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“ SOCIETIES ACT ”

AIMS & OBJECTS

VISHVA HINDU PARISHAD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

REGISTERED UNDER THE SOCIETIES ACT OF B.C.—No: 9729

- (a) To foster the spirit of worship and dedication, and to cultivate the Hindu values of life as suited to modern times.
- (b) To diffuse the knowledge of the ethical, spiritual, religious, philosophical and social foundations and practices of Hindu Dharma and culture.
- (c) To promote and conduct activities of cultural, intellectual, social, religious and charitable nature and to undertake all such lawful activities as are deemed conducive to and incidental to the attainment of the above objectives.
- (d) To bring together and to unite those who believe in Hindu way of life.
- (e) To preserve, maintain and carry out all or any of the following purposes of the Society:
 - (i) The acquisition and maintenance of a separate Burial Ground or Burial Grounds for Hindus in the Province of British Columbia.
 - (ii) To purchase, take on lease, hire or otherwise acquire and hold lands or buildings or any interest therein for the purpose of a place of worship, school, and/or other purposes herein mentioned.
 - (iii) To receive, acquire and hold gifts, donations, legacies and devices.
 - (iv) To co-operate with other Hindu bodies and to amalgamate with one or more such bodies, provided seventy-five percent (75%) of the Ordinary Membership agrees to such an amalgamation as being advantageous to Hindus generally.

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It is with great pleasure that I have accepted your honoured invitation to inaugurate the Diwali Festival.

It is a pleasure because of the considerable good will embodied in the event, and an honour because of the event's significance. Festival of Diwali, or Festival of Lights, marks not only the Hindu New Year, but also the victory of goodness over evil.

In that regard, I want to recognize and congratulate the work of Vishva Hindu Parishad in promoting the cultural richness of Hindu life. These riches are based on the values of love, mercy, tolerance and affection. We can all be thankful that these values are shared by the vast majority of British Columbians, Canadians and the people of the world. But until all the people of the world share these values our struggle must continue. On behalf of the People and Government of British Columbia, I extend best wishes to you.

I and my wife Shirley are pleased to be sharing this happy event with you.

Honourable David Barrett
Premier
Province of British Columbia



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OUR PRESIDENT'S message



I am extremely thrilled on this very happy and auspicious occasion of Diwali, and it is my privilege once more to extend my warmest Diwali greetings to all my fellow Canadians.

The festival of Diwali had been celebrated in India and many other countries of the world for thousands of years. On this very holy day we celebrate the victory of love, truth and goodness over the forces of evil and darkness. In this world of nuclear giants and ethical infants let the light of truthfulness enter our hearts and by evicting the darkness of jealousy and hatred from our lives, make us humble and compassionate for our fellow men. In this world, where the mystery of atom has been mastered and sermon of love has been rejected, let the light of Diwali and nobility of our Lord Ram enter our minds and bodies and remove the clouds of lust and greed and impatience from within us. During prayerful Diwali celebration, let us realise our real strength and use it to remove the imperfections in society and help our unfortunate fellow men. Let a pure love flood our bosoms and lift us into the fresh horizons of complete dedications for the goals of HINDU DHARMA. Dr. Radhakrishnan once said that "the Hindu religion is not just a theory of God, but it is also a spiritual consciousness." By bringing this spiritual consciousness in our lives, let us gather all our moral strength to marshal all our abilities and energies to raise the quality of life in this great country of ours.

It is my firm belief that the religious and cultural values as symbolized by Diwali and Hindu Dharma will raise us to the heights of perfection, and will be instrumental in bringing happiness in our lives and in the lives of all the Canadians and in making the Canadian cultural mosaic a richer one.

One year has again passed since we celebrated this festival and published our second Diwali souvenir booklet in 1974. During this period we had been successful in renovating the main floor of our temple and community centre. The centre was inaugurated by a philosopher Saint of India, Swami Chinmayanand in April 1975 in the presence of our Minister of Education and Vice Premier Mrs. Dailey. One of the living legends of India, Swami Gangeshwaranand Ji graced our temple and community centre by his noble presence and installed "VEDA" - the treasure of human knowledge in our temple. More-over the centre had been a nerve centre of our Community activities. We had not only organized many religious festivals in the temple but also started activities for our youth and children and women. We conduct language and dance classes also in our community centre. This had been possible by the efforts, co-operation and involvement of all our members and other Canadians. Let us resolve again today that we shall leave no stone unturned in the coming year to bring unity between all the members of our Community. Let us resolve again to devote ourselves to the service of our fellow Canadians through our centre and by discarding few of our comforts bring the ray of hope and light of Diwali in the lives of our unfortunate brethren. Let us resolve again that "OUR TEMPLE WILL SERVE AS A BEACON OF LIGHT AND BRING HAPPINESS AND UNITY IN ALL OUR PEOPLE."

I, on my behalf, and on behalf of V.H.P. of B.C. wish all the Canadians a very happy Diwali and invite them to support us and take part in all our activities in the future.

D. P. GOEL

KHUB Sämtani & DURU Sämtani



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to

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

THOMAS W. CONSTABLE
MAYOR



October 15, 1975.

Greetings:

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartiest congratulations to the Hindu community on the occasion of their Festival of Lights.

It is the participation of community groups on occasions such as this that makes a community strong and vibrant.

Before we can taste peace in this world, we must achieve it in our own Municipalities - a peace based on understanding and tolerance - listening to each other with respect that we may appear or sound different.

With great pleasure I wish the Hindu Diwali Festival outstanding success, and to all attending - may you achieve happiness and contentment.

Warm regards,

Tom Constable,
M A Y O R.



