Charity No: 1034580 August 2018

Shree Prajapati Association Birmingham Newsletter

"DESTINY is not created by the SHOES we wear but by the STEPS we take!"

Namaskar.

In the Mahabharat, Karna asks Lord Krishna "My mother left me the moment I was born. Is it my fault I was born an illegitimate child? I did not get the education from Dhronacharya because I was considered a non-Kshatriya. ParshuRaam taught me but then gave me the curse to forget everything at the hour of need since I was not a Kshatriya. A cow was accidentally hit by my arrow & its owner cursed me for no fault of mine. Even Kunti finally told me the truth only to save her other sons. Whatever I received and have become was through Duryodhana's charity. So how am I wrong in taking his side?"

Lord Krishna replies "Karna, I was born in a jail. Death was waiting for me even before my birth. The night I was born I was separated from my birth parents. From childhood, you grew up hearing the noise of swords, chariots, horses, bow and arrows, while I got only a cow herd's shed, no education till the age of 16, and multiple attempts on my life even before I could walk! I could hear people saying I am the reason for all their problems.

You are married to a girl of your choice. I didn't get the girl I loved and rather ended up marrying those who wanted me or the ones I rescued from demons. I had to move my whole community from the banks of Yamuna to a far off seashore to save them from Jarasandh. I was called a coward for running away! If Duryodhana wins the war you will get a lot of credit. What do I get if Yudhishthir wins the war? I will get the blame for the war and all related problems. Remember one thing, Karna, everybody has challenges in life.

Duryodhana also has a lot of unfairness in life and so has Yudhhishthir. What is Right (Dharma) is known to your mind (conscience).

No matter how much unfairness we get, how many times we are disgraced, how many times we are denied what is due to us, what is important is how we REACT at that time. That reaction or the action we take is in our hands. Life's unfairness does not give you the license to walk on the wrong path.

Always remember, Life may be tough at a point, but DESTINY is not created by the SHOES we wear but by the STEPS we take".

The last 6 months have once again been busy. We have finally awarded the contract for our washroom refurbishment project after several negotiations with the contractors. We expect the work to start in mid August and be completed in September. The Samaj needs your help and we look forward to all households supporting this project with their donations. A huge "Thank You" to all those that have already donated generously

In addition to the regular bhajans, we also held a very enjoyable "Rangeeli Holi" event full of Holi masti, playing with confetti, enjoying the music from a live band and treated to a delicious 3 course meal; many of our members participated in the Mahila Samelan in Bradford and the Seniors Sneh Milan in Leicester. This year, SPA Birmingham is proud to be sending nearly 24 participants to the youth sports day at Warwick University in September —one of our highest entries in recent years.

I draw your attention to two important matters—first on GDPR (how your personal data is being used by the Samaj) and the second on Samaj's desire to open an on-line banking account (which requires your endorsement at the next AGM). Further details in this newsletter.

I thank all the members who continuously offer their Sewa to Samaj either through time they sacrifice for samaj activities, monetary donations they make and specialist skills they offer when key events come up. **With the small steps we take together we define the destiny of our Samaj**.

Jay Shree Krishna

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Charity No: 1034580 ઓગસ્ટ ૨૦૧૮

શ્રી પ્રજાપતિ એસોસિએશન બર્મિંગહામ ન્યુઝલેટર

“નિયતિ આપણે પહેરલ જોડાઓ દ્વારા સર્જન નથી થતી પરંતુ લીધેલાં પગલાંઓ દ્વારા થાય છે!”

નમસ્કાર

મહાભારતમાં, ભગવાન શ્રી કૃષ્ણને કર્ણ પૂછે છે," મારો જન્મ થયો તે જ ક્ષણે મારી માતા મને છોડી ગઈ. મારો નાજાયજ બાળક તરીકે જન્મ થયો, તે શું મારો દોષ છે? દ્રોણાચાર્ય પાસેથી શિક્ષણ ન મ ળ્યું કારણકે મને બિનક્ષત્રિય માનવામાં આવ્યો. પરશુરામે શિક્ષણ આપ્યું પણ ખરે ટાણે ભૂલી જવાનો શ્રાપ આપ્યો કારણ કે હું ક્ષત્રિય ન
હતો. એક ગાયને આકસ્મિક રીતે મારું બાણ વાગવાથી તેના માલિ કે મારો ગુનો ન હોવા છતાં મને શ્રાપ આપ્યો. કુંતિએ પણ પોતાના બીજા પુત્રોને બચાવવા માટે થઈને મારી સચ્ચાઇ બતાવી. જે મને કંઈ મળ્યું અને બની શક્યો તે દુર્યોધનની સહાનુભૂતિ દ્વારા છે, તો તેની બાજુ રહેવામાં હું કઈ રીતે ખોટો છું?"

