



Sanskār • Sewā • Sangathan

Sangh Mail is an internal organizational publication and for well-wishers to keep them informed on recent updates and news on a monthly basis. It is not for public distribution.

Please continue to send in your news and views related to your shakhas / Swayamsevaks/ Sevikas/ for wider sharing and inspiration at sanghmail@hssuk.org

Sangh Mail

How do **you** make sure that **we** don't lose ours?

संस्कृतभारती



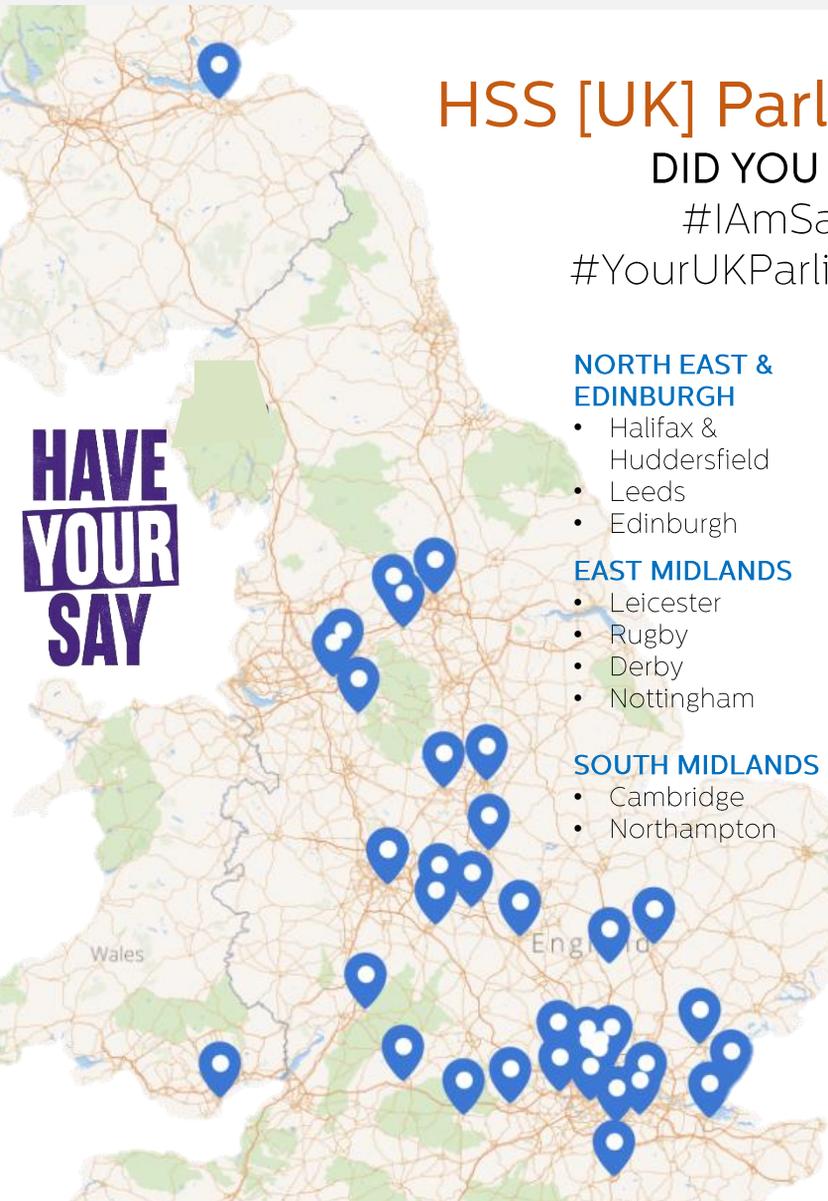
#HaveYourSay



2,200
Participants

Participation from
40+ MPs and
Councillors

49
Registrations



HSS [UK] Parliament Week 2020

DID YOU HAVE YOUR SAY?

#IAmSangh #247Sevika

#YourUKParliament #HaveYourSay

NORTH EAST & EDINBURGH

- Halifax & Huddersfield
- Leeds
- Edinburgh

EAST MIDLANDS

- Leicester
- Rugby
- Derby
- Nottingham

SOUTH MIDLANDS

- Cambridge
- Northampton

NORTH WEST

- Manchester
- Sale & Macclesfield

WEST MIDLANDS

- Leamington
- Birmingham

SOUTH LONDON

- Bromley
- Carshalton
- Crawley
- Gillingham
- Sutton
- Woolwich Samiti
- Woolwich Sangh

EAST LONDON & ESSEX

- Chelmsford
- Southend on Sea

WEST ENGLAND & WALES

- Cheltenham
- Swindon
- Cardiff

NORTH LONDON & HERTFORDSHIRE

- Barnet
- Wembley
- Harrow
- Pinner
- Queensbury
- Bushey

WEST LONDON

- Hounslow
- Amersham
- Newbury
- Reading Sangh
- Reading Samiti
- Slough

B

Barnet

UK PARLIAMENT WEEK AT BARNET SHAKTI AND PRATAP SHAKHA

Throw back to 2017 and Pratap Sangh and Shakti Shakha are trailblazers for UK Parliament Week – being the first to participate in UKPW by any Hindu Organisation in the UK. Fast forward to 2020 and 40+ Shakhas are now holding UK Parliament Week from Scotland to Surrey, Wales to Essex. We’ve made history! Barnet Parliament Week, buzzed with debate on ‘ Schools should remain open during the pandemic’ We highlighted our SEWA activities locally with ‘Donate a Food Bag’ campaign.

