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हिन्दू सत्संग समाचार

Hindu Satsang Samachar
www.HinduSatsang.org
www.facebook.com/HinduSatsangUSA



Hindu Satsang Updates

By Priya Viswanathan

Pranaam to all Satsangis!

What can be more beautiful than to start the year with **Sunder Kand** (literally means *beautiful chapter*). This chapter of Ramayana talks about the adventures of Hanuman and his selflessness, strength, and devotion to Rama. Hanuman ji was fondly called "Sundara" by his mother Anjani. It is believed that just listening to the recital of Sunder Kand brings harmony to the household. Many believe that if one does not have time to read the whole Ramayana, one should read the Sunder Kand. We always start the congregation in the New Year with the Sunder Kand path by ISSA (International Society for Spiritual Advancement), further details on the last page.

This year, the **Youth Festival** will be held virtually on Sunday, Feb 28th from 10 am to 1 pm (This program will be in place of the congregation in February). The children will have an opportunity to participate in this very popular event and showcase their talent. Get in touch with Sh. Nand Parkash for further details.

Please see page 4 of this newsletter for details on our annual Didwania and Jain Scholarships opportunity (Deadline for submission is January 31st).

For our congregation on December 27th, our guest speaker was Pandit Shri Ram Prasad Ji and the guest singer was Dr. Purna Arya. Please find more details about our guests and congregation meeting details and agenda on page 3 of this newsletter.

Wish you all a Very Happy 72nd Republic Day (January 26) and Vasant Panchami (February 16). Mata Saraswati (Goddess of knowledge, music, arts, science, and technology) is worshipped on Vasant Panchami day.

Please stay safe and take care, till we meet again.
Om Shanti, Shanti, Shantihi!



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January 24th

Congregation details



Happy Birthday Month to our Satsangis born in January



Ajay Buti	Gunjali Mittal	Payal Dhingra	Rishi Salgia	Subhash Sharma
Ajay Gupta	Karuna Uppal	Preeti Kalra	Rohini Bahl	Sudha Parikh
Amisha Shah	Kushal Sareen	Promila Dhar	Ruchi Kapoor	Sujata Sharma
Aroon Pal	Manju Goel	Rajesh Tiwari	Satya Pal Kalra	Surbhi Agarwal
Aruna Sharma	Neeraj Kataria	Raman Noharia	Serena Raheja	Surendra Salgia
Arushi Singh	Newal Agnihotri	Reena Sood	Shana Bhagwat	Suresh Ambegaoker
Binish Choksi	Nina Gandhi	Richa Agnihotri	Shikha Malhotra	Vinod Gandhi
Dinkar Tiwari	Niranjan Kataria	Richa Bhargava	Sonia Gunya	Vipin Malhan

Happy Anniversary Month

Jharna & Gitesh Shah	Roma & Neil Bhagat	Vijay & Nisha Goyal	Sadhana & Rajesh Tiwari
Sharda & Manohar Sharma	Shubh & Ramesh Malhan	Sudha & Hans Upadhyay	Tripta & Brum Pal

Birthday Smile:

You know you're getting old when you have more candles on your cake than friends at your birthday party.

Hindu Satsang's Website address:

HinduSatsang.org

Hindu Satsang's Facebook page: facebook.com/HinduSatsangUSA/

Please Like & Follow for latest updates. Let us know if you have any feedback at:

kpriya10@yahoo.com

Laughter is the best medicine: Vaali is arguably the most powerful character in the Ramayana. Vaali had a boon - whoever fights with him, gets half of his opponent's power added to him.

During the Kaliyuga as well, whoever fights with their wife, gets half of their power transferred to their wife. That is why the wife is called "Ghar Vaali".



A brief update of the congregation held on December 27, 2020

By: Shivam Viswanathan

The convocation began with a short invocation and explanation of all the mantras by Sh. Ramesh Malhan.

