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THE OXFORD HINDU

*Newsletter of the Oxford Hindu Temple and
Community Centre Project*



Our Dream

REPORT ON JANUARY SATSANG

SIGNIFICANCE OF VASANT PANCHAMI

CHILDREN'S STORY- THE STORK AND A CRAB

WHY WE SHOULD VISIT THE TEMPLE

www.oxfordhindutemple.org



Editorial

Dear Parivar,

Happy Vasant Panchami to all our readers and families celebrated on 5th February 2022.

We hope you are all safe and well and so also your near and dear ones!

The Government has removed the remaining Covid-19 related restrictions in England. However Covid-19 remains a huge health risk and there are still steps you can take to reduce the risk of catching and spreading COVID-19: Please get vaccinated, consider wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces and get tested if you have Covid-19 symptoms. Recently the NHS have been offering a 3rd full dose of vaccine (4th if we include booster) to clinically vulnerable people. Those who are in the clinically vulnerable category may look out for information regarding the 4th dose of vaccine.

On a positive note, It is heartening to see that people wearing masks in public places and using sanitisers where possible. This pandemic has brought in a sense of caution and discipline among the population.

Keep Well. Keep Safe!

Satish Rao Turaga

Thought for the Month compiled by Satish Rao Turaga

“You have the right to work, but never to the fruit of work. You should never engage in action for the sake of reward, nor should you long for inaction. Perform work in this world, Arjuna, as a man established within himself - without selfish attachments, and alike in success and defeat.”

— **Anonymous, The Bhagavad Gita**



January 2022 Communal Prayer Session

Report by Mark Bhagwandin

Our first havan and satsangh for this year was back on Zoom because of the high risk of the spread of the Omicron variant of Corona Virus. The session focused on the observance of Makar Sankranti and had a decent attendance on Zoom. It was hosted from the home of Gian and Kanta Gopal. OHTCCP Chairman Mukesh Shori welcomed everyone and wished them well for the new year. A pravachan on the significance of Makar Sankranti and Pongal and how they are celebrated, was delivered by Gian Gopal. Bhajans were sung by Tripta Sharda, Kiran Bandhari, Kanta Gopal, Chinta Kallie, Swetha Sudaram and Anitha Nair with Mark Bhagwandin singing the Aarti towards the end. Chris Hills accompanied Swetha and Anitha with his Tabla. The session went smoothly and despite it being done virtually, there was an atmosphere of peace, hope and spirituality as we prayed and sung together. Gian Gopal closed the session with Shanti Paath.



Vasant Panchami - Significance

by Satish Rao Turaga

Vasant Panchami (Vasant meaning “spring” and Panchami meaning “fifth”) is a festival that falls on the fifth day of the Hindu lunar month of Magha (January-February in the Western calendar) marking the beginning of winter’s end and the coming of spring. This year, Vasant Panchami is celebrated on 5th February. On this day people worship Goddess Saraswathi, who is the symbol of prosperity; devotees seek her divine blessings to get enlightened with wisdom and knowledge; Students, musicians, and the people related with art and literature worship goddess Saraswathi with great spirituality and devotion.

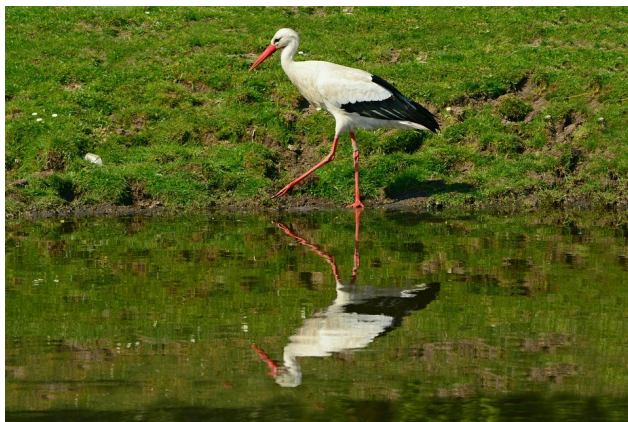
According to mythology, Vasant Panchami day is connected with poet Kalidasa. After he was married off to a beautiful princess through trickery, the princess kicked him out of her bed as she learned that he was foolish. Following this, Kalidasa went to commit suicide, upon which Saraswathi emerged from the waters and asked him to take a dip there. After taking a dip in the holy waters, Kalidasa became knowledgeable and began writing poetry. Thus, Vasant Panchami is celebrated to venerate Goddess Saraswathi, the goddess of education and learning. (Source: Indiadvine.org)