Hindus should be more active in politics is the message from MP Matthew Offord, Theresa Villiers and councillor Roberto Weeden-Sanz. The entire event was steered by under 25yr old Swayamsevaks and Sevikas

B

Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM SEVIKAS CELEBRATE PARLIAMENT WEEK - Draupadi, Vidula and Laxmi Samiti

Birmingham celebrated UKPW for the first time on Friday, 6th November with a sankhya of 30. The event took place online on zoom. We had 3 speakers who put across their issues forward. Nandini - University journey through Covid, Vaibhavi - Hinduism should be taught in RE and Aayushi - How the government and people should spread environmental awareness in the society.

We also held a parliament style debate on the topic - ‘Should Computers replace Teachers?’ Two parties of 8 sevikas each played the role of ‘Speaker’. Four sevikas spoke on the affirmative side and the other four on the negative side. Devanshi Gupta took a role of the ‘Chair’ and opened the debate to the floor and concluded in the end. Majority voted against the motion and put a point across. There was a quiz on Parliament which was taken by Varsha Khemani. Finally, we had a bauddhik speaker - Mrs. Anupama Joshi who is the Karyawahika of Gillingham Shakha. Her bauddhik was on ‘Feminism - a belief in social, economic and political equality of men and women’.

B

Bushey

BUSHEY SHAKHA - Excellent engagement from Gagan Mohindra MP with words of encouragement and support for our activities.

C

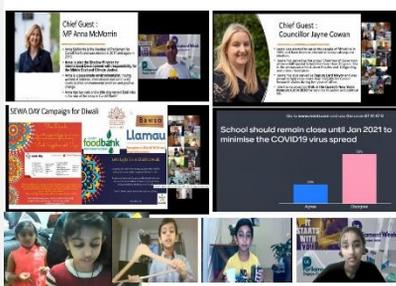
Cardiff

CARDIFF BALAGOKULAM CELEBRATED THEIR FIRST UK PARLIAMENT WEEK virtually on Zoom platform on 7th November 2020 from 4.00 PM to 5.50 PM. Our chief guests for this event were: MP Anna McMorris (Member of Parliament for Cardiff North) and Councillor Jayne Cowan (Rhiwbina Ward). Shankya - 47 participants. Children in the age category 5-9 years participated in the discussion topic on the ‘impact of plastics on the environment’. The elder children (age 10-14 years) debated on two interesting topics.

- School should remain close until Jan 2021 to minimize the COVID 19 virus spread
- Violent video games should be banned

After listening to the debate, the audience voted for both debate topics and the results of the voting were in favour of ‘School should not close till January 2021’ and ‘Violent video games should not be banned’. Both Guest Speakers applauded the performance of the kids and also appreciated the work done by the HSS UK and Cardiff Balagokulam during the pandemic. They also signposted the audience on how to engage with the UK parliament.

Maneesh Kumar, Cardiff BG Shakha Karyawaha



C

Cheltenham

CHEL TENHAM BALAGOKULUM UK PARLIAMENT WEEK Activity “It has been said that Democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.” This is a famous quote by one of the most popular & honorable prime minister of UK , Winston Churchill. This is what our Right Honorable MP Mr. Alex Chalk began his talk with, at the UKPW event here at Cheltenham Balagokulam. It was a great opportunity for all to listen to him, on this special occasion and there was more.

The children learnt about UK PW and learnt how parliament works and the role of an MP from an MP! We also learnt about how powerful petitions can be and what a campaign is, by presenting a “Save Water” video campaign featuring balaks and balikas from our Shakha. Their messages were totally enlightening.

We then moved on to the most exciting part, discussions and debate by our absolutely confident children, where they shared their strong messages about the plastic things we could replace in our homes to save the environment. Our elder children aged 11-17 shared their viewpoints on whether schools should limit attendees to reduce the spread of the infection. After the debate and voting on the topic, we moved to a Q&A with RT Hon MP. We concluded with a vote of thanks, prarthana and Dhvajawarohan. It was a successful event. **Kshama Nagaraj and Poonam Manocha**



“ Namaste! The highlight of the evening was the public speaking activities for the children to have their say! With great self—confidence and joy, the children lead all the activities. We even had the Right Honourable MP Alex Chalk who was “Genuinely blown away” and we were delighted to have many others as guests as we believe in “Vasudeva Katumbhakum” which translates to the whole world is my family. Furthermore, Mr. Chalk expressed that he was “moved to hear the Vasudeva Katumbhakum spirit demonstrated by everyone. ”

“ I thought the debate was very interesting because there were lots of different ideas. It made me think about how I could reduce plastic, save water, as well as making me think about whether schools should limit the number of attendees. Overall, I learned a lot in the activity and I am sure everyone else did too. **Tanish Dhir (11)**

H

Harrow

HARROW, PINNER AND QUEENSBURY SHAKHA HELD PARLIAMENT WEEK ONLINE, WITH A 110 ATTENDEES. We were joined by a Member of Parliament, Mr. Bob Blackman. We had an energizing start with warm ups to get us up and going, with Mr. Blackman joining in. We then moved on to a fun filled quiz which tested on us on how much we really knew about parliament, followed by a video about Parliament week. Then we had 4 very inspiring and powerful motions from young speakers telling us about a change they would like to make in the world. The topics covered were: Energy usage in home should have a weekly limit, Road Safety, Ban on Plastics and Restructuring Fines.

