



AUGUST 2025



SANGH MAIL

Raksha Bandhan Special

'Rakhi Tied to Protect'

2025

Frontliners - Who put their lives in danger to save others
Fire - Police - First Responders - Armed Forces ...

INFO@HSSUK.ORG | WWW.HSSUK.ORG | REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1202635

| AUGUST 2025

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HSS(UK) Observes Raksha Bandhan Festival

Over 120 shakhas (branches) of HSS(UK) nationally observe Raksha Bandhan with special significance. The usual tradition of sisters tying a colourful Rakhi to brothers and praying for their mutual protection takes place in Hindu homes all over the world.

In the Puranic tradition, Indrani or Sachi, Lord Indra's wife, empowered the thread and tied it on to his hand on the Rakhi 'poornima'. The power of the sacred thread called Raksha helped the Gods to win the battle safely. So, this led to the continuance of tying an amulet on a man's wrist.

Thusa Rakhi is also tied to persons for their safe being, who daily put their lives in danger for the sake of others.

These persons are known as frontliners and come from all walks of life, such as Firefighters, Police staff, Ambulance staff, Military personnel, etc.

We acknowledge and pray for their safekeeping in their duty to the nation. Most of the shakhas will visit one or more local service venues and tie a Rakhi, as a symbol of protection to available staff members. Alternatively, some of these frontliners are invited to our shakha to observe the event.

The Raksha Bandhan festival invokes the sense of duty, love, and appreciation, which helps frontliners to feel that half the mission is already achieved.



| RAKSHA BANDHAN 2025

Raksha Bandhan



LEEDS COUNCIL HOUSE
LEEDS - SHIVAJI SHAKHA



HSS Leeds Shivaji Shakha and Morley Vivekananda Shakha recently celebrated the festival of Raksha Bandhan.

City officials, Emergency services, and community leaders came together to foster a message of unity and peace.

The event was attended by the Deputy Lord Mayor and Deputy Mayoress of Leeds, along with representatives from the Police, Fire Service, and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

In a show of community solidarity, faith leaders and various Indian organizations leaders were also present at the gathering of 60 people. The celebration highlighted the spirit of Raksha Bandhan, a festival that symbolizes the bond of protection and care.

Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Barry Anderson and Leeds Commander Chief Superintendent Stephen Dodds shared their experience with us. Attendees left with a shared commitment to promoting love, peace, and harmony within the community.





| RAKSHA BANDHAN 2025

Raksha Bandhan



CANLEY FIRE STATION
COVENTRY - TEJASVI SHAKHA



This Raksha Bandhan, Tejasvi Shakha tied Rakhi's to our Canley firefighters. This has been a long-term relationship, sharing our Hindu values with the service we receive from our local Firefighters.

Firefighter Matt welcomed everyone, explaining how the station operates and responds to emergencies. When the team returned from an incident, they introduced families to the fire engine, demonstrated equipment, and answered questions.

Swayamsevaks and Sevikas tied Rakhis to the firefighters and then learned how firefighters risk their lives for our safety, reducing fear in emergencies.

Tejasvi Shakha had the opportunity to get hands-on experience using the fire engine's water hose. The day was educational, exciting, and truly memorable.





| RAKSHA BANDHAN 2025

Raksha Bandhan



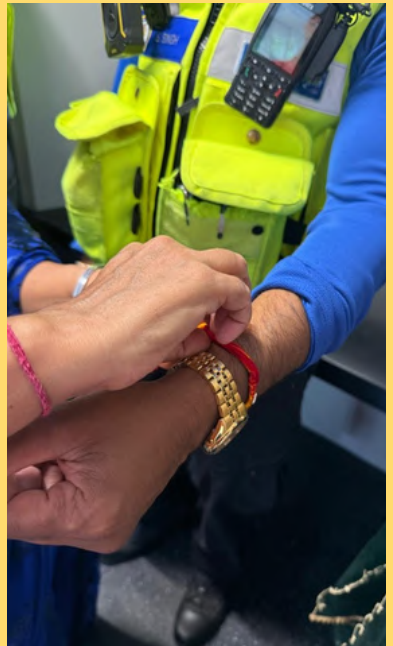
WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

