

Pt Rajendra Arun's Life and Achievement



29.07.1945 – 21.06.2021

Pt Rajendra Arun was the first President of the Ramayana Centre, Mauritius. He was born on July 29, 1945 in Naravapitambarpur village in Faizabad district, Uttar Pradesh, India.

He adopted journalism after acquiring a Masters in Hindi from Allahbad University in 1969. In 1973 he went to Mauritius where he was offered the post of managing editor of the 'Janata' Hindi weekly owned by the then Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.. He had also been appointed the representative of 'Samachar' and United News of India (UNI) from 1973 - 1986.

He was the Sub Editor of Rashtira Dharm monthly (Lucknow) INDIA (1971-1972). He also contributed a number of articles in the journals and magazines of India and Mauritius such as Dharma Yug, Saptahik Hindustan, Dinman, Nav Bharat Times Panchjanya and Aaj (1969 – 1985).

In Mauritius, he was the first to start a program on national radio entitled 'Manthan' based on the Ramcharitmanas, where he explained its Chaupais and Dohas in a modern context. This 30-minute broadcast every Thursday, became so popular that it established him as a renowned Katha Vachak. While Bhagwat Katha was already prevalent in Mauritius, it was on public demand that Pandit Arun initiated Ram Katha, which soon gained widespread recognition.

Not only did his Ram Katha begin to be held in towns and villages across Mauritius, but he also started receiving invitations from abroad. His radio programs and Katha inspired him to write books based on Ramcharitmanas. As a result, he authored the following eight books based on various characters:

1. Hari Katha Ananta on Lord Ram,
2. Bharat Gun Gatha on Bharat,
3. Jag Janani Janaki on Sita,
4. Rom Rom Men Ram on Hanuman,
5. Raghukul Riti Sada on Dashrath,
6. Taju Sansay Bhaju Ram on Lord Shiva, Sati and Parvati,
7. Ath Kaikeyi katha on Kaikeyi and
8. Manas mein nari on Lady characters of Ramcharitmanas.

His five books have come in English:

1. Ram: Lord of Decorum, 2. Sita: the Devine Mother, 3. Hanuman: Ocean of Devotion, 4. Bharat: Selfless Soul, Dashrath: Man of words

His deep involvement in Ramayana resulted in the idea of establishing an institution solely dedicated to the Ramayana. He wished for the Mauritian Parliament to pass a bill to create the Ramayana Centre, and he tirelessly worked towards this goal. Due to his unwavering devotion, profound interest, and expertise, the government accepted his proposal. Consequently, a historic event took place.—Mauritius' Parliament passed a bill, and in 2001, the Ramayan Centre was established, an achievement that is entirely credited to Pandit Arun.

He was actively involved in community services and socio-cultural activities. He lectured on Ramayana and Indian Philosophy and propagated Hindi Language and Indian Culture all over Mauritius nearly for 45 years and travelled to various parts of the world such as: India, South East Asia, Africa, America, Canada and UK to lecture on Ramcharitmanas.

He was invited in February 2015 by Government of India to participate in the first International Ram Mela organised in New Delhi in February 2015. He was also invited by the President of Government of India, Hon Shri Pranab Mukerjee to participate in International Conference of Indologist held at Rashtrapati Bhavan New Delhi from 21 – 23 November 2015. He also participated in Third Panel Discussion on Accelerating Tourism in India as part of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2016, held in New Delhi on 30 April 2016 on the invitation of Hon Smt Sushma Swaraj. He also paid a visit to Hon Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India on 5 May 2016 during his visit to India.

He had been conferred upon the following awards and honours for his contributions:

1. Honorary Citizenship of Moka – Flacq District Council of Mauritius for the promotion of Hindi language and culture in May 1993.
2. Vishwa Hindi Award by Government of India in VI World Hindi Conference, London, Sep 1999.
3. International Tulsi Award by Hindu University of America, Miami, November 1999.
4. Hindi Videsh Prasaar Samman by Utarpradesh Hindi Sansthan, Lucknow, India in 1999.
5. Madan Mohan Malviya Award by U.P Government (India) September 2000.
6. Apravasi Samman by Hindi Sansthan U.P. Government December 2000.
7. Manas Sangam Vishishta Samman 29th Dec 2002 by Manas Sangam Kanpur, India
8. Dr. Hedgewar Pragya (wisdom) award by Kumar Sabha Bara Bazaar, 18 April 2010 Kolkata, India
9. Tulsi Award by Sant Murarai Bapoo on 16 August 2010

10. Officer of the order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (OSK) by the Government of Mauritius for his contribution in the field of literature and culture on 12 March 2011.