We were grateful to hear what our guest Mr. Blackman had to say and listen to what he thought about our speeches as well as little insight about his role in parliament telling us how he also takes on internships with visits to 10 Downing Street and a tour in the Houses of Parliament! Then we, enjoyed a beautiful geet and a very well concluded speech to this year’s online Parliament week, ending with a video about how HSS is involved with the Parliament.

Reema Rajani, South Harrow Durga shaka

DEBATES

- Schools should remain open during lockdown
- Social media platform in the UK should be regulated by the government
- Exams are a fair way to assess a students potential
- Computers should replace teachers
- Hinduism should be taught in RE
- Free School meals should be only for those who are needy and only during term time
- Violent Video games must be banned
- Technology is making us smarter
- Sanatan dharma has answers to current issues of society
- Schools should limit attendees to reduce spread of infection



35+

Activities



OTHER ACTIVITIES

- UK Parliament Quiz
- 'Save Water' Campaign
- Mock Parliament/ Speaker
- Painting, Drawing
- Parliament Week Karyashala
- Chintan Baithak
- Being a MP for a week
- SEWA Day Covid-19 Videos
- HSS Video



DISCUSSIONS

- Feminism – a belief in social, economic, political equality of men and women
- Plastic things we could replace in the home
- Beating boredom during lockdown



H

Halifax /
Huddersfield

SHANKRACHARYA HALIFAX HUDDERSFIELD SHAKHA conducted very first UK Parliament week event on 8th Nov 2020. The total no of attendees were 44. We were grateful to have the presence of Rt Hon MP Holly Lynch , Kiran ji general secretary of Hindu society Kirklees & Calderdale , Hon councillor Mike Barnes, Dr Harshaji Jani Saha Kendriya Sampark Pramukh for Samiti and Sewa day coordinator Anuji on board. Some of the activities involved included a kahoot quiz, educational video about Parliament, speeches, debates, Q&A with our present MP and Councillor. It was great opportunity to engage members with UK Parliament, explores what it means to us, and encourages us to #haveoursay.

Dipal Patel



L

Leicester

LEICESTER NAGAR HOSTED THEIR FIRST PARLIAMENT WEEK EVENT WITHIN GURU NANAK SHAKHA

We invited Jonathan Ashworth, the local south Leicester MP, and asked him a couple of questions about himself and about parliament. We introduced him to our debate discussing whether schools should remain open during the pandemic with a vote to decide.

The main participants (the chair, a representative on each side) and planners of the event were all college students who were interested in the world of politics. Personally, the whole experience was something I've never been a part of before. The honour to meet a prominent MP in parliament gave me great pride in the progress of our organisation and it's swayamsevaks' and sevikas' hard work and dedication. Additionally acting as the chair of the debate gave me an opportunity to look at the topic at hand from a different perspective. I was required to implement points on both sides to maintain the tempo of the debate. A wide age-range of swayamsevaks and sevikas, from a sankhya of 43, participated and asked varying questions on the topic. I look forward in making next year's Parliament Week event for Leicester nagar even better and I believe this is definitely something all shakhas should push to do!

Akash Thaker, Bharat parivaar shakha Mukhya Shikshak, Leicester.

L

London

NORTH LONDON VIBHAG - Great effort by NL vibhag for UKPW. Nearly 200 total sankhya across the vibhag including sangh and samiti and lots of well planned activities and participation



MP Participation

- **John Ashworth** - Leicester South
 - **Bob Blackman** - Harrow East
 - **Sir Graham Brady** - Altrincham and Sale West
 - **Alex Chalk** - Cheltenham
 - **Laura Ferris** - Newbury
 - **Fabian Hamilton** - Leeds North East
 - **Holly Lynch** - Halifax & Huddersfield
 - **Anna McMorris Welsh** - Cardiff North
 - **Maria Miller** - Basingstoke
 - **Navendu Mishra** - Stockport
 - **Jacob Rees - Mogg** - North East Somerset
 - **Gagan Mohindra** - South Herts
 - **Matthew Offord** - Hendon
 - **Mark Pawsey** - Rugby
 - **Dean Russell** - Watford
 - **Mary Robison** - Didsbury
 - **David Rutley** - Macclesfield
 - **Virendra Sharma** - Ealing Southall
 - **James Sunderland** - Bracknell
 - **Theresa Villiers** - Chipping Barnet
- Message received from
- **Robert Buckland** - South Swindon