ભગવાન શ્રી કૃષ્ણ કહે,"કર્ણ, મારો જન્મ એક જેલમાં થયો. મૃત્યુ મા રા જન્મ પહેલાં જ મારી રાહ જોતું હતું. જે રાતે મારો જન્મ થયો ત્યારથી હું મારા માબાપથી અલગ થઈ ગયો. બળપણથી જ તલવારો, રથો, ઘોડાઓ, ધનુષ અને બાણોના અવાજ સાંભળી ને હું મોટો થયો. મને ગૌશાળા મળી, ૧૬ વર્ષ સુધી કોઈ શિક્ષણ ન મ ળ્યું અને ચાલતાં શિખ્યો તે પહેલાં જ અનેકવાર મારી હત્યાના પ્રયાસો થયાં. હું લોકોને બોલતાં સાંભળું છું કે તેમની સમસ્યાઓના કારણરૂપ હું છું.

તારા વિવાહ તારી મનપસંદ કન્યા સાથે થયા. જે કન્યાને હું પ્રેમ કરતો હતો તે મને ન મળી, પણ જેઓને મારી જરૂર હતી અથવા જેમને દાનવોથી બચાવ્યા તેઓ સાથે મારે વિવાહ કરવા પડ્યા. જરાસંધથી બચાવવા મારી જ્ઞાતિને યમુના તટ થી દૂર દરિયા કિનારે લઈ જવી પડી. આ રીતે ભાગી જવાથી હું કાયર કહે વાયો! જો દુર્યોધન આ યુધ્ધ જીતશે તો તને ઘણો યશ મળશે. જો યુધિષ્ઠિર જીતશે તો મને શું મળશે? મને તો આ યુધ્ધ અને તેના સંબંધી સમસ્યાઓ માટે દોષિત ઠરાવ શે. એટલું યાદ રાખ, કર્ણ, કે દરેકના જીવનમાં પડકારો હોય છે.

દુર્યોધનમાં જીવનમાં ઘણાં અન્યાયો થયા છે અને તેવી રીતે યુધિષ્ઠિરના જીવનમાં પણ. શું સત્ય (ધર્મ) છે તે તમારું મન (અંતરાત્મા) જાણે છે.

આપણને કેટલીય વાર અન્યાયો થયા હોય, કલંકિત કરવામાં આવ્યા
હોય, અધિકાર હોવા છતાં ન મળતાં હોય તે સમયે આપણે કેવી રીતે પ્રતિક્રિયા કરીએ છીએ તે મહત્વનું છે. તે પ્રતિક્રિયા કે ક્રિયા કરીએ તે આપણાં હાથમાં છે. જીવનના આ અન્યાયોને લઈને તમને ખોટા પંથ પર ચાલવા માટે આજ્ઞા નથી મળતી.

હંમેશાં યાદ રાખો, જીવન કોઈ તબક્કે કઠોર હોઈ શકે છે, પરંતુ નિયતિ (ભાગ્ય) આપણે પહેરલ જોડાઓ દ્વારા સર્જન નથી થતી પરંતુ લીધેલાં પગલાંઓ દ્વારા થાય છે.

ફરીવાર છેલ્લા ૬ મહિના ઘણાં જ વ્યસ્ત હતા. અનેક વાતાઘાટો બાદ આપણાં વોશરૂમ રીફર્બીશમેંટ માટે કોન્ટ્રાક્ટર્સ સાથે કરાર કરવામાં આવ્યો છે. મધ્ય ઓગસ્ટ માં કામ શરૂ થશે અને આશા રાખીએ છીએ કે સપ્ટેમ્બર સુધીમાં પૂર્ણ થશે. સમાજને તમારી સહાયની જરૂર છે અને આ પ્રોજેક્ટમાં બધા ઘરોએ દાન આપી સહાયતા કરવા આગળ આવશે એવી આશા રાખીએ છીએ. જેમણે અ ત્યાર સુધીમાં ઉદારતાપૂર્વક દાન કર્યું છે તે બધા માટે ખૂબ "આભાર" દર્શાવીએ છીએ.