SUTTON COLDFIELD - SHRI RAM PRIVAAR SHAKHA



On 14th August, Shri Ram Privaar Shakha had the Privilege of celebrating Raksha Bandhan with the West Midlands Police. The programme began with a short explanation of the festival's significance – a beautiful tradition that honours the bond of protection, gratitude, and unity between our community and those who safeguard it.

We are truly thankful to our police service for joining us and embracing this cultural celebration with warmth. A total of 10 karyakartas, including children, attended. Sisters tied Rakhis to the officers, expressing appreciation for their service and dedication. Officers warmly acknowledged the gesture and reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding the community.



| RAKSHA BANDHAN 2025

Raksha Bandhan



REIGATE FIRE SERVICE
REDHILL PARIVAR SHAKHA



On Saturday, 2nd of August 2025, 18 Balaks and Balikas from Redhill Parivar Shakha visited the Reigate Fire Service Station for the Raksha Bandhan celebration. During the visit, they learned about fire safety, explored firefighting equipment, and, in a special gesture, tied Rakhis to the firefighters, honoring them as community protectors.

The firefighters were warmly welcomed with sweets, and the event began with introductions of the participants and a brief overview about HSS UK and the importance of Rakshabandhan by Dharmesh Chheda, Vibhag Sampark Pramukh.

All Bal Balika start their presentation with Gayatri Mantra, followed by Suryanamaskar. In a fun and spirited moment, the children challenged the officers to perform Suryanamaskar, which the firefighters enthusiastically accepted.

| RAKSHA BANDHAN 2025



All Bal Balika start their presentation with Gayatri Mantra, followed by Suryanamaskar. In a fun and spirited moment, the children challenged the officers to perform Suryanamaskar, which the firefighters enthusiastically accepted.

The officers kindly gave the children a tour of the station, showcasing the safety equipment and patiently answering their questions.

The Rakhi ceremony was a touching highlight, with the firefighters expressing their gratitude for being recognized not just as protectors of property, but of the community.



The visit concluded with the distribution of sweets and many memorable photographs. This special event blended learning with cultural celebration, deepening the bond between the children and the first responders who keep their community safe.

| RAKSHA BANDHAN 2025

Raksha Bandhan



ARMED FORCES
MILTON SHAKHA



This year's event honoured the armed forces, with special guests Warrant Officer Ashok Kumar Chauhan, Sergeant Shiv Chand, and Major Hina Morjaria in attendance.

Sergeant Shiv Chand reflected on his experience in the armed forces, noting that while service members come from many different backgrounds and wear different uniforms, they are united as one family. He added that the same spirit of oneness could be seen at the event, with people from all corners of the Hindu community sitting together as part of one Sangh family.

Saha Baudhik Pramukh from North London, Krish Solanki, explained the meaning of Raksha Bandhan — protection, respect, and love — extends beyond family to all who dedicate themselves to the safety and well-being of others, a form of service that parallels the armed forces' dedication to protecting the nation.

Karyakartas tied rakhis to the armed forces guests as a gesture of respect, gratitude, and solidarity. One sevika described the moment as **“a way to say thank you for protecting our nation, while also showing that we stand with them as one family.”**

The event closed with a message that the festival's essence mirrors the great Hindu ideal of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — the whole world is one family — and that service, whether through military duty or community work, is a shared responsibility that unites us all.



| RAKSHA BANDHAN 2025

Raksha Bandhan



COUNCIL HOUSE
BRADFORD - KESHAV SHAKHA



Swayamsevaks and Sevikas from Bradford Keshav Shakha visited the Lord Mayor on 5th August to celebrate Raksha Bandhan by tying rakhi. The Lord Mayor Councillor Councillor Mohammed Shafiq, thanked HSS for their selfless community work for nearly 6 decades in the UK.



| RAKSHA BANDHAN 2025

Raksha Bandhan



FINCHLEY FIRE STATION

FINCHLEY - PRATAP AND SHAKTI SHAKHA



This year, Finchley Pratap Shakha and Shakti Shakha celebrated Rakshabandhan by visiting Finchley Fire Station and tying rakhis on the wrists of the brave firefighters who keep our community safe.

