United Hindu and Jain Temples

Association of All Major Temples of Metropolitan Washington DC and Baltimore

DIWALI MELA 2026 SOUVENIR



Venue

Eleanor Roosevelt High School
7601 Hanover Pkwy,
Greenbelt, MD 20770 (USA)

Date

Sunday October 10th 2026
11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Participating Temples

Rajdhani Mandir ❁ BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir ❁ Chinmaya Mission ❁ Durga Temple
❁ Venkateswara Lotus Temple ❁ Sri Siva Vishnu Temple ❁ ISKCON
Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA) ❁ Gayatri Pariwar
Greater Baltimore Temple ❁ Hindu Temple ❁ Jain Society of Metropolitan DC
Mangal Mandir ❁ Murugan Temple

www.dcunitedtemples.org

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Of Washington DC and Baltimore Metropolitan Areas
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WWW.DCUnitedTemples.Org

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Hari Har Singh 301-972-3944

Sri Venkateswara Lotus Temple
Ram Chavali 703-863-2532
Satya Gavaravarapu 202-957-9912

Vishwa Hindu Parishad
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Madhumita Chavan 240-454-1893

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Vivek Gupta 703-659-5538

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Nanik Lahori 301-652-0696
Mythili Bachu 301-526-5135
Prasad Kadambi 301-236-4162

Message from the UHJT Diwali/Deepavali Mela Organizing Committee

Dear Friends,
On behalf of the organizing committee, it is with immense joy, gratitude, and heartfelt warmth that we welcome you to this year's Diwali/Deepavali Fair. Diwali/Deepavali, the sacred Festival of Lights, celebrates the eternal triumph of light over darkness, wisdom over ignorance and dharma over adharma. On this auspicious occasion, we pray that the Divine Light fills every heart and home with harmony, peace, prosperity, and boundless joy.

We warmly invite you and your family to participate wholeheartedly in today's festivities, enjoy the performances, experience our rich traditions, meet old and new friends, and join together in celebrating the joyous spirit of Diwali/Deepavali as one community.

Today, through devotional music, graceful dances, joyful entertainment, and vibrant cultural offerings, we celebrate the timeless beauty and richness of our Sanatana Dharma heritage. Each performance is a flame, each smile a glowing diya, and together they illuminate our celebration with the spirit of unity, devotion, and togetherness.

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to all temples, organizations, volunteers, performing arts schools, artists, sponsors, and advertisers who have come together in the true spirit of seva to make this joyous celebration possible.

As you enjoy today's festivities, may the Divine radiance of Diwali/Deepavali illuminate your homes and hearts with peace, prosperity, good health, devotion, and happiness. May Goddess Lakshmi and Ganesha bless every family with abundance and well-being, and may we carry this sacred light forward by sharing kindness, strengthening unity, and serving society with love.
With Divine Blessings and Warmest Diwali/Deepavali Wishes

Siva Subramanian

Dr. Siva Subramanian
President, United Hindu and Jain Temples (UHJT) Association
Sri Siva Vishnu Temple, Lanham, MD

The Founding of the Association of United Hindu - Jain Temples (UHJT)

By Siva Subramanian
Sri Siva Vishnu Temple (SSVT)

The Hindu community of Metropolitan Washington, DC had participated periodically in programs of the InterFaith Conference (IFC) since 1980, primarily through cultural performances. In 1991–92, Dr. Clark Lobenstine, then Executive Director of IFC, invited me, as Chair of Sri Siva Vishnu Temple (SSVT), and Sri Purushothama Ji of ISKCON Temple to represent Hindus in the IFC.

We felt it would be more appropriate to represent the Hindu community collectively. Representatives of the area's temples, along with Chinmaya Mission and Gayatri Parivar, therefore met in 1992 at SSVT and subsequently at ISKCON Temple. After several discussions, we agreed to establish an umbrella organization bringing together the temples and Hindu organizations of the Washington metropolitan area.

Thus, the United Hindu Temples Association was formed in 1992 and was accepted by IFC as an Observer Member on September 22, 1992. At a subsequent meeting at SSVT, representatives of the Jain community joined the initiative, and the organization became the **Association of United Hindu-Jain Temples (UHJT).** On **September 23, 1993, UHJT was admitted as a full member of IFC.**

SSVT served as the first coordinator, and I represented UHJT in IFC in various capacities. Among UHJT's earliest joint activities were a Shivaratri celebration at **SSVT in February 1992** and a **Summer Camp at Chinmaya Mission in 1992.**

The Beginning of the Diwali Mela

In 1993, UHJT members decided to celebrate **Deepavali/Diwali collectively,** bringing temples and Hindu organizations together for one major community celebration. Montgomery College Auditorium in Rockville, Maryland was selected, with the expectation that only a few hundred people would attend.

The event was publicized as the **Diwali Mela** and included Lakshmi-Ganesh Puja conducted by temple priests, children's activities, dances, music, and cultural performances.

To our surprise, people began arriving early and continued coming in overwhelming numbers. The auditorium and parking areas overflowed. We had planned to distribute one Laddu Prasad per person, but because of the unexpectedly large turnout, we ultimately distributed Prasad by car as families departed. The community response was extraordinary. **The UHJT Diwali Mela tradition** was born.

Over the years, UHJT member organizations have taken turns providing leadership and organizing activities. Diwali Melas have been held at numerous venues, including a football stadium in Washington, DC, attracting thousands of participants and, on some occasions, culminating with fireworks.

Following the COVID period, the tradition was rejuvenated under the leadership of Sri Murugan Temple, followed by Rajdhani Mandir.

In **2026, UHJT proudly celebrates its 33rd Diwali/Deepavali Mela,** with Sri Siva Vishnu Temple providing leadership. The celebration continues the original vision of bringing our temples and communities together through worship, cultural performances, music, dance, skits, dance dramas, and newer traditions such as Bhajan Jamming.

From a small gathering of temple representatives in 1992 to a major community celebration today, UHJT continues its mission of **unity, faith, culture, service, and interfaith harmony.**

The rest, as they say, is history!

Wishing Everyone a Happy Diwali/Deepavali & Navaratri!

UHJT Diwali Mela 2026 - Oct. 10th, Greenbelt, MD

CULTURAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

***The Tentative Cultural Program Sequence (Subject to Change)**

	PROGRAM AND/OR SCHOOL	LEAD OR TEACHERS NAME	PERFORMERS
	National Anthams	—	All Present
	BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Team (Song)	Vaidehi Rao / Nikuj Patel	from the BAPS Mandir
	Jab Zid Pe Aa Gayi Parvati, song from the movie "Hanuman Ansh"	Manish Mrigank	Ayaan Mrigank
	Tarangam (Goverdhana) - Dance	Mallika Ramprasad	Prisha Neelapala and Anany Ravula
	Bharathnatyam Dance to Jaya Jaya Durge in Kambhoji Ragam	Guru Smt. Akila Subramanyam	Tanishka Siva, Lakshana Bollipalli, Aadhiya Naresh, Aadhya Mageswaran, Reha Shama Allaka, Ananya Kamcherla
	Gananayakaya Song by Swaralaya Music School	Harini Sugantharaman	Radhika Kamalesh, Radhika Nookala, Srividhya Baikadi, Swetha Peddi, Swetha Rajagurusamy, Vinodhini Thota, Vidya Colospate, Deeba Murugesan, Suma Rajanna,Kavitha Ramajayam, Sumathi Srinivasan, Akila Vellingiri, Poorani Jeyasekar, Geetha Chandramohan
	Bho Shambho song with a karaoke track by Swaralaya Music School	Harini Sugantharaman	Vrinda Venkatesan, Atmika Sangameswaran, Stuti Vijay, Vania Subramonian, Kayra
	Saree/Fashion show by Sareespotlights of USA (Saree Show)	Sangeeta Singh	Manognya Pendyala, Veena Kaladi, Lavanya Jaligama, Mohini Tomar, Mayuri Shah, Phanishree Narayanan, Indu Fields, Sangeeta Singh
	Dance Performance by Raya Dance Academy on "Dhindora Baje Re"	Rutul Pancholi	Layla Jain, Miraal Maheshwari, Vihaan Maheshwari, Saanjh Raval, Ahana Jindal, Aarya Patel, Riya Mehta, Dhyana Trivedi
	Dance Performance from Mangal Mandir Group	Neeta Gandhi	Viha Degadwala, Aadya Gandhi, Amorah Kathuria, Anaisha Kaviratna, Meera Patel, Navya Patel, Thea Visampalli, Maahil Patel
	Collection songs from Karruppu Tamil Movie (Dance)	Karuppu Kondaatam	Aegan VK, Thruvan VK, Adhav Ezhilan, Ajithsubramanian Anandakrishnan, Viyan Arivudainambi, Ezhilan ulaganathan
	Kavadi Aattam in celebration of Lord Murugan (Dance)	Suganya Balakrishnan	Ajithsubramanian Anandakrishnan, Anwitasree Viswanadha, Chadurvediga Diyaneswaran, Krishnavi Sundar, Niralya Karthikeyan
	Krishna Radha Dance by Rhythm Galaxy (See QR Code)	Rakhi Gupta	Sachith Raghurajan, Sakthidaran Diyaneswaran, Shanvika Anantharajan, Srivikram Sundar, Vinuhari Anantharajan
	Nanhe Nartak Musical Skit (Dance)	Anshitha Mathur	To be announced
	Kathak Performance by Lavina Kathak Academy (Dance)	Lavina Jain	Arunima Vikram

TIME	PROGRAM AND/OR SCHOOL	LEAD OR TEACHERS NAME	PERFORMERS
	Thillana by Muvva Kuchipudi Dance school	Rajashree Pakala	Yuktha Ravipudi, Aishani Veeramalla, Risha Kalakada
	Bhajans songs by Singing Stars	Vijayalaksmi chittampalli	Ajithsubramanian, Srivikram, Krishnavi
	Dance Performance by Raya Dance Academy on AARI AARI	Rutul Pancholi	Nyra Raval, Prisha Maheshwari, Heeya Trivedi, Hansni Gokulgandhi, Samaira Chitalia
	Dance Performance by Raya Dance Academy on SAPPHIRE & LUTT PUTT GAYA	Rutul Pancholi	Gunjan Sharma, Miraya Choksi, Vaanya Singh, Aavya Sao
	Dance Performance by Raya Dance Academy on BANDHU 2.0 & CHOGADA	Rutul Pancholi	Aaradhya Patil, Agastya Patil, Alya Malla, Anvesha Joshi
	Dance Koovi Azhathal- by Abinaya Natya Sala	Revathi Kumar/Asmita Nagarkar	Aakanksha Sunil, Ditya Nirmal, Kavya Gujar, Krishnavi Sundar, Niralya Karthikeyan, Prajna Nirmal, Thendral Kumaravel, Thiksha Palukuru
	Group Dance - Krishna Song - from Nrithyashala School of Dance	Janaki Sivaraman	Gayathri Nair, Ridhi Sharma,Thanvi, Hansini, Brindha
	Krishna Sabdam by Muvva Kuchipudi Dance School	Rajashree Pakala	Krithi Bemgal, Himaja Punna, Joshita Mandava, Sahasra Kondapally and Sanjana Vooturi
	Ganpati Vandan & Deepavali Song	Deepti Purohit	Pratham Purohit & Aadya Gandhi
	Bollywood mash up dance performance by Rising Star Group	Subhashree Rautray	Pratham Purohit & Aadya Gandhi
	Dance Koovi Azhathal- by Abinaya Natya Sala	Revathi Kumar/Asmita Nagarkar	Dakshinya Saravanakumar, Eesha Nagaraj, Kanigha Dineshkumar, Madhushri Calangi, Sanvitha Nanikalva
	Bollywood mash up dance performance by Rising Star Group	Subhashree Rautray	Mahaanvitha Samrat, Ahana Baradia, Riyaan Baradia, Gaurika Tripathi, Debadiptaa samal, Aarya Patil, Kyra Yadav, ChandraLekha Mulugu, Aaradhya Gongalla, Anshi Srivastava
	Kirtan by ISKCON Devotees (Bhajan)	Sonia Chopra	ISKCON Potomac Group
	Dance Drama by Kuchipudi Dance Acadamy	Lakshmi Babu/Bindu Bollam/Sahiti Nadampalli	Mohika Juluru, Tanvi Sure, Srivrinda Vankayalapati, Ujwala Yammanuru, Srivika Kammadanam, Shrika Maruvada, Chaithra Nukala, Anavi Yerubandi,Srihruthi Anagani, Prisha Anireddy, Saanvi Bhumana, Chakrikaa Konatalapalli, Srinika Kammadanam, Shreyasi Reddy Pabbathi, Vedika Shah, Gautami Gumpena, Sriyanshi Kalepu, Srinika BabuAnand, Sreedha Ruttala, Harshika Murari, Chaitra Bodipudi, Sarvajna Vemparala, Aadhya Banoori, Anushvi Mandava, Aadhya Pandrapragada, Nishika Pusapati, Aarna Ravi, Lekha Gunda, Saanvi Pandrapragada, Shrika Samal, Aditi Srikant, Ishika Uppalapati, Dhanvi Nagabhushanam, Juhi Ruder, Gagana Addada, Aditi Bandaru, Nithya Devarapally, Dhriti Manne, Heeya Muppidi, Navya Muppidi, Nandana Narapuram, Tanishka Roy, Apurva Choudhary, Isha Jinka, Backstage Management/KDA Teachers - Sahiti and Bindu. Guru Lakshmi Babu
	Avartan Dhol-Tasha Spetacular - Traditional Maharashtrian Dhol-Tasha (Music Perf)	Rohit Kolhatkar	Aditi Nadkarni, Ashwini Devre, Mahendra Marathe, Mrunal Jadhav, Rutvik Deshmukh, Sagar Gore, Santosh Renuse, Niyant Kulkarni, Omkar Dhayagude, Rohit Kolhatkar, Atharva Deshpande, Rageshree Kulkarni, Omkar Natu, Rushikesh Sable
	UHJT - Laxmi/Dipawali Puja and UHJT updates	UHJT Team	All UHJT Team and Attendies