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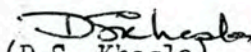
CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA
325 HOWE STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA V6C 1Z7

October 21, 1975

On this auspicious Diwali Day, I extend to the Indian Community in British Columbia my greetings and best wishes for their happiness and prosperity in the home of their adoption.

Diwali symbolises the triumph of good over evil, it fosters goodwill and brings families and friends together in happiness. It is my hope that these cultural links with the mother country will ever remain our common heritage.

I trust that through these joyous occasions, you will foster a spirit of friendship with other cultural groups in the Canadian Society, thereby strengthening the links of friendship between the people of India and the people of Canada.


(D.S. Khosla)
Consul General

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad
Burnaby, BC

A PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION



ASHOK SHARMA

ASHOK SHARMA

DIWALI is the occasion when the members of Vishva Hindu Parishad put their efforts together to make this function a great success. This year we are going through a period of consolidation in the life of the Parishad and the major objective before us is to create a sense of unity in our community. Our aim is to bring in a sense of involvement among our people.

Every year Diwali gives us an opportunity to work together in a team to show to the other sections of the Canadian mosaic that we inherit a rich culture and we are proving ourselves to be responsible citizens of Canada. To create and maintain our high standing in the society, we have to make sure that we do not waste our energies in insignificant internal frictions. The goals of Vishva Hindu Parishad are high and we should make every effort to achieve them.

For this Diwali function we have received the co-operation and help of a large number of people who have mostly worked in small committees and teams, such as: Reception Committee, Cultural Program Committee, Souvenir Committee, Advertisements Committee, Decorations Committee, Diwali Bazar Committee, Ticket Sales Committee, Food Arrangements Committee, etc. On behalf of the Board of Directors and on my behalf, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those people who worked hard to organize this function.

Our special thanks are to all those groups of artists and individuals who came to participate in this function from outside the Parishad. We shall always be looking forward to similar co-operation and participation from these artists in the future.

Vishva Hindu Parishad is proud to welcome to-day certain distinguished guests from local and provincial governments and we are indeed grateful that the Hon'ble Premier of B.C. has very kindly accepted our invitation to inaugurate this Diwali Festival. We would be thankful if the leaders of our governments will recognize and appreciate the community work the Vishva Hindu Parishad has undertaken in the Province of British Columbia.

Best wishes and Happy Diwali.

DIWALI GREETINGS

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TREASURER'S REPORT

HARI. B. VARSHNEY



It is my pleasure to present this mid-year review of the financial situation of Vishwa Hindu Parishad. Before I go into details, however, I would like to extend my warmest and heartiest greetings to you on this happy occasion of Diwali.

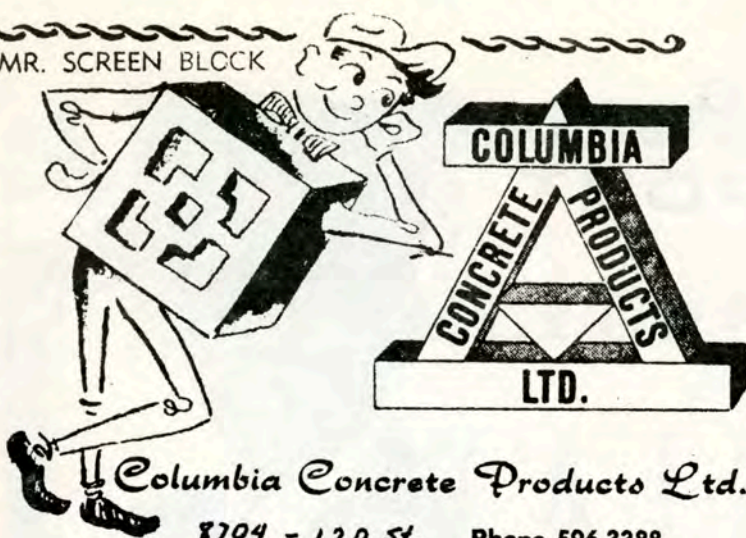
As you know, we purchased the temple building last year at a cost of \$95,000 with \$30,000 as down payment. The building required some major renovations which have been completed for the main hall. To finance this work we had to take a bank loan of \$8,000. The mortgage payments are approximately \$700 per month which we have been making regularly; however, no payments have been made against the bank loan.

The renovation of the upper hall is in-progress at present and we are relying solely on donations from the members for this work. We have decided to install a plaque bearing names of those generous donors who contribute \$200 or more for this work. Your support and donations are urgently needed not only for this work but also for other commitments which we have made. It is a community project and we need your support.

Our recurring expenses which include mortgage payments, interest on bank loan, utilities, maintenance, priest's salary; etc. amount to approximately \$1,800 per month. But we have no fixed source of revenue. Our revenue comes mainly from "Aarti" money during prayer meetings, membership dues, donations, rental from the temple facilities utilized for marriages and other ceremonies and special fund raising events two of which -a movie show and a lottery- were held recently. We were able to raise about \$1,500 from these two events. Our membership fee is only \$5 per year. We need your co-operation in this regard as most of the members have not yet paid their membership dues for the current year. It is an unnecessary expense if we have to mail reminders in this respect. Please pay your membership dues if you have not already done so.

Our aim is to raise at least \$25,000 from donations this year so that we can pay off the bank loan and a portion of the mortgage. We have also approached the Federal Government and the Provincial Government for grants for the temple. Please come forward with your generous contributions which are urgently needed - now and in the future.

