

MARCH 2025



SANGH MAIL

Holi 2025

A Celebration of Unity in Diversity A Festival of
Colour

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| MARCH 2025

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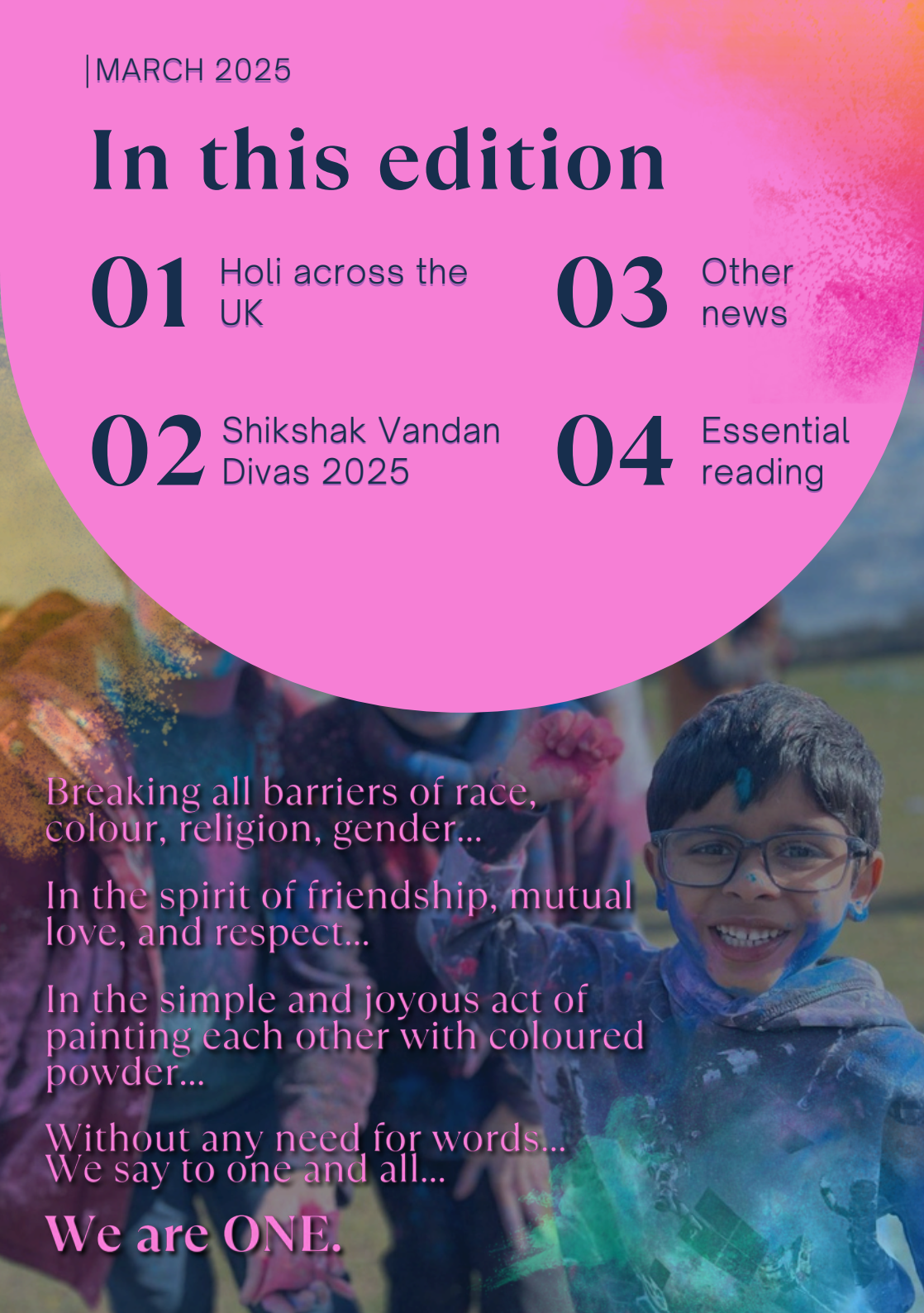
Breaking all barriers of race,
colour, religion, gender...

