



RAM SANDESH

राम संदेश

Ramayana Centre Newsletter

July-Dec 2024

TULSI JAYANTI : 11 AUGUST, 2024

Tulsi Jayanti, the birth celebration of Goswami Tulsidas, the great writer of Ramcharitmanas, was celebrated on 11 August 2024. The Chief Guest was Dr Hon Kailesh Kumar Singh Jagatpal, the Minister of Health and Wellness and the distinguished guests were, Hon Ms Teenah Jutton, PPS, Dr (Mrs) Kadambini Acharya, Director of IGCIC, Shri Santosh Choubey, Director Vishva Rang and Chancellor of Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal, India who was accompanied by his wife Mrs Vineeta Choubey and Dr Jawahar Karnavat, Director International Hindi Centre, Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal, India.



Recitation of Ramayana by students of RC

The programme started by traditional lighting of lamp by the dignitaries present followed by a dance performance



Dance performance by Mr Yash Dhonow

by Shri Yash Donow, a kathak dance teacher as well as a dancer on the famous bhajan of Tulsidas: Shri Ramchandra Kripalu Bhajaman.

Mrs Roshni Bhootooa & group presented some bhajans and students of the Ramayana Centre recited verses from Ramcharitmanas.



Bhajan by Mrs Roshni Bhootooa & group

Dr (Mrs) V. Arun in her speech welcomed all the dignitaries and the audience and pointed out that this great event is celebrated to commemorate the birth of the legendary saint, poet, and philosopher Goswami Tulsidas. Tulsidas Ji is widely revered for his unparalleled devotion to Lord Rama and his invaluable contributions to Indian literature and spirituality.



A view of audience

He is best known for composing the Ramcharitmanas, the saga of Bhagwan Ram in Awadhi, which has profoundly influenced Indian culture, religion, and society. Celebrated with great fervor, the event honours his enduring legacy and reminds us of his teachings, which continue to inspire millions.

Mrs Arun also added that we pay our sincere homage and gratitude to this great saint through various activities, including recitations and explanations, of his works, spiritual discourses, and devotional singing at Ramayana Centre every year. The day is also a reminder of the power of devotion and the transformative impact of literature on society.

She also mentioned that Ramcharitmanas has been included in UNESCO's memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register to give recognition to the significant contribution of this great text.

Dr Jawahar Karnavat, Director of International Hindi Centre, Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal, India in his speech explained that Tulsidas's life is a testament to devotion, transformation, and literary brilliance. It is believed that he was born under difficult circumstances, with his mother passing shortly after his birth. Despite his challenging early years, he grew up to be a spiritually inclined scholar deeply devoted to Lord Rama.



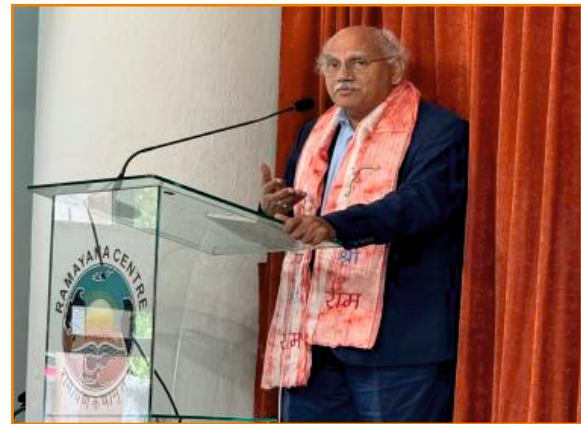
Honouring of Dr Jawahar Karnavat

Tulsidas's compositions, particularly the Ramcharitmanas, have earned him a place among India's greatest poets and saints. Written in the 16th century in the vernacular language, the Ramcharitmanas brought the story of Lord Rama closer to the masses, making it accessible to people from all walks of life. It is a lyrical masterpiece filled with simplicity, devotion, and universal appeal.

Dr Santosh Choubey, Director Vishva Rang and Chancellor of Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal,

stated that the Ramcharitmanas is more than a literary work; it is a spiritual guide that emphasizes righteousness, devotion, and the triumph of good over evil.