નિયમિત ભજન ઉપરાંત, મસ્તી સંપૂર્ણ આનંદી "રંગીલી હોલી" યોજી કોન્ફેટી સાથે હોળી રમી, લાઇવ બેન્ડમાંથી સંગીતનો આનંદ માણી અને સ્વાદિષ્ટ ૩ કોર્સ ભોજન સાથે નો કાર્યક્રમ કર્યો હતો. આપણાં ઘણા સભ્યોએ બ્રેડફોર્ડમાં મહિલા સંમેલનમાં અને લેસેસ્ટરમાં વરિષ્ઠ સ્નેહ મિલનમાં ભાગ લીધો. આ વર્ષે, એસ પી એ બર્મિંગહામ સપ્ટેમ્બરમાં વોરવિક યુનિવર્સિટી ખાતે યોજાયેલ યુવા સ્પોર્ટસ ડેમાં લગભગ ૨૪ ખેલાડીઓને મોકલવામાં ગર્વ અનુભવે છે - તાજેતરના વર્ષોમાં આ સૌથી વધુ સંખ્યા છે.

હું આ તકે બે મહત્ત્વની બાબતો તરફ તમારું ધ્યાન ખેંચું છું - પ્રથમ જી ડી પી આર પર અને બીજું, ઓન-લાઇન બેન્કિંગ નું ખાતું ખોલાવવા માટે. આ ન્યૂઝલેટરમાં વધુ વિગતો જોશો.

જેઓ સમાજની પ્રવૃત્તિઓ માટે સતત બલિદાન આપતા આવ્યા છે - તેમના સમયનો, નાણાંકીય દાન આપવામાં અને વિશિષ્ટ કૌશલ્યતા અને અનુભવોના માર્ગદર્શન આપવામાં - એ તમામ સભ્યોનો હું આભાર માનું છું. આપણે ભેગા થઈને નાના પગલાંઓ માંડી, ચાલો આપણાં સમાજની નિયતિને પરિભાષિત કરીએ.

જય શ્રી કૃષ્ણ

પિયુષભાઇ અંબાલાલભાઇ મિસ્ત્રી

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Important Matters - GDPR
જી.ડી.પી.આર.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The new **General Data Protection Regulation** (or "GDPR" in short) has come into force in the UK from **25th May 2018**. The GDPR is a highly positive step towards you having more control over how your data is used and how you are contacted. The changes will also help to better protect your personal data.

As part of our data compliance journey here at Shree Prajapati Association Birmingham, it is our obligation to formally inform you that we hold the following personal data for the purposes of maintaining a SPA Birmingham telephone directory, mailing events and services (including via whatsapp).

- First name / middle name / Surname
- Address including post code
- Telephone number
- Mobile number
- Email addresses
- Date of birth
- Town of origin (Gam) in India
- Gender (male/female)

We will retain your details on our system until such a time as you formally request your personal data to be erased via email or the submission of a formal Subject Access Request (SAR).

If you decide, however, after reading this notice that you wish for your personal data to be erased then please email **spabirminghamsecretary@gmail.com** with your SAR and we will erase your personal details from our systems in line with Article 17 of GDPR and inform you when the removal of your personal data has been completed.

જનરલ ડેટા પ્રોટેક્શન રેગ્યુલેશન (જી ડી પી આર)

નવા જનરલ ડેટા પ્રોટેક્શન રેગ્યુલેશન (અથવા "જી ડી પી આર") યુ.કે. માં તા. ૨૫/૦૫/૨૦૧૮ થી અમલમાં આવ્યું છે. તમારા ડેટાનો (વિગતો નો) ઉપયોગ કેવી રીતે થાય છે અને તમને કેવી રીતે સંપર્ક કરવામાં આવે છે તેના પર વધુ નિયંત્રણ રાખવાની દિશામાં જીડીપીઆર એક અત્યંત હકારાત્મક પગલું છે. આ ફેરફારો તમારા વ્યક્તિગત ડેટાને સુરક્ષિત રાખવામાં પણ મદદ કરશે.