The day was filled with excitement as the children tied colourful rakhis, applied tilak to the firefighters' foreheads, and then offered them mithai with small gifts. It was beautiful to see tradition shared so warmly outside the home, honouring those who dedicate their lives to protecting others.

One of our Sevikas read out a special poem she had written for the occasion (see photo). Her words of gratitude and respect touched not only us but also the firefighters, who were clearly moved. They were truly honoured and said they had never felt appreciated this way.

The firefighters then welcomed us into their world by showing us around the fire station. They demonstrated how their equipment works and even let the children use some of it! We all learnt so much, and we laughed and had a lot of fun along the way.

Aarav said, "I liked tying a rakhi on the firefighter because he protects everyone, just like a big brother." Meanwhile, Eesha added, "The fire truck was so huge! I felt like a real firefighter when they showed us the hose."

By celebrating with our local firefighters, we extended the message of Rakshabandhan to the very people who stand guard over our community every day. It was our way of saying thank you, and of sharing the spirit of Rakshabandhan with those who live its meaning through their service.

As we left, everyone felt uplifted. The children were inspired, the adults had learnt new things, and the firefighters carried with them the warmth of rakhis tied with love and respect. It was truly a day of joy, learning, and connection — a Rakshabandhan to remember.



You fight the flames that are fierce and tall,
protecting homes and protecting all.
Through smoke and fire you lead the way,
bringing hope to right and day.

The rakhi's bond is strong and true,
a thread of love we give to you,
As you protect the world each day,
may blessings guard you on your way.

Raksha Bandhan's sacred thread,
honours the brave path you tread
May peace and strength be at your side
With our love and prayers tied.



| RAKSHA BANDHAN 2025

Raksha Bandhan



EMERGENCY SERVICES

WALLINGTON & CARSHALTON - MAHADEV PARIVAR
SHAKHA



Wallington & Carshalton – This year’s Mahadev Parivar Shakha Raksha Bandhan Utsav was made unforgettable by the presence of all three major emergency services — Fire, Ambulance, and Police.

For the first time, representatives from all three attended together, delighting children with flashing lights and sirens while inspiring adults with their dedication. The Ambulance Service even offered to run a first aid course for members, strengthening ties with the community.



The Shakha expressed heartfelt gratitude, noting how the guests embodied the spirit of Raksha Bandhan — protection, care, and service. The celebration was a memorable reminder of unity, safety, and mutual respect.



Other news

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



| OTHER NEWS

North East & Scotland Vibhag Yuvati Shibir

Sunday, 22nd June 2025, in Bradford, brought together 44 Yuvatis from 8 nagars in the Vibhaag.

The day started with a warm welcome, along with reciting the Devi Stotram and Deep Prajwalan. We started the activities with a wonderful Yoga session, including warm-ups, aasanas, and pranayam.

We had a very interactive charcha on Hindutva where ladies from various areas discussed their idea of being Hindu, what Hindutva means to them, and how Hindutva is portrayed by the media.

The shaireek activities included ice breaker khel for sevikas from different shakha to interact and know each other. This was followed by maha khel with team-building games.

The highlight of the day was Karyashala on Sustainability, themed on the 5 elements of nature. Dr Vidulaji Ambeker delivered a highly informative baudhik that was the day's central takeaway.

We had the Madhav Kendra team from Bradford cooking delicious meals and keeping us well nourished and hydrated in lovely warm weather.