The highlight of this congregation was the performances by our young and budding artists and the future of our Hindu Satsang. Following were the bright little gems of the Satsang (pictures on the right column):

- Neelan Chokshi - Gayeye Ganpati Jag Vandan (गाइये गणपति जगवंदन)
- Anushka Sabharwal - Achitam Keshavam Krishna Damodaram (अच्युतम केशवम कृष्ण दामोदरम)
- Kavya Nangia - Shlokas and bhajan - Durge jai jai ma (दुर्गे जय जय माँ)

We also had our satsangis perform some uplifting, melodious bhajans:

- Sh. Subhash and Smt. Kiran Sharma - Koi Kahe Govind Koi Gopala (कोई कहे गोविन्द कोई गोपाला)
- Smt. Kanchan Pandey - Bhavani Tera Bhavan Sajaya hai (भवानी तेरा भवन सजाया है)
- Smt. Rashmi Gandhi - Jago Mohan Pyare (जागो मोहन प्यारे)
- Sh. Daljit & Smt. Prem Sabharwal, accompanied by their granddaughter Anushka - Chalo Bulava Aya Hai (चलो बुलावा आया है)
- Gitesh Shah - Achitam Keshavam Krishna Damodaram (अच्युतम केशवम कृष्ण दामोदरम)

Guest Singer Dr. Prerna Arya: Listening to Dr. Prerna Arya's bhajans just melts away the worries and calms the mind.

- Ek Teri Daya Ka Daan Mile Ek Tera Sahara Mil Jaye (इक तेरी दया का दान मिले, एक तेरा सहारा मिल जाये)
- Yeh jeevan tumhara tumhi ko hai arpan, lagado kinare ise meere bhagwan (यह जीवन तुम्हारा तुम्ही को है अर्पण, लगा दो किनारे इसे मेरे भगवन)

Guest Speaker: Pandit Shri Ram Prasad Ji spoke broadly on "Impact of spiritual activity in COVID-19 pandemic". He also touched upon many evils within us like jealousy which is nothing but wasting one's energy to bring down others. We should see good in all - see God in all. We must implement what we learn, God has given us the body to do good deeds. He also spoke about protecting self, near and dear ones by chanting Mahāmrityunjaya Mantra.

Young Satsangis



Neelan Chokshi -
Gayeye Ganpati Jag
Vandan
(गाइये गणपति जगवंदन)



Anushka Sabharwal -
Achitam Keshavam
Krishna Damodaram
(अच्युतम केशवम कृष्ण दामोदरम)



Kavya Nangia - Shlokas
and bhajan -
Durge jai jai ma
(दुर्गे जय जय माँ)



Guest Speaker
Pandit Shri Ram
Prasad Ji



Guest Musician
Dr. Prerna Arya

Hindu Satsang's Didwania & Jain Scholarships 2020-21

Students affiliated with the Hindu Satsang group will once again have an opportunity to submit their essays to qualify for the **Didwania** and **Jain** scholarships. Under each scholarship, we will award 1st prize of \$600 and 2nd prize of \$400 with a total of 4 scholarship awards this year. Please find below the information about this opportunity and let me know if you have any questions.

The topic of the Essay:

"COVID-19 has had a staggering impact on the entire world. How have you been affected by this pandemic? Have the values imparted by Hindu Dharma had any role to play in your life during this time?"

Submission Due By: January 31, 2021

Kindly please submit your essay using the Google form link below. Submissions that will be emailed directly to coordinators, teachers, or volunteers will not be considered.

Google Form Link for Essay Submission:

https://rebrand.ly/Didwania-Jain_Scholarship

2020-2021 Didwania and Jain Scholarship Essay Submission

In order for a student to participate, the student would need to meet the following requirements:



Didwania Scholarship Requirements:

- 1) Current or former Hindu Satsang Sunday School student who has participated for a minimum of 3 years.
- 2) Currently in middle or high school.
- 3) Previous winners can submit their essays, but there will be no repeat winners.

Jain Scholarship Requirements:

- 1) Current college student who is or has been associated with Hindu Satsang.
- 2) Must be less than or equal to 21 years of age.
- 3) Previous winners can submit their essays, but there will be no repeat winners.

Other Requirements:

- 1) Essay length should be 500-700 words in a word document (not .pdf). Must have an introduction, body paragraph(s), and a conclusion.
- 2) Essays must be the original work of the student. This means no help from parents or others.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs. Divya Grover or any of the Educations Coordinators or Sunday School teachers.





Vishnu's 10th Avatar Kalki followed by a quiz

By: Shivam Viswanathan

In the past few Hindu Satsang newsletters, we have learned and quizzed about Vishnu avatars from the first avatar to the ninth. Today we'll explore the 10th (and the last) Vishnu avatar.