શ્રી પ્રજાપતિ એસોસિયેશન બર્મિંગહામ ખાતે આપના જે ડેટા રાખેલ છે તે માટે અમારી જવાબદારી સમજી ઔપચારિક રીતે તમને જણાવીએ છીએ કે એસપીએ બર્મિંગહામ ટેલિફોન ડાયરેક્ટરી માટે, તેમજ કાર્યક્રમો અને સેવાઓની તમને જાણ કરવાના હેતુથી અમે નીચે મુજબ વ્યક્તિગત ડેટાને રાખ્યા છે.

- પ્રથમ નામ / મધ્ય નામ / અટક
- પોસ્ટ કોડ સહિત સરનામું
- ટેલિફોન નંબર
- મોબાઇલ નંબર
- ઇમેઇલ સરનામું
- જન્મ તારીખ
- ભારતમાં મૂળ ગામ
- લિંગ (પુરુષ / સ્ત્રી)

અમે તમારી વિગતોને અમારી સિસ્ટમ પર ત્યાં સુધી રાખીશું જ્યાં સુધી તમે તમારા વ્યક્તિગત ડેટાને રદ કરવા માટે ઔપચારિક રીતે લેખિત વિનંતી કરશો ત્યાં સુધી.

જો તમે આ નોટિસ વાંચ્યા પછી નક્કી કરો કે તમે તમારા વ્યક્તિગત ડેટાને ભૂંસી નાખવા માંગો છો, તો કૃપા કરીને spabirminghamsecretary@gmail.com ને તમારા એસએઆર સાથે ઇમેઇલ કરો અને અમે જીડીપીઆર ની કલમ ૧૭ મુજબ અમારી સિસ્ટમમાંથી તમારી વ્યક્તિગત વિગતોને ભૂંસી નાખીશું અને તમને જાણ કરવામાં આવશે.

Important Matters—Introducing online banking
ઓનલાઈન બેન્કિંગ

Introducing Online Banking - we need your approval at the AGM

We are proposing that SPA Birmingham moves forward with online banking. Our current bank account does not allow this facility and therefore we cannot pay or accept payments online. Our branch constitution stipulates that there must be more than one signatory for any banking transactions. However for online banking all banks require only one person to make online transactions. This was discussed at the Pratinidhi meeting of the SPA UK, and one suggestion was that we set up an additional online account with necessary working capital that requires one person to manage. The rest of the money would still be maintained in our existing account with the two signatories.
To progress with this, we need to get your approval as the members and record it formally with the AGM minutes later this year.

Hence please accept this communication as a **formal notification on the matter**. Should anyone want to discuss this further please contact Pravinbhai G Mistry (Treasurer), Piyushbhai A Mistry (President), or Kiranbhai D Mistry (Trustee). At this year's AGM we will be requesting your approval to proceed with online banking.

ઓનલાઇન બેંકિંગનો પરિચય - અમને એજીએમ માં તમારી મંજૂરીની જરૂર છે

એસપીએ બર્મિંગહામ ઓનલાઇન બેંકિંગ સાથે આગળ વધે એ માટે અમે પ્રસ્તાવ કરી રહ્યા છીએ.
આપણું વર્તમાન બેંક એકાઉન્ટ આ સુવિધાની મંજૂરી આપતું નથી અને તેથી અમે ઓનલાઇન બેંકિંગ કરી શકતા નથી. આપણા શાખા બંધારણમાં જણાવાયું છે કે કોઈ પણ બેન્કિંગ વ્યવહારો માટે એકથી વધુ હસ્તાક્ષર કરનાર હોવા જોઈએ. જો કે ઓનલાઈન બેંકિંગ માટે માત્ર એક જ વ્યક્તિની ઓનલાઇન વ્યવહારો કરવાની જરૂર છે. આ અંગે એસપીએ યુકેની પ્રતિનિધિ બેઠકમાં ચર્ચા કરવામાં આવી હતી, અને એક સૂચન હતું કે જરૂરી કાર્યકારી મૂડી સાથે એક વધારાનું ઓનલાઇન ખાતું ખોલાવવું કે જેને એક વ્યક્તિ ચલાવી શકે. બાકીના નાણાં હજુ પણ બે હસ્તાક્ષરો સાથે આપણા હાલના એકાઉન્ટમાં જાળવવામાં આવશે.