Through its verses, Tulsidas glorifies the ideals of Lord Rama, portraying him as a symbol of dharma (righteousness) and an epitome of ideal virtues. The text's universal themes of love, loyalty, and moral integrity resonate across generations and cultures, making it a revered scripture not just in India but across the world. It is often recited in temples and homes, especially during religious festivals like Ram Navami, where devotees reflect on the divine virtues of Lord Rama.



Dr Santosh Choubey addressing the audience

Apart from the Ramcharitmanas, Tulsidas composed several other devotional works, including Hanuman Chalisa, Vinay Patrika, and Dohavali. Among these, the Hanuman Chalisa, a 40-verse hymn in praise of Lord Hanuman, is particularly popular. It is believed to provide immense spiritual strength and protection, making it a staple in Hindu households. Tulsidas's other works reflect his deep philosophical insights and unwavering devotion, encouraging seekers to cultivate faith, humility, and selfless service.

Dr (Mrs) Kadambini Acharya, the Director of IGCIC and representative of High Commission of India paid her gratitude to Sant Tulsidas and highlighted his contributions. She stated that Tulsidas's impact extended beyond his writings. He played a significant role in fostering social harmony and spreading the Bhakti movement, a devotional movement that emphasized love and surrender to God over rituals and caste divisions. By composing his works in regional languages, he bridged the gap between the learned and the common folk, empowering ordinary people to connect with spirituality and understand complex philosophical concepts in a relatable way.



Bhajan by Swaranjali bhajan Mandali of Grand Bois

Feb 3102 BC. The great war of Mahabharat was fought when he was 89 years old. He died 36 years after this battle.

He is reported to have killed only 4 persons in his life time, namely, Chanoora, the wrestler, Kansa - his maternal uncle, Shishupal and Devantaka - his cousins.

His life was full of great difficulties and challenges. He was born in prison and immediately after his birth, he was separated from his parents and was brought up by his father's cousin, Nand and his wife Yashoda in Gokul. Drought and threat of wild wolves made them shift from Gokul to Vridavan when Shri Krishna was only nine years old.

He stayed in Vrindavan for a period of 18 months and then moved to Mathura and killed Kansa, his own maternal uncle when he was only 10 years and six months old. He never returned to Vridavan again and established his kingdom in Dwarka nearly 1289 metres away from Mathoora. He had innumerable qualities, namely; compassion, patience, forgiveness, justice, impartiality, detachment, invincibility, generosity, beauty, dance, singing, honesty, truth, mastery of all arts, and control over mind and senses. We can learn about his life and contributions from Shrimad Bhagavatam and Mahabharat. His teachings are compiled in Shrimad Bhagavad Gita.



Dance performance by Gopeeka group

The programme continued with a dance performance which was presented by Ms Sawock Keertee and Mrs Vimla Ortoo Huzoree of Keerthak School of music on a beautiful composition composed by Pandot Divyang Vakil and Rushi Vakil - 'Nache Ghiridhari'. This pure Kathak Dance depicting the dance of Shree Radha Rani and Lord Krishna.

Bhajans were sung by Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Sangha group led by Mrs Neela, a great devotional singer

who has melodious voice and mesmerizing way of singing bhajans.

The Vice-President, Mr M. Gangoo recited Geeta Dhyanam. At 23:30 hrs, Acharya Rakesh Kumar Pandey, the Officiating Priest started the pooja to welcome 'Bal Krishna'.

Lord Krishna was installed in the palna and devotees present celebrated Krishna Janmashtami by swinging the palna.

The function ended by Artee and prasad after mid night.

MEMORIAL LECTURE: 3 AUGUST, 2024

A memorial lecture was held at Ramayana Centre. Union Park on Saturday 3 August 2024 from 14.00 hrs to 15.30 hrs to mark the 79th Birth Anniversary of Pandit Rajendra Arun, Ex President and Founder member of the Ramayana Centre. The program was conducted under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage.

Several eminent personalities attended the event.



The memorial lecture was delivered by Shri Rajnarain Guttee, Chairman of the Mauritius Qualification Authority who was a close friend to Pandit Rajendra Arun.