Collectively known as Dashavatar or ten incarnations, the preserver of the universe (Vishnu), descends to earth whenever mankind is in danger or when evil and tyranny overpowers righteousness as mentioned in the Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 4, Verse: 7-8:

परित्राणाय साधूनां विनाशाय च दुष्कृताम्।धर्मसंस्थापनार्थाय
संभवामि युगे युगे।।

Pronouncing the above-mentioned shloka in English:

*paritranaya sadhunam vinashaya cha dushkritam
Dharma-samsthapanarthaya sambhavami yuge yuge*
English translation: *In order to deliver the pious and to annihilate the miscreants, as well as to reestablish the principles of righteousness, I advent Myself epoch after epoch.*

Hindi translation: साधु पुरुषों के रक्षण, दुष्कृत्य करने वालों के नाश, तथा धर्म संस्थापना के लिये, मैं प्रत्येक युग में प्रकट होता हूँ।।

Dashavatar: We have heard and seen so many instances whereby every modern-day concept / invention is already hinted at in the Vedas and Puranas. Some devout believers even assert that everything is derived from Vedas and there is hardly anything that is not touched by the Vedas. Can the sequence of the avatars be taken to signify various stages in the modern-day evolution of life?

1st Avatar – Matsya (Fish) – Beginning of lifeform, creatures that only live in water.

2nd Avatar – Koorma (Turtle) – Creatures that could survive both in water and land (amphibian).

3rd Avatar – Varaha (Boar) – Creatures that live on land (with the ability to swim).

4th Avatar – Narasimha (The half-lion and half-human) – A stage between Homo sapiens and animals (Tiryaks).

5th Avatar – Vaamana – The Homo sapiens with short stature.

6th Avatar – Parasurama – The rough and tough human (Rama with the axe).

7th Avatar – Sri Rama – The perfect civilized human (Rama with a bow & noble practices).

8th Avatar – Balarama – The human with occupational techniques (Rama with the plow - farming).

9th Avatar – Sri Krishna – The Superhuman!

10th (Final) Avatar – Kalki – The apocalyptic (The one who would end this Mahayuga!).

Kalki Avatar: It is believed that Vishnu has already completed the nine avatars and the last avatar is expected to appear by the end of Kali Yuga (the current yuga). Kalki will appear on the earth to rid the world of oppression by unrighteous rulers.

This description of Kalki avatar is found in the Srimad Bhagavata Purana 12.5.19–20:

अश्वमाशुगमारुह्य देवदत्तं जगत्पतिः ।

असिनासाधुदमनमष्टैश्वर्यगुणान्वितः ॥ १९ ॥

विचरन्नाशुना क्षौण्यां हयेनाप्रतिमद्युतिः ।

नृपलिङ्गच्छदो दस्यून्कोटिशो निहनिष्यति ॥ २० ॥

English Translation: Kalki, the Lord of the universe, will mount His swift horse “Devadatta” and, sword in hand, travel over the earth exhibiting eight mystic opulences and eight special qualities of Godhead. Displaying His unequalled effulgence and riding with great speed, He will kill by the millions those thieves who have dared dress as kings.

(Continued on the next page...)

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About Yugas:

The four great epochs in Hinduism are Satya Yuga, Treta Yuga, Dwapar Yuga, and Kali Yuga. The first 3 of these yugas - Satya Yuga, Treta Yuga, Dwapar Yuga - have passed. We are presently living in the fourth one, the Kali Yuga. Sages have interpreted that these yugas or epochs of time represent the degree of loss of righteousness in the world:

Satya Yuga: in this age people do not sin or harm others, nature is in perfect harmony, no accidental deaths.

Treta Yuga: In this yuga, there was a mild decline in divinity in humans. But there was complete peace, harmony, contentment, and happiness.

Dwapar Yuga: The vices like lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego started casting their shadows on humans.

Kali Yuga: World plagued with impurities and vices. The ordinances of the Vedas reduce gradually as time passes. There is a steady decline in the number of people possessing noble virtues. In this age, floods, famine, disease, and war are prevalent, as are deceit and deception. Differences of opinions and conflicts begin to increase. The souls in this age are overpowered by vices and darkness of ignorance. Emphasis is on the pursuit of materialism, this age has been termed the Age of Darkness — an age when we have lost touch with our inner selves, an age of profound ignorance. There are communal and sectarian differences. Nature becomes instrumental in causing distress to man.

Evil and dishonesty have therefore gradually replaced truth in the last three yugas. The people had all fallen prey to delusion and all pious acts had been swallowed by greed. The ordinances of the Vedas disappear gradually in every successive age.

