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दिसंबर २०२१ December 2021  
Kartak - Magshar, Vikram Samvat 2078

हिन्दू सत्संग समाचार  
Hindu Satsang Samachar



[www.HinduSatsang.org](http://www.HinduSatsang.org) // [www.facebook.com/HinduSatsangUSA](https://www.facebook.com/HinduSatsangUSA)

## Hindu Satsang Updates

By Shivam Viswanathan

*Sadar pranaam* to all Satsangis!

Greetings, this is our last newsletter for the year, and I am so grateful to you for always receiving the newsletter with open arms, and reading it with an open mind, and always giving me such open, honest, and wonderful feedback. Last month, more than 500 people accessed our newsletter online. It has been a pleasure creating these newsletters. We need to re-energize and get ready for all the new challenges and opportunities that 2022 throws at us.

We are glad that you are part of this great community of caring and loving members called Hindu Satsang.

It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the dedication and hard work of all the members of our committee as we begin the new year. We hope and pray that next year things will return to normal.

This month's congregation will feature guest singers, **Sh. Prashant and Smt. Shefali Kurdukar** and our guest speaker, **Sh. Sarvaishvarya Krishna Das** will talk about "*Psychosomatic Therapy in Bhagavad Gita*".

Following are some of the main festivals/events coming up in the next few weeks, our best wishes to everyone (dates may vary based on the location/calendar): **Lohri** on Thursday, January 13th, **Pongal / Makar Sankranti** on Friday, January 14th, **Swami Vivekananda Jayanti** on Monday, January 24th, **Republic Day** on Wednesday, January 26th, **Gandhi Samaadhi** on Sunday, January 30th.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Sunday, December 26th over Zoom for our monthly congregation. Wish you all a Happy New Year!

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IN  
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## Happy Birth Month to our Satsangis born in December



Aarti Gupta	Arjun Sachdev	Arnav Sharma	Atul Gupta
Devindra Joshi	Divya Tiwari	Gitesh Shah	Indra Rani Singh
Ish Bhagwat	Kartik Sharma	Kiran Punwani	Kunal Gulati
Nitin Malhotra	Poonam Beri	Priyanka Dhingra	Rajesh Garg
Rakesh Beri	Sadhana Tiwari	Sadhuram Mittal	Sarika Mittal
Saroj Mittal	Sudhir Gupta	<b>** जन्मदिन की शुभकामनाएं! **</b>	

## Happy Anniversary Month



Alka & Navin Tyle	Garima & Vipin Malhan	Jyotsna & Surendra Salgia	Kiran & Subhash Sharma	Kusum & Naresh Nohria
Madhu & Jug Uppal	Neha & Naresh Khetrapal	Om & Kanan Dhingra	Richa & Anu Agnihotri	Uma & Ghanshyam Agarwal
Ritu Upadhyay & Vinay Chawla	Seema & Neeraj Gupta	Shelly & Dinkar Tiwari	Sreshtha & Ravi Saini	Vimal & Subhash Sharma

Laughter is the best gift, especially on anniversaries when you could use a chuckle (..or two).

If you want to put a smile on your partner's face without being overly mushy, a cute anniversary joke is exactly what you need:

*It's our wedding anniversary today. My wife and I have been happily married for two years now ..... 1983 and 2011.*



### Hindu Satsang's

Website address:

[HinduSatsang.org](http://HinduSatsang.org)

Hindu Satsang's

Facebook page:

[facebook.com/HinduSatsangUSA](https://facebook.com/HinduSatsangUSA)

We have more than 100 followers, please **Like &**

**Follow**

for the latest updates.



# *Hindu Satsang Alumni Meet & Greet*

Reconnect with  
Hindu Satsang School  
Students and Alumni

- Cultural Program
- Career Counseling Panel
- Mentorship/Networking
- Guest Speaker Presentation
- Dinner Provided

**WHEN:** January 2nd, 2022 @ 5-9pm CST

**WHERE:** Ashyana Banquets

**FOR:** High School Students and Above

\$10 Registration Fee | Dress Code: Casual  
COVID Vaccination Required

**[CLICK ON LINK PROVIDED TO REGISTER](#)**

ॐ

Short and Easy  
**Happy New Year song in  
Sanskrit**

Read, listen, learn and sing

क्षणं प्रतिक्षणं यन्नवं नवम् ।  
तच्च सुन्दरं सच्च तच्छिवम् ॥ १ ॥  
वर्षनूतनं ते शुभं मुदम् ।  
उत्तरोत्तरं भवतु सिद्धिदम् ॥ २ ॥

**Here's how to pronounce it:**

kṣhaṇam pratikṣhaṇam yannavam navam  
taccha sundaram saccha tacchivam . 1 .  
varśanūtanam te śubham mudam  
uttarotaram bhavatu siddhidam . 2 .