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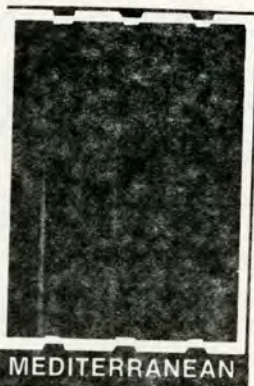
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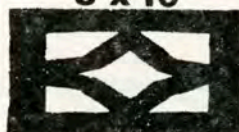
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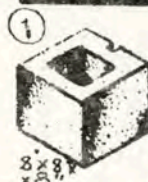
12"x12"

16"x16"

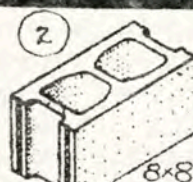


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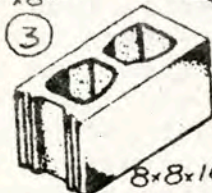
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x8"



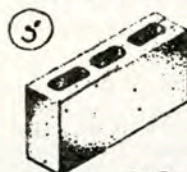
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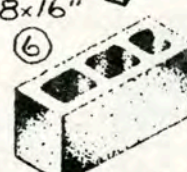
8"x8"x16"



8"x8"x16"



4"x8"x16"



6"x8"x16"

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- 1 Standard Half
- 2 Regular
- 3 Single Corner
- 4 Formblock
- 5 Double Corner
- 6 Single Sash

HINDUISM- UNIVERSAL OUTLOOK

OM SAT CHIT ANAND



KEWAL.K.KHOSLA

"Salutations to God, who is an embodiment of
Reality, Intelligence and Bliss."

Of all the living religions, HINDUISM is the most ancient. Unlike most of the other religions, which are based on the religious teachings of their founders or prophets, Hinduism is not based on the teachings of any one individual or founder. It represents collectively the various forms of religious faith and worship, which have simultaneously and harmoniously existed from time immemorial.

The ancient learned religious scholars known as Rishis or Sages have expressed their intuitive spiritual experiences in the hymns and the verses of various holy scriptures such as The Vedas, The Upanishads, The Geeta, The Ramayana, The Granth Sahib, and others. These experiences are direct and regarded as authoritative.

Prof: Max Muller Says. "The Rig Veda is the most ancient book in the world. The sacred hymns of the Brahmanas stand unparalleled in the whole world and their preservation might be called miraculous." The Vedas which are the fountain head of Hinduism is a record of inspired wisdom and deep inner experience and is expressed as the song of spiritual knowledge.

Hinduism allows the maximum freedom in the matter of worship and faith and does not assert that final perfection can only be attained by the means prescribed by it. It is therefore a way of life which has to be adopted and lived, and not a formality to be carelessly observed. The high sentiments the lofty ideals of truth, Godliness, respect, kindness, charity, tolerance, mercy, abstinence from evil doing, has enabled this faith to endure and influence the subsequent thought in Hinduism. It teaches the true knowledge and awareness of love, compassion and oneness of mankind.

The Hindu Culture which has been highly creative, so full of spiritual truths and meanings of existence, that it has not only been acknowledged by religious scholars as different and unique, but has so much to offer to the world. The researches into the mysteries of soul and into the nature of one Universal soul, which pervades the creation are ever preserved in the Hindu scriptures, "The Upanishads." These descriptions essentially prescribed in Hindu way of life are so true to nature that they apply to all races and nations. There is a persistent misunderstanding that the world is looked upon as an illusion in the thoughts of Hinduism, but reality is that the world is considered a progressive manifestation of the supreme.

Living in this beautiful country - Canada, which is blessed by the Almighty God, with bounties of nature, while we celebrate and light our homes with multicoloured lights, let us not forget to contribute to enrich the culture of this country with exemplary character and attitude and participate fully in the peace and prosperity of this nation.

Let us dedicate ourselves to assist our less fortunate fellowmen and enhance the glory of Hinduism by following the wonderful teachings of our universal religion in word, act and deed.

HAPPY DIWALI TO ALL OF YOU.

KEWAL KHOSLA

CANADIAN

MOSAIC



I along with my family wish members of the Parishad and their families as well other Canadians who believe in the Hindu values of life a very happy Diwali. Diwali marks the advent of a New Hindu Year and may all your religious, cultural and family aspirations be pushed further towards the desired goal during this year.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad, with your support, can be quite helpful for the realizations of the above aspiration. The Parishad can now be called a truly - religious cum community - centred organisation and with the acquisition of its own premises, i.e. the Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre, is in a position to develop and organise programmes that would further the interest of our Community and help us find our rightful place in the Canadian Mosaic.

As a member of the Internal Audit Committee, I may tell you that our financial position is rather precarious. Our Community with its resources can definitely give the Parishad a stronger financial base and thus enable it to be more effective. I would strongly urge all members of our Community to make regular monthly donations to the Parishad as well as give generous financial support on an auspicious occasion in their family.

As the Chairman of the Library Committee, I would like to inform that plans are a foot for the development of a library at the temple. This library will have books on Hindu Religion cultural heritage as well as matters involving our Community with different levels of Governments in Canada. The Library Committee would also like to collect all printed and pictorial matter pertaining to the activities of the Parishad since its inception and all collections would be gratefully acknowledged.

The Library Committee also plans to collect information and make a Roster of our Community members involved in different professions and trades.

Once again I wish you all a very prosperous and rewarding New Year.

DR.S.L.KHANNA

Parishad & We



DR. V. SHETTY PENDAKUR, EX-ALDERMAN
&
PROF. OF PLANNING U.B.C.

