



HINDU SWAYAMSEVAK SANGH

ANNUAL REPORT VIJAYA DASHAMI 2017-18

Message from HSS President

Namaste,

I extend my warmest greetings for Vijayadashami to you all!

Once again on this auspicious occasion, I'd like to share the wonderful accomplishments of HSS during the past year.

I'd like to begin with the most recent invigorating event, the World Hindu Congress, held in Chicago from September 7-9, 2018. It was organized by the World Hindu Foundation, our HSS volunteers along with volunteers from several local and national organizations, worked tirelessly to make it a grand success. Pujaniya Sarsanghachalak Dr. Mohanji Bhagwat's presence and the historical keynote address at the Congress will be cherished forever.

This year, number of our shakhas, karyakartas and activities have increased surpassing previous records. Kutumb Prabodhan and Praudh Shakhas are becoming part of our regular activities in addition to weekly shakhas. I am happy to share that we started a unique project, Vivekanand House for the Hindu Students Cultural Activities, at Iowa State University.

As we reflect on the success of our past year, let us be inspired to continue this noble work in the coming years.

- Dr. Vinod Ambastha
Sanghchalak (President)

HIGHLIGHTS



194 Shakhas Nationwide



828,586 Suryanamaskars
During Suryanamaskar Yajna



75 Unique Sewa Projects



1,677 Teachers Were Honored



30 Hindu Yuva Chapters



Historic Victory in California
Textbooks Row



World Hindu Congress

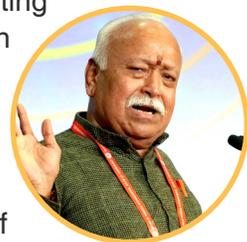
WORLD HINDU CONGRESS 2018



The second World Hindu Congress was successfully held in Chicago on September 7-9, 2018 attended by 2,500 delegates from 60 countries. It was organized by the World Hindu Foundation with a support of HSS, Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America, and several national and Chicago based Hindu organizations and temples. Pujaniya Sarsanghachalak Dr. Mohanji Bhagwat, Hon. Vice President of India Shri. Venkaiah Naidu, The Dalai Lama, Chinmay missions's

Swaroopanandji, Sri Sri Ravishankar ji, Swami Paramatmananda ji, Satguru Dalip Singh ji, Surinam VP Ashwin Adhin ji, and more blessed the Congress in person or via telecast. Several Hindu leaders in the field of Business, media, women, youth, organizations, political and media attended the Congress.

In his keynote address, Pujaniya Sarsanghachalak Dr. Mohanji Bhagwat said, "We have stopped our descent; we are now contemplating our ascent. We are no longer an enslaved society; we are no longer a downtrodden nation. People of the world are in dire need of our ancient wisdom," while emphasizing on the importance of the unity.



INAUGURATION OF VIVEKANANDA HOUSE

The first ever Vivekananda House in the USA at Iowa State University, Ames, IA was inaugurated on September 11, 2018, on the occasion of 125th anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's historic Chicago speech. Padma Shri Nivedita Bhide Ji, All India Vice President, Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari was the chief guest for the event.

This ceremony was attended by 35 key leaders from Hindu community of Iowa. Which include administrative and academic staff of Iowa State University and leaders from Nepali, Bhutanese, and American Hindu community. In particular Dr. Arun Somani, Associate Dean of Research at College of Engineering, Iowa State University, Dr. Subhash Sahai, a medical doctor and philanthropist based in Iowa.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

To celebrate International Day of Yoga, HSS volunteers collaborated with local organizations at 15 different places across the nation and organizing a few hours event to one day conference to weeklong activities. A diverse crowd of more than 5,000 people participated in this activity, perform yoga or shared the experiences with the attendees.



DHARMA BEE AT BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia vibhag of HSS North West Sambhag, successfully conducted and concluded Dharma Bee competition of children. 150+ children participated in the Online exam and 60+ participated in next level in Competition and the event attended by 150+ people. This competition and the event was covered by the local as well as the national media.



YOGITA COMPETITION

San Antonio vibhag organised YOGITA contest for children on Yoga and Gita. It is being organized in order to celebrate 125th year of Swami Vivekananda's famous speech at the Parliament of World's Religions in Chicago.