**Translated into English:**

Beauty is that which at every moment  
is new and fresh,  
That Alone is Good, Real, and Beautiful!  
May this New Year bring you greater  
Goodness, Joy, and Success

**Here's a YouTube video that shows  
you how to sing it in tune:**

<https://youtu.be/Q8JYVWlJ7Xw>

Song was written by  
Swami Tejomayananda



**मौक़ा**

John James Ingalls' poem  
"Opportunity" translated into Hindi

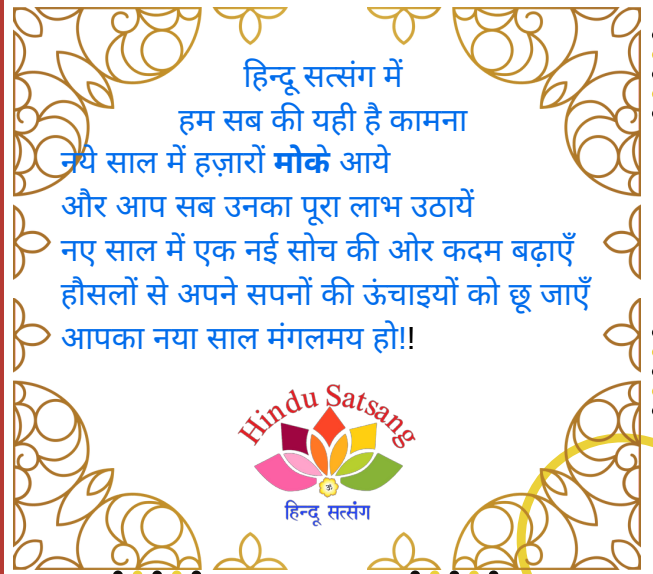
मैं हूँ मौक़ा, मैं हूँ अवसर, तुम भी मेरी पहचान करो  
मैं क्रिस्मत हूँ, मैं हूँ शोहरत, मुझसे यूँ मत अनजान बनो  
मैं तो हर जगह पहुँचता हूँ, हर दर पर दस्तक देता हूँ  
चाहे हो छोटी या हो बड़ी, हर मुश्किल का हल देता हूँ

जो मुझको पहचानते हैं वो कामयाब हो जाते हैं  
अपने ही हाथों से वो फिर अपनी क्रिस्मत लिख पाते हैं  
इससे पहले मैं चल दूँ, तुम उठ बैठो, समझो मुझको  
उपयोग करो मेरा जी भर, जाने ही न दो रोको मुझको

जो मेरी बात समझते हैं, उनको सब कुछ मिल सकता है  
आसान है हर मुश्किल उनकी आसान सफ़र है, रस्ता है  
जो मेरी बात समझते हैं, उनको सब कुछ मिल सकता है  
लेकिन जो झिझक दिखाते हैं वो उलझन में पड़ जाते हैं

इक बार जो मौक़ा खो जाए, वो जीवन भर पछताते हैं  
मैं सब का साथ निभाता हूँ, मैं सबके ही काम आता हूँ  
लेकिन एक बार चला जाऊँ तो मुश्किल से हाथ आता हूँ।  
मैं हूँ मौक़ा, मैं हूँ अवसर, तुम भी मेरी पहचान करो

मैं क्रिस्मत हूँ, मैं हूँ शोहरत, मुझसे यूँ मत अनजान बनो  
मैं हूँ मौक़ा, मैं हूँ अवसर, तुम भी मेरी पहचान करो



## जिंद कही, आपबीती

By Smt. Uma Nauth

(One Day Life Evaluates the Validity of Its Human Experiences)

Life is loaned to us for a purpose.  
Since last year, many families have experienced the loss of loved ones, some very young, who could not fulfill their desired mission. It has saddened my heart and stirred my feelings, which I have captured in the following poetic expression. How fragile is our body and how valuable is our every breathing moment lived in it!