As we celebrate Diwali this year, we leave behind a year of recession, immigration controversies, racial tensions and many other unpleasant aspects of our life in Canada while at the same time we can be proud of personal progress and communal achievements by us all in the VHP. We as Hindus and members of the VHP are now Canadians; this is our HOME. Notwithstanding this eminent fact, we are Hindus, proud of our heritage, bridging the cultural gap between our past roots in India, Africa and elsewhere, and our future hopes in Canada. Our duties and obligations ought to be towards a better Canada without disregarding our rich heritage.

There are several positive steps we can take provided we resolve to make a positive and serious contribution. Culturally, we can devote more energy towards the activities of the Viswa Hindu Parishad, give as we can in any way we can, launch supportive ideas and programs and thus strengthen our cultural base. This is a must for us and absolutely essential for the cultural protection of our children.

The governments at all levels play an active role and their leaders can both be positive or negative. Politics is a game of numbers, strength, involvement and ultimately and brutally, the voting strength during elections. Here again the only way we as a community can have a voice is being individually involved in the political process. There are a large variety of opportunities now - community resource boards, area councils, united way, school boards, park boards, city councils, provincial legislative assembly and the House of Commons. There are many political parties - NDP, Liberals, Conservatives and Social Credit. There are also many citizen based non-political local groups and issue oriented associations.

I am arguing that we help ourselves and the total Canadian community by being involved and active. We already have a few people quite active but we need to do more.

There is no question that we have the intellectual, economic and social strength to be involved and make a significant contribution to our new adopted home - Canada. Let us now resolve anew to be positive in our activities and strengthen the Parishad.

Best wishes.

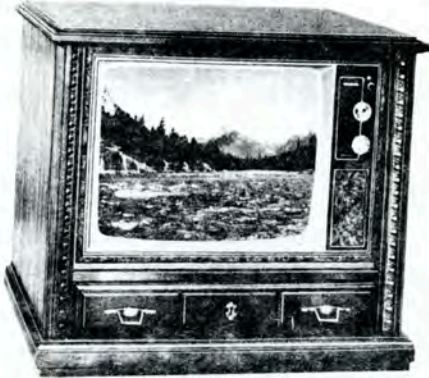
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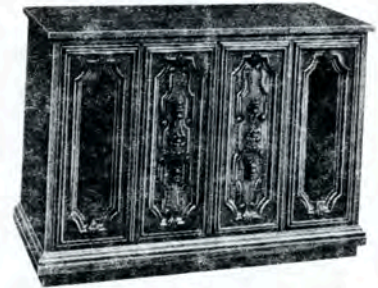


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या देवी सर्व भूतेषु शक्तिरूपेण संस्थिता
नमस्तस्यै नमस्तस्यै नमस्तस्यै नमो नमः ॥

Oh Divine Mother! thou art seated in the heart of every one as a nucleus of creative forces. I bow to thee with all my heart, mind and body.



The focal point of every living organism is the divine spark of life hidden in the form of a seed resting for the opportunity to unfold. This seed (शक्ति रूप) which is seated in every form of life has the characteristics of the Divine. If properly treated the seed would sprout into a beautiful divine plant bearing sweet flowers of light and hope leading to fruits of divine fulfillment. The spark gradually developing into a bright life-fire manifests through every cell of the individual form. This progress from a seed to fruits, or from the divine spark to the total manifestation of the flame of the divine fire forms one cycle. This kind cyclic unfoldment is the sole purpose of creation.

But this development cannot be described as a very simple and straightforward line of progression. It is punctuated by endless difficulties imposed by physical inertia and mental negativism. Thus rages within each one of us an incessant battle between the forces that aspire to unfoldment - Divine Manifestation - and the forces of inertia that oppose this line of progression at every step. In Hindu Mythology this battle is figuratively depicted as a battle between Devas and Danavas; Gods (suras) and demons (Asuras); Rama and Ravan; Krishna and Kansa; Pandavas and Kauravas; between the forces of light and the forces of darkness.

Deepavali (festival of lights), popularly known as Diwali marks the completion of one cycle of spiritual progression and the beginning of the another one. It is the celebrations of our victory but at the same time it is also an indication our determination to take another step forward in the direction of total spiritual unfoldment. May the Divine Grace lead us all to that supreme goal which is described in Katha Upnishad as

"That in which sound is not, nor touch, nor shape nor diminution, nor taste nor smell; that which is eternal, and it is without end or beginning, higher than the Great Self."

(Cycle 1, Chapter 3, Verse 15)
Katha Upanishad).

N. THAKORE

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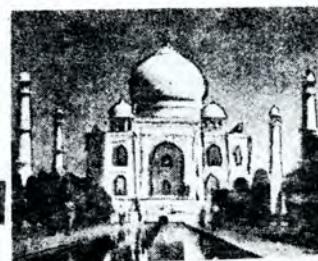
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Our survival as HINDUS

DR: I. M. MUTHANNA

This is an issue that requires to be pondered with all the attention it deserved. Will Indian culture or any other culture for that matter of any immigrant community, survive in an alien land of its settlement? Migration of people is not like the migration of birds whose change of place is only temporary and seasonal. But, alas man is not that. He is an unscrupulous opportunist! He roams about with material prosperity in view and that's his prime motive in life. The philosophy and metaphysics that he invented are just for his breakfast gossips. Indeed, no other noticeable pursuit or a spirit of exploration is evident by this Asian influx and migration to other countries.



Immigration from India began in the last century in the form of transportation of labourers to the British colonies abroad, and later the educated middle-class people began to migrate by virtue of their being the citizens of the then British empire and then as that of the British Commonwealth.

As years rolled on, these people like the Negroes of America, were initiated into the Western education and in some respects to the patterns of their behaviour. Thus the immigrants imbibed a way of living that was not their own. They remained Hindus at heart but lived as anyone else. A century and a half passed that way and these people were found almost losing their cultural identity.