Councillor Participation

- **Shrobona Bhattacharya** - Cambourne
- **Anjana Patel** - Harrow
- **Jeyuri Patel** - Cambourne
- **Navin Tangri** - Leamington
- **Mini Mangat** - Leamington
- **Helen Adkins** - Leamington
- **Jack Rankins** - Leamington
- **Mike Barnes** - Skircoat
- **Roberto Weeden -Sanz** - Barnet
- **Arjun Mittra** - Barnet
- **Bhagwanji Chohan** - Alperton
- **Anton Georgou L** - Alperton
- **Trupti Sangani** - Alperton
- **Suresh Gattupur** - Swindon
- **Kumar Naik** - Swindon
- **Prakash Khaitan**
- **Jayne Cowan** - Cardiff

OTHER GUESTS

- **Rajnish Kashyap** - Hindu Council
- **Bishwajeet Bal** - Dep Chairman Eastham Conservatives
- **Dr Milan Suter** - Conservative Association - Dartford
- **Jack Rankin** - Conservative Party - Leamington & Warwick
- **Damon Clark** - Ex Councillor - South Bucks

N

Newbury

BHARATI SHAKHA NEWBURY. This was our second participation and unlike last year this was a Zoom event which had a total attendance of 64. It was our privilege to welcome Mrs Laura Ferris, MP from Newbury Constituency. We spoke about HSS [UK]. She then spoke about democracy and its importance citing example of current US election. She took a few questions and expressed her desire to meet all of us face to face when the Covid situation improves.

We then moved on to our mock Parliament where our children debated on the issue:

- Is "TECHNOLOGY making is smarter?" with Amitji Joshi presiding over as speaker.

Fantastic arguments were presented from both sides. 22 out of 26 of the speakers were from our Bal Gana and Kishore Gana. The debate was put to vote. A big thank you to Amitji Joshi and Harikishnaji Nair who were instrumental in the preparation and execution of this event. Also another big thank you to all our Bal, Kishore, Yuva speakers, Swayamsevaks and Sevikas who attended and made this event yet another success for us.

R

Reading

READING NAGAR celebrated UK Parliament Week on Friday 6th November. This is an annual event engages people with their MPs, councillors, UK Parliament and provides an opportunity to learn about the democratic & political process. Our Chief Guests included:

- **Matt Rhodda** - Labour MP, Reading East
- **James Sunderland** - Conservative MP, Bracknell
- **Parry Batth** - Conservative cllr, Shinfield North

The guests were shown some of the work carried out by HSS [UK] and our local Sewa work we have undertaken during lockdown. The session included a Junior children's debate, Senior children's debate and Q&A time. Topics included School closure during lockdown, environment and GCSE RE.

Ramesh Mepa



R

Rugby

RUGBY NAGAR MP Mark Pawsey joined us and he took part in all sessions. The total sankha was 80. Sessions covered in today's shakha are as follows:

- Overview on UK Parliament Week and HSS participation. Quiz
- Group Discussion, Debate, Voting, Question & Answer session with MP, MP Speech
- Debate, Question & Answer sessions were impressive and highlights of today's event

S

Sale

SALE BALAGOKULAM-PARIWAAR SHAKHA (SALE) AND PAHAL BALAGOKULAM (MACCLESFIELD)

This year we were fortunate to engage two of our local MPs Sir Graham Brady MP - Altrincham and Sale West, and David Rutley MP - Macclesfield

S

Southend
on Sea

SOUTHEND ON SEA Last two weeks we have been discussing about Parliament week and we conducted a Parliament Quiz, we had a tour of the Parliament by playing the videos that shows both houses of the Parliament. We discussed about the number of constituencies in the UK and discussed about the Magna Carta as well. We also discussed about the civil war of 1640's and how the Parliament got prominence over monarchy

S

Swindon

SWINDON BALAGOKULUM - This event took place on Friday, 6th Nov. We invited the local councillors Suresh Ji Gattupur, Kumar Ji Naik and Prakash Ji Khaitan. MP Robert Buckland sent in a video message that we played during event



UK Telugu Hindu Organisation [UTHO] held UK Parliament Week activities for 2 weeks culminating with an online Parliament Week event on 8th November 2020. UK Telugu Hindu Organisation is proud to have held its first Parliament Week this year for the Telugu community across the country. We are proud to have engaged otherwise politically shy community to involve in the UK Parliament Week and learn more about democracy, people power and make change happen.

Nearly 156 British telugu children from across the country registered for UTHO's Parliament Week. The UK Parliament event on 8th of November was attended by 266 British Telugu Hindus. Special invitees to the event were Cllr Jacqui Grey, Cllr Naveen Tangri and Jack Rankin, Conservative leader for Warwick and Leamington. They spoke on democratic processes and civil engagement apart from speaking about the role of the UK Parliament and it's importance. They were appreciated by the attendees of the event as they found these speeches very informative and encouraging.

UK Telugu Hindu Organisation structured the 2 weeks with several activities and projects for children ages ranging from 7 to 18 years. Children visited Parliament virtually and some took guided online tour of the Parliament.