In the spirit of friendship, mutual
love, and respect...

In the simple and joyous act of
painting each other with coloured
powder...

Without any need for words...
We say to one and all...

We are ONE.





| HOLI ACROSS THE UK

Liverpool Holi Festival

On 15th March, Liverpool Adarsh Parivar Shakha celebrated Holi festival with great enthusiasm, attracting over 350 attendees. The day was filled with vibrant colours, laughter, and a sense of community, fostering unity and joy among participants. The festivities included traditional colours, Holika Dahan, a DJ, and food stalls.


As a result, we were proud to announce that we had raised over £1,000, which will be presented a local charity at another date.



| HOLI ACROSS THE UK

Other parts of the country



A photograph of a female teacher with dark hair tied back, wearing a dark blue cardigan over a white floral top. She is leaning over a desk, smiling and pointing at an open book held by a young boy. The boy, with short brown hair, is wearing a blue school sweater over a white collared shirt and is also smiling. In the background, another student is blurred, working at a desk. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a classroom environment.

Shikshak Vandan Divas 2025

PHOTO BY [CAIAIMAGE/CHRIS RYAN](#) ON ISTOCK

Leicester Sindhu Shakha



Leicester Sindhu Shakha hosted its first-ever Shikshak Vandan Day, honoring 16 teachers from various schools. Our Swayamsevaks and Sevikas, as their students,

expressed heartfelt gratitude for their dedication and passion, which continue to inspire and shape us.

Coventry Nagar



Coventry Nagar celebrated Shikshak Vandan Divas, honoring the vital role of teachers in shaping intellect and character. Nine teachers from local schools attended Akshaya Parivaar



Shakha and Tejasvi Balagokulum, observing weekly activities. During the ceremony, they received a copy of Hinduism - Frequently Asked Questions, and some shared their experiences. The event concluded with light refreshments, allowing parents and teachers to connect.

Wellingborough Nagar



Seven teachers from two schools, along with Sanskrit and music teachers from the Mandir, attended our Shikshak Vandan Divas. Mukhiya Shikshak Atharva explained the event's significance, while Karyawaha Nachiket Ji

highlighted HSS Shakha's role in the community. Shrushti Ji sang about the sacred teacher-student bond, and students personally felicitated their teachers. The teachers shared their thoughts and appreciated HSS's efforts in uniting all age groups.

South Harrow Durga & Shakti Shakha



On 28th February, South Harrow Durga and Shakti Shakha celebrated Shikshak Vandan Divas, honoring the dedication and guidance of teachers. Fourteen teachers from schools, music, and sports joined the event, actively participating in Shakha



activities. Students applied tilak as a mark of respect and gifted them a pen and a handmade card. The celebration concluded with a group photo, capturing the joy and gratitude of the evening.

Birmingham Sutton Pariwar Shakha



Teachers of Swayamsevaks and Sevikas of the Sutton Pariwar Shakha were invited to the Teachers Day Felicitation program. Children performed the Tilak ceremony, presented bouquets and humble gifts to say thank you to their teachers, Bharatnatyam Guru Chitralekha ji Bolar MBE also attended the Shikshak Vandan

Divas. She is very happy and was full of praise for the Sutton Shakha Parivar Shakha. Chitralekha ji is also from a Shakha background in Bharat.

Leamington Nagar



On 2nd March, Leamington Nagar celebrated Shikshak Vandan Divas with parallel events for primary and secondary school teachers. Baal Shakha led the primary school event, while Parivar Shakha hosted the secondary school teachers. Swayamsevaks and Sevikas from Stratford-upon-Avon also participated, with teachers from the area invited.



Fourteen teachers from six primary schools and ten from four secondary schools attended. With around 150 attendees, the event brought together teachers, students, parents, and the community, highlighting the invaluable impact of teachers.



Other news

PHOTO BY [ABSOLUTVISION](#) ON [UNSPLASH](#)

‘Everything to nothing...’