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Best Wishes on Diwali



May the Festival of Lights bring peace, prosperity, good health and happiness to you and your family.

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KARMABHUMI, ONENESS AND LOVE

Mohan Bhagwat's Message to the Hindu Diaspora

During his recent visit to the United States, RSS Sarsanghchalak **Dr. Mohan Bhagwat** delivered a powerful message to Hindus living around the world: **stay rooted in the timeless values of Hindu civilization while remaining fully loyal, responsible and contributing citizens of the country you call home.**

Addressing a large gathering of Indian Americans and interfaith leaders at the **Universal Oneness Celebration at Madison Square Garden in New York on August 29, 2026**, Dr. Bhagwat reflected on the Hindu understanding of **Janmabhumi, Punyabhumi and Karmabhumi**. For Hindus who have made America their home, America is their *Karmabhumi* - the land where they live, work, raise their families, serve their communities and build their future.



"Your Karmabhumi is where your loyalty lies."

One may always cherish the *Janmabhumi* - the land of birth and ancestry - and draw spiritual and cultural inspiration from the *Punyabhumi*. But Dharma must ultimately be expressed through our actions: by serving, strengthening and being loyal to the society and nation that has become our *Karmabhumi*.

This carries an important responsibility for the Hindu diaspora. **To be a good Hindu in America is also to be a good American.** The same principle applies wherever Hindus live around the world. We represent our heritage most effectively not merely through rituals or words, but through **character, integrity, civic responsibility, service, compassion and respect for others.**

UNITY IN DIVERSITY - A HINDU MESSAGE FOR HUMANITY

A central theme of Dr. Bhagwat's message was **oneness amid diversity**. Diversity should not divide humanity; it should be **accepted, respected and celebrated**. Hindu philosophy recognizes many paths, traditions and ways of worship while reminding us of the deeper unity that connects all human beings.

VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM - The World Is One Family

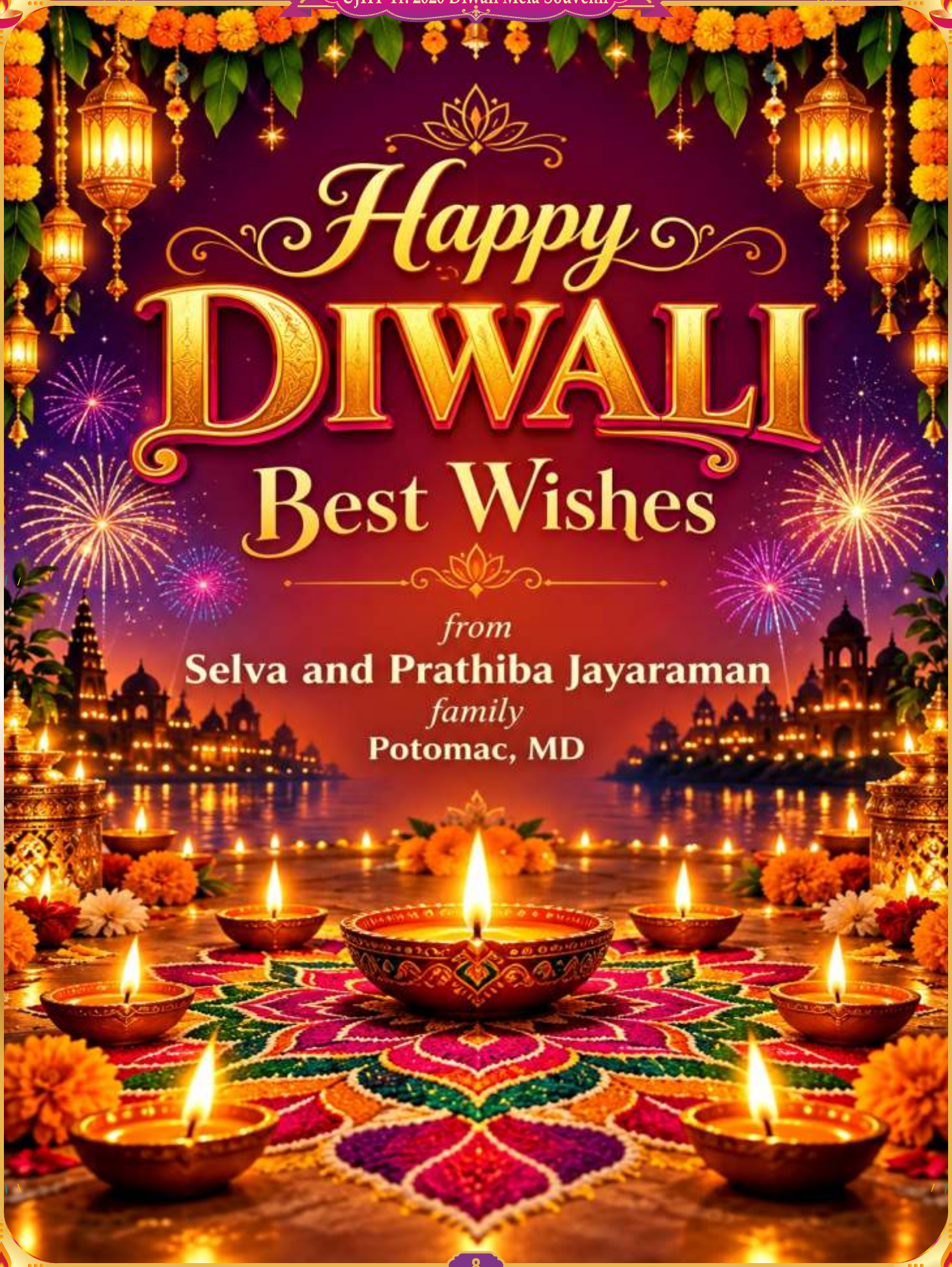
In multicultural societies such as the United States, this timeless philosophy has special meaning. It calls upon Hindus to **respect every faith, practice religious tolerance, embrace diversity, contribute positively to society and build bridges rather than barriers.**

Dr. Bhagwat also invoked the spirit of ***Apnapan*** - a sense of belonging, affection and selfless love for all. It extends from the individual to the family, from the community to society, and ultimately to all humanity. The world becomes stronger and more peaceful when we emphasize **what unites us rather than what divides us.**

PRIDE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Preserve your heritage. Practice your Dharma. Respect every faith. Serve your Karmabhumi. Be loyal to the country you call home. Through your character and conduct, be an exemplary representative of Hindu values.

Let our Dharma inspire service, our diversity inspire respect, and our actions spread peace, harmony and love.


Happy
DIWALI
Best Wishes
from
Selva and Prathiba Jayaraman
family
Potomac, MD

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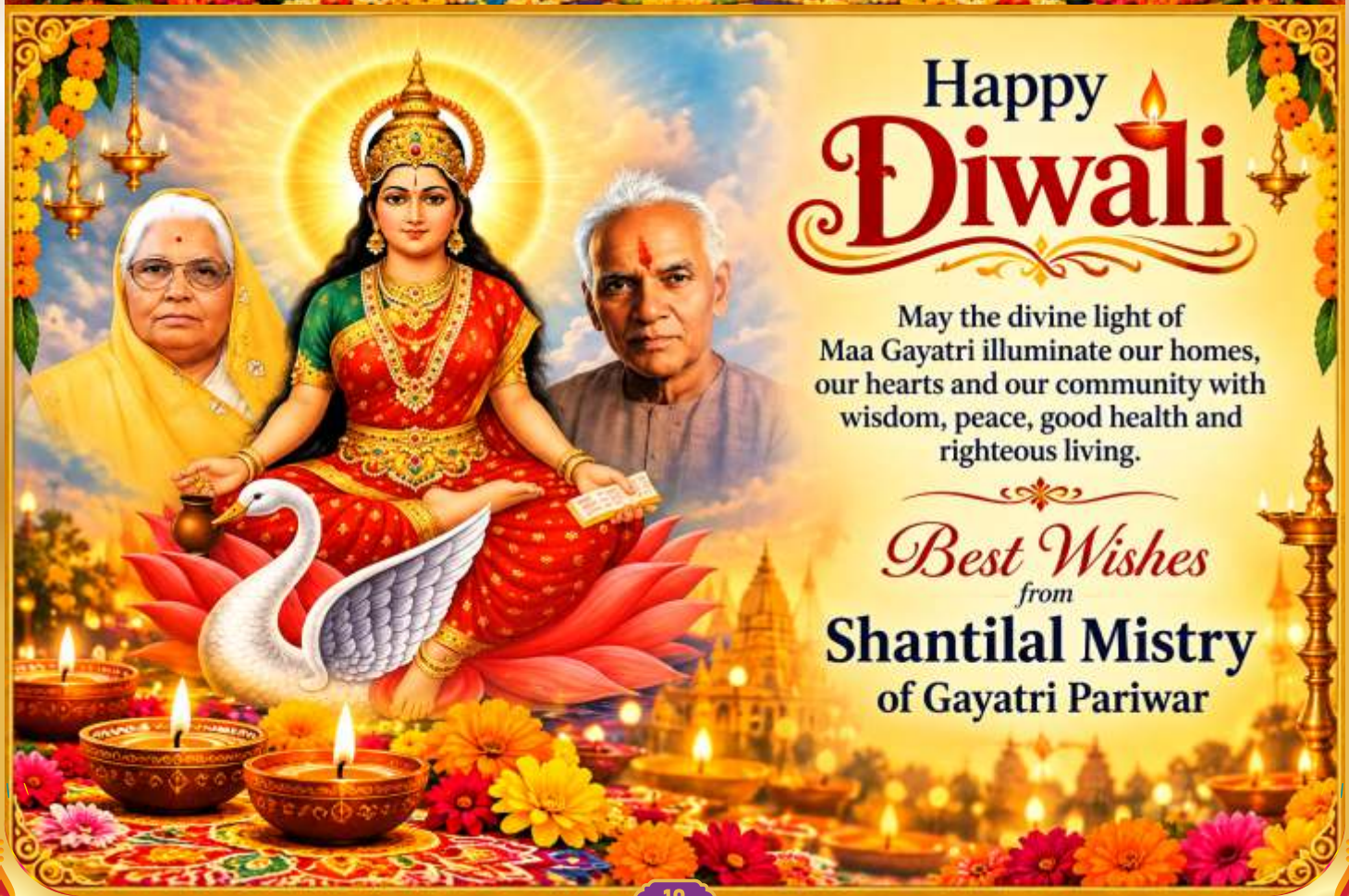
Diwali

and a Blessed

Navratris • Dussehra

Hinduism celebrates the divine in all forms, honors every path to truth, and teaches us to live with dharma, compassion, self-realization, and harmony with all creation.