बस इतनी सी ही थी ,इंसानी कलामे जिंदगी  
चालीस , अस्सी,या सौ साल की, जितनी भी जी  
बयां करे अपनी जुबानी, तेर मेर की ये कहानी  
पूरी जीने पर भी ,काफी नहीं थी

जिसे अपना समझा, उससे जोड़ी  
जो पराया लगा ,उससे तोड़ी  
अपनी मरजी ,अच्छी लगी  
पराए फर्ज में, दिक्कत पड़ी  
जितनी बनावटी दुनियांदारी  
किस्मत कर्म की दोस्ती उतनी न्यारी

आराम सामान खूब जोड़ी  
पैसे व ताकत की कमी, फिर भी खली  
शोहरत की प्यास, बुझाए नहीं बुझी  
इतना मिलने पर भी, चैन नहीं पड़ी  
डर फिकर से रही ,हमेशा जकड़ी  
खुदगर्जी की हद कहाँ थी!

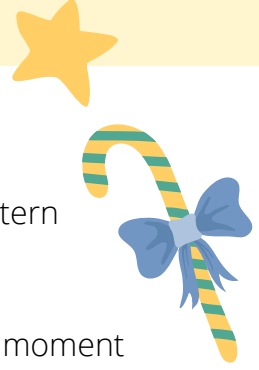
लगता था, सब कबजे में है  
पर गमे आलम में ,बेकाबू लगी  
यादें, भूलाये नहीं भूली  
इतना वक्त कहाँ था, जो अपने से, गई हो पढ़ी

सांस कड़ी ,जब पलभर रुकी  
आज़ाद हो जिसम से ,रुह ऊपर को निकली  
हर चीज़ रह गई, धरी की धरी  
एहसांसो की गठरी ,बहुत भारी लगी  
सच की पहचान नहीं थी गहरी



## Resolution With Time

By Smt. Uma Nauth



Past never leaves you  
Future never comes to you  
Amidst of their inherent pattern  
Present keeps losing you  
Till  
In the reflection of the Now moment  
Present speaks the words of wisdom  
When  
The purpose of the past is felt with realization  
while given, due attention  
Ah ----- What a healing experience!  
As you open the door of Time Resolution  
Uma says  
Combination of one's efforts and Divine  
Grace  
Past is found nowhere  
Future is standing right there  
With smiling face !!

Happy New Year



एक नज़र, जब पीछे मुड़ देखी  
द्वैत (duality) की करामात दिखी अनूठी  
जिसे समझी कामयाबी ,देख उसे हूई शर्मिन्दगी  
ना की शुक्रगुज़ारी, ना कभी मांगी माफी  
मालिक को दी, सब कसमे भूली  
इस भूलभूलैया (maya) में कुछ ऐसी भटकी

थकी हारी, इक दिन जिंद बोली  
तेरी मैं मैं नहीं, ए बन्दे  
चला रही थी तुझे तो, एक नूरानी हस्ती

ये सब महसूस कर ----उमा कही  
अब तो चल मना-वहीं

जन्म मरण से परे, आबाद है, जहां-वो अनजानी बस्ती

## **Hindus of Mauritius Maintaining and Celebrating Their Religious Identity With Pride and Determination**

*By Smt. Madhu Uppal*

Tuesday mornings find the thousands of Hindu inhabitants of Mauritius, an archipelago of islands more than 2,000 miles from the west coast of India, beginning their day listening to Hanuman bhajans playing on the local radio stations. Or Lakshmi bhajans on Fridays as they go about their morning routines. While their arrival on these tropical islands, nearly 200 years ago, was steeped in pain, the Hindus of Mauritius are a vibrant community today and constitute nearly 50% of the population of the country.

The first group of Indians, numbering just thirty-six, were brought here in 1834 as indentured servants by the British rulers of the country. Like other slaves, they toiled all day long in the fast-growing sugar cane fields, but night brought some solace as together they sang verses from the Ramayana. As the sugar profits grew, an ever-larger number of Indians were brought to the country. Denied the rights for self-determination, these men and women dug deeper into their religious beliefs and practices to survive the atrocities they were subjected to.