Younger children had colouring activities relating to the Parliament. Older children learnt about the Parliament through engaging videos and activities associated with it. They also did quizzes. They learnt how the house of common works and how motions are passed. Children were taught how to debate the 'Parliament' style.

They understood how much research is needed before they can prepare their points for the debates. They

learnt the terminology that is used in the House of Commons, how colleagues or peers are addressed and how a speaker of the house is addressed, where the ruling party sits and where the opposition party sits and what their roles are in the process of a motion turning into a bill. A small number of children (20) were given a chance to debate on the day of the Parliament Week event and impressed not only the audience but also the politicians who were attending the event.

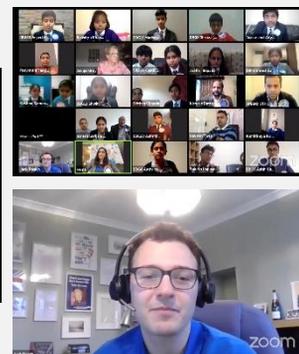
Children did small projects like making short films on what they learnt during these 2 weeks and how it helped them understand the democracy and the role of Parliament in a democracy.

When watching the videos one would be amazed to see how much they have learnt about the UK Parliament in such a short period of time. It was quite inspiring to see young boys and girls showing so much enthusiasm to learn about the UK Parliament.

Our organisation is hopeful that some of these young boys and girls will not only positively engage with the Parliament but also go on to become our future political leaders.

One can see all that on our [YouTube channel](#)

Hema YellaPragna



Two weeks ago, when I enrolled for UTHO's Parliament Week, I thought that I wouldn't learn much. I believed that it would be just another educational event that would provide me with some useful information for the future. Never in a million years would I have expected to enjoy it so much.

Anish Vaddiraju

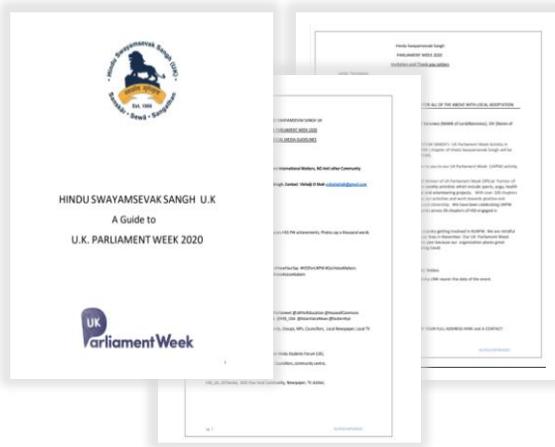


WEMBLEY'S JOINT SANGH AND SAMITI UKPW - Our guests included three councillors: Bhagwanji Chohan from Alperton Labour party, Anton Georgiou from Alperton Liberal democrats and finally Trupti Sangani. To get everyone excited and up and running, we had a quick session of chair yoga, which allowed everyone to get more comfortable and get more engaged in this program. Shortly after the yoga session was completed, we were taken into separate breakout rooms on Zoom

Within these groups we did a Kahoot quiz which was really engaging for all of the members and we got to see the competitive nature of the councillors and this really helped create a bond between the attendees and the councillors. The Quiz included various sorts of questions based around the general structure of the UK parliament, and as a result allowed all of the members in the group to gain knowledge of the Parliament in the UK.

After this icebreaker session, we had a short bauddhik about the history of how women acquired the advantage of voting in the UK, and we were also taught the value of a single vote, spreading awareness of our democracy. This was then followed up with a Q&A session where many of the participants asked questions to the councillors and got really engaged with the councillor. We saw how the councillors were more than happy to answer the questions and the atmosphere was so electrifying and thrilling. After this we created a mock parliament situation, where the participants would be able to debate a certain situation; for example, if schools should close or not. After hearing both the sides of the debate, participants cast their votes and see how well their side did. We concluded with parthana and a subashita which ended the session with a positive attitude as well as a cheerful atmosphere.

Hena Hirani



17 page guide PARLIAMENT WEEK TOOL KIT

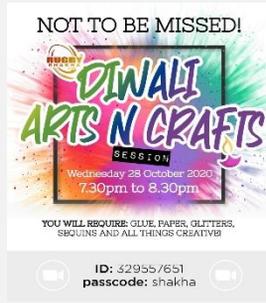


RUGBY E-SHAKHA - VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

It seems people have become accustomed to the format of the weekly e-shakha, so over the past few weeks we have been adding a bit variety to the programs. In preparation for Diwali, we had a special Arts and Crafts workshop where participants had a chance to create their own pop-up Diwali cards and Diwas. During the session step by step instructions were given to help the 'not so' creative achieve their end goal. The session was well received by the participants. Our Vijya Dashmi Utsav this year had a 'add-on'. Past Swaymsevaks and Sangh sympathisers were contacted and ask to sing Garba while others participated in Garba in their own homes. The Zoom Pramukh did a tour of the houses!

Recently, we publicised that our e-shakha will be taking the format of a Parliamentary debate to tie in with Parliament Week. The 90 minute program was well executed with Rugby MP (Mark Pawsey) being able to join in with the 2 simultaneous debates taking place: 'Schools should close during the Pandemic' and 'Doctors should have face to face appointments during the pandemic' were motions being debated. The energy and enthusiasm were encouraging to see in the youngsters.