Sunderland Veer Hanuman Shakha Receives Bhagwa Dhwaj



A special Day for Veer Hanuman Shakha Sunderland, as we have celebrated our Gurupurnima Utsav, and we received our own Param Pavitra Bhagwa Dhwaj.

We had a great session starting from warm up, exciting Khels followed by Guru Poojan, Geet, Amrut Vachan, Ekal geet & fantastic Bauddhik by NE&S vibhag karyavah Shree Paresh Ji Mistry and Atithi vishesh Manniya Sanghchalak ji NE&S vibhag Shree Rajni ji Parmar.

Sunderland Hindu Community members and local people joined the Utsav.



Shikshak Vandan Divas (Teachers Felicitation)



BUCKINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
MILTON KEYNES - EKATA SHAKHA



This year, Ekata Shakha, Milton Keynes, decided to go to a School for Shikshak Vandan Divas.

On the day falling around Guru Purnima and the School year end,

a presentation was shared to explain the meaning of Guru, the meaning of Shikshak, and the importance of Guru Purnima in Hindu tradition. Three students performed the Shikshak Vandan ceremony in the Hindu traditional way, with Tilak and Sweets. The presentation and information were well received, and the school published it on their FB page.





Sewa work

PHOTO BY DIVA PLAVALAGUNA FROM PEXELS



| SEWA WORK

HSS Sewa Coventry and Marathi Coventry Sports Day in Aid of Sense UK for Victoria Park Nursery

On Sunday, 17th August, the Marathi Coventry and HSS UK Coventry came together to host a vibrant charity event – Sewa Sports Day. Raising funds for Sense UK. This event is organised to promote community spirit and support a noble cause.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from across the local community. With 175 registrations. Attendees ranged from toddlers to senior citizens, creating a warm and inclusive atmosphere for all.

The day began with a group yoga session to energise participants. We were fortunate to have Deputy Lord Mayor, and Cheylesmore Councillor Roger Bailey, who warmly encouraged the crowd and even joined in as a referee, adding to the day's excitement and sense of community.

| SEWA WORK



The pre-lunch session featured light-hearted games such as the Lemon & Spoon race, Tug of War, and Sack Race – keeping both participants and onlookers entertained. Families then enjoyed a picnic-style lunch accompanied by lively quiz sessions.

The post-lunch schedule ramped up the competitive spirit with traditional Indian games like Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Lagori, and Dodgeball, showcasing great teamwork and enthusiasm.

The event raised £456 in donations for Sense UK, a leading charity supporting individuals with complex disabilities.



HSS Sewa Share the Warmth Donation Drive By Durga Shakha Reading for AFK

This summer, Durga Shakha carried out a powerful act of Sewa through a well-organized donation drive in support of AFK – Working With Disability, in collaboration with the iCollectClothes platform.

AFK is a charity committed to transforming the lives of young people with disabilities by offering crucial support and creating opportunities for independence and dignity. The drive, held from 1st June to 11th July 2025, invited families and individuals across the area to contribute items that support AFK's mission.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of donors, the following items were collected:

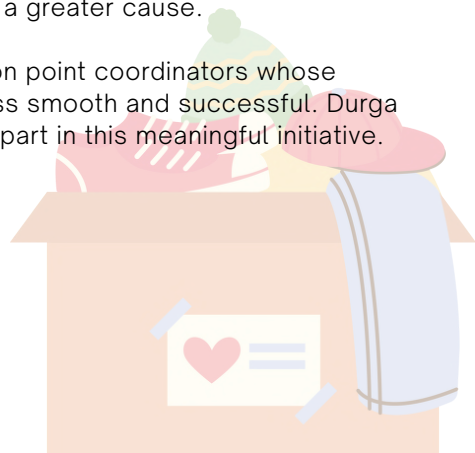
- Clothing and accessories
- Kitchen items and linen
- Books, media, and toys
- Electronics and small appliances

Donations were dropped off weekly at local Shakha sessions or designated collection points across 4 locations in Reading. Two dedicated collection days, held on 17th and 24th July, enabled the collection van to gather over 100 donation bags—helping raise vital funds for a great cause.