From
Anuradha and
Dr. Alok Srivastava



Happy Diwali

May the divine light of Maa Gayatri illuminate our homes, our hearts and our community with wisdom, peace, good health and righteous living.

Best Wishes
from
Shantilal Mistry
of Gayatri Pariwar

CHINMAYA MISSION®

WASHINGTON REGIONAL CENTER

Deepāvali 2026 — Celebrating the Light Within!

A Message from Swami Dheerananda



Hari Om! Hari Om! Pūjya Gurudev's Divine Grace and Blessings!

On this auspicious Deepāvali, we celebrate **75 Glorious Years of the Chinmaya Movement**. Loving greetings to the United Hindu and Jain Temples (UHJT) family. We are delighted to celebrate this Deepāvali Mela with our UHJT family. May we come together to share the joy of our spiritual quest.

As a founding member of UHJT, Chinmaya Mission® Washington Regional Center (CMWRC) is delighted to celebrate and participate in this annual **Deepāvali Mela** tradition. May this annual event bring our temples and families together in devotion, service, and harmony!

Deepāvali means "**string of lights**". We celebrate Deepāvali with lots of lights, fireworks, sweets, and new clothes. For many, Deepāvali is also the beginning of a new year.

The lights symbolize the manifold manifestations of Almighty God in us, each glowing with Divinity! In Chinmaya Mission during Ārati, we chant:

> **na tatra sūryo bhāti na candratārakaṃ nemā vidyuto bhānti kuto'yamagniḥ**
> **tameva bhāntamanubhāti sarvaṃ tasya bhāsā sarvamidaṃ vibhāti.**

Meaning, in the Light of Consciousness we see these phenomenal lights: the sun (Surya), the moon (Chandra), the stars (Tārakam), and flashes of lightning (Vidyutah). Even these phenomenal lights (sun, moon, stars, lightning) cannot illumine the Light of Consciousness; then what to speak of this flickering flame? That Divine Light of Consciousness makes all these phenomenal lights shine. By virtue of That Divine Light Alone, all these phenomenal lights are illumined. It is **That Divine Light of Consciousness, Chinmaya,** present in all of us, which is celebrated and remembered during Deepāvali.

Our Bala Vihar program instills such deep understanding from a young age, nurturing spiritual growth and values that continue to enrich our lives.

May Mother Lakshmi, who blesses us with the power of *"producing more than what we consume, and giving more than what we take"* (Chinmaya Mission Pledge), bless all with the ability and courage to fulfill our responsibilities cheerfully in selfless dedicated spirit!

Chinmayaṁ Jagadīśvaraṁ Praṇamāmyaham!

Hari Om! Hari Om!
Unto Sri Gurudev!

Swami Dheerananda

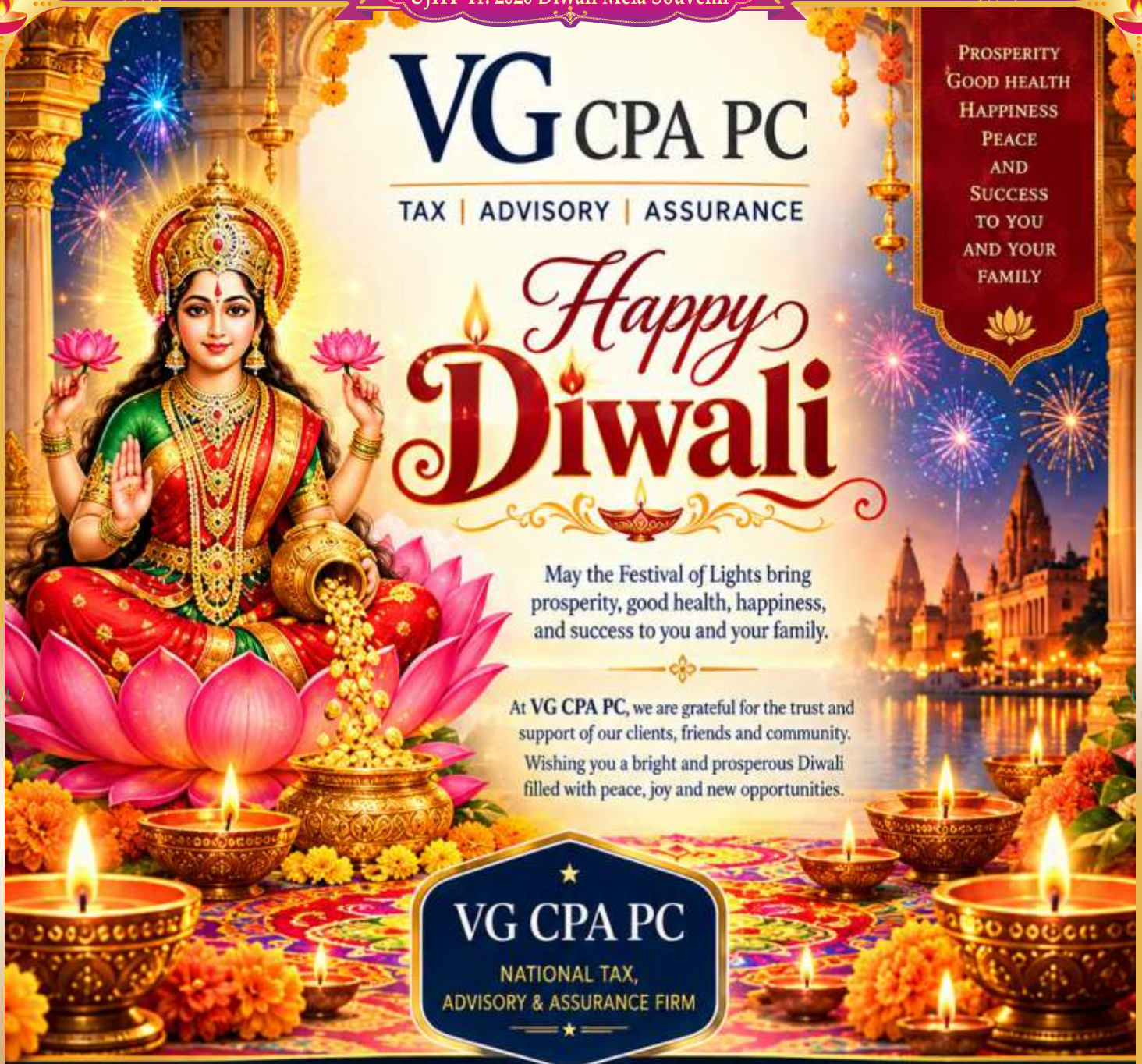


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Happy Diwali

May the Festival of Lights bring prosperity, good health, happiness, and success to you and your family.

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✦ FOOD
SVLT / SSVT / Murugan Temple
Chair: Ram Chavali
Co-Chair: Manimekalai
Members: Satya Gavaravarapu, Sonia Chopra, Shukla Khanna, Minal Shah, Mythili Bachu

✦ DIWALI • SEWA • UNITY ✦

सेवा परमो धर्मः
“Seva Parmo Dharma”

Together we serve.
Together we celebrate.
Together we strengthen our community.

“Seva Parmo Dharma” • सेवा परमो धर्मः

With gratitude to all volunteers who offer their time, talent and devotion in service to the community.



HAPPY DIWALI

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Let us all work together to promote unity amongst all mankind without regard to race, ethnicity, religion. We should all be treated at par with respect, dignity and live like brothers and sisters to bring the message of peace and tranquility across the world.

That is what Hinduism teaches us.



Exercise your civic duty to vote on November 3rd, in person, early or mail in voting.



Observe Diwali November 8th as a holiday from your businesses and schools.

Dr. Suresh C. Gupta and Adarsh Gupta

Potomac MD

Happy Diwali/Deepavali

Rooted in
Sanatana Dharma
Guided by Wisdom
Inspired to Serve
United by Culture

May the Festival of Lights bring joy, peace, prosperity and good health to you and your family.



AIM for Seva

AWARENESS | INSPIRATION | MOBILIZATION

Serving Individuals. Strengthening Communities.
Preserving Our Heritage.

Ancient Knowledge
Timeless wisdom for a better tomorrow

Sewa
Service to humanity is service to God

Community
Stronger communities through values and volunteerism

Wellness
Yoga, Ayurveda and holistic living for a balanced life

Indian Performing Arts
Promoting and nurturing our rich artistic traditions

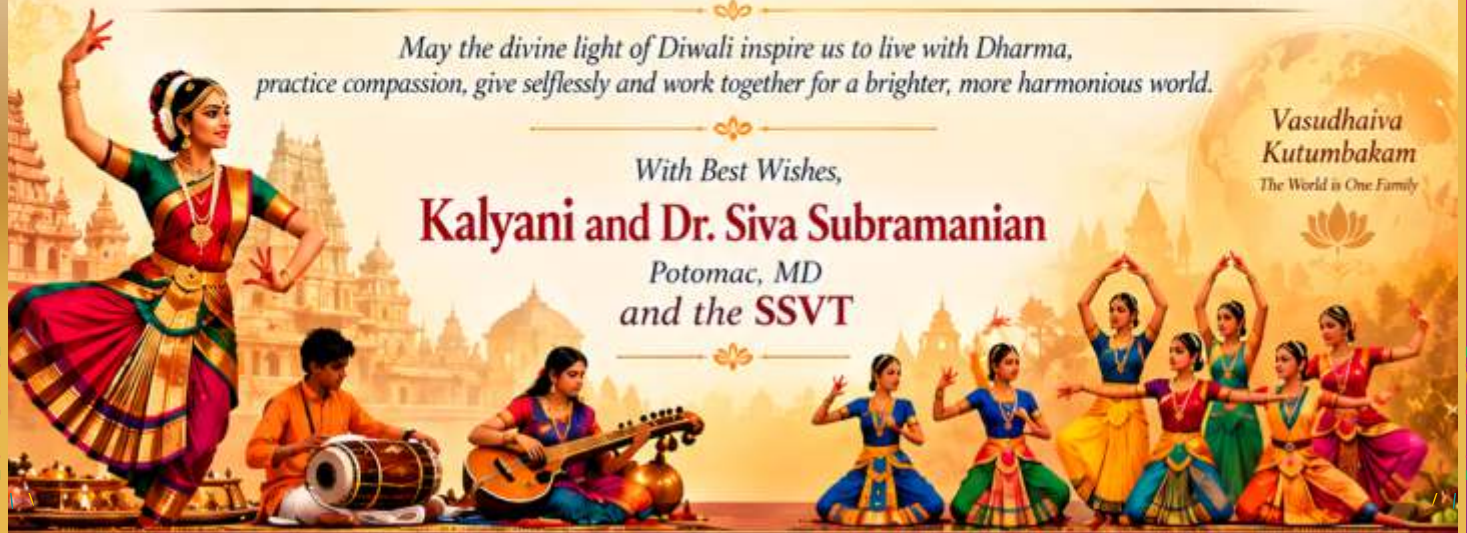
Cultural Heritage
Preserving our traditions for future generations

May the divine light of Diwali inspire us to live with Dharma, practice compassion, give selflessly and work together for a brighter, more harmonious world.