Before the year is out, we're holding a Pratibha Padardshan – Talent show. All our regular e-shakha attendees have been encouraged to show case their talents on Zoom during a one-off e-shakha program. **Kishor Mistry**



RUGBY SHAKHA IS PARTICIPATING IN

PARLIAMENT WEEK

CAN YOU CREATE PERSUASIVE ARGUMENTS TO CONVINCE YOUR OPPOSITION?

HONE YOUR SKILLS AND BE PREPARED FOR THIS ONE OFF DEBATE IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR MP, **MARK PAWSEY**

Topics for debate:

Juniors (4-18yrs):	Seniors (18+):
"All schools should close during the pandemic"	"All GPs should have face-to-face appointments during the pandemic"

6TH NOVEMBER 6-7:30PM
 Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/329557651>
 Password: shakha

Please indicate your interest to participate via whatsapp or facebook

For further information, please contact Sreekanth: +447984114689

See you there!
 #PARLIAMENTWEEK

LEICESTER NAGAR VIJAYA DASHMI UTSAV

This year Leicester nagar celebrated Vijaya Dashmi Utsav on Saturday 7th November with a **sankhya of 105**. Although this year we weren't able to hold our grand public utsav, we were able to utilise technology to bring the nagar together and mark this special occasion. We were fortunate to have **Maninya Pravinbhai Ruperalia and Maninya Prabhudasji Shikotra (East Midlands Sanghachalak)** join us for the utsav.

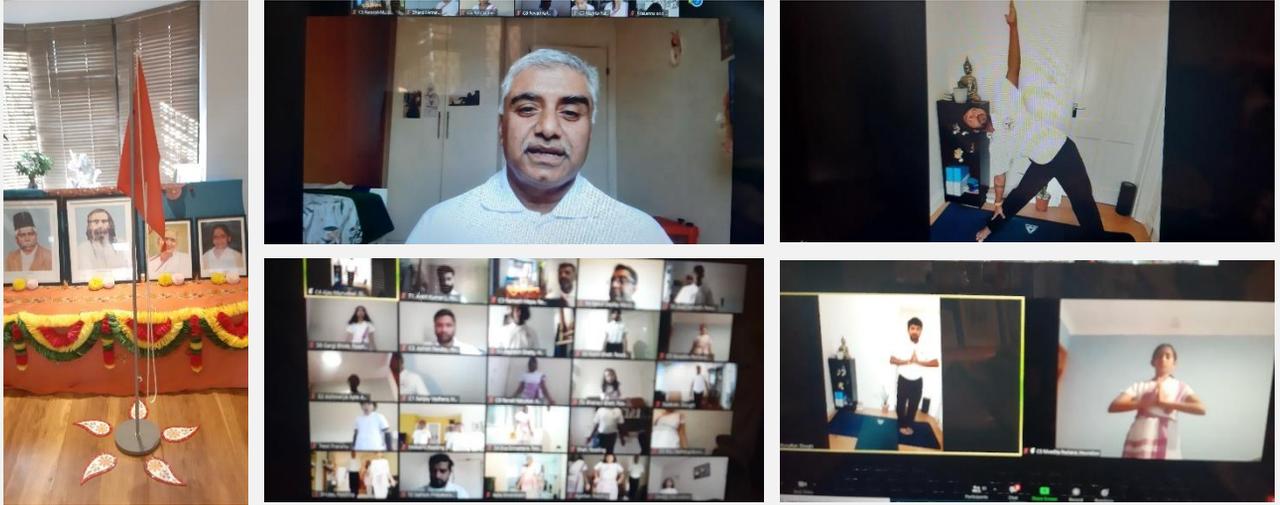
The utsav started with a fun walk through the jungle as our warm up which was followed by Surya Namaskar. We had two presentations, one covering all the highlights from 2020 and a inspiring report on sewa activity. A special firework demonstration was organised which helped to lift the spirit of all. An inspiring bauddhik was then delivered by Shri Bhavinji Davdra, who has emigrated to New Zealand a few years ago. His key message of looking outward, working with Samaj and where we see ourselves in five years time resonated with all.

Sharad Mistry, Leicester Nagar Karaywaha

WEST LONDON VIBHAG CELEBRATES 95 YEARS OF SANGH WORK WITH VIJAYADASHAMI UTSAV

West London Vibhag celebrated Vijayadashami Utsav on Sunday 25th Oct. Swayamseveks and sevikas from 9 different nagars came together to participate in yoga, khel and baudhik. This year, the festival marks 95years of sangh work. Dr Ramji Vaidiya delivered an inspiring bauddhik with a deeper interpretation on the utsav on coming together and organization with quote from our prarthana: "Sangha Shaktir Vijetreeyam" - With the triumphant power of the organization. Today we face global pandemic, global terrorism, and global economic crises but our Hindu culture has solutions to help. From spreading the message of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (whole world is one family), sewa work, or working together to join our collective strengths.