Hindu Traditions – Why should we visit a temple? by Satish Rao Turaga

Temples are located strategically at a place where the positive energy is abundantly available from the magnetic and electric wave distributions of north/south pole thrust. The main idol is placed in the core centre of the temple, known as “*Garbhagriha*” or *Moolasthanam*. In fact, the temple structure is built after the idol has been placed. This *Moolasthanam* is where earth’s magnetic waves are found to be maximum. We know that there are some copper plates, inscribed with Vedic scripts, buried beneath the Main Idol. The copper plate absorbs earth’s magnetic waves and radiates it to the surroundings. Thus, a person regularly visiting a temple and walking clockwise around the Main Idol receives the beamed magnetic waves and his body absorbs it. This is a very slow process, and a regular visit will let him absorb more of this positive energy. Scientifically, it is the positive energy that we all require to have a healthy life. (Source: <https://desinema.com/hindu-traditions-scientific-reasons/>)

Children's Story - The Stork and a Crab

Once upon a time, there lived a stork who used to pick fishes from the pond beside him and eat them. However, as he grew older, he found it difficult to catch a single fish. In order to feed himself, he thought of a plan. He told the fish, frogs, and crabs living in the pond that some men are planning to fill the pond and grow crops, and soon there won't be any fish in the pond. He also told them how sad he felt about this and that he will miss them all. The fish were sad and asked the stork to help them. The stork promised to take all of them to a bigger



pond. However, he told them, "As I am old, I can take only a few of you at one go." The stork would take the fishes to a rock, kill them, and eat them up. There lived a crab in the pond, who wanted to go to the bigger pond too. The stork thought of eating the crab for a change and agreed on helping him. On the way, the crab asked the stork, "Where is the big pond?" The stork laughed and pointed to the rock, which was filled with fish bones. The crab realised that the stork would kill him, and so quickly thought of a plan to save himself. He caught the stork's neck and did not let it go until the stork died.

Moral of the Story: *Always have a presence of mind and act quickly when in danger.*

Source: <https://parenting.firstcry.com/articles/top-10-short-stories-of-panchatantra-for-kids/>

December 2021 Donations and Collections

by Dharmaraj Gupta

Diwali collection & Prayer Day donations		
Diwali mix income	£160.00	
Museum of Oxford mixing matter event OCC	£150.00	
Saroj Saurya	£21.00	
Amazon Europe donation	£7.18	
Other Income		
Standing orders	£470.00	
Aarti collection	£18.00	
Bank interest	£2.00	
D. Gupta Shop box collection	£42.15	

Total Income December 2021	£1033.03
Total Expenditure December 2021	£2741.40

Announcements

Maha Shiva Ratri will be celebrated on Tuesday 1st March. We will have a special programme from 7.00 P.M to 10.00 P.M. at the Risinghurst Community Centre. Please join us for Bhajans, Shiv Chalisa, Shiva Abhishekam and Prasad.

The next monthly prayer session will be held at Rose Hill Community Centre on Saturday 19th March 2022 at 11.00A.M. This will be a combined programme celebrating Holi and our Havan and prayer session. Please join us. If you would like to sing a bhajan please contact us at oxfordhindutemple1@gmail.com and we will ensure you are on the programme. Anyone who wishes to sponsor the session to mark a special family occasion is requested to contact the OHTCCP Treasurer, Mr. Dharmaraj Gupta on 01865-243910 or 07817635411

Objectives of OHTCCP

The main AIMS and OBJECTIVES of OHTCCP that we are working on are as follows:

1. To advance Hindu religion and culture and promote spiritual teaching and observances that serve to enhance understanding of Hinduism
2. To acquire premises for a Hindu Temple and a Community Centre to cater for the religious, social, and cultural needs and activities of our people
3. To encourage women, children, and young people to participate in social and religious events and festivals that also include members of the host community with a view to promoting community cohesion and mutual respect
4. To develop a fund-raising strategy to finance the OHTCCP aim of getting a Temple and Community Centre