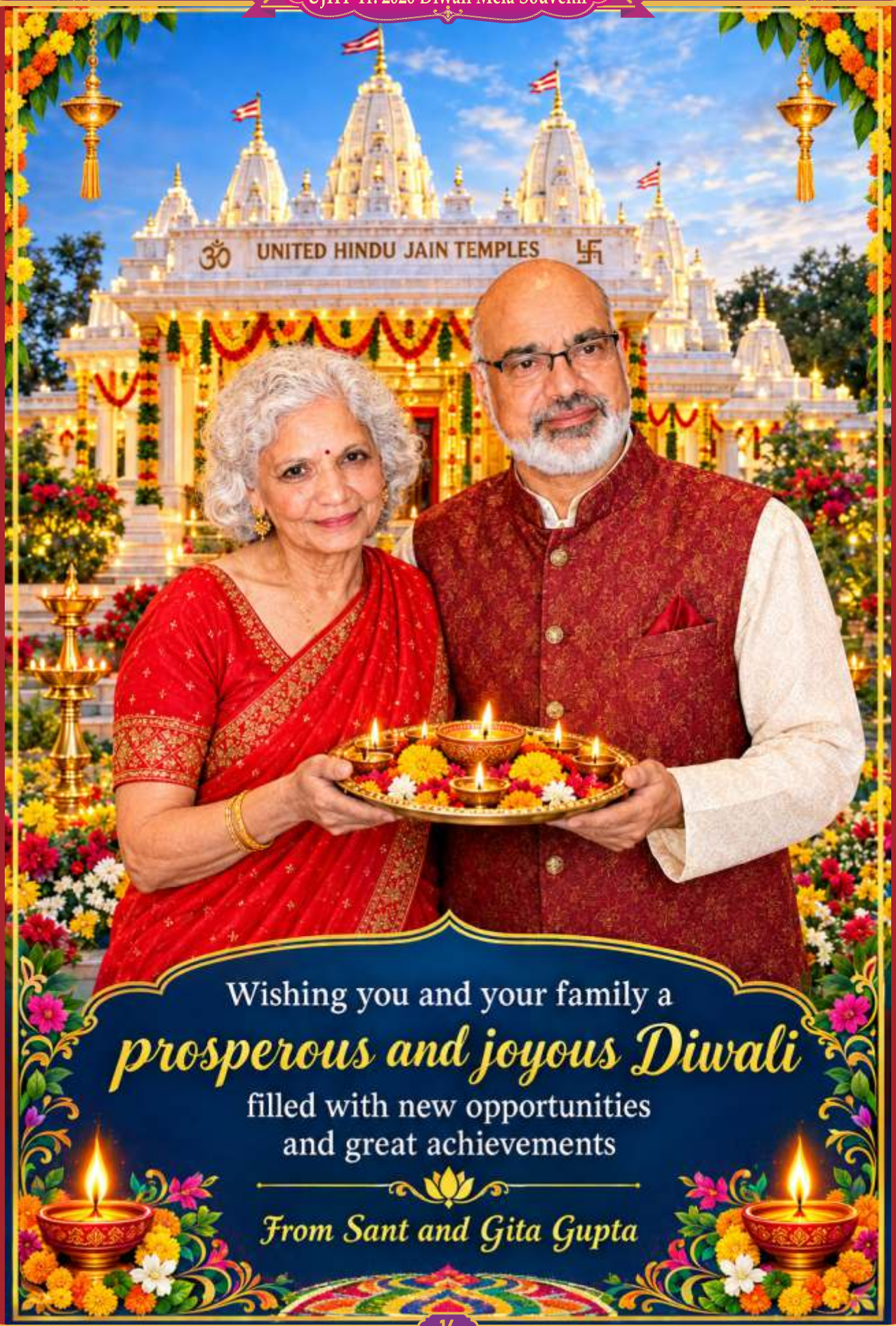
Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam
The World is One Family

With Best Wishes,

Kalyani and Dr. Siva Subramanian
Potomac, MD
and the **SSVT**



"लोकाः समस्ताः सुखिनो भवन्तु" | May all beings in all the worlds be happy.


ॐ UNITED HINDU JAIN TEMPLES 卐
Wishing you and your family a
prosperous and joyous Diwali
filled with new opportunities
and great achievements
From Sant and Gita Gupta

RAJDHANI MANDIR
ॐ
1985



Happy Diwali

May the Festival of Lights bring
Happiness, Good Health, Prosperity and Peace
to you and your loved ones.

From

Anupama and Anil Sharma
Great Falls, VA

Best Wishes on Diwali

RAJDHANI MANDIR 1985

RAJDHANI MANDIR • CHANTILLY, VA

www.RajdhaniMandir.org • FB: Rajdhani.Mandir • 703-378-8401

MAJOR EXPANSION UNDERWAY:
Expanding Our Sacred Space • Expanding Our Sewa



"Seva Parmo Dharma"

Sewa is a sacred duty.

Rajdhani Mandir is embarking on a major expansion to create more space for **Bhakti**, **Sewa**, **Sanskar**, **Education**, and **Community**.



NEW & EXPANDED FACILITIES

Extended Prayer Hall • Classrooms • Large Kitchen • New Auditorium
Temple Office • Library & More



A MANDIR FOR WORSHIP • A CENTER FOR SEWA

In the spirit of Sewa and Lok Kalyan, additional spaces will be made available, where feasible, for:

- Medical & Health Services
- Educational & Cultural Programs
- Seniors' Programs & Activities
- Community Non-Profit Organizations



This expansion will enable Rajdhani Mandir to serve as more than a place of worship, a vibrant center where **faith** inspires **service**, **knowledge**, **compassion**, **fellowship**, and **community togetherness**.



From Puja to Sewa • From Devotion to Community • From Mandir to Humanity

For information about community space and programs:

Info@RajdhaniMandir.org









Scenes from Narasimha Puja, Lakhvinder Mata Jagran, Maharudram Puja, and other major religious programs attended by thousands of devotees.

22nd Century Technologies, Inc.

Costello College of Business
Anil and Anupama Sharma
Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY



Happy Diwali

BEST WISHES
TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

May this Festival of Lights bring happiness, prosperity, good health and success to you, your family and the entire community.

Light Brings Hope | Knowledge Inspires
Innovation Builds a Brighter Tomorrow



22nd Century Technologies, Inc.
Headquarters & Corporate Office
8251 Greensboro Drive, Suite 900, McLean, VA 22102
Phone: 866-537-9191 | info@tscti.com

Greater Baltimore Temple

2909 Bloom Road, P.O. Box 690, Finksburg, MD 21048

Tel: (410) 861-8387, Web: http://www.baltimoretemple.org, E-mail: gbt101@yahoo.com



In the early 1990s, several dedicated members of the Hindu and Jain community in the Greater Baltimore area felt the need for a place of worship and a cultural center to preserve and foster their religious and cultural heritage. As a result, the Greater Baltimore Temple was built and inaugurated in 1998.

The Temple Complex consists of the Temple Hall, an adjacent Community Center, and a Bal-Vihar building. The Temple Hall houses a prayer hall, deities' chamber, pooja rooms, and administrative facilities. It is approximately 3000 sq-ft and accommodates about 250 devotees. The adjacent Community Center, approximately 4800 sq-ft, accommodates 300 people.

The Temple celebrates all major Hindu and Jain festivals throughout the year, as well as cultural events during major religious festivals. The Temple recently celebrated Maha Kumbhabhishekam. A Bal-Vihar Program teaches religions and culture to the next generation.

Greater Baltimore Hindu-Jain Temple's mission is to provide religious and spiritual services to the Hindu and Jain diaspora and to promote educational, social, cultural values and interfaith outreach within the surrounding communities with the following goals.

1. To provide a place of worship, an educational and a cultural center for the community.
2. To sponsor and conduct religious, spiritual, educational, social and cultural activities
3. To embellish and preserve Hindu and Jain heritage and promote tradition of our rich culture.
4. To provide a platform for the community members to present their talent during the cultural and religious events.



DURGA TEMPLE OF VIRGINIA

A Sacred Home for Devotion, Culture, and Community

8400 Durga Place, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 • 703-690-9355
www.durgatemple.org • info@durgatemple.org • facebook.com/DurgaTemple

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः।
सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिद्दुःखभाग्भवेत्॥

May all be happy. • May all be free from illness. • May all experience what is auspicious. • May none suffer.

A Sacred Home for Devotion, Culture, and Community

Founded in 1991 in Fairfax Station, the Durga Temple of Virginia serves as a vibrant spiritual and cultural anchor for the Hindu community throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Dedicated primarily to Maa Durga—the divine embodiment of strength, protection, and Shakti—the temple also houses shrines for Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, Lord Ganesha, Lord Rama, Lord Hanuman, Goddess Saraswati, and other revered deities. These sacred spaces reflect the inclusive traditions and rich heritage of Sanatana Dharma.

A Sanctuary of Worship and Seva

The temple offers a peaceful environment for prayer, introspection, and selfless service (seva). Through daily rituals, pujas, homas, bhajans, and life-cycle sacraments (samskaras), devotees unite in celebration.

Major festivals—including Navaratri, Diwali, Holi, Ram Navami, Janmashtami, and Ganesh Chaturthi—bring the community together in joyous devotion.

With open doors and a warm spirit, Durga Temple of Virginia welcomes everyone seeking divine blessings, spiritual wisdom, cultural connection, and fellowship.



Nurturing Heritage Across Generations

More than just a place of worship, the temple acts as a dynamic hub for cultural education and community engagement:

- **Youth & Education:** Classes in yoga, meditation, Hindu scriptures, classical Indian music, dance, and languages help younger generations connect with their roots.
- **Senior Fellowship:** Dedicated programs provide older adults with a welcoming space to socialize, share traditions, and find meaningful companionship.
- **Cultural Enrichment:** Regular activities foster a deep appreciation for timeless traditions across all age groups.

A Community Rooted in Compassion

Guided by the universal values of Sanatana Dharma, the Durga Temple of Virginia unites people of all backgrounds through compassion, learning, and service. It strengthens community bonds and encourages personal spiritual growth.

- With open doors and a warm spirit, the temple welcomes everyone seeking divine blessings, spiritual wisdom, cultural connection, and fellowship to join its growing family.

|| *Om Shanti Shanti Shanti* ||

Chinmaya Mission® Washington Regional Center

CHINMAYAM

To give maximum happiness to maximum people for maximum time



BALA VIHAR

Chinmayam
46 Norwood Road
Silver Spring, MD

We offer Vedanta-based **Bala Vihar** for children, and **Vedanta Classes and Study Groups** for Parents, Adults, and Youth to enable spiritual growth and personal development.

Scan QR Code to Learn More & Register!

- Noble Values
- Games
- Songs
- Bhagavad Geeta
- Timeless Wisdom
- Festivals
- Service
- Vedic Chanting
- Japa
- Stories & Discussions
- Arts
- Language

Contact us to learn more about



- **Bala Vihar:** Ages 3 to 12th Grade
- **Shishu Vihar:** Less than 3 years of Age
- **Enrichment Classes:** Shloka, Language, and Arts
- **Trial Classes** Available
- **Summer Immersion Camp**

Weekend Sessions:
Sat: 9:45 AM – 11:30 AM
Sun: 9:45 AM – 11:30 AM
Sun: 1:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Immediate Enrollment Available!



For Bala Vihar information, visit:
www.chinmayam.org
Questions: Info@Chinmayam.Org

"Children are not vessels to be filled, but lamps to be lit."
—Swami Chinmayananda

ISKCON of DC











ISKCON OF DC

International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Founder-Acarya A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada

SUNDAYS 12-3PM, POTOMAC, MD

All are welcome to join us every week for our Sunday Open House. Guests are invited to participate in kirtan, listen to a spiritual talk, join a small-group discussion, attend a mantra meditation workshop, volunteer for a service project, enjoy a free prasadam lunch, and more!

10310 Oaklyn Drive, Potomac, MD iskconofdc.org

Murugan Temple of North America
6300 Princess Garden Parkway
Lanham, MD 20706 - U.S.A

வட அமெரிக்க முருகன் ஆலயம்
(301) 552-4889
contactus@murugantemple.org

தமிழால் இணைவோம் முருகன் அருள் பெறுவோம்



MURUGAN TEMPLE OF NORTH AMERICA

Divine Feminine Divine Grace for a Brighter Tomorrow

A Spiritual Home for All

DEVOTION • SERVICE • COMMUNITY

A Place to Worship Learn Serve and Grow Together

Murugan Temple of North America is a vibrant spiritual and cultural center serving individuals and families through devotion, education, service, and community engagement. We welcome everyone to experience the blessings of Lord Murugan and be part of our temple family.