With the abolition of slavery and indentured labor, Hindu families started becoming established in a variety of trades. After independence from Britain in 1968, Mauritius became a democracy and, through careful drafting of the constitution, has enjoyed relative peace among the diverse people who call it home. Today, every Hindu festival is celebrated with great pomp and festivity by the Hindus of Mauritius.

From Durga Puja to Ganesh Chaturthi, families follow the customs and traditions their ancestors brought with them from Calcutta, Chennai, Gujarat, etc. Alongside French Creole, Hindus can be heard speaking Bhojpuri, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, or Gujarati. Beautiful temples dedicated to Hanuman, Shiva and Durga Ma dot the country.

In the past, living in close proximity with other communities from India, many religious practices and rituals crossed regional borders and today most Hindus proudly place the image of Lord Hanuman with a red flag in each hand at the entrance of their house, something that was initially a tradition with the Bhojpuri speaking community.

*In the picture below: For generations, Hindu families in Mauritius have been building a Hanuman temple in front of their home when constructing a new home.*



*< Article continued on the next page >>>*

<<< **Article continued from the previous page**>

Thus, the Hindu religion has been enriched by the commingling of regional practices. While their ancestors might have identified themselves as Tamil Hindu or Marathi Hindu, the new generation proudly calls itself simply Hindu or Mauritian Hindu.

Every village in Mauritius has a Kali Maiyee temple at its entrance and exit; here Ma Kali is prayed to as the Gram Devi and no special event is complete without a blessing from Ma Kali.

The festivals of Holi and Diwali are celebrated with great fervor, as are Rakshabandhan and Mahashivratri and many more. Mauritius Hindus are a proud lot and are holding up their dharma and traditions with care and devotion. ❧



**Ganesh ji,  
Grand Bassin,  
Mauritius**



**Sockalingum  
Meenatchee  
Ammen Kovil**

**75**  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav  
**Quiz**

[www.akamquiz.in](http://www.akamquiz.in)

**A Quiz On Everything About India**

Open to NRIs, PIOs, OCIs & Foreign Nationals of age 16-35 years as of 1 January 2022  
Registrations open from 1st December 2021 to 31st January 2022  
Online quiz can be played from 1st - 31st January 2022  
The top 3 winners from each category will receive Gold, Silver and Bronze medals



## RECAP

### A brief recap of the Hindu Satsang Congregation held on November 28, 2021

By: Shivam Viswanathan

On November 28, the Hindu Satsang congregation program started with Vedic pooja by Sh. Subhash Sharma and Satsangies. This was followed by divine and soulful bhajans by the members of our Hindu Satsang group:

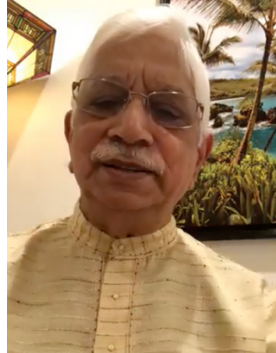
- Sh. Subhash & Smt. Kiran Sharma - Punjabi Bajan - मैं ता राम जी ते सुटिया डोरा आपे बेडा पार लानो
- Pranav Rastogi - a young singer who is learning Indian music joined us to sing a beautiful song from the movie Gopi (1970) which was originally sung by Md. Rafi - सुख के सब साथी दुःख में ना कोई. We wish him all the very best and hope he will join us again for singing more such bhajans in the future. May Goddess Saraswati bless you with wisdom, knowledge, creativity, and talent.
- Smt. Rashmi Gandhi joined us from India and sang the beautiful Meera bhjan - पायो जी मैंने, राम रतन धन पायो

Convener for this congregation was our Hindu Satsang's General Coordinator, Sh. Kamal Gupta.