During his speech, Shri Guttee commented on Gururji Arun who dedicated himself to the service of Lord Ram and accomplish his "mission" by establishing the Ramayana Centre which culminated in the RAM MANDIR project, comprising of : A Learning Complex, a Spiritual Hall and a magnificent Ram Mandir. After years of struggles and challenges, the vision was finally executed on June 30th, 2017, with the inauguration of the Ram Mandir. The members of the Committee of Management and volunteers of the Ramayana Centre have witnessed that Pt. Rajendra Arun and his wife, Mrs Arun, have left no stone unturned in

the pursuit of this project, and their efforts. This achievement definitely had marked the name of Arun ji in history. Indeed, Pt. Arun was a divine gift to Mauritius. He was the founder and President of the Ramayana Centre and had been actively promoting and propagating the spiritual, social and cultural values flowing therefrom. Pt Arun Ji passed away on 21 June 2021, leaving behind a rich and unforgettable heritage for humankind.

As a person, Arun Ji had been described as courteous, affable, good-natured and generous by his close acquaintances, colleagues and followers. Even a brief encounter with him would win the heart of many people.

VALMIKI JAYANTI: 17 OCTOBER, 2024

Valmiki Jayanti was celebrated on Thursday 17 October 2024 from 16.30 hrs to 18.00 hrs at the seat of the Ramayana Centre. On this occasion, students of the Ramayana Centre recited the verses from Valmiki Ramayana.

Dr Vinoo Arun in her speech elaborated on the great contribution of the first poet Maharshi Valmiki who wrote the Ramayana in Sanskrit consisting of 24000 verses. This epic, known as 'Itihas' describes the real incidents of Shri Ram's life.

The Ramayana not only narrates the life and virtues of Lord Rama but also serves as a guide to righteousness, duty, and devotion. Valmiki's portrayal of Rama as an ideal human being reflects profound moral and ethical values, shaping the cultural and spiritual ethos of India for centuries. His eloquent and rhythmic Sanskrit composition set the foundation for classical Indian poetry and inspired countless poets and writers throughout history.

Beyond his literary contributions, Valmiki's life itself is a beacon of transformation and redemption. Born as Ratnakar, a hunter and dacoit, his encounter with divine wisdom led him to renounce his past and embrace the path of spirituality. Through intense meditation and penance, he attained enlightenment, becoming Maharshi Valmiki. His ashram became a center of learning and refuge, where he mentored disciples and played a crucial role in sheltering Sita and raising her sons, Lava and Kusha. By chronicling the triumph of good over evil in the Ramayana and embodying the power of self-transformation, Valmiki

continues to inspire humanity to strive for higher ideals and spiritual awakening.

The students of Ramayana Centre then recited the verses from Ayodhya Kand of Ramcharitmanas where Shri Ram met Sage Valmiki at Chitrakoot which was appreciated by all.

The programme ended with Artee and prasad.

SITA-RAM VIVAAH: 7 DECEMBER, 2024

नीलांबुजश्यामलकोमलांगं सीतासमारोपित वामभागम् ।
पाणौ महसायकचारुचापं नमामि रामं रघुवंशनाथम् ॥

Ramayana Centre celebrated Sita-Ram Vivaah on Saturday 7 December 2024 from 14:00 - 16:00 hrs. The programme started with a Pooja conducted by the officiating priest. After the Pooja, the young students of the Ramayana Centre recited verses of Ramcharitmanas from Baal Kand and some bhajans together with their Gurus Shri Vishnu Hurry and Shri Roshan Kissoondoyal.

The programme continued with the speech of Dr Vinoo Arun, the President of Ramayana Centre who explained the



significance of wedding and the importance of the four stages of life; Brahmacharya, Grhastha, Vanaprastha, and Sannyasa and said that Grhastha Ashram is the most important among all which starts with the wedding ceremony. The wedding of Sita-Ram teaches us the ideals of a couple.

In Hindu Dharma, Marriage is a sacred and meaningful event that is considered a life-long union of couple and also of two families. It is a sacrament rather than a social contract.

It is seen as a means for the spiritual growth and a way to progress in life. It is believed that marriage is a way to direct energy of a couple's instincts and passions into the progress of their souls.

The programme ended with the verses of Ramayana and bhajans recited by Mrs Roshnee Bhootooa.