Daily Pujas & Abhishekam

Experience divine grace through daily worship, special abhishekams and alankarams.



Festivals & Special Pujas

Celebrate major festivals like Thai Poosam, Panguni Uthiram, Skanda Sashti, Navarathiri and many more with great devotion and community participation.



Homam & Parayanam

Participate in homams, Vedic chanting, and spiritual discourses for peace, prosperity and well-being.



Annadanam & Seva

We serve free annadanam during temple events and encourage service opportunities for all devotees.



Music & Cultural Programs

Enjoy devotional music, Bhajans, classical performances and cultural programs that nurture our rich Hindu traditions.



Community & Spiritual Life

A welcoming community for all ages with spiritual classes, youth programs, family events and opportunities to connect, learn and grow together.



Strengthen Family Values | Learn Our Heritage | Build a Stronger Community | Serve with Compassion | Grow in Spiritual Wisdom

ALL ARE WELCOME

Let us come together in the grace of Murugan for a more joyful, harmonious and blessed life.

6300 Princess Garden Parkway
Lanham, MD 20706 - U.S.A

(301) 552-4889
contactus@murugantemple.org

www.murugantemple.org

The Hindu Temple of Metropolitan Washington

10001 Riggs Road, Adelphi, MD 20783
(301) 445-2165 & (301) 434-1000
Website: www.hindutemplemd.org
Facebook Page: TheHinduTempleMD
Non Profit Tax Exempt 501 (c) (3) Organization (52-1265876)



MISSION: The Hindu Temple of Metropolitan Washington was established in 1982 with the main objectives of congregating and praying in the traditional manner of Hindu faith and to serve the cultural and educational needs of the Hindu community.

BACKGROUND: The site was acquired on December 11, 1987. The new Temple was completed in 2006 and is visible from the Capital Way Beltway. The temple is a beautiful, traditional yet modern, with a Prayer hall, Auditorium, and a modern kitchen. The lower level has conference rooms, office spaces and library. The Temple is well maintained and beautifully landscaped. It is conveniently located near the Capital Beltway and has ample parking and privacy.

The Prayer Hall has deities from various regions of India. The main Darbar has deities of Ram, Laxman, Sita, Hanuman Ji, Laxmi Narayan, Radha Krishan, and Mata Durga. Other deities are of Ganesh, Laxmi, Saraswati, Shiv Ji temple with Shiva Lingum, Mata Parwati, Ganesh, Kartikey, and Nandi, Sai Baba, Jaganath Swami with Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra, Mahavir Jain, Jhulelal Sai Baba, Gayatri Mata, Santoshi Mata, Baba Balak Nath, Kali Mata, Chakradhari Krishan Ji, Shri Bala Ji, Tulsi Das, and Pran Nath Ji, In April 2012, we also an outdoor covered Hanuman Ji Temple with a 6 foot tall Hanuman Ji statue and Nava Grah (9 Planets) statues and prayer area

The Auditorium is a state-of-the-art hall with wall-to-wall carpeting and multiple chandeliers for lighting. It is also equipped with a professional performance-size stage with built-in professional lighting and sound systems. Hindu Temple auditorium, banquet hall and prayer hall are available for rent for Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthday Parties, Mata Chowkis and Jagrans, Poojas, and Kathas services & Cultural, Educational, and Religious programs. Please visit our website for details and photos.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES: Hindu Temple has 2 full time priests with a team of part time priests who are available for services in the temple or devotees' homes. They perform Ramayana Paath, Sunderkaand Paath, Gita Paath, Kirtan, Satya Narayana Katha, Mata Chowki and Jagran, Janma Teva, Annaprashan Sanskar, Mundan Sanskar, Birthday Pooja, Vivaha Sanskar, Grah Pravesh, Grahashanti Paryog, Anteshthi Sanskar, Shanti Paath and other religious services as needed.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES SCHEDULE AT THE TEMPLE:

Temple Hours: 8 AM to 1 PM & 5 PM to 8 PM	
Daily Aarti – 8 AM and 8 PM	Monthly – 2nd Saturday – 5 PM to 8 PM - Sunderkaand Paath
Every Sunday – 5 PM to 7 PM -Ram/Krishna Katha	Monthly – Last Sunday - 5 PM to 7 PM Bhajan Sandhya
Every Tuesday – 7 PM to 8 PM – Hanuman Chalisa	Monthly – Purnima – Satya Narayana Pooja & Katha
Every Thursday – 7.30 PM - Sai Baba Aarti	Every Friday – 8 PM – Santoshi Mata Aarti

Welcome to Hindu Temple – Come & Celebrate With Us.



Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington

NEW JAIN TEMPLE

Beltsville, Maryland

Learn more at

www.jsmw.org



Visit Our New Temple

4241 Ammendale Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705

Check visiting hours online at jsmw.org

AumBhoorBhuvahSwahTatSaviturVarenyamBhargoDevasyaDheemahiDhiyoYoNahaPrachodayat

(MayAlmighty illuminate ourintellect which leads us to righteous path)





GAYATRI PARIWAR U.S.A. (DC Chapter) (703) 391 0487

www.awgp.org

NON-PROFITRELIGIOUS &CULTURALORGANIZATION

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Ram Singh
(703) 391 0487

Late Kripa Kashyap
(410) 337 9567



2026 DIWALI

Gayatri Pariwar U.S.A. Inc.is an integral part of the world-wide Gayatri Pariwar movement, founded by Yugrishi SriRam Sharma Acharya and Mata Bhagawati Devi Sharma.Gayatri Pariwar is a spiritual movement that regenerates the highest human values around the world. Gayatri Pariwar (India) was founded in 1940 in order to uplift the oppressed in India and to rejuvenate divinity among its people.

Based on the principle of “Giving is the law of the Universe” (Yagya) and Wisdom (Vivek), Gayatri Pariwar U.S.A. in Washington DC is dedicated to 'Serve God in Man'. Gayatri Pariwar U.S.A .is giving a helping hand to needy people; clothes to the hungry and homeless; scholarships to deserving students; family counseling in the Washington area; and financial support for blind schools in India.

GayatriPariwarU.S.A.is involved in many religious and cultural activities such as:

- Monthly Satsang with Study on Gurudev's teaching;
- Celebration of festivals like Rakshabandhan organized by youth

At present Shantikunj, headquarter of All World Gayatri Pariwar at Haridwar in India is still actively supporting the rehabilitation work for the Uttarakhand Disaster occurred in 2013. Gayatri Pariwar U.S.A. is helping Shantikunj for this worthwhile endeavor.

Gayatri Pariwar celebrates Vasant Panchami and Gurupurnima each year. Gayatri Pariwar also conducts Youth Camp for children each year in summer months. Ina ddition, Gayatri Pariwar performs religious activities for our Parijans in Washington Metropolitan area:

GayatriYagya/DeepYagya SatyanarayanKatha VivahSanskar GrihParavesh Sanskar
Other Sanskars such as Punsavan, Namkaran,
Mundan, Yagyopaveet, Janmadin & Vivahdin

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12501 & 12519 Braddock Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030
www.svlotustemple.org Ph: 703 815 4850

Sri Venkateswara Lotus Temple of Virginia was established in the year 2007 to serve the devotional, cultural and spiritual needs of the Northern Virginia community in accordance with distinct Vedic traditions. The primary purpose of the Corporation is to construct and administer a traditional Vaishnava Temple based on " Sri Vaishnava Sampradaya".

Sri Venkateswara Lotus Temple was incorporated as a religious Non-profit organization in October 2007 under the laws of Virginia state. SVLT acquired approximately 18 acres of land in 2003 and 2005 at Braddock Road, Fairfax, Virginia.

Currently, SV Lotus Temple embarked on the Phase II project to render a completely transformational prayer hall for generations to come. With your continuing support we will make this grand dream a reality. Phase 2 of the construction is to complete a 17,500 square feet of Prayer Hall (Maha Mandapam) with separate shrines for Sri Mahalakshmi, Andal, Sri Rama Parivaram, Sri Anjaneya Swamy, Sri Krishna, Sri Lakshmi Narasimha swamy, Sri Bhoo Varaha swamy, Sri Hayagreeva swamy, Sri Dhanvantari, Sri Chakrathazhwar, Azhawars, Acharyas.

The temple also hosts several educational programs and workshops that focus on various aspects of Sanathana Dharma, including yoga, meditation, and the philosophy and spirituality of the religion. These programs are open to people of all ages and backgrounds and are designed to promote a deeper understanding of Hinduism and its teachings.

In addition to its cultural and educational activities, SV Lotus Temple is involved in several social welfare initiatives. The temple has a team of volunteers who work on various community projects, including organizing food drives and other charitable endeavors. These efforts are essential to promoting social justice and helping those in need.

SV Lotus Academy Vidyalaya is the educational wing of SV Lotus Temple, the goal of this program is to develop understanding and pride in the significance of our Vedic heritage, cultural forms, expressions and spiritual practices of our rich Sanātana Dharma. All children in our Balavidya program will be actively engaged using a systematic curriculum, fun filled projects, games, enacting, ideas to ponder on, critical reflections and field work. We look forward to another exciting annual journey together as a community with the collective goal of "Bālavidya" i.e. – providing children a strong foundation in our vast and rich Vedic Heritage.
www.svlotustemple.org or contact the temple management for additional information. May Lord Sri Venkateswara's blessings be always with us!





Mananiya
Late Ashok Shingal ji

VISHWA HINDU PARISHAD AMERICA

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad America (VHPA), established in 1974, is possibly the first Hindu organization in the United States, now serving the community for over 50 years.

Many well-known organizations — such as HSS, HSC, Ekal Vidyalaya, and several others engaged in Hindu advocacy — have either originated from VHPA or been shaped by the dedication of VHPA volunteers.

Serving through our pillars of Sanskar, Seva, Sampark and Prachar — raising pride in Hindu American identity while contributing to and integrating with American society.

Dream Project: Develop Hindu Center in DC

Major Activities:

- **Hindi class with nearly 400 students,**
- **Summer overnight and day youth and family camps,**
- **Maryland Cricket League, a Support-A-Child fundraiser,**
- **5k and Tennis Tournaments for local scholarship fundraiser,**
- **Celebrate festivities like Ayodhya Mandir Anniversary, Deepawali, Navratri, Rakhi etc**

vhpadc@gmail.com vhpa_dc https://dc.vhp-america.org

Madhumita Chavan Public Relations	Dhananjay Shevlikar Vice President	Mahendra Sapa President	Murali Adatrao Secretary	Animesh Shukla Public Relations
240-454-1893	571-212-6055	301-377-3247	240-535-5607	240-271-1203

*Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America is a 501 c 3 Not for profit organization. Any donations above $100 will receive a tax deductible receipts.

Directions

4320 Ammendale Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705
T: 301.931.3135

From Route I-95 South *(from Baltimore)*:

Follow I-95 South
Take exit 29A - Beltsville
Follow MD-212 South / Powder Mill Road to Ammendale Road
Turn Left on to BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

From Route I-270 South *(from Frederick)*:

Follow I-270 South
Merge onto I-495 East towards Silver Spring
Take exit 27 for I-95 North towards Baltimore
Continue onto I-95 North; take exit 29-A towards Beltsville
Follow MD-212 South / Powder Mill Road to Ammendale Road
Turn Left on to BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir



About BAPS:

BAPS is a volunteer-driven spiritual organization committed to fostering individual growth through Hindu values of faith, service, and harmony. It enriches society with the devoted efforts of tens of thousands of volunteers from diverse professional and social backgrounds, contributing millions of volunteer hours annually. Under the spiritual leadership of His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj, BAPS nurtures Indian traditions in over 100 North American and 3,500 communities worldwide. Through these communities, it champions holistic personal growth, promotes social progress, and encourages diversity by embracing all.