આ માટેની પ્રગતિ રુપે, સભ્યો તરીકે તમારી મંજૂરી મેળવવાની જરૂર છે અને આ વર્ષે એજીએમ ની મિનિટોમાં તેનો ઔપચારિક રેકોર્ડ કરવામાં આવશે.

તેથી કૃપા કરીને આ જણાવેલ સમાચારને ઔપચારિક નોટીસ તરીકે સ્વીકારશો. કોઈ આ અંગે ચર્ચા કરવા માગતા હોય તો પ્રવિણભાઈ જી મિસ્ત્રી (ખજાનચી), પિયુષભાઈ એ મિસ્ત્રી (પ્રમુખ) અથવા કિરણભાઈ ડી મિસ્ત્રી (ટ્રસ્ટી) નો સંપર્ક કરો.
આ વર્ષની એજીએમ માં અમે ઓનલાઇન બેંકિંગ ને આગળ વધાવવા તમારી મંજૂરી માટે વિનંતી કરીશું.

Our Mahila's made 2000 Puri's!!!

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (Shakha) held their annual national leadership training camp for the youth at the Hampstead Hall Academy in Birmingham. This is a 9 day residential camp attended by over 200 youth which concluded on Sunday 5th August with nearly 600 guests

Each day several families in Birmingham and various Hindu organisations had been supplying a few hundred freshly made rotlis. On the last day for the concluding ceremony, Shree Prajapati Association Birmingham got the opportunity to support with supplying 2000 puris for the lunch served after the closing ceremony.

A huge THANK YOU to all our **volunteers from SPA Bham and BAPS** who helped out with this great Sewa. This was acknowledged by HSS (and quite a few commented on how nice the puris were - so well done our Mahila and BAPS team!!!)

It was another proud moment for SPA Birmingham!

Recent Samaj Events

February / March : Shivratri Bhajans

Shivratri bhajans took place on 17th February while Hanuman Jayanti and Ram Navmi bhajans took place on 31st March. Both bhajans were well attended by many members.

Sun 10th June: Seniors Sneh Milan (Leicester)

This years 6th Seniors Sneh Milan was held in Leicester (and organized by Rugby Branch). Once again we had over 1,000 Seniors get together from across all the branches. The key topics of presentations were "Hinduism" - making it and acceptable to the next generation, and "Stroke" - being aware of the symptos and care. The event was graced by world renowned Shri Jay Lakhani from Eton College who also is the advisor to the government on matters related to Hinduism

Saturday 14th April: Mahila Samelan (Bradford)

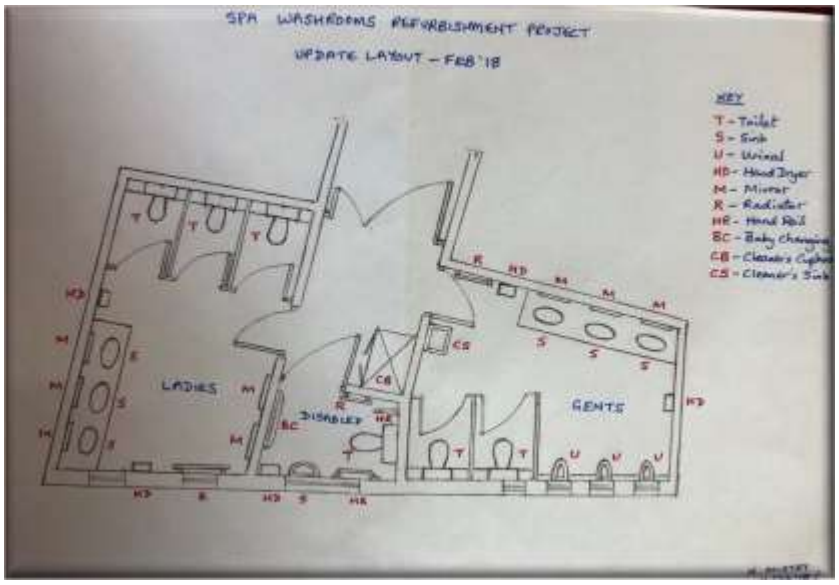
This years 38th Mahila Samelan was held in Bradford. The key theme of the samelan focused on Parkinsons. A coach full of SPA Birmingham Mahila went to Bradford and had great fun on the coach and at the Samelan itself

Sun 30th June: HQ Fun Day (Wickstead Park, Kettering)

This years family fun day took place at Wickestead park with a great turn out and glorious sunshine. Everyone had great fun playing with "hoops" amongst other games and enjoying their barbeques.