Shraddhanjali to Mananeeya Shankarrao Tatwawadi
- Shri Chandrakant Sharma



Shankarrao Ji...you will always stay in our hearts...

I didn't realise at all, when I met him on the 21st of Feb, that it was our final meet. We talked for around 90 min. He was in full flow, sharing lots of memories, and cracking jokes. It was such a lovely meeting, full of fun and laughter. I had to leave when his sahayak interrupted us, saying,

'Shankarrao, it's enough for today. Now please take some rest.'

While leaving I requested, Shankar Rao ji, may I record a song of you? (He was an exceptional singer). He looked at me with a secretive smile and said, 'next time'.

Now I realised the meaning of his smile.

I'm blessed, spending 3 years with him at Leicester Karyalaya. Our morning conversations with him at breakfast were priceless. Mostly Ram Vaidya ji and myself used to be with him, with his favourite toasts, cereals and Chai. Yes, for us he was more like a father, than just a senior pracharak or Adhikari.

For thousands of people across the world he was like grandfather or father or brother...an essential part of their family. For them, he had 'nothing' in common in blood relation, but he became 'everything' for them.

| OTHER NEWS

A journey from "nothing" to "everything"...

He had travelled around 60 countries for Sangh work, mostly alone. He was instrumental in many countries to start the Sangh work from scratch. He was the one, who developed Sangh work in many countries from nothing to everything.

A journey from "nothing" to "everything"...

He was a great scholar. He went to Banaras Hindu University for PhD in the 1950s and to the USA for a postdoctoral in the 1960s. He was Head of Department at BHU, before he decided to leave the job to be a "pracharak". He also had immense knowledge about Sanskrit scriptures and Bharatiya classical music. But no one can realise while meeting him that he has such an ocean of knowledge. His behaviour was gentle, soft-spoken, affectionate and down to earth. He was a symbol of showing nothing despite having everything...

A meaningful journey from "everything" to "nothing"...

He left us on the pious day of Holi. His body was donated to a medical college.

What a lucky and great human being he was. A man with capital M. We are even luckier, who could spend some time with him.

Shankarrao ji, you will always stay in our hearts.
Now, please rest forever at the lotus feet of Parmatma and keep blessing us from there...

ॐ Shanti Shanti Shanti...

| OTHER NEWS

Surya Namaskar Yagna 2025

A Testament to Discipline and Well-being

February 2025 was a month of dedication, perseverance, and collective effort, as hundreds of individuals across the UK came together to participate in the annual Surya Namaskar Yagna (SNY). It serves as our annual reminder of trying to incorporate Surya Namaskar as part of our daily lives, benefiting both mental resilience and physical well-being.

PHOTO BY [NITO100](#) ON ISTOCK



| OTHER NEWS

The Importance of Daily Surya Namaskars

Surya Namaskar not only enhances flexibility, strength, and endurance but also plays a significant role in improving concentration, reducing stress, and boosting overall vitality. When performed regularly, it helps maintain a healthy body and a focused mind, fostering discipline, inner balance, and spiritual awareness.

HSS (UK) have been promoting Surya Namaskar Yagna for over ten years, with the aim of instilling this beneficial practice into the daily routines of Swayamsevaks and Sevikas. By encouraging participants to complete at least 13 Surya Namaskars daily, we aspire to make this a lifelong habit that contributes to a healthier and more active lifestyle.

SNY 2025: An Outstanding Collective Effort

This year's participation was truly inspiring, with over 800 Swayamsevaks and Sevikas taking part in the daily practice of Surya Namaskar. Their dedication resulted in a remarkable achievement—a total of 173,223 Surya Namaskars performed across the UK.