Ramesh Mepa



DIWALI – BEST DRESSED and BEST FED!

Birmingham Eklavya shakha held the Deepavali best dress and best dish competition, Parents were judges. Great atmosphere generated

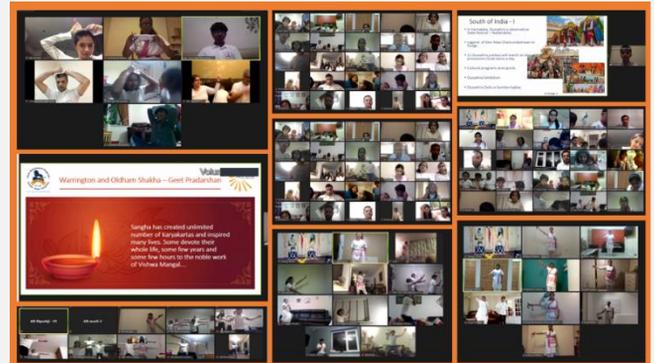


NORTH WEST AND NORTHERN IRELAND VIBHAAG VIJAY DASHMI CELEBRATION

The Utsav was celebrated on Friday 30th October and attend by **180 swayamsevaks/sevikas**. Key Highlights included

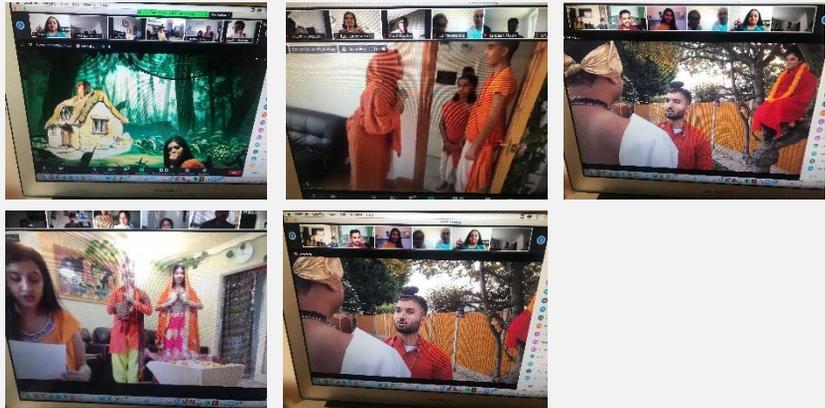
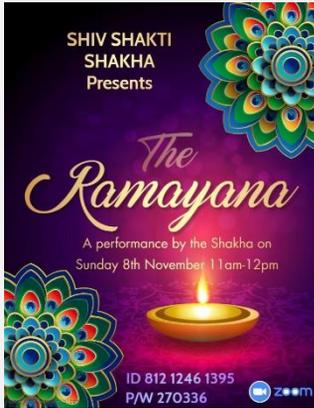
- First ever Utsav to have **“Pradarshan online”** with a team of 18 Shikshaks/Shikshikas including 3 in tech team.
- All the shakhas in the vibhaag were assigned a lead coordinator and presented one shareerik activity which they practised with their own ganas.
 - Yoga by Ashton & Bolton,
 - Vyayamyog by Sale and Macclesfield,
 - Yogchap by Liverpool Samiti,
 - Niyuddha by Didsbury Shakha,
 - Geet by Warrington and Oldham
 - Khel in breakout rooms by Belfast Shakha
 - Presentation by bal gana on How Diwali is celebrated in various parts of Bharat.
- Utsav bauddhik was delivered by **Smt. Reena Ben Vekaria, Saha Bauddhik Pramukh, Hindu Sevika Samiti**
- We had live Dhvaj and ghosh. Out of 15 shishaks - 7 shikshaks who were first time shikshak (taking activity at Vibhag level) including the Mukhya Shikshak.
- Welcome slide had pictures from previous years to remind the amazing celebrations and feel the connection
- Vidula ji, Chandrakant ji, Madhvi ben and Raveendra ji graced the Utsav.

The key thoughts behind planning the Utsav were firstly, how to get all the shakhas and more importantly all the swayamsevaks and sevikas involved, and secondly, how to break the online fatigue. The pradarshan by shakhas ensured that all are involved and after three pradarshans the khel session was conducted to get people taking and move about. The invite was extended to new families and nagars having potential to start a new shakha. *Ram Lakshman Janki, Jai bolo Hanuman Ki!* **Priyanka Mohta**



ZOOMING IN ON THE RAMAYAN

It's apparent for the last nine months it has been very challenging for shakhas and trying to be more creative on the Zoom platform, so with this in mind Leicester Nagar Shiv Shakti Parivar Shakha had a vision to hold the Ramayan play on zoom with every pariwaar involved. The idea was to break down the Ramayan into the main parts and then divide these amongst the families which would be presenting on the day on Zoom.. We wanted to encourage the families to be creative, via drama/ play, and other methods of expression also the deeper meaning for the section they have been provided and how do we relate the message today. Everyone was so excited about taking part and so on Sunday 8th November we held the successful Ramayan Play on Zoom. Participants on Zoom **59 – overall Sankhya 86**
Rakesh Patel, Karyawaha



DOOR TO DOOR DIWALI AT CAMBRIDGE



Cambridge Ramanujan Shaka and Cambridge City Shakha celebrated the utsav of Diwali in an exciting and colourful way on Friday 13th November. A brilliant idea came up from our Kishores and Kishoris named as “Door to Door Diwali- A virtual pravas to all family“. In this event, everyone got a chance to virtually showcase what Diwali is to them. Each family were given a few minutes to share with everyone about various things such as how they celebrate Diwali, special geets, Diwali snacks and sweets, fireworks and much more. Everyone dressed up in traditional Indian attire to celebrate this special occasion.