Washroom Refurbishment Project
તાજેતરના સમાજ કાર્યક્રમો

Layout of the washrooms proposed to be changed



As many of you are aware, our washrooms (toilets) are in need of refurbishment. Most of this year, a project team, has been planning the work and evaluating various contractor proposals, and we have finally awarded the contract. The work will start on 20th August and expected to complete by late September.

We have changed the layout of the toilets and swapped the gents and ladies toilets around to give more space to the ladies toilets. We have also improved the layout of the disabled toilets and included baby changing facilities. The scope of work includes:

- New toilets and washbasins
- Disabled facilities
- New radiators and hand dryers
- New lighting
- Baby changing facilities
- Newly skimmed and painted walls
- New flooring
- Re-plumbing and new ceiling

For full transparency, we received quotes ranging from **£41,450 to £84,000 (incl VAT)** and after negotiations have **selected WP Services** to carry out the work at the cost of **£41,730**. The Executive Committee has set aside a budget of £45,000 including some contingency.

The Washroom Refurbishment Project is part of a whole portfolio of projects which we are undertaking to modernise our Samaj building and its facilities.

This overall programme of work will make our samaj building even more desirable for all our members to use, will add a lot of value to our building and increase the rental income prospects.

To support the Samaj with this work, we require an injection of funds, and we call upon all members to support this project. We have estimated that if each **household donated an average of £200** we can achieve our ambitions of laying a foundation for the future.

To kick start the fundraising we organised an event "Rangeeli Holi" in March and **we raised almost £14,000 in one night!!! A huge THANK YOU to members who donated sums ranging from £200 to £2,000!**

We look forward to all households offering their sewa in the form of monetary contributions this time.

Recent Samaj Events—Rangeeli Holi
તાજેતરના સમાજ કાર્યક્રમો

Those who attended the "Rangeeli Holi" night woke up the next day to find bits of glitter and confetti in their clothes, hair, cars and house. It was a fun filled night of Holi masti at our samaj hall. The evening started with a welcome drink as guests arrived in their indian outfits ready to celebrate Holi. After a delightful 3 course meal, everyone was treated to a dance performance from our very own Deshna K Mistry, Roshni K Mistry and Himani K Mistry. The music was provided by a live band "Rafiki" from Leicester. The highlight of the evening was when everyone - young and old - joined the dance floor to play Holi with confetti and glitter. There was so much fun spraying each other with confetti while dancing to some lovely tunes. Everyone also got an opportunity to take photos in a "Rajasthani Style" photo studio. The fundraising surpassed all expectations. We made a plea to our members to donate a minimum of £200 towards the Washroom Refurbishment project per household, and we had **pledges ranging between £200—£2000**, and by the end of the evening we had raised **£14,000**. A huge **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers for their help in preparing for the event including cooking the food, managing the evening and all those who came to clear up the next day!

Our upcoming events / આગામી કાર્યક્રમો

Sun 2nd September: Janmasthami Bhajans

This years Janmasthami bhajans will take place on Sunday 2nd September from 17:00 onwards. We encourage members to attend and take part in celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna.

For further details please contact **Nilaben K Mistry (07850 997879) or Naynaben N Mistry (0121 355 2049)**

Sat 29th September: Shraddha Bhajans

Śhrāddha is the ritual that one performs to pay homage to one's 'ancestors. Conceptually, it is a way for people to express heartfelt gratitude and thanks towards their deceased parents and ancestors, for having helped them to be what they are and praying for their peace.

We will be holding the Śrāddha Bhajans at our samaj on **Saturday 29th September from 10:30am to 13:00** followed by lunch.

For further details please contact **Nilaben K Mistry (07850 997879) or Naynaben N Mistry (0121 355 2049)**

9th—17th October: Navratri

We look forward to celebrating Navratri at the Samaj hall from **Tuesday 9th to Wednesday 17th October**. Car parking will be available on all nights at SCC and there will be **no charge for Parking.**

Navratri fees will be **£20 per household**, or £2 per person per night for all non-members, family and friends. Please do encourage your family and friends to join.