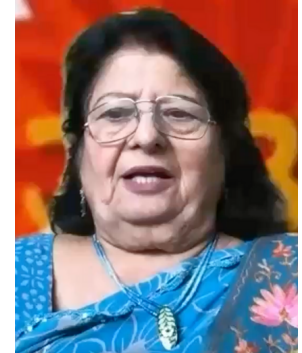
Our guest singer was the melodious **Sh. Girish Bhatt**. His harmonious voice was accompanied by his own harmonium, making songs even more melodious. He started off with some profound Kabir Das ke dohe, followed by some mesmerizing bhajans listed below:

- चदरिया झीनी रे झीनी
- एक झोली में फूल भरे है एक झोली में कांटे, कोई कारण होगा तेरे बस में कुछ भी नही ये तो बांटने वाला बांटे, कोई कारण होगा..
- जो भजे हरि को सदा, सोही परम पद पावेगा।
- राम से कोई मिला दे मुझको

Our guest speaker was **Smt. Manju Kalra** spoke about the intriguing life of "Ashvatthama" from the epic Mahabharata. She followed the path of Chiranjeevi Ashvatthama till modern times. It was based on a book recently released in India. 🌀



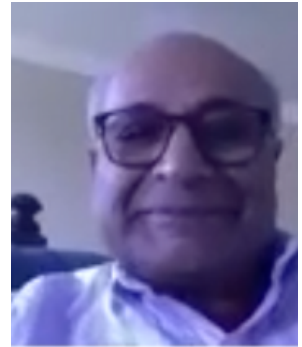
**Sh. Girish Bhatt**



**Smt. Manju Kalra**

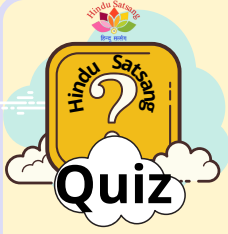


**Pranav Rastogi**



**Sh. Kamal Gupta**





## Kashi Vishwanath Temple Quiz



The newly inaugurated Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi is being largely hailed as a symbol of the resurrection of the spiritual consciousness of India. Here is a quiz to walk you through some important particulars about this temple. The questions are in the form of fill-in-the-blank statements:

1. The Kashi Vishwanath Mandir is dedicated to Lord \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. The temple is situated on the banks of the river \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Kashi Vishwanath Mandir is one of the twelve \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. Jyotirlinga temples worship Lord Shiva in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. Reconstructed multiple times over the years, the present structure of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple was built by \_\_\_\_\_ in 1780.
6. It is believed that a dip in the holy Ganges followed by a visit to the Temple help one attain \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. In 1835, Maharaja \_\_\_\_\_, donated 1 tonne of gold for plating the temple's dome.
8. Bonus question: can you name all the 12 Jyotirlingas and their locations?

**Answers on the right column -->**

## Answers to the Quiz:

1. Lord Shiva
2. River Ganga in Varanasi
3. Jyotirlingas (ज्योतिर्लिंग)
4. Light or Jyoti
5. Ahilya Bai Holkar in 1780.
6. Moksha
7. In 1835, Maharaja Ranjit Singh of the Sikh Empire, on the behest of his wife, Maharani Datar Kaur, donated 1 tonne of gold for plating the temple's dome.
8. Here are the 12 Jyotirlingas and their locations:
  - I. Somnath Jyotirlinga, Saurashtra, Gujarat
  - II. Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
  - III. Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga, Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh
  - IV. Mallikarjuna Jyotirlinga, Srisaillam, Andhra Pradesh
  - V. Vajinath Jyotirlinga, Parli, Maharashtra
  - VI. Kedarnath Jyotirlinga, Kedarnath, Uttarakhand
  - VII. Nageshwar Jyotirlinga, Darukavanam, Gujarat
  - VIII. Trimbakeshwar Jyotirlinga, Nasik, Maharashtra
  - IX. Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga, Pune, Maharashtra
  - X. Rameshwar Jyotirlinga, Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu
  - XI. Grishneshwar Jyotirlinga, Aurangabad, Maharashtra
  - XII. Kashi Vishwanath Jyotirlinga, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

*Due to hatred for Hindu culture, Aurangzeb demolished the temple in 1669 CE and replaced it with the Gyanvapi Masjid. In the mosque's rear section, you can still see the foundation, columns, and remains of the former temple.* ❁



**An overview of our guest speaker  
and singers  
this month**



I want to express my sincere appreciation to our liaisons,

**Sh. Subhash Pandey** and **Sh. Ramesh Malhan**, who brought us a range of amazingly talented singers and luminaries as guests speakers this year.