As the older settlers from India were fast losing their ancient landmarks, the new ones kept on coming to keep their culture alive. But that did not help them much because a society bent on living just for its own prestige and profit would care little for the finer values of life. They would neither integrate with the local populace nor remain 100 % Hindu! They move about their own groove, and a generation or two passed that way and the succeeding generations have little idea of their heredity and tradition. The younger ones remained as outsiders to the mainstream of their heritage! They do not speak the language of their parents nor observe the ceremonies conducted by their elders. They rarely attend theatres and concerts which depict the cultural landmarks of their ancestors, and the rigidity concerning the Hindu matrimonial discipline and values, is almost vanishing. Therefore, it is certainly questionable whether the East Indian culture could survive outside India at the hands of these third or fourth generations of East Indian immigrants.

It is true that Hindus and Sikhs have erected religious centres away from their homes to remind us of our duties to our heritage. In fact, a sincere effort is made to maintain our honour and culture but the latter generations who are born and brought up in the countries of their settlement look at such institutions as something foreign to them. Within the one and the same community the immigrants develop groups and this groupism has a far-reaching effect on the religious, social and even the political life of the people. This kind of divided loyalties to the beliefs and creeds caused to lose their political strength in those countries where they had settled in large numbers, and, there might come a time when these East Indians could be declared as stateless as it happened in some African and Asian countries. It is, therefore, imperative that we look far ahead if we really mean business as far as this aspect of our existence is concerned!!!

I. M. Muthanna

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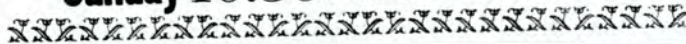
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PRIEST-

Pillar of Temple



A priest in a temple or church is a friend, guide and philosopher to all the people around him. He should radiate light of knowledge, humility, nobility and divinity to fellow-men and women, and be a centre of spiritual guidance and activities in and around the temple. Whatever the religion and whichever the country around the world, a priest has long held a respectable position by virtue of his being a man of God and inspirer and healer of mental conflicts and doubts of people who had turned to him for relief and solace. A priest is also a performer of all sacred rites and transformer of holy words and sermons into simple language and for the benefit of the common people.

In India, perhaps, as elsewhere, the priesthood has been an age-old profession. In temples he is known as PUROHIT- a person who places the welfare of the people before anything else. The priest is also called a PANDIT which means that he is a scholar well-versed in classics, holy hymns etc. Those people who get into priesthood are mainly the Brahmins and those Brahmins belong to the high caste and are supposed to be nearer Brahma- the God of Creation, according to the Indian mythology. A Brahmin by virtue of his birth and consequent status in society, is supposed to be the custodian of spiritual heritage and values as enunciated in the Vedic texts of yore. Lord Buddha, the founder of reformed Hinduism which was later hailed as Buddhism, said of Brahmin that, "It is not merely the birth that makes one a Brahmin, but it is his education, his scholarship, nobility of character and lofty moral precepts that lifts one up to the citadel of reverence, qualifies one to become a Brahmin."

However, Brahmin or no Brahmin, a priest has no artificial mark of caste or creed. He is essentially a man of strict moral discipline and self-control called SAMYAM. He should be calm, cool, serene, cheerful, generous, kind and devoted to his role that he is called upon to play and these basic characteristics are the hall-marks of a perfect priesthood. Indeed, the priests in India were long held as much-revered men, and the most talented among them have been teachers, preachers, philosophers and messengers of good-will even to men in high positions, kings and emperors.

In the renowned Indian epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata, it is said, the priests performed the duties of GURUs, and those revered names of Vashista, Vishwamitra, Veda-vyasa, Bharadwaj, Agastya and many others were men of profound learning as well as enlightenment. The great Sanskrit texts of Vedas, Smritis, Srutis, Upanishats, etc were all the products of divine guidance and inspiration that these Rishis derived by their Yogic feats and penance. It is men imbued with such learning are hailed as priests, and common worshippers in temples or churches naturally expect their priests to be the embodiment of those noble souls of by-gone days.

In fine, a priest is one who interprets God and religion to people. It is to him the distracted and the frustrated ones turn for solace and comfort and soothing words. Now a days many priests carry a distorted image of their role because there have been many insincere and ungodly men among them, but, nevertheless, those lofty-minded celebrities, wherever they are, still command respect from the people and among the people who need them more and more to inculcate in them to some extent those basic features of morality, spirituality and divinity.

OM- TAT- SAT.

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HARNAM SINGH

It should be our ideal as citizens of the country of adoption to integrate fully in the lives of the nation, and thus become effective members of the society. It should also be the goal to make some positive contribution to the Canadian society, and thus in effect involve ourselves in the economic and social spheres of life of this multi-national country.

It is true that there are barriers or obstacles that make it difficult for the Asian or alien immigrants to play an effective role in the political and economic fields. In spite of human rights and other kinds of legal measures racial prejudices play a dominant role, and such prejudices are there despite no one wanting such things to be there in any form, whatsoever!

However, taking active interest in politics is one way to overcome such difficulties. Some people can even join the political parties of their choice, and such enthusiasts should possess a record of achievements and objectives aimed at bringing the greatest good to greater number of people. The law of the land and the political philosophy of the nation afford such rights and privileges to the citizens of all nationalities irrespective of race, colour and creed!

That is one way of integrating ourselves into the national life and play our role according to the rules of the game. To be in politics, to take part in politics or to take an active interest in politics, does not mean that we are all going to become national or provincial leaders or politicians of some standing and following, but it only means something to an extent of everyone of us getting involved in the affairs of the nation, province, city or community!