After the excellent feedback from last year, we will once again have a **DJ-style Garba on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th October**. Please encourage your children, family and friends to attend. We plan to have a lot of fun playing **garbas, dandiya raas, ramzaniyu, sanedo,** and much more!!!

Aathem will be celebrated on **Tuesday 16th October.** You are requested to register your names with the Treasury team for the first or second aarti.

Children's Navratri Workshop: Building on the success of last year, on **Sunday 14th October** we will be holding a workshop for children **starting at 2:00pm** with activities including decorating aarti thali's, learning garba steps and presentations on importance of Navratri. This will be followed by the first aarti performed by our children at 4:30pm.

Day/Date October	First Aarti	Second Aarti	Finish
Tue 9th	7:30pm	9:30pm	10:00pm
Wed 10th	7:30pm	9:30pm	10:00pm
Thu 11th	7:30pm	9:30pm	10:00pm
Fri 12th	7:30pm	10:45pm	11:30pm
Sat 13th	7:30pm	10:45pm	11:30pm
Sun 14th	4:30pm	7:30pm	8:00pm
Mon 15th	7:30pm	9:30pm	10:00pm
Tue 16th	7:30pm	10:45pm	11:30pm
Wed 17th	7:30pm	9:30pm	10:30pm

Other News

Nepal Earthquake Disaster Funds

As you are all aware we had £6,000 in our bank accounts related to funds that our branch had raised to support the Nepal Earthquake Disaster. These funds had not been released as there had been reports at the time of the disaster that due to limited governance and administration around the monies being donated, that many of the funds were not actually reaching the rehabilitation efforts. The committee had agreed that we would conduct sufficient due diligence and find a credible project such that our funds were put to the right use to benefit the locals.

Shree Prapajati Association UK, under the leadership of Jitubhai Mistry (Leicester), had been in contact with Sewa UK and found one such project - funding to support the construction of a building that will support 50 children, in Nuwakot, Nepal. Children using the building will be provided with basic amenities: food, shelter, clothing, education, health services, recreation, skill-development trainings including computer education for all the children.

At the Seniors Sneh Milan this year, we combined our funds of £6,000 together with SPA UK's funds of £20,000 to make a **combined donation of £26,000 to to support this great cause and improve the livelihoods of 50 children in Nepal.**

Raksha Bandhan Celebrations

This year SPA Birmingham celebrated Raksha Bandhan by tying a "Rakhi" to Julian Knight (Member of Parliament for Solihull). We gave him the background on our Samaj and the various activities we do, how we have supported various UK and international charities, discussed the significance of the festival of Raksha Bandhan to him, and then proceeded to tying the Rakhi and offering him some mithai.

Name plaques for donations at the Samaj hall

As we know we have name plaques displayed on the wall in the Samaj hall for substantial donations made by members. The cost of making these plaques has risen significantly in the recent years and the market rate is circa £95. One of our members can get these plaques made through their business for £75.

Given the cost of these plaques, for smaller donations (gratefully) received, a significant amount of the donation just goes towards the plaque rather than for the samaj. Therefore it has been decided that for any donations of less than £1,000, anyone wishing to place a name plaque will be required to pay for the cost of the plaque.

For anyone making a donation of greater than £1,000, the Samaj will bear this cost.

Other News

Enhancing Economic Power in Women

On 20-21 June Dr Neslyn Watson-Druee hosted the Women Economic Forum focussing on enhancing women's economic power. Women from 150 countries had been invited to share their stories and approaches. This was held at the BPM Hall in Birmingham and we were offered a free ticket. Hanshaben B Mistry attended on our behalf

As the first day unfolded, women from across the globe shared their life experience through inspirational stories on how they achieved success through sheer grit and determination against all the barriers they faced. Throughout the day, breakout sessions were held in coaching, how to set up in business, how to market yourself, and understand what drives you and how to use this information positively.

One such idea was the setting up of Smartwear UK. The idea was first thought up by a lady in London who because of her financial situation, after graduating from university, wasn't able to present a "professional" image when going for interviews. She managed to persuade a charity in London to back her idea of acquiring good quality used professional clothing to give to those that couldn't afford to buy such items. The idea has flourished and has now opened a branch in Birmingham to help those in need. In addition to this, Smartwear UK have now expanded their services to provide interviewing techniques and coaching.

