed his singing over the years but also learned to play the Bansuri, Harmonium and Tabla on his own which he plays at a professional level. Known to many as Kishore Kumar of Chicago, Raju has sung with many Bollywood legendary singers like Kavita Krishnamurthy and Bappi Lahiri. He was instrumental in organizing the Chicago Indian Icon Karaoke Singing Completion in 2013.

He has given time to the community through performances at several fundraising events for many organizations and temples.

You can contact Sh. Raju Bankapur for online lessons for Singing, Flute and Harmonium at 630-248-7883.

#### Guest Speaker: Acharaya Hari Prasad ji

He is a resident preacher for Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of America. He resides in Detroit, Michigan. He is well versed with Vedas, Upanishads, Gita and Sanskrit language. He has been a preacher in Arya Samaj of Chicagoland.

His topic for pravachan is 'Keep your family ever blessed' some divine drops from the Vedas. His pravachan will be from 11am to 11:40 am CST.





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