Purpose behind this contest is to give children an opportunity to learn about Yoga and Gita and become aware of the path to be free from fear and sorrow and acquire infinite peace and perfection of the Divine - A true yogi as Swamiji.

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh's
Balagokulam Presents...

A Contest on YOGA and GITA For Children of age 12 and below
To Celebrate 125th Year of Swami Vivekananda's speech at Parliament of World Religions
Registration and Syllabus at <http://www.balagokulam.org/yogita/>
Date of Contest – September 15, 16 – 2018
Email: yogitahss@gmail.com
Harini Narasimhan @ 210-882-2102 Rutuja Raju @ 210-749-0626
Balagokulam Locations: 11910 Vance Jackson, San Antonio, 78230
Sat, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Sunday, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

GHOSH CONCERT ON ORCHESTRA AND BAND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



More than 40 kishors (middle and high school children) from Shakhas in Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana showcased Ghosh Pratyakshik to Pujaniya Sarsanghachalak Dr. Mohanji Bhagwat on September 8th. The event was held at an indoor football stadium in Chicagoland where kishors played various Hindustani Classical ragas such as Bhoop, Shivanjani, Tilang as well as patriotic geet Janani janmabhumi on western instruments.

This was a new initiative to engage Kishor and Yuva in Ghosh. Nationally, many practice sessions happened nationwide in person as well as using video conference to include remote Vadak and Shikshak. This project developed 6 different Rachnas on more than 8 different western musical instruments. It was a combined effort of Sharirik, and Kishor vibhag.



VIVEKANANDA SEMINARS BY SEVIKAS

On the occasion of 125th Speech year of Swami Vivekananda, sevikas took a project of reaching out to non-shakha Mahila and telling about Vivekananda, his teaching, life, and Hindu dharma. At the time of printing this report, 35 events happened at various places.



CALIFORNIA TEXTBOOK VICTORY

Hindu Education Foundation (HEF), a project of HSS along with Hindu students and parents successfully appealed to the California Board of Education for accurate, equitable, and culturally competent portrayal of Hinduism and India in California textbooks with the . As a result, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to reject two textbook programs from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (Grades K-6 and Grades 6-8) for adversely reflecting on Hinduism and other diverse communities.



HINDU YUVA



There are total 30 Hindu Yuva chapters with 5 new University chapters. There 10 University campuses with regular shakha activities. Hindu Yuvas at 5 Universities organized Suswagatm event for new comers. Distinguished speakers were invited to over 30 Universities under “Speaker on Campus” program. Additionally, Hindu Yuvas at different locations participated in local interfaith panel discussions.

HSS SEWA

Since past Vijaya Dashami, more than 60 shakhas performed sewa activities. Sewa projects covered a vast spectrum of activities including tree plantation, food/clothing drives, volunteering at homeless shelters, tutoring in underserved areas, adopt a highway, park and beach cleaning, soup kitchen volunteering, post-Harvey rehabilitation work, and temple volunteering. The swayamsevaks lead projects themselves as well as collaborated with other organizations. Many shakhas have now established a tradition of sewa activities and are now known in the local community as the flag bearer of those activities.



VIJAYA DASHAMI



In 2017, HSS at shakha or at Vibhag level celebrated Vijaya Dashami in the month of October. 3,800 Swayamsevaks-sevikas participated in the Ganvesh while total number of attendees exceeded 6,000.

HEALTH FOR HUMANITY YOGATHON - SURYANAMASKAR YAJNA

Between January 13 to January 28, 2018, HSS organized Surya Namaskar Yajna, or Health for Humanity Yogathon at 350 locations from 27 states across the US. 828,586 Surya Namaskars were performed by 11,254 participants 900 students from two elementary schools in San Antonio and 714 students from South Carolina elementary school actively participated in this year’s SNY program. HSS volunteers also conducted a Surya Namaskars workshop at 156 locations.



RAKSHA BANDHAN—UNIVERSAL ONENESS DAY



Raksha Bandhan is now becoming an annual event for Police, Fire stations and leaders at many Cities, Counties and State level. HSS volunteers actively reach out our local first respondents as well as elected officials and tie Rakhis to them as well as to the office staff and spread the message of Universal Oneness. All authorities welcome and appreciate efforts of the Hindu community to integrate with and contribute in the local community.