Among the various regions, West Midlands Vibhag made a significant contribution, completing over 45,000 Surya Namaskars, demonstrating exceptional enthusiasm and commitment.

| OTHER NEWS

A Journey Towards Better Health and Well-being

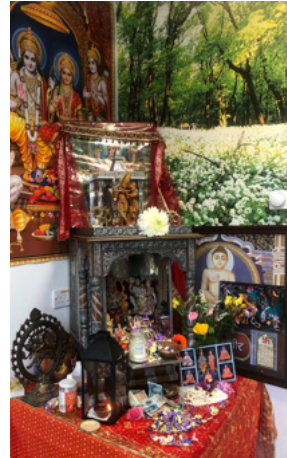
The success of Surya Namaskar Yagna 2025 serves as a powerful reminder of the strength that lies in collective discipline and shared motivation. This initiative not only encouraged participants to challenge themselves physically but also reinforced the deeper values of self-improvement, perseverance, and holistic wellness.

As we move forward, let us continue this journey, making Surya Namaskar an essential part of our daily lives—not just for a month, but as a lifelong practice for health, harmony, and inner strength.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants and look forward to an even more successful SNY in the coming years.

Kendriya Shareerik Team, HSS (UK)

Inauguration of Hindu Dharmic Room in the QE Hospital



www.asian-voice.com

Dhiren Katwa

A special ceremony to mark the installation of a new Hindu shrine at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital took place on Monday this week.

The event was an exemplar of community cohesion in action. People from all walks of life and all faiths and community backgrounds took part.

Priests Rama and Rakesh Bhatt led a consecration ceremony which was televised



Hindu priest Rakeshbhai Bhatt, centre, with medical students from University of Birmingham



Guests at the Hindu shrine opening

Choudhary, Manojjeet Singh, President of the Hindu Society at Birmingham University, Roshni Prabhu and fellow medical students, volunteer Vinila Prema, Bhavneeshbhai Shah, Dr Amit Kotecha, Orthopaedic consultant Kanai Garala and his GP mum from Coventry, Dr Bharti Garala, NHS Director Dr Darren Ralph, Dr Aditi and Dr Shrikant Kulkarni, anaesthetic and orthopaedic consultants, respectively, Champaben Patel, paediatric

live far and wide, including on a screen in the nearby auditorium which was packed with guests with musical recital of 'kirtans' or hymns by devotees from the ISKCON Movement.

The 'Dharmic Prayer Room', first of its kind at University Hospitals Birmingham, offers a space for prayer, meditation, or quiet reflection. It aims to connect people and communities, regardless of their differences.

Guests included Hindu Chaplain Sonia Nath, Dr Andrew Hardie, Professor Sunil Poshakwale, Dhiraaj Shah, veteran Birmingham Gujarati School teachers Sarayuben Patel, Kapilaben,



Priest Rama and special guests conducting religious ceremony

Sumanbhai Myanger, UK President of the Namdhari Sikh Community, Bipinbhai Shingadia from BAPS, Jigar and Komaldeep-Kaur Bhagalia, Pankaj

cian Dr Madhu Gowda - to name just a few.

Thanks to Babubhai Garala, former President of Coventry's Shri Krishna Temple, for the invitation.

BIRMINGHAM

Over 300 members from the Hindu community and other invited religious leaders graced the historic occasion to mark the installation of a new Hindu shrine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Dharmic Room.

Mananeeya Dhiraj D Shah, HSS (UK) Sanghchalak and other Sangh pariwar representatives also attended.

| OTHER NEWS

British Hindus engage in most Eco-Friendly Actions of all Faith Groups

Research by the Institute for Impact of Faith in Life (IIFL) found Hindus are at the forefront of environmental activism.

In an article published by the online Guardian news, British Hindu, Muslim, and Christian participants discuss their connection of faith with the environment. A very interesting read.



CLICK HERE TO READ THIS ARTICLE

As practicing Hindus, we have always been brought up to believe and treat the earth and nature as 'Dharti Maa - Mother Earth' and 'Prakruti Maa - Mother Nature', the aspect of respecting and non-exploitation has always been engrained into us.



| OTHER NEWS

Dhwaj Pradan Shakha

📍 LEAMINGTON SPA



Leamington Yuvati Shakha proudly held its Dhwaj Pradan Shakha on 9th February, marking a significant milestone as we received our own Dhwaj. With an enthusiastic Sankhya of 20, the session was filled with innovative warm-ups, fun races, new Khels, and an insightful Bauddhik on Vandaniya Mosiji by our Vibhag Karyawaha Pritesh ji Mistry that inspired us all.