Our guest singers for this month are **Sh. Prashant & and Smt. Shefali Kurdukar**.

**Smt. Shefali Kurdukar:**

Smt. Shefali learned classical Hindustani vocal singing in Hyderabad, India through a music college which she attended in the evenings for some time. She also received some tutelage from her mother, who was an excellent singer and a radio artist. Since being married to Prashant, she practices with him. Smt. Shefali typically sings in Hari Om Mandir or other social gatherings.


**Sh. Prashant Kurdukar:**

**Prashant** ji has been involved with music from a very early age. He has received formal training in Hindustani classical vocal and sitar, as well as piano and guitar. However, Prashant ji is more of an instrumentalist and dabbles with other instruments as well, such as keyboard, harmonium, tabla, harmonica, and flute. Prashant ji has been accompanying various other singers around Chicago on guitar and keyboards for social events as well as in temples.

The guest speaker for this month is, **Sh. Sarvaishvarya Krishna Das.**

Das ji is a Brahma-initiated disciple of Nitya-leela Pravishta Ashtottar-shat Sri Srimad Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj in the ISKCON tradition.

He took his instructions and blessings and trying to fulfill his desire. He has already completed the translation of Srimad Bhagavad Gita (Sri Gita-Sugita), Sri Isopanishad, Sri Upadeshamritam, Sri Narad Bhakti-Sootra, and currently, he is translating Srimad Bhagavatam. He has completed the translation of Srimad Bhagavatam up to 10th cantos as Sri Bhagavata-Kathamrit. His poetry is composed in Doha, Chaupai, and Pad and has a touch of melodious "Awadhi" language.

Materially, he is a Full-Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, where he teaches cancer biology to medical and Ph.D. students and performs research on the development of chemotherapeutic agents for the treatment of colon and breast cancer. He obtained B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from the University of Allahabad and Ph.D. degree from the Panjab University, Chandigarh. He published more than 100 scientific research papers and has been awarded seven times with the Exemplary Teacher Award by the College of Medicine, University of Florida. 



# Hindu Satsang Sunday Congregation

10 AM CST on Sunday, 26th, December 2021

4th Sunday  
10 AM CST

December 2021						
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Everyone is  
cordially  
invited

Join us online

Time: 10 am CST on Dec. 26th.  
(Sunday)

Mark your calendar

[Click Here to join Zoom](#)

[or use the following zoom link:](#)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87013160986?  
pwd=b0JYRDhUExJQksveVERUVVGcDdQZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87013160986?pwd=b0JYRDhUExJQksveVERUVVGcDdQZz09)

Read about our guest singers & speaker on page 10

## Congregation Agenda:

**Convener: Smt. Rashmi Gandhi**

**10:00 am: Vedic Pooja**

**10:10 am: Bhajans by Satsangis**

**10:30 am: Guest Singer:**

**Sh. Prashant and  
Smt. Shefali Kurdukar**

**11:00 am: Guest Speaker:**

**Sh. Sarvaishvarya  
Krishna Das.**

**Topic: "Psychosomatic  
Therapy in Bhagavad Gita"**

**11:45 am: Announcements followed  
by Aarti**



## What's trending in News:

### #Ramayana Express Train Tour: #

Religious Trails to the Abode of Lord Rama - The Ramayana Express Train Tour from Delhi will be very exciting for many of us who are visiting India.

IRCTC's Shri Ramayana Yatra Express will cover Ayodhya, Sitamarhi, Janakpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj and Chitrakoot, Nasik, Hampi and Rameswaram.

**#The Kashmir Files** - is an upcoming Indian Hindi-language film that we should not miss. The film tells the story of the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits. The film will be released theatrically worldwide on 26 January 2022, coinciding with India's Republic Day.

## #Kashi Vishwanath Corridor Project

was recently inaugurated by the Indian Prime Minister Sh. Modi in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (one of the oldest living cities in the world).

Key Points:

- It is the massive makeover of the Kashi Vishwanath temple and the area surrounding it.
- It connects the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple and the ghats along the river Ganga.
- It will help boost tourism by providing the pilgrims and travelers with amenities such as wider and cleaner roads and lanes, better streetlights, and clean drinking water. 