BAPS.org/WashingtonDC

Brahmaswarup Pramukh Swami Maharaj

BAPS

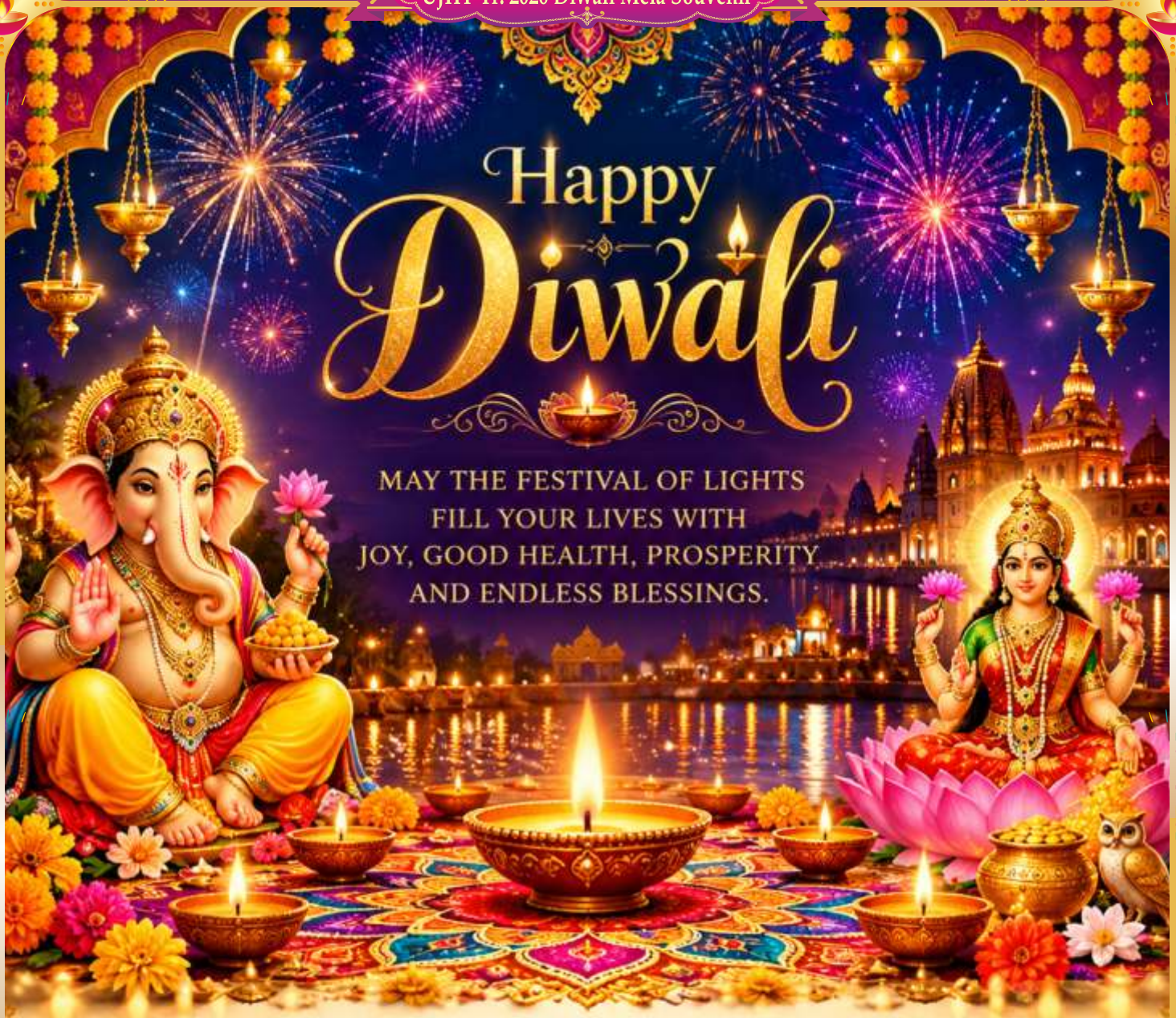
Pragat Brahmaswarup Mahant Swami Maharaj

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha® | www.BAPS.org

Mandir Activities



BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir
Washington, DC



Best Wishes from

Anu and Dr. Sudhir Sekhsaria

Family ENT Allergy and Asthma Center

(301) 948-4066

806 W Diamond Ave, Suite 360,
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Jai Swaminarayan







Happy Navratri

May Maa Amba shower her divine blessings of strength, devotion and happiness on all of us.

Happy Dussehra

May the victory of truth over evil inspire us to always choose dharma, courage and righteousness.

Happy Diwali

May this Festival of Lights bring peace, prosperity, good health and happiness to you and your family.

Best Wishes to You and Your Family on the Auspicious Occasions of Navratri, Dussehra and Diwali!

From

Dipak & Archana Thakkar

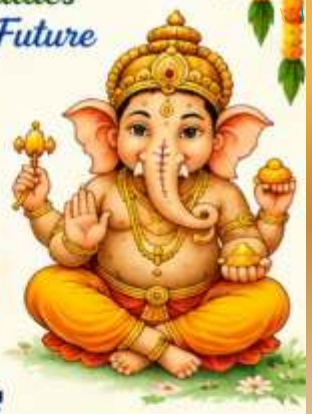
Rockville, MD

GREATER BALTIMORE TEMPLE

GBT BAL VIHAR

Learning Our Roots · Living Our Values · Leading Our Future





2026 – 2027 SESSION

STARTING SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2026!

A Holistic Journey for Every Child!

Updated Religion & Language Curriculum with Interactive Learning

UPDATED CURRICULUM
Age-appropriate lessons in Religion & Language aligned with Hindu values.

INTERACTIVE LEARNING
Stories, games, activities & discussions that make learning joyful and meaningful.

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT
Spiritual growth, language skills, arts, yoga & physical well-being.

STRONG VALUES
Respect, kindness, compassion, honesty, discipline & unity.

COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP
Building roots, friendships and leadership for a better tomorrow.

OUR BAL VIHAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

10:00 AM - 10:25 AM	Assembly (Shlok Chanting and Aarti)
10:25 AM - 10:30 AM	Transition to classes
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM	Religious Classes
11:15 AM - 11:25 AM	Snacks break
11:25 AM - 11:50 AM	Language Class
11:55 AM - 12:15 PM	Elective - Arts / Yoga
12:15 PM - 12:30 PM	Community Buildup Class



2026 – 2027 CALENDAR

DATE	TYPE	SESSION TYPE	TIME
Sunday, September 13th, 2026	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, September 20th, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, September 27th, 2026	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, October 4th, 2026	Regular	Bal Vihar - Gandhi Jayanti	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, October 11th, 2026	Regular	Bal Vihar - Navratri Special	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, October 25th, 2026	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, November 1st, 2026	Event	Diwali Celebration 4pm - 8pm	4:00 PM Onward
Sunday, November 15th, 2026	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, November 22nd, 2026	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, December 6, 2026	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, December 13th, 2026	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, December 20th, 2026	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, January 3rd, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, January 10th, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar - Makar Sankrati Potluck	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, January 17th, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar - SNOW DAY BACKUP	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, January 24th, 2027	Event	Bal Vihar - Vasant Panchami	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, January 31st, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar - Regular/SNOW DAY BACKUP	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, February 7th, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, February 21st, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, February 28th, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar - SNOW DAY BACKUP	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, March 7th, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, March 14th, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, March 21st, 2027	Event	Bal Vihar Holi celebrations	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, April 4th, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, April 11th, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar - Ram Navmi Special OR Holi Rain Date	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, April 25th, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, May 2nd, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, May 16th, 2027	Regular	Bal Vihar	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, May 23rd, 2027	Event	Bal Vihar - Sports Day	9:50am-12:30pm
Sunday, June 6th, 2027	Event	Annual Day	TBD
Sunday, June 13th, 2027		Annual Day - Back Up Day	TBD

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Wishing You a Very

Happy Diwali

LIGHT • KINDNESS • GIVING • A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

May the festival of lights illuminate our hearts with compassion, inspire us to share our blessings, and strengthen our commitment to a kinder, more caring world.

The Joy in Giving

As we light diyas in our homes, let us also light hope in the lives of those in need. This Diwali, may our acts of kindness bring warmth, opportunity, and brighter tomorrows to many.



With Best Wishes,

Rita Kumar

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YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

NOVEMBER 3, 2026 — PLEASE VOTE

FREEDOM OF SPEECH	DEMOCRACY	YOUR VOTE
Speak freely.	*Choose freely.*	*Be heard.*

America's greatness is rooted in a simple but powerful idea: every eligible citizen has a voice. Freedom of speech gives us the right to express our views; democracy gives us the power to act on them through the ballot box.

VOTING IS NOT ABOUT A PARTY.
IT IS ABOUT PARTICIPATION.

On November 3, Americans will help choose the people who make decisions affecting our families and communities—from Congress to state and local offices. If we want a voice in those decisions, we must show up and vote.

BE INFORMED • BE INVOLVED • BE HEARD

For the Hindu and Indian-American diaspora, civic participation should grow alongside our success in education, business, medicine, technology and public service. **Too many eligible members of our community still remain outside the voting process. That weakens our voice and falls short of the civic responsibility that comes with citizenship.**

Hindu thought teaches responsibility toward the society in which we live. Our Karmabhumi is not merely where we earn a living it is where we contribute, serve and help build the future. Voting is one important expression of that responsibility.

✓ LEARN	✓ THINK	✓ VOTE
about the candidates	independently	with your conscience

Encourage your family, friends and young first-time voters.
Study the issues. Make your own choice. Cast your ballot.

NO PARTY. NO CANDIDATE. JUST CIVIC DUTY.

Your vote is your voice. Your participation strengthens America.


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ILLUMINATES
OUR ROOTS
INNOVATION
BRIGHTENS
OUR TOMORROW
GOOD VALUES
GUIDE US
TECHNOLOGY
EMPOWERS
A BRIGHTER WORLD
AI
HAPPY
Diwali
Best Wishes
May the Festival of Lights bring
Peace, Prosperity, Good Health and Happiness
to you and your loved ones.
BRIGHT
HOMES
KINDER
COMMUNITIES
STRONGER
TOMORROWS
TRADITION
FAMILY
INNOVATION
OPPORTUNITY
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW
With Warm Wishes From
Mahesh Kalva
and Family
Clarksburg, MD

The Light That Never Fades



A message from the

Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington

Every year Jains are asked the same question by friends and neighbors: isn't Diwali the festival of fireworks and sweets, of good defeating evil? It is, for much of the world. For Jains it is something quieter, and something far larger. For us, **Diwali is the anniversary of a goodbye.**

On the new moon night of Kartik, in 527 BCE, **Bhagwaan Mahavira** left this world at **Pawapuri.** Not died, exactly. Finished. After a lifetime of stripping away everything that binds a soul, he attained nirvana — free of birth, of death, of karma, at last and forever. He spent his final hours teaching. Those last words are preserved for us in the Uttaradhyayan Sutra, and we still read them on this night.

When he was gone, the kings and disciples gathered at Pawapuri stood in the dark and spoke the words that began everything: **the light of this world has gone out.** And so they lit lamps. Rows and rows of them. Not as decoration, and not only as mourning, but as an argument against the darkness. He is no longer here, but what he gave us is. That stubborn, grieving, hopeful gesture is the **Diwali our Sangh still keeps.**

So, we gather. We recite through the night and offer **Nirvan Laddu.** Our families open fresh ledgers at **Chopda Pujan** and pray that what they earn this year be earned cleanly. Some of us fast. We give in charity, renew our vows of **ahimsa,** and look honestly at the year behind us — not at what we accumulated, but at who we became while accumulating it. Then the **Mangal Divo** is lifted, and for one moment there is a single flame and a hall full of faces lit by it.