This initiative reached well beyond the immediate Shakha network. Many local residents, neighbourhood groups, and community organisations outside of the Shakha also joined the effort—demonstrating how acts of kindness can unify diverse parts of our community for a greater cause.

A heartfelt thanks goes to the local collection point coordinators whose dedication and effort made the entire process smooth and successful. Durga Shakha sincerely thanks everyone who took part in this meaningful initiative.

Together, we truly did Share the Warmth.





Donations Received!



Dear Deepali Nerkar,

Thank you for your generosity and support towards **AFK - Working With Disability**. Your clothing donations will help in supporting disabled children and young people age 0-25 by providing mobility equipment around the UK, as well as preparing students with learning disabilities for life after school through.

AFK
working with disability
creating opportunities





Essential listen

PHOTO BY [MARINE SINTES](#) ON [UNSPLASH](#)

HINDUTVA IN THE UK

Hindutva is the combination of two words, “Hindu” and “Tva”.

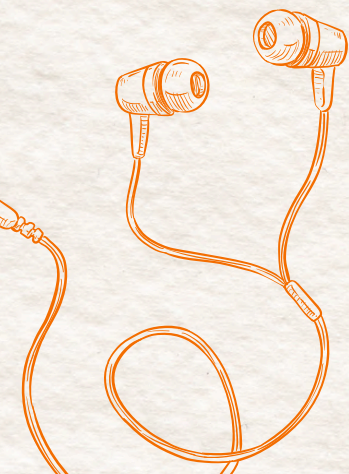
Hindu is a cultural, civilisational identity.

Tva is a suffix meaning “the essence of”.

Hindutva is Dharma in action; it is the essence of being Hindu, the expression of the Hindu identity, it is “Hindu-ness”.

Sanatan Dharma => Hindu Dharma => Hinduism => Hindutva

For non-Hindus who may be confused or misunderstood its meaning, here is an essential listening that gives clarity to the meaning of Hindutva.



Follow us on Social media

Keep up with the latest updates and future events.



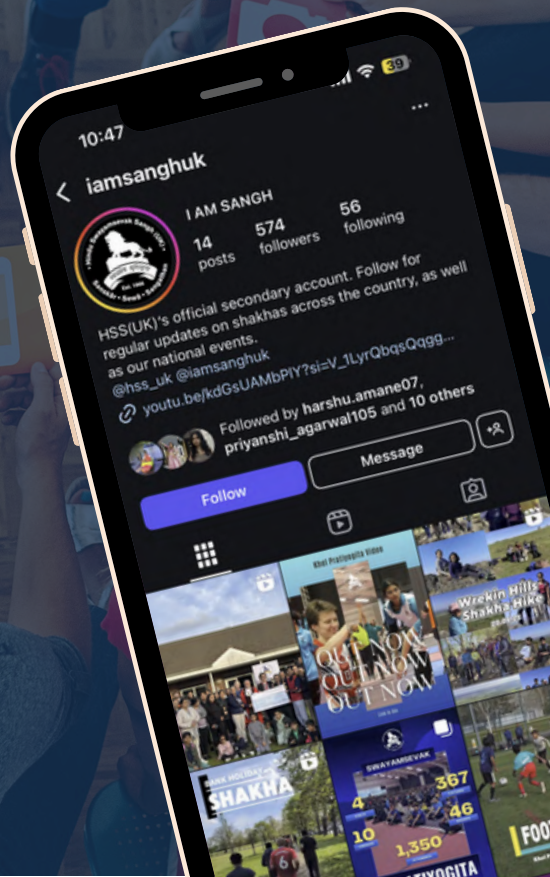
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We want to hear from you!

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 <https://linktr.ee/sanghmail>

OR