LECTURE ON THE THEME "BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT : LESSONS FROM INDIAN SCRIPTURES" ORGANIZED BY IBC MAURITIUS

IBC Mauritius organized a lecture on the theme "Business and Management : Lessons from Indian Scriptures." at the Head office of SBI, Ebene on 6 November 2024. Dr Vinoo Arun, the President of Ramayana Centre was invited as a resource person.



Dr Mrs Arun addressing the audience

She pointed that since the beginning of time, human life has been about management. Management is central to all aspects of life, be it individual, in family, within society, across businesses or industries. Management is essential for everyone and everyday life, not just for large organizations and institutions. It is required for anyone who aims to be

effective and efficient.

Scriptures of each religion offer many principles for good management.

Hindu texts, such as Kautilya's Arthashastra, the Mahabharata, the Bhagavad Gita, the Upanishads, the Ramayana, the Panchatantra, and the Hitopadesha are the treasures of such principles and teachings which are being followed by successful corporates to govern their organizations in today's time as well.

She elaborated the theme by citing examples from the above texts and specially from Ramayana.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Dr Vinoo Arun participated as resource person in the following two International events:

She presented a paper virtually in an International Conference on the theme "Vishwa Falak Par Ram" - (Ram on global platform) organised by Kanhaiya Lal Maniklal Munshi, Hindi aur Bhasha Vidhyapeeth, Agra, India and Tribhuvan University Nepal on 3 December 2024.

डॉ. निशांत गुप्ता स्मृति अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्याख्यान- शृंखला
दिनांक- 26.11.2024 से 03.12.2024 तक
तुलसीकृत रामचरितमानस में सामाजिक एवं राजनैतिक चेतना:
वर्तमान संदर्भ में इसकी प्रासंगिकता
Social And Political Consciousness In Tulsidas' Ramcharitmanas: Its
Relevance In The Present Context
आमन्त्रित वक्तागण

प्रथम दिवस: उद्घाटन दिनांक- 26.11.2024, समय-अपराह्न 01:00 बजे (ऑनलाइन माध्यम) डॉ. पारमेश्वर झा आचार्य, भारतीय साहित्य परिषद डॉ. सुरेश प्रसाद दीक्षित प्रसिद्ध साहित्यकार एवं पूर्व विभागाध्यक्ष लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय, लखनऊ
द्वितीय दिवस दिनांक- 27.11.2024 समय-अपराह्न 02:00 बजे (ऑनलाइन माध्यम) डॉ. जगदीप दीक्षित विभागाध्यक्ष, ललितकला एवं भाषा अकादमी विभाग केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय, अजमेर विश्वविद्यालय, भारत सरकार
तृतीय दिवस दिनांक- 28.11.2024 समय-रात 11:00 बजे (ऑनलाइन माध्यम) डॉ. चन्द्रपाल शर्मा प्रसिद्ध साहित्यकार, पिलखुआ (ऑनलाइन माध्यम)
चतुर्थ दिवस दिनांक- 29.11.2024, समय-अपराह्न 01:00 बजे (ऑनलाइन माध्यम) डॉ. किरणेश्वरी विपादी सह-अध्यक्ष (हिंदी) अवगतो विदेशी भाषा विश्वविद्यालय चीन डॉ. प्रीति शर्मा विभागाध्यक्ष राजनीति विज्ञान विभाग साहू रामस्वरूप महाविद्यालय, बरेली (ऑनलाइन माध्यम)
पंचम दिवस दिनांक- 30.11.2024, समय-अपराह्न 01:00 बजे (ऑनलाइन माध्यम) डॉ. विनोद बाता अरुण अध्यक्ष, रामायण सेंटर मोरीहास डॉ. अलका धनपत अध्यक्ष, भाषा संसाधन केंद्र महान्या गांधी संस्थान, मोरीहास
षष्ठम दिवस दिनांक- 02.12.2024, समय-अपराह्न 01:00 बजे (ऑनलाइन माध्यम) डॉ. प्रवीण कुमार शिवादी विभागाध्यक्ष विभाग दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली डॉ. रजनीका कुमर शर्मा तुलनात्मक दर्शन एवं धर्म विभाग सम्पूर्णानन्द संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय, वाराणसी
सप्तम दिवस दिनांक- 03.12.2024 समय-अपराह्न 02:00 बजे (ऑनलाइन माध्यम) डॉ. हरिश्चंद्र मिश्र प्रसिद्ध साहित्यकार पूर्व अधिपति एवं अध्यक्ष विश्वभारती विश्वविद्यालय, कोलकाता, पश्चिम बंगाल