There is yet another thing to be said in this connection. Any race, community or ethnic group should not try to live in its own groove or in absolute isolation. That would not justify their existence as citizens of their adopted country. It is our civic as well as fundamental right to join the rest of the citizens and thus sail or sink together after having taken the berth in the ship of the nation.

Let us remember that culture is our private and personal asset, and without being hostile to the interests of our cultural and religious pride and honour, we could also merge ourselves as citizens taking over-all interest in all the national activities and that is what a few of us intend to do, and that is what we desire a good many of our people to do. That would indeed be one way to contribute our mite to the betterment of our people and our land of settlement.

There are several ways for the immigrant communities to identify themselves in the national activities. There are a good many multi-cultural organizations where they can voice their grievances. There are political forums where they can make their representations heard, and we as Indians, or as is called here- East Indians, could do our best in getting ourselves involved more and more in activities of provincial and national importance!

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AT VISHVA HINDU PARISHAD



N. D. MISHRA

During the present year VHP has taken yet another step towards fulfilling one of its objectives i.e. the presentation of Indian culture in the context of a multi-cultural mosaic of Canada. While this provides an opportunity to our other ethnic canadian friends to observe, nay experience, some aspects of our oriental culture, it is equally important as a forum for our younger generation.

If man does not live by bread alone, ones own culture in a broad sense gives him the dignity and a medium for self-adjustment for a happy participation in our new country. This stable adjustment not only makes it a richer country, it also adds to the reality of a global village - a fact, in terms of modern technologies and communication facilities.

Language, music, arts and inevitably philosophy are an important aspects of any culture. In our case, much of the ancient wisdom of India has come to light through the medium of some of the modern living languages like the English, French and German etc., nobody will deny that a translation robs it of the charm and flavour of its origin.

One is surely aware of the spread of yoga and its philosophy on this continent. Some of its quality and popularity made a knowledgeable Indian visitor remark that this country can vie well with the land of its birth in yoga. In Vancouver area alone, the writer is aware of atleast two centres (there are many more!) with association with traditional yoga schools in India viz that of Sivanand Ashram at Harishikesh, and of Sri Yogendra's Yoga Institute in Bombay. This Bombay Institute is currently having a 3-day seminar on 16-18 November 1975 and any visiting guest will be welcomed there.

Considering that a culture generally thrives through its own language media, VHP has provided facilities for Hindi language instruction. It would be of interest to realise that Hindi is spoken by about 205 million population and is the fourth largest group linguistically with Mandarin at 629 million, English at 352 million, and Russian at 226 million. We are pleased to record the enthusiasm of some of our other-ethnic canadian friends who are availing of this facility.

During the last six months, apart from the writer, Mrs. Krishna Khosla, Mrs. Suman Menrai, Mrs. Bali Vaid, Mrs. Madhu Varshney regularly and Mrs. Rama Sukul occasionally carried the scheme creditably and we are still looking for more volunteers to enable further improvisation to bring the timings of instructions more frequent and effective as well as to spread the facility to more adult population. Pandit Gyan Chand Shastri's regular Sunday Hindi discourses on 'Geeta' not only provide us a cultural atmosphere in reality it also helps the language students to hear it as a live language. Dance classes have also been organised at VHP under Miss Nimmi Bali and a suitable studio type facility is being created to make them more effective, while facilities for vocal/instrumental music and for yoga classes are still in the planning stage. These will start as soon as funds permit suitable facilities.

Vancouver's location and cosmopolitan character favours us with an occasional visit by some Indian Swami as well as other cultural and other dignitaries, but lack of proper facilities for lectures and discourses except on special occasions hinder availing of such opportunities. If classroom type facilities with adequate seating is built, not only could these be utilised for many cultural dignitaries without restriction to days of the week, but these could also be used regularly in collaboration with UBC/SFU in giving courses or presenting aspects of Indian Culture as an evening course a-la 'Vancouver School Board' or 'university extension'. Just think of the other possibilities, eh!

It is all up to you!



IS RELIGION REALLY NECESSARY!

by Sukh Khosla

One fact of modern life is that religion has ceased to play any part of life. Religion has been showed down or thrown overboard as something useless or obstructive. Mosques, churches, and temples do still exist, but their daily attendance is dwindling down or they are being turned into museums and/or educational and social centres. People do still worship God, but the intensity of their faith is fast diminishing. People do still talk of right and wrong, but the ethical value of any action is judged not so much by its religious precept as by its social or anti-social result or by expediency. Life is just an accident. What moral value could it have? There is no sin, only crime; no divine punishment, only court sentences if found guilty. Virtue has no reward beyond itself, there is no obligation or responsibility save to one's self, and happiness is a product of social standing or material possession. In short, concepts of God, soul or morality are not only doubted but emphatically denied as well.

The urgent need of the hour is to save humanity from its sorry plight. To be successful in this, we have to emphasise the moral aspect of life over the physical aspects of it. Man has to meet his destiny with his spiritual heritage and moral force. He must bring to play his gifts of spiritual ideals: those of love, truth, charity, selflessness, forgiveness, piety and benevolence. These forces are more powerful than the vices of avarice, hypocrisy, anger and vengeance. Man has a natural hatred for these vices and often has he shown his better side. No man is totally bereft of these qualities of humanity.

Man is made up of opposing forces those arising from his senses and those arising from his inner voice or conscience. The former are degrading though satisfying. The latter are uplifting though demanding much discipline. Pure Conscience is the divine law not written by the hand of man, but inflexible nonetheless. It is the eternal fountain of all codes written through the ages. It is the moral law that binds the human society together and gives us a sense of responsibility for the safety and happiness of the whole human race. In Vedic terminology it is called DHARMA, which does not mean religion only, but a force that sustains and uplifts.