According to Hindu cosmology, it is prophesied that Vishnu will incarnate as Kalki by the end of the Kali Yuga, Shiva will destroy the universe. After the dissolution, Brahma will recreate the universe, and humankind will become the beings of truth once again. With Satya Yuga, the cycle of yuga will start once again.

Here is a quiz to test your wits:

Quiz

1. What are the 4 yugas or epochs in Hinduism?
2. Which is the only avatar out of 10 Dashavatar who have not descended to earth yet?
3. What is the name of Kalki avatar's horse?
4. What weapon does the Kalki avatar carry?
5. When is the Kalki avatar expected to descend to earth?
6. What yuga did each of the Vishnu avatars belong to?

Answers:

1. a. Satya Yuga, b. Treta Yuga, c. Dwapar Yuga, and d. Kali Yuga.
2. Kalki Avatar
3. Devadutta
4. Sword
5. During the last phase of Kali-yuga.
6. Avatars and their yugas:
 - a. The first 4 avatars descended to earth in Satya Yuga – Matsya, Koorma, Varaha, and Nrisimha
 - b. The next 3 avatars in Treta Yuga – Vaaman, Parasurama, and Sri Rama
 - c. The next 2 avatars in Dwapara Yuga – Balarama and Krishna
 - d. The last avatar will descend to earth in Kali Yuga – Kalki



*We wish
Sh. Ramesh &
Smt. Shubh Malhan a
Very Happy Golden
(50th) Anniversary.*

January 2021 Congregation Details

Congregation:

Date: Sunday, January 24th

Time: 10 am CST

Location:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87013160986?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87013160986?pwd=b0JYRDFhUEExJQksveVERUVVGcDdQZz09)

[pwd=b0JYRDFhUEExJQksveVERUVVGcDdQZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87013160986?pwd=b0JYRDFhUEExJQksveVERUVVGcDdQZz09)

Please mark your calendar.



This connection with Hanuman Ji and Ram Ji provides inner strength and helps overcome any hurdles in life.

ISSA is dedicated to performing community service by chanting weekly SunderKand and monthly RamCharit Manas path at various residential and spiritual establishments to instill faith and supreme consciousness.

Currently, this service is performed online and will resume in-house service once the COVID situation improves. The Seva of Lord Hanuman towards Lord Rama is our guide towards spirituality and humility. Each verse from RamCharit Manas is Amrit if only one is willing to drink. In addition to the weekly SunderKand and Monthly RamCharit Manas path, ISSA also performs a yearly Sunderkand Mahayagya program with a minimum of 108 families which will also be performed online via zoom meeting similar to last year's program. Everyone is invited, and details will be published soon.

Sunderkand Group Core team: Ramanand Dwivedi, Mithlesh Sharma, Ram Shraddha Das, Anand Tiwari, Rahul Trivedi, Pankaj Patel, Ramesh Savsani, and Inderjeet Gurtatta

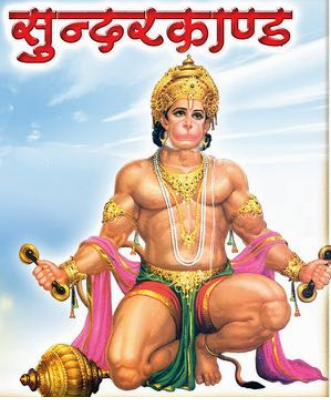
Agenda:

Convener: Sh. Hersh Sabharwal

10:00 am: Vedic Pooja

10:10 am: Sundar Kand by ISSA

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



About ISSA (International Society for Spiritual Advancement)

ISSA (International Society for Spiritual Advancement) was established 24 years ago under the guidance of Dr. Ramanand Dwivedi. ISSA performs spiritual programs throughout Chicagoland and North American cities.

In this difficult time that plagues the entire world, ISSA continues to spread the message of spirituality by performing Online Sunderkand Path and Ram Charit Manas Path recitation over Zoom meetings. On one side the pandemic has isolated humanity and on the other hand, the online path has brought devotees together from all around the world.

The primary objective of ISSA is to spread spiritual awareness and ignite the love and connection with Lord Ram, especially within the youth and little kids. This connection acts as a protective kavach that prevents us from getting distracted, stay the path, and give us strength during difficult times. As Sant Tulsidas ji says in Ram Charit manas: "Payi Na Kehi Gati Patit Pawan, Ram Bhaj Sun Sath manaa".