With so many inspirational speakers there were plenty of opportunities for discussion of one's own situation with groups, who would then recommend different ways to move forward or share what worked for them. Many ladies were able to share information and contact details to help them in the future.

SPA Birmingham Ladies in Action—Reenaben M Mistry

After dropping my daughter of at nursery, some of the mum's got together to play football in the school hall. This became a regular event on Tuesday mornings with the ladies enjoying themselves and getting regular exercise. West Bromwich Albion community club heard about the mum's playing football and offered to coach and show us different techniques. As a result of this we were filmed by the club, Midlands News Today and also Sky Sports with the mum's being interviewed and this was displayed at the matches and on TV. To further our involvement with the West Bromwich Albion club my daughter and I were asked to participate in a photoshoot for the new football kit which is now available.

We look forward to other SPA Birmingham members submitting inspiring articles on what "extra curricular activities" you get involved in. These articles will help our youngster find role models in our samaj! Please contact our secretary Bhavanaben D Mistry or our President Piyushbhai A Mistry to include your article in the next newsletter

COMMUNITY HALL *for* HIRE

- **Large hall with capacity upto 250 people**
- **5 x smaller rooms with capacity between 25 - 100 people**
- **Fully functional kitchen (veg and non-veg cooking)**

- **Birthday parties**
- **Dinner & Dance**
- **Sanjee**
- **Wedding Satak**
- **Small weddings**
- **Mendi nights**
- **Shrimant Katha**
- **Bhajans / Havan**
- **Funeral shokh sabha**

For Hall Booking, please contact:

Narenbhai D Daji / Jayantibhai k Mistry

0782 155 7417

2018 Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Notable Religious Events	SPA Event (including HQ events)
Sun	11 Feb 17		HQ Pratinidhi Mtg (Luton)
Tue	13 Feb 17	Maha Shivratri	
Sat	17 Feb 18		Maha Shivratri Bhajans
Thu	1 Mar 18	Holi	
Sat	17 Mar 18		"Rangeeli Holi" Dinner & Dance - Fund raising for Washroom Refurbishment
Sun	25 Mar 18	Ram Navami	
Sat	31 Mar 18	Hanuman Jayanti	Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti Bhajans
Sat	14 Apr 18		HQ Event: Mahila Samelan (Bradford)
Sat	21 Apr 18		HQ Event: Single, Lets Mingle (Leicester)
Sun	13 May 18		Samaj Fun Day & BBQ Birmingham
Sun	20 May 18		HQ Pratinidhi & AGM (Birmingham)
Sun	10 Jun 18		HQ Event: Senior Citizens Samelan (Leicester)
Sun	17 Jun 18		Youth day trip—tbc
Sun	30 Jun 18		HQ Event: Fun Day (Wickstead Park, Kettering)
Sun	8 Jul 18		HQ Event: Cricket Tournament (back up date 12 Aug)
Sat	25 Jul 18	Jaya Parvati Vrat begins	
Fri	10 Aug 18		Mahila Kichi Night
Sun	12 Aug 18	Shravan begins	
Sun	26 Aug 18	Raksha Bandhan	
Sat	01 Sept 18		HQ Event: Youth Sports Day (Warwick University)
Sun	02 Sept 18	Janmashthami	Janmashthami Bhajans (5:00 pm—7:30 pm)
Sun	16 Sept 18		HQ—Pratinidhi Meeting (London)
Sat	29 Sep 18		Shraddh Bhajans (10:30 —13:00 followed by Lunch)
Tue-Wed	9-17 Oct 18	Navratri	Navratri
Sat	03 Nov 18		Diwali Workshop
Wed	07 Nov 18	Diwali	
Thu	08 Nov 18	Bestu Varash (New Year's)	New Year Get together (7:00pm—9:00pm)
Sat	24 Nov 18		Diwali Show and AGM (4:30pm—10:00pm)
Sat	8 Dec 18		Children's Christmas Party
Sun	16 Dec 18		Seniors Christmas Party

Weekly /Monthly Activities

Gujarati Classes: Thursday's 7.15pm - 8.45pm
Sai Bhajans: Every Thursday 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Committee / Members meeting: 1st Thursday each month

Hall Bookings

Shri Narenbhai D Daji /
Shri Jayantibhai K Mistry
M: 0782 155 7417

Contact Us

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