Man is a curious mixture of opposing forces; both petty and grand, foolish and intelligent, selfish and benevolent. If Man is the noblest creature on earth - which, undoubtedly, he is - he will curb his base cravings and develop better qualities. The propensities of man are known as "PREYA", (pleasing) and the uplifting qualities are called "SHREYA", (blessing). Man is gifted with both. It is for him alone to make his choice.



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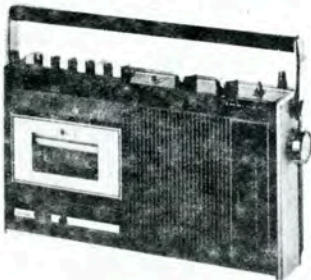
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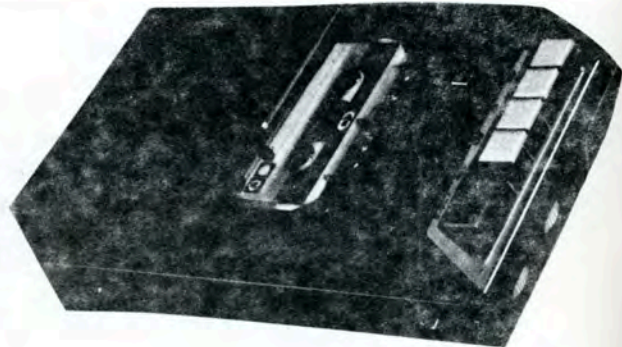
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OUR NEWS BULLETIN EDITOR WRITES

KRISHAN SONI.



Diwali is the festival of lights. Let us lighten up our homes, our hearts and our souls. On this suspicious day we renew our faith in the victory of virtue over vice.

As an Editor of the Hindu Parishad, we appreciate the co-operation we have received from Parishad members as well as the advertisers without which it is impossible to publish our New Bulletins. In preparing our News Bulletins a lot of ground work is done and it is our desire to involve a cross-section of our society in this work. You may contribute to our News Bulletins in the form of articles, some interesting statistics, news of interest to the community or any constructive suggestions. We are particularly looking for articles in our proposed "women's section" and "children's section". Contributions from ladies and teenagers will be greatly appreciated. We would also like to recognise our Parishad Members or their families who distinguish themselves in different spheres of life i.e. in Schools, Universities, Jobs, Business, Sports, Social Work or any worthwhile cause. If you know a person or an organisation worthy of being recognised in our News Bulletins, please let us know.

Wishing you all a Happy Diwali and a Prosperous New Year.

P.R.O's FEELINGS

DAYAL JHANGIANI.



On this auspicious day I send Diwali Greetings to all the readers. My job as Public Relations Officer of the Hindu Parishad is to create a better image of the Organisation. I feel each member of the Organisation is in a way a Public Relations Officer. We should all be the messengers of goodwill. Together we can promote better understanding between our Organisation and the Canadian Society as a whole. I appreciate the co-operation I have received from our Parishad members who solicited advertisements for this 'Diwali Annual' and our sincere thanks to all the advertisers whose help went a long way in meeting the cost of this 'Annual'

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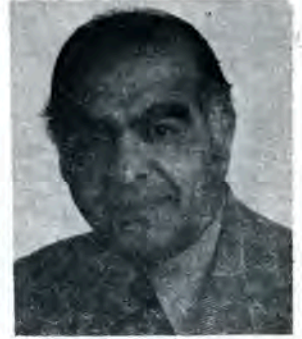
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SAMTANI KHUB



Hinduism is no 'ism' at all. Mankind, at a certain stage of its survival, began to observe a way of life based on some divine theories and beliefs. Those beliefs, not necessarily based on realities of life, were later crystallised into gospels and scriptures. Buddhism, in fact, is reformed Hinduism. The Zionism, Zoroastrianism and Christianity are all fundamentally Vedic in concept but clothed and interpreted in different languages in different contexts and under different situations.

As centuries rolled on a kind of dogmatism in views cropped up. The basic values of life were ignored; the fundamentals of universal philosophy were threatened by narrow interpretations of facts concerning truths and values. This caused confusion to people and it is more so now as we emerge into the last quarter of the 20th century.

In this age of science and technology religions serve little purpose because much of those are merely theories bereft of practices. Religions world over, history tells us, served the cause of political tyrants and fanatics, and, in effect those divided loyalties to the artificially held theories and beliefs have only helped mankind to disintegrate into numerous groups most of which fiercely face each other as though the opposing ones are sheer satans on earth.

It is because of this chaotic mess that the world beheld all along, most Westerners now turn to that pre-historic parent-religion- the Hinduism. They find in it the solace for which they yearn since those Hindu values and precepts are not only the ways of life but also true to life. Though divided into numerous castes and cults, it is the basic truth that is inherent that makes sense to the modern man! Hinduism, therefore, is certainly making an impact on Westerners to the extent of its invading the West. Forlorn and distraught with all their riches, people need spirituality and they get all that they want from Hinduism in whatever form it may come from the Orient.

We all know that from India emerged several queer cults of different denominations, but it was the World Theosophical Society that brought the essence of Hinduism under the banner of BRAHMA VIDYA JNANA in the end of the last century, which Organization celebrates its centenary this year at many world capitals. Later came the Ramkrishna Vedanta Societies; with the Sikh immigrants came the Sikh-ism; and then came many a kindred cult like transcendental meditation, the Yoga school, Hare Krishna cult, the Anand Marga cult, Sri Saibaba school, Sant Baijan mission, Divine Light mission and so on. Each of these try to out-do the other in captivating the Western society though some of these have been labelled as organizations of mere pecuniary interest and of doubtful values!