She also presented a paper on 30 November 2024 in 'Dr Nishant Gupta Smriti Antar Rashtriya Vyakhyan Mala' organised by Gangasheel Maha Vidhyalaya of Bareilly, UP, India.



NAVRATREE AND VIJAYA DASHMI

Ramayana Centre organised Navratri from 3-10 October 2024. During the eight days different Mandalis, Sai Tulsidas group, Mrs Roshni & students, Pandarpur Varkani Bhajan Mandali, Mr Ramkissoon & group, New Grove Mandali, Mrs Neela and Mr Arjoon Putlajee & group presented bhajans and kirtans of Durga Maa. The Katha was conducted by the officiating priest. Saraswati Pooja and Kanya Pooja were held on 9 and 10 October 2024 respectively.



A view of Kanya Pooja

On the ninth day, that is, 11 October 2024, Akhanda Ramayana Paath (24 hours Ramayana chanting) was started and it was concluded on 12 October 2024 to culminate with Vijaya Dashmi (the victory of Ram over Ravan) in which several groups from all over the island participated. It was concluded by Sai Vaani & group.



Dr Mrs Vinoo Arun honouring of Lady Sarojini Jugnauth and H.E Mrs K. Nandini Singla

The Ramayana Paath ended at around 18:00 hrs and was followed by two dance performances. The first one was by Anandam Group on the famous bhajan 'mere Ram aye hai' and a dance performance on Mahishasur Mardini. The second dance performance was a Garba and Dandiya Raas with a group of ladies which was conceptualized and choreographed by Ms Keertee Rani Sawock of Keerthak School of music and dance. On that occasion, the Chief Guest was Lady Sarojini Jugnauth. Hon Mahen Seeruttun and Hon Kalpana Devi Koonjoo-Shah and H.E K. Nandini Singla, High Commissioner of India, graced the event by their distinguished presence.



Garba Dance by a group of ladies of Keerthak School of music

Dr Mrs V. Arun in her welcome address elaborated on the significance of Vijaya Dashmi. She stated that this day celebrates the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana and the



Dance by Anandam Group

triumph of Goddess Durga over evil forces. It signifies the ultimate conquest of righteousness and truth over falsehood and injustice. Vijaya Dashami also reminds us to conquer our inner demons, such as anger, greed, and pride, and strive to live a virtuous life.

These festivals are a powerful reminder of the values that shape our lives—faith, courage, and the eternal fight for justice. As we celebrate Navratri and Vijaya Dashami, let us pledge to embody these principles and spread positivity in our families and communities. She pointed out that Shri Ram always believed in well being of everyone, even of his enemy.

When Ravan abducted Sita, Shri Ram reached Lanka with his forces to rescue her. He could have immediately launched an attack on Ravan, but he did not do so. His intention was to avoid bloodshed and have a peaceful solution. Shri Ram consulted Jambavan, the eldest of the group, and asked for his advice. The latter suggested sending Angad as a peace envoy to Ravan. Shri Ram

honoured his advice and instructed Angad on how he should converse with Ravan upon meeting him. He advised Angad to keep two objectives in mind during the conversation:- First, their own objective to be achieved and second no harm occurs to Ravan.

काजु हमार तासु हित होई ।
रिपु सन करेहु बतकही सोई ॥

Shri Ram aims for mutual beneficial outcome that harms no one - in brief a win win situation .

Shri Ram's instruction is immensely valuable, emphasizing a balanced approach where both parties benefit.

This principle is applicable to all spheres of life, be it family, society, business, politics, diplomatic relations as well as international affairs.



View of audience

The programme ended at 19:00 hrs with bhajans and artee by Sai Vaani & group. The master of ceremony for this was Ms Henakshee Joysuree, a student of Ramayana Centre.

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