HOW WE CELEBRATE



Night-long recitation



Nirvan Laddu offering



Chopda Pujan new ledgers



Charity & vows of ahimsa



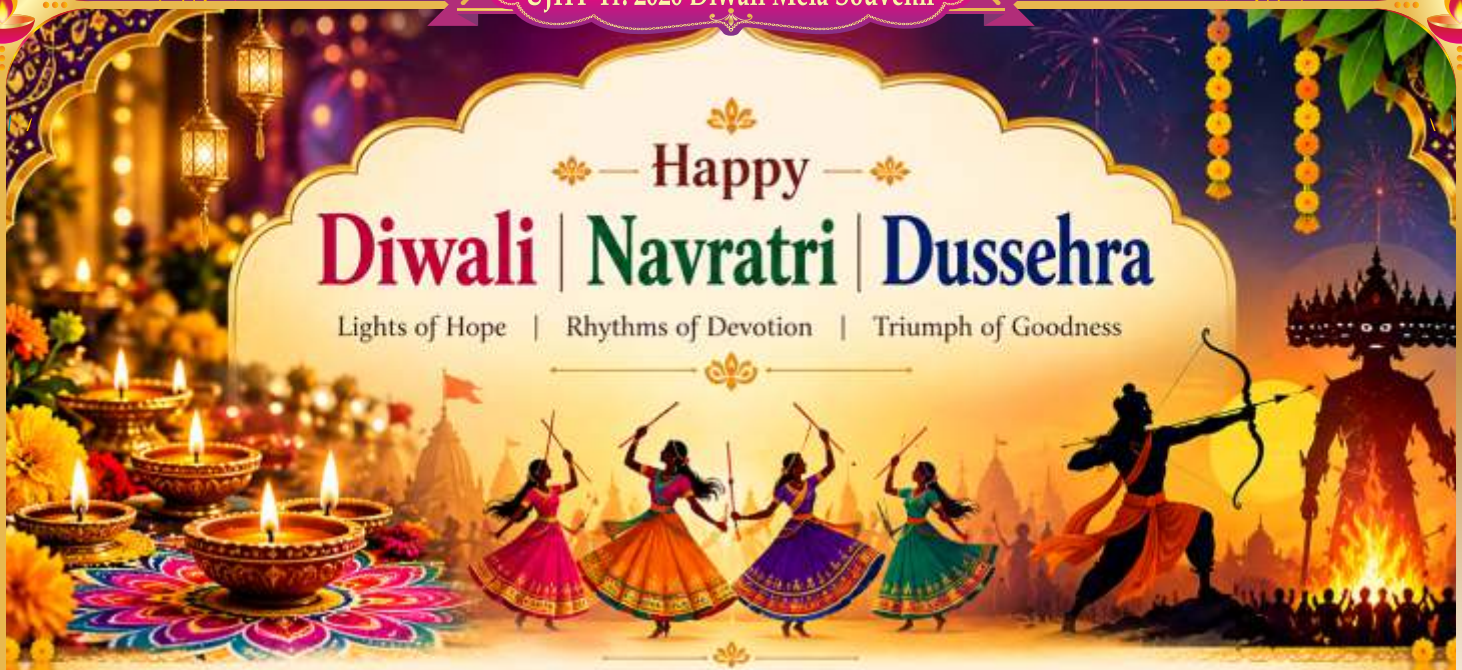
Mangal Divo auspicious lamp

A lamp is such a small thing. It does not argue. It does not conquer. It simply refuses to let the room stay dark. That is the light we mean: not spectacle, but steadiness. The light of knowledge, of compassion, of a person choosing restraint when no one is watching.

This Diwali, our Sangh warmly invites you to come light a lamp with us in Beltsville — whether you are Jain, or simply curious, or simply welcome. Bring whatever you are carrying. There is room for it here.

For Jains, Diwali is not the celebration of a victory on earth.
It is the honoring of a soul's victory over earth itself —
the festival of ultimate freedom, guiding us to look inward and seek the light that never fades.

Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington
4241 Ammendale Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705 · jsmw.org



Happy

Diwali | Navratri | Dussehra

Lights of Hope | Rhythms of Devotion | Triumph of Goodness

May the shining lights of *Diwali* fill your home with joy, prosperity and good health.
May the nine nights of Navratri inspire strength, devotion and new beginnings.
May Dussehra remind us of the eternal triumph of righteousness,
courage and compassion in our lives.

With Warm Wishes,

Mythili "Lee" Bachu

and Family

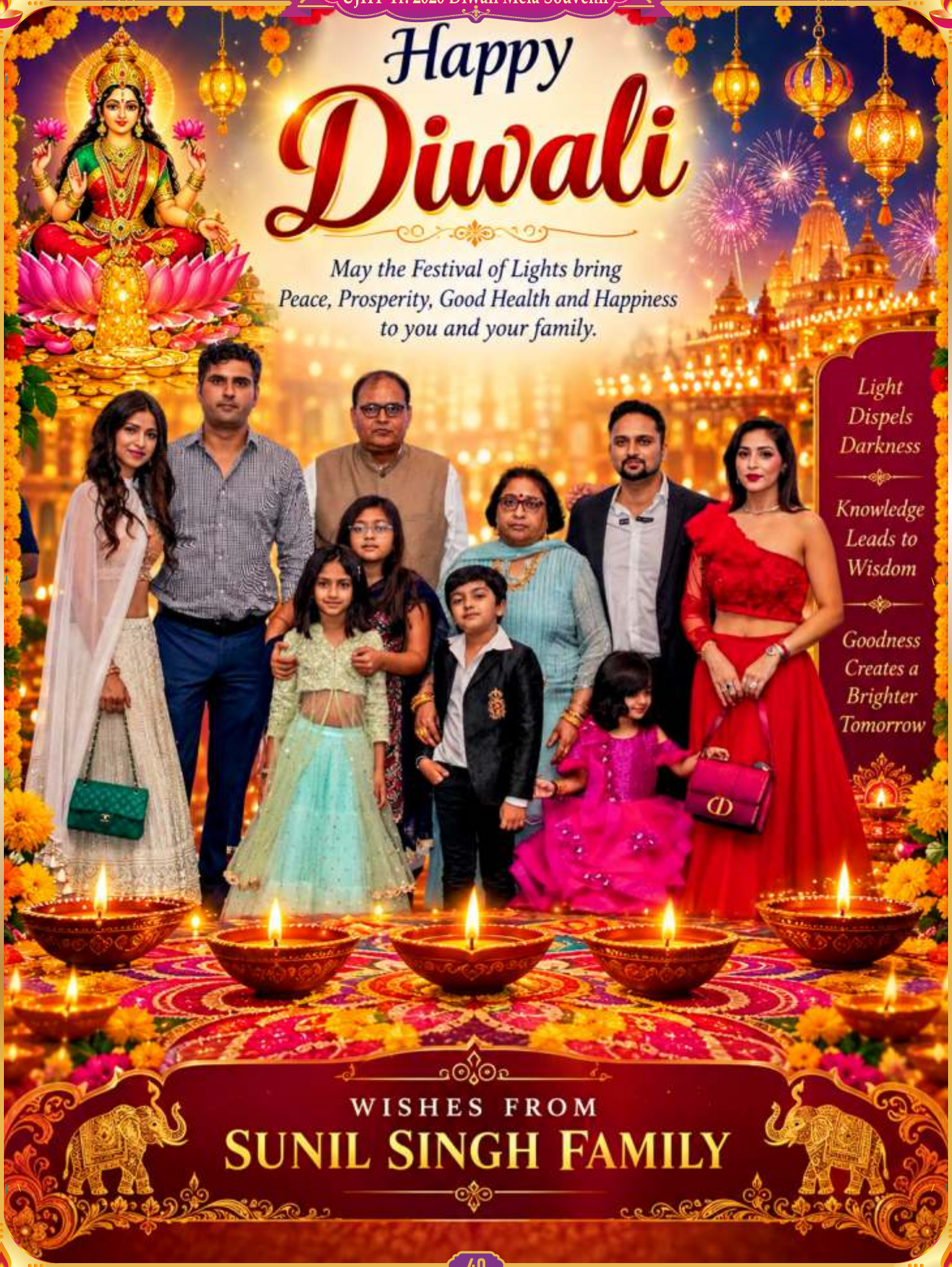
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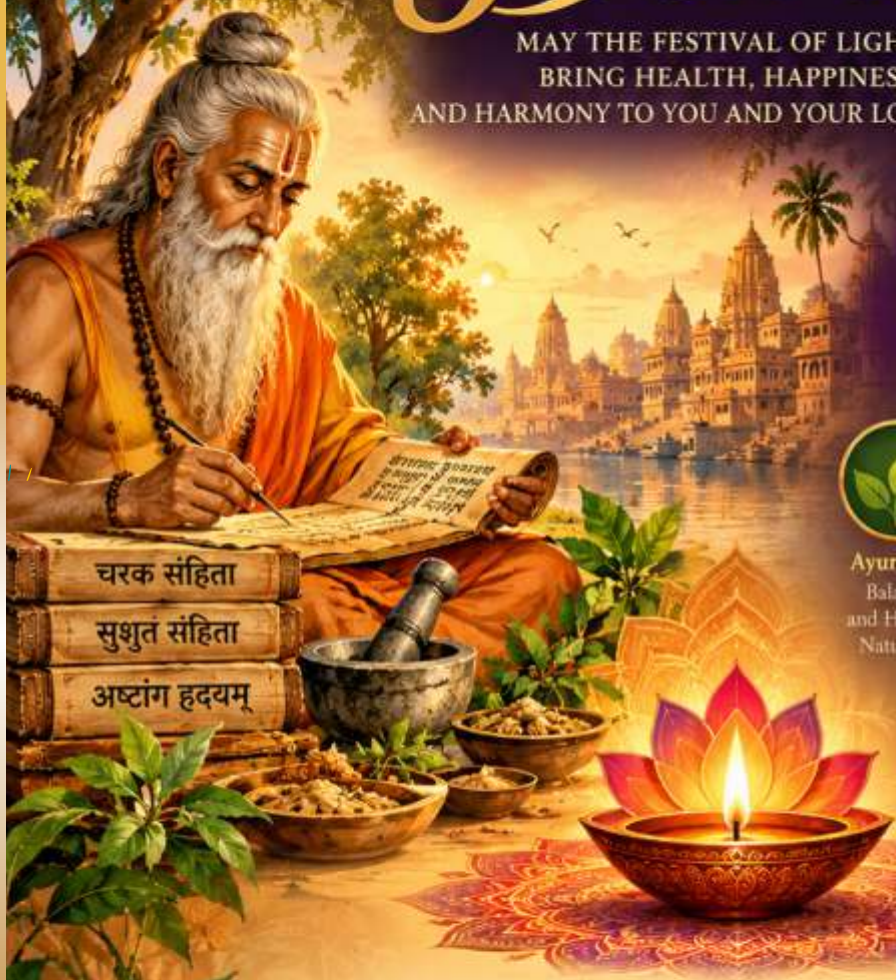
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Warmest Wishes for Diwali

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May this Diwali illuminate our hearts with the timeless wisdom of our great heritage, inspire us to live healthier, more compassionate lives, and bring light, peace and prosperity to all.

With best wishes,

Dr. Om Chhabra and Suman Chhabra

ALEXANDRIA, VA

What Is Dharma

Guiding Lives • Building a Better World

In Hinduism, ***"Dharma"*** is a fundamental concept that refers to the moral, ethical, and religious duties and responsibilities that guide an individual's behavior and actions. It encompasses righteousness, duty, and law. Dharma is a multifaceted concept.

For example, ***Individual Dharma*** or duty guides individuals to fulfill their moral and social obligations according to their roles in society, family, and community.

Universal Dharma is based on harmony and is considered the law that ensures the proper functioning of the world by promoting righteousness, justice, and moral conduct. Dharma, as righteousness, law, and duty, encompasses the ethical principles and moral values that govern human behavior. It includes honesty, truthfulness, compassion, non-violence (*ahimsa*), charity, self-control, and respect for others.

However, Hinduism also embraces ***adaptability***. Dharma is not a rigid set of rules; rather, it allows flexibility according to changing circumstances and contexts. It recognizes that duties and responsibilities may vary based on time, place, and individual situations.

The Pillars of Dharma

The scriptures often describe essential aspects or pillars of Dharma.

Satya (Truth)
means upholding truthfulness in thought, speech, and action.

Ahimsa (Non-violence)
is the practice of non-harming and compassion toward all living beings.