A big well done to everyone who participated and made this day memorable.

"Shakti ka naam Naari hai!"

| OTHER NEWS

North London and Herts Vibhag Shibir

In March North London & Herts Vibhag held its Kishor/Kishori Shibir.

Just under 100 were in attendance. All activities were planned and executed by our Tarun and Taruni karyakartas.

These types of events enable practical learning to take place, experiment with new ideas, and leadership development.

The strengths and talents that our youths hold surface in real situations.





| OTHER NEWS

Maatru Vandana

Sanskriti Centre for Cultural Excellence held a program on Friday 21st March where the role of mother and mother goddesses was highlighted in building a harmonious society and vanquishing evil, taking a beautiful story of seven divine mothers from Matsya Purana.

Organisers had engaged with different communities. A congratulatory message from His Majesty King Charles was read out on the occasion.

Ragasudha ji Vinjamuri from London graced the occasion.





Essential reading

PHOTO BY [REY SEVEN](#) ON [UNSPLASH](#)



महामना मालवीय मिशन के संस्थापक-सदस्य

डॉ. शंकरराव विनायक तत्त्ववादी

जन्म : 20 मार्च, 1933
[नागपुर]

निधन : 13 मार्च, 2025
[नागपुर]



| ESSENTIAL READING

An Exceptional Journey

Over many years of his life, Mananeeya Shankarrao Tatwawadi ji touched many individuals, families, and communities and brought many new ideas to fruition.

He was approachable to one and all.

| ESSENTIAL READING

LETTER FROM MANANEEYA SHANKARRAO TATWAWADI JI TO UK PARIWAR - MARCH 2023

Dear Brothers/Sisters,

On 20th March 2023, I completed 90 years of age. I received a large number of letters on this occasion, the majority of them coming from our UK friends and families. Instead of replying to them separately, I thought of recalling my stay in the UK over all these years and my association with them.

It may surprise many to know that I came to the UK first time not in the 80's but as far back as in December 1965. That was on my way back to Bharat from the USA after my 3 years of stay at the University of Texas and Kansas. I travelled from New York to London on a ship and it took me six full days to reach London. I stayed for 2 days in a small guest house near London Victoria station. I did not know any Sangh contacts in the UK at that time and knew only one Dr Banke Bihari Srivastava who was doing research in the UK and who was known to me right from my stay at the Banaras Hindu University. He took me around London and showed me all the important places. He even packed for me vegetarian chapatis which lasted for my onward eight-day journey on mainland Europe. From Dover, I travelled to Paris on a ship and then by rail to Zurich, Rome and Brindisi (South Italian harbour, towards the Adriatic Sea). I boarded the ship again and it took me 16 days to travel through Port Syed, Port Suez, and Aden, onward to Mumbai. The entire journey from New York to Mumbai was thus for almost a month.

| ESSENTIAL READING

My second trip to the UK was probably sometime in July 1979 when I was on my way from Bharat to the USA as a Vistarak for 2 years. Mananeeya Bhide Ji escorted me to New York which was my headquarters for the next 2 years. I returned to Bharat sometime in July 1981. We spent the week at the Sangh Shiksha Varg which was held in Shri Subodh Thaker's area (Hounslow, West London).

From 1985 to 1988 I was a regular visitor to the UK from May to July end or to the beginning of August. I attended the '85 Sangh Shiksha Varg in Croydon; the '86 & '87 Vargas in Rugby and the 1988 Varg in Leicester.

In 1989 I came to the UK on a long leave, first for the Virat Hindu Sammelan, during Pujaniya Doctor Ji's birth centenary. I resigned from my position at the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi in 1992 and continued to stay in the UK till my final return to Nagpur in 2011.