There was a sankhya of 79 in this utsav with Sangchalak Dr Balamukund Bala Ji also joining us and giving a special bauddhik on the spiritual aspect of Diwali followed by a combined Diya lighting by all. This event brought a lot of happiness and enjoyment for everyone and enabled them to celebrate an exciting Diwali together during the current tough time. **Chelliah Paramasivan, Karyawaha-Cambridge Ramanujan Shaka**

SEWA DAY LEICESTER: DIWALI HAMPERS FOR AGE UK



With current COVID-19 restrictions, we unfortunately were not able to celebrate Diwali in the usual way this year, However, the festival of Diwali celebrates goodness over evil, light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance. With this spirit Sewa Day Leicester volunteers have worked tirelessly to create 50 very special Diwali Hampers which contained a range of non-perishable, nutritious foods perfect for this time of year. These hampers were presented to Age UK who has distributed them to those in need. We hope that this simple act of giving will help to spread some joy, bring the community together and help reduce suffering.
Dillon Shah, Sewa Day Leicester

VAANI SPEAKERS ACADEMY VIRTUAL SAMAROP



Important ideas imparted with effective communication hold great potential to influence thoughts, attitudes and actions. As karyakartas and ambassadors of our Dharma, it is important to cultivate key tools to communicate important ideas across our samaj. With this aim in mind, Vaani Speakers' Academy was founded with the purpose of creating a network of confident orators who can exude intellect and creativity from a Dharmic perspective. Karyakartas of all ages and interests, holding key responsibilities across Sangh and various vividh-kshetra organisations have been a part of this journey to be empowered with skills to effectively share their message. Each cohort goes through a series of abyaas vargs focusing on various tools of speech delivery concluding with a samarop presenting their narrative with the culminated skills.

The second cohort had an eventful experience with the pandemic in the midst of their programme, with adapting the abyaas vargs to a virtual setting. This also provided them with the opportunity to cultivate skills of effective speech delivery in a virtual setting whilst continuing to build on conventional public speaking tools. The virtual samarop was a testament to this pivotal journey, broken down into four chai and chat episodes focusing on prominent Dharmic ideas shaped by the cohort. Each episode was hosted by a member of the first Vaani cohort who shares similar topics of interest.

- “Bharat’s contributions to the world” by **Sangita ji Chhabadiya and Paresh ji Mistry** centred around the importance of connecting back to our roots that have contributed to society across a range of spheres.
- “Dharmic leadership” by **Ajay ji Sohal and Bansri ji Lakhani** took two unique perspectives on what it means to be a leader, with ideas on leadership centred around Satya, and leaders who can develop a culture of freedom and responsibility, nurture creative ideas and uphold their personal integrity.
- **Kirti ji Bhagat** explored the notion of destiny and our ability to respond with action in her speech “Is Life shaped by actions or destiny?”.
- **Jeel ji Shah** examined the key values shaping a post-truth world in his speech “Values in a post-truth world” alongside guest speaker Dr Sachin ji Nandha. Please watch back all four episodes on this [YOUTUBE PLAYLIST](#):

The conclusion of the second cohort opens up doors to more opportunities. The Academy continues to grow with 15 capable orators across a range of topics available to deliver speeches and workshops across a range of audiences. Various videos on the different topics are available on the **Vaani Speakers' Academy Youtube channel**.

Please subscribe and like our Facebook and Instagram pages for latest updates and upcoming opportunities to get involved. For more information, please visit the Vaani Speakers' Academy website: vaani.org.uk.

Public speaking with congruence holds great value to transpire Dharmic ideas across the various spheres of work, and we can start building on these skills from the comforts of our home with practice and reflection on Dharmic ideas we wish to impart in our society. **Dr. Akshaya Rajangam**



WE LOVE HEARING FROM YOU! To help in publication here are few points when submitting news items:

****PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS – sanghmail@hssuk.org – FOR ALL FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE****

1. **Provide a summary** - try to keep articles down to 100 words or less, but if you can't, be sure to include a summary. That way we ensure we don't miss out on the best bits.
2. **A picture tells a thousand words** - it also provides that 'I wish you were here' moment!
3. **A thousand pictures on the other hand....** We have tremendous fun looking at your snaps, but if you can share the ones you'd suggest to include [from a google share for example], then we'll make sure that we get your best side
4. **Tell us who you are** - its an opportunity to get to know one another; so include your name, location and responsibility [where relevant]. If you don't object – we'd also like to include your email address so others can get in touch for more information.