Most commonly, **Dharma** refers to an individual's moral responsibilities or duties. For example, the Dharma of a farmer differs from the Dharma of a soldier. Thus, Dharma conveys a deeply multifaceted idea.

Why Dharma Matters



Hinduism as Dharma is crucial because it guides individuals in their pursuit of righteousness, spiritual growth, and ultimately toward fulfilling their duties while striving for liberation (*moksha*) from the cycle of rebirth (*samsara*). Understanding one's Dharma is considered essential for leading a righteous and fulfilling life according to Hindu teachings. It is seen as a path toward personal and social harmony, while upholding moral values and contributing positively to the world.

In essence, Dharma is not just about rules; it is a way of life that nurtures the individual, the family, and society, while connecting us to a higher purpose.

Live with Dharma,
for a more peaceful and harmonious world.

What Is Dharma to Me?

Is Dharma merely an external activity, or is it an **inner necessity**?

To me, the true essence of Dharma is a journey of **inner transformation**— a priceless wisdom that has the power to make life truly meaningful and blissful. Spirituality is not measured merely by outer austerities, rituals, or discipline, but by **humility**.



Inner Transformation** leads to **True Happiness

The gentle danger of ego in spiritual practice is very real and very common. Humility, therefore, becomes one of the highest forms of austerity. It is the foundation of true spiritual growth, inner purity, and genuine spiritual awareness.

I want to imbibe small but powerful doses of spirituality into my daily life. Making life worthwhile, in terms of Dharma, carries immense value. This gentle awakening reminds me of the **greatness** of human birth and guides me to use this precious life wisely for spiritual transformation.

Humanity — The True Dharma

My Hindu **Dharma** helps me move beyond misery. It teaches me that humanity is not defined by religion, color, country, or language. **Humanity is about feeling another person's pain as your own.** It is about helping someone even when you receive nothing in return. Humanity is choosing kindness instead of cruelty, silence instead of hatred, and helpfulness instead of selfishness. A little respect, a little patience, and a little compassion can sometimes save another person from a world of misery, sorrow, or pain.

Therefore, My Dharma is an inner necessity, not merely an external activity.

By **Rateebhai Patel**
Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan (BAPS) Sanstha
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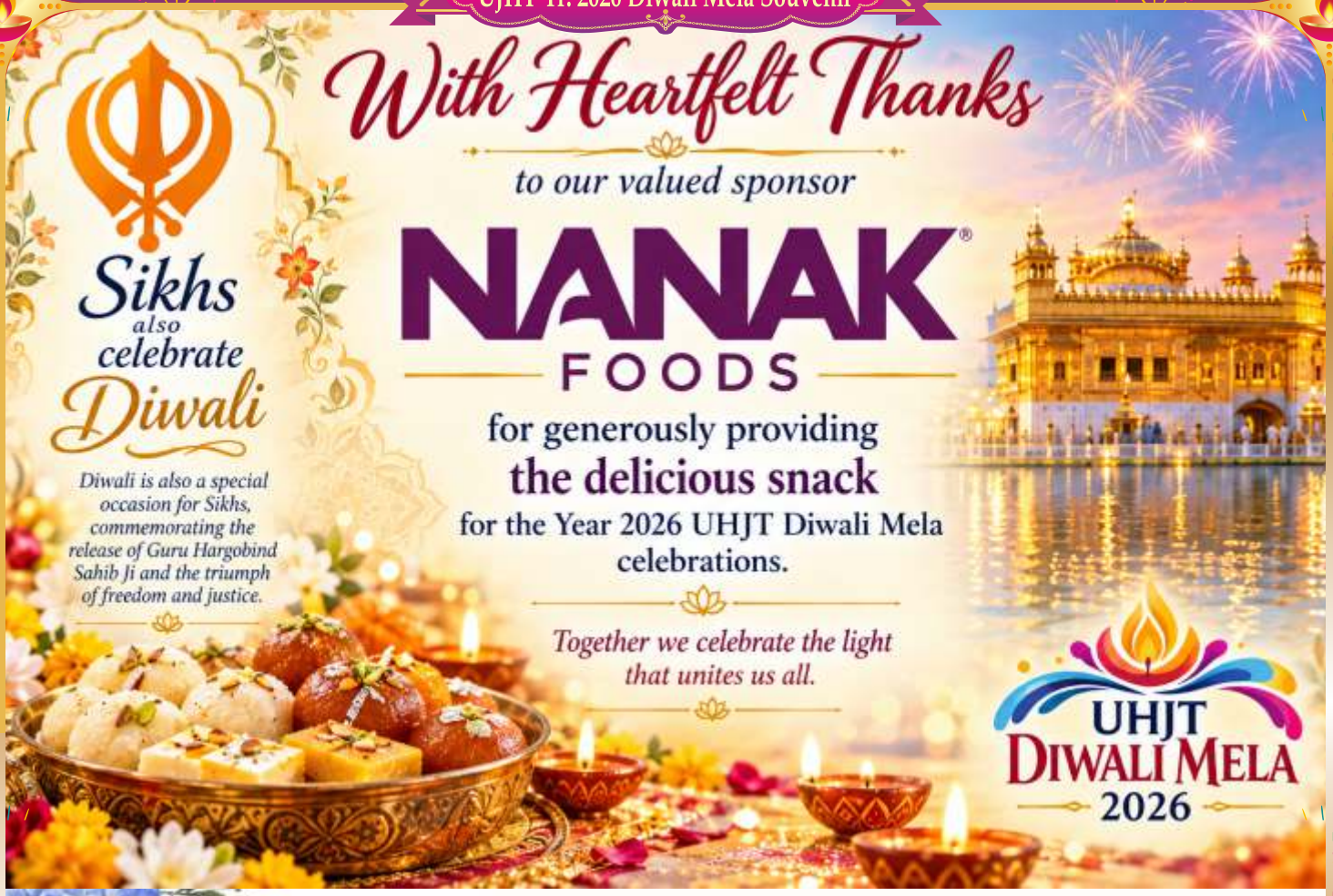
for generously providing
the delicious snack
for the Year 2026 UHJT Diwali Mela celebrations.

Together we celebrate the light that unites us all.

Sikhs also celebrate Diwali

Diwali is also a special occasion for Sikhs, commemorating the release of Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji and the triumph of freedom and justice.

UHJT DIWALI MELA 2026



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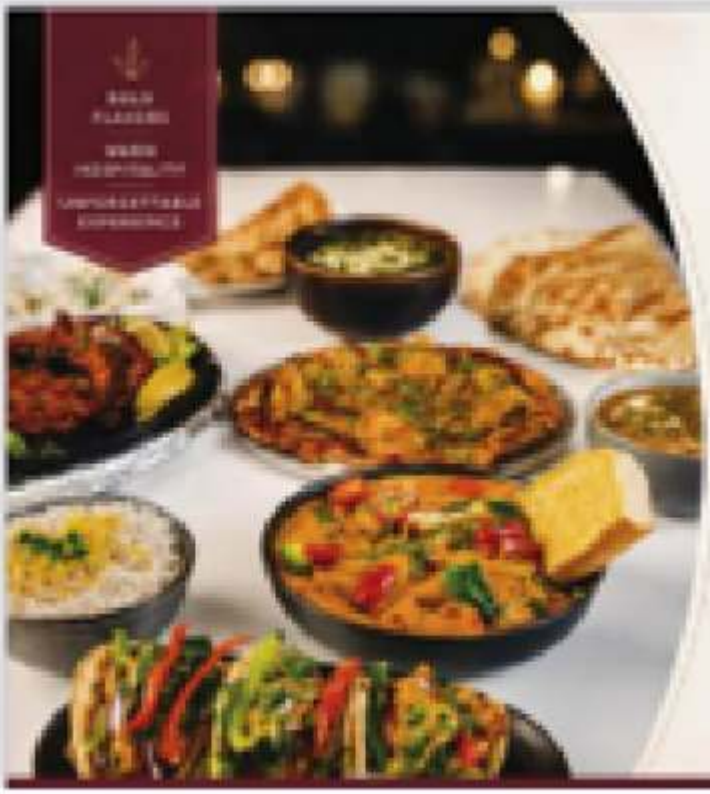
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Shubh Deepawali

As we celebrate Diwali and honor the light of Bhagwan Mahavir's liberation, may we be reminded of the power of Ahimsa, compassion, and togetherness.
Wishing you and your family a joyful Diwali!

~ Minal Shah and Family ~

Shubh Deepavali

Ahimsa Parmo Dharmah

On this auspicious occasion, may the light of knowledge and compassion dispel the darkness of ignorance, anger and attachment from our lives.

Let us walk the path of Ahimsa, speak with kindness, and live with humility — for a more peaceful and harmonious world.

Wishing you and your family
a bright and joyful Diwali!

- Pulkit Gangwal and Family -

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for generously providing the main food items
for UHJT Diwali Mela 2026.

Your kindness, Seva, and unwavering support are truly appreciated!





लक्ष्मी माता आरती

॥ ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः ॥

Om Jai Lakshmi Mata Aarti

॥ Om Shree Mahalakshmyai Namah ॥

1
ॐ जय लक्ष्मी माता, मैया जय लक्ष्मी माता।
तुमको निशिदिन सेवत, हरिविष्णु विधाता॥
ॐ जय लक्ष्मी माता॥

1
Om Jai Lakshmi Mata, Maiya Jai Lakshmi Mata
Tumako Nishidin Sevat, Hari Vishnu Vidhata
Om Jai Lakshmi Mata

2
उमा, रमा, ब्रह्माणी, तुम ही जग-माता।
सूर्य-चन्द्रमा ध्यावत, नारद ऋषिगाता॥
ॐ जय लक्ष्मी माता॥

2
Uma Rama Brahmani, Tum Hi Jag-Mata
Surya-Chandrama Dhyavat, Naarad Rishi Gata
Om Jai Lakshmi Mata

3
दुर्गारूप निरंजनी, सुख सम्पत्तिदाता।
जो कोई तुमको ध्यावत, ऋद्धि-सिद्धिधन पाता॥
ॐ जय लक्ष्मी माता॥

3
Durga Roop Niranjani, Sukh Sampatti Data
Jo Koi Tumako Dhyavat, Riddhi-Siddhi Dhan Pata
Om Jai Lakshmi Mata

4
तुम पाताल-निवासिनि, तुम ही शुभदाता।
कर्म-प्रभाव-प्रकाशिनी, भवनिधिकी त्राता॥
ॐ जय लक्ष्मी माता॥

4
Tum Patal-Nivasini, Tum Hi Shubhdata
Karma-Prabhav-Prakashini, Bhavanidhi Ki Trata
Om Jai Lakshmi Mata

5
जिस घर में तुम रहतीं, सब सदगुण आता।
सब सम्भव हो जाता, मन नहीं घबराता॥
ॐ जय लक्ष्मी माता॥

5
Jis Ghar Mein Tum Rahti, Sab Sadgun Aata
Sab Sambhav Ho Jata, Man Nahi Ghabrata
Om Jai Lakshmi Mata

6
तुम बिन यज्ञ न होते, वस्त्र न कोई पाता।
खान-पान का वैभव, सब तुमसे आता॥
ॐ जय लक्ष्मी माता॥

6
Tum Bin Yagya Na Hote, Vastra Na Koi Pata
Khan-Pan Ka Vaibhav, Sab Tumase Aata
Om Jai Lakshmi Mata

7
शुभ-गुण मन्दिर सुन्दर, क्षीरोदधि-जाता।
रत्न चतुर्दश तुम बिन, कोई नहीं पाता॥
ॐ जय लक्ष्मी माता॥

7
Shubh-Gun Mandir Sundar, Kshirodadhi-Jata
Ratna Chaturdash Tum Bin, Koi Nahi Pata
Om Jai Lakshmi Mata

8
महालक्ष्मीजी की आरती, जो कोई जन गाता।
उर आनन्द समाता, पाप उतर जाता॥
ॐ जय लक्ष्मी माता॥

8
Mahalakshmi Ji Ki Aarti, Jo Koi Jan Gata
Ur Anand Samata, Paap Utar Jata
Om Jai Lakshmi Mata

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