I stayed in the UK for over two decades, the first 4/5 years in London at the residence of Sri Krishnakant Kapadia in Norbury, South London and then at the Leicester Karyalaya from 1995 onwards.

While in the UK, I travelled as the Vishwa Vibhag Samyojak to 50 + countries around the globe. These included countries in Europe, America, Caribbean countries like Trinidad, Guyana & Surinam, Barbados, Jamaica, Brazil, Gulf Countries, Kenya, Mauritius and South Africa and also countries in and around Bharat including Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, and the Far East to Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, New Zealand, Australia and Fiji.

| ESSENTIAL READING

Except for a fall in 1990 at the Shakha in Northampton and the subsequent operation in the local hospital, I was generally in satisfactory health and did not encounter any serious health problems.

After the operation, I stayed for two weeks each in Northampton with Shri Nilesh Mistry; in Market Harborough with Sri Shanti Bhai Mistry and in Birmingham with Mananeeya Shri Dhirubhai Shah.

Mananeeya Rajju Bbhaiya Ji travelled to the UK in April 1995 for, the first time as the SarSanghchalak. Later on, we also had Man. Sudarshan Ji and Man. Mohan Rao, travelling abroad to America and the UK. I had accompanied them during that pravas.

I attended the Vishwa Vibhag Shiksha Vargas including those in 1997, 2001, 2008 and 2012. Also attended all the Vishwa Sangh Shibirs (VSS) including that at Bengaluru in 1990, at Kayavarohan, Gujarat in 1995, at Keshav Srishti, Mumbai in 2000, at the Jain Ashram in Gandhinagar, Gujarat in 2005, at Pune in 2010 and at Indore in 2015. I attended most of the major events in other countries and also the Sangh Shiksha Vargas in Bharat including the annual Tritiya Varsh Shiksha Varg.

I have visited all our Shakhas in the UK and have stayed with most of our Parivaar families. While in Leicester, I used to take food in many families.

I was in touch with most of our Karyakartas in the UK.

| ESSENTIAL READING

I have travelled to major European countries, many times late Shri Uttam Bhai Shah of Birmingham, generally accompanied me.

Our Karyakartas and families took care while I stayed with them. It is quite possible that I might have annoyed them at times with my shortcomings and idiosyncrasies.

During this long period, we have lost a good number of our Karyakartas, and it is always a feeling of sadness and nostalgia when I remember them. Many of the then-young Karyakartas have now grown up in age and stature and are ably leading the Sangh and Samiti work.

In the UK, I had my Sangh Pracharak colleagues including Shri Sanjiv Oza (presently in Rajkot, Gujarat), Doctor Ram Vaidya and Shri Chandrakant Sharma and many young Vistaraks (and Vistarikas) from Rohit Ambekar onwards. The list is a long one.

Their help and guidance meant a good deal for me. I generally got credit for what they did. I seek forgiveness from them for any of my shortcomings.

I was in UK again in 2012 (to attend Dipvandana's marriage, daughter of Man. Dhirubhai)) and also in July 2016 for the Sanskriti Maha Shibir, held near Luton, to mark 50 years of Sangh work in the U.K.

| ESSENTIAL READING

I am in Bharat, now for the last more than a decade. I am however still in touch with our UK work. I am generally in touch with our UK happenings. I could go on long writing my memories of my stay in the UK. But it may take very long to do that. The memories are too many and writing them has a limit. While thanking one and all, I seek apology for any of my shortcomings and omissions.

Many of you travel to Bharat for some reason or other. I request that, if possible, you may please include a trip to Nagpur. It will be my pleasure to welcome you.

Once again my greetings, namaskars and best wishes to all our Karyakartas in UK.

Sincerely,
Shankar Tatwawadi.



We want to hear from you!

When submitting your articles, here are a few points to consider:



Provide a summary

Don't forget to include your Shakha name and location



A picture tells a thousand words

Attach your best high resolution pics (maximum of 8 @ 300 dpi).



Who it's from

Keep articles short, highlighting the best parts

Send all articles and pictures to sanghmail@hssuk.org

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