Here we should pause and see what we as Hindus in Western countries can do? Can Hindu temple be a focussing centre to attract everyone irrespective of religion and nationality? Can it be made to cater to the needs and urges of the distraught populace all over with the basic values of Hinduism? Can we as Hindus spread that same eternal gospels of our renowned philosophy through our learned scholars of theology and thus cut out the influx of greedy fake GURUs of doubtful integrity, who are out on exploiting people rather than expanding the sphere of the cults to which they belong?

It is time that we think seriously on these lines and take a solemn pledge to make our temple a feeding ground of the essence of all the world religions in general and of the Hindu religion in particular! It is imperative that we establish a College of Oriental Philosophy to serve the Western society, which institution should be able to fulfil the wishes of our ancestors who had dreamt of conquering the world- not by brute force- but by sheer LOVE, FAITH and GOOD-WILL ! JAI HIND!!!



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MISS NIMMI BALI



My students from Natraj School of Dancing and I wish all the members of Hindu Parishad "A Very Happy Diwali."

As I look back to the last year, I feel a sense of great achievement and I am happy to say that the number of my students are increasing all the time. My students are Indian and Canadian girls of all ages, who take keen interest in their work and who are progressing wonderfully.

I am filled with delight and pride when I think my students are learning Bharat Natyam, a dance art which originated more than 2000 years ago and which embodies the great cultural and artistic heritage of India. As a dance art it is unique for its vitality and beauty and it is immensely popular not only in India but also all over the rest of the world. It is a greatly admired and revered dance art. Bharat Natyam is the mother art for most of the other classical dance systems of India - Kathak, Kathakali and Manipuri. The performance of Bharat Natyam has brought happiness to people all through the centuries and, at the same time, it has been the main source of inspiration for the allied arts of sculpture, painting and icon making in India.

When I came to Vancouver from Nairobi, I was in utter confusion and sort of disappointed. Because, unfortunately the people I met in the beginning were not very broad-minded and were not well aware of the great art of India. The days passed by and more and more enlightened personalities got acquainted with me. My disappointments changed into happy moments of my life. With the great inspiration of our President, Dr. Goel and with the encouragement from my friends, I got a platform to promote our glorious culture. Unfortunately, many people still have wrong ideas. Many think, I do it for money. My school runs on non-profit basis. It is only because I am devoted to the Art and also because of my promise to my respected Guru, I spend lots of time on perfection and promotion.

In the end I want to thank my beloved organisation Hindu Parishad, all the parents and everyone else who has been of immense help to me at all times. I look forward to your continual support and help and who knows between us we may have already launched some great Bharat Natyam artist of the future on her career.



VICTORIA



29 October, 1975

I would like to offer members of the Vishva Hindu Parishad of B.C. my best wishes on the occasion of the celebration of the annual festival of light.

Your organization has, over the years, made a valuable contribution to life in British Columbia. I would like to congratulate your leadership on another year of outstanding accomplishment and offer you every success for the coming year.

Sincerely Yours,

Minister of Education.

Victoria, B.C.

VISIT OUR TEMPLE & SEE WHAT IT STANDS FOR

NARINDER DHIR.
DIRECTOR FOR
TEMPLE MANAGEMENT.



By birth, heritage and tradition we are Hindus; we believe in Hindu values of life; we should as co-religionists and compatriots live as one solid entity wherever we are! We must not only cooperate each other but also should sacrifice a bit of our time and resources to steadfastly hold ourselves as one strong ethnic group.

We have a temple here. We must be happy that it was possible for us to have one, and, I should say, the first one in Canada. You are seeing that it is becoming presentable almost every day- thanks to our friends who are bent on making our temple beautiful; thanks to all those generous contributors who helped to make our dreams a reality, and, also grateful thanks to that most generous provincial Government of British Columbia, which has been favouring us with plenty of good-will and support!

We have facilities in the temple to congregate, pray, perform religious rites, conduct marriage ceremonies, naming ceremonies, ceremonies concerning the departed ones- etc etc. It is our honour and pleasure that we should attend the temple whenever we are free and take part in its activities, ritualistic ceremonies, prayer meetings and religious discourses, and at the same time take advantage of the facilities offered!

Now that the renovation of the temple building is almost over, and the top floor is being trimmed and beautified, we are getting more and more enthusiastic to work on our cherished projects. A small library and a reading room will be set up. We will conduct language classes for children and adults in Sanskrit, Hindi, etc; we will continue to have dance classes and instructions in Yoga and other physical feats. But we need a team of young dedicated volunteers who would cooperate in our endeavour. We need a band of selfless workers who would consider our temple as theirs and offer their selfless and whole-hearted services. We need more and more sympathetic and charitable visitors who would offer their suggestions and resources in whatever way they can!!!

Here in our temple lies the hope of our future as Hindus. Now we don't need critics and cynics; we don't need easy-chair gossip-mongers; we don't need those sceptics who are bloated by their sudden and unexpected riches, either! We also don't need men and women who simply hanker to get into positions of power and profit without doing anything! Let me warn my friends to keep away from these sorts of people. We need friends and workers who will dedicate their time and services for the temple and thus for the entire community at large!

Here in Vancouver and in British Columbia there are many thousands of Hindus who have come here from all over India and from some parts of the world. Our request to them is to enroll themselves as members of the temple and then keep in touch with the activities going on there and offer their sympathetic cooperation both in cash and kind, but mostly in the form of willing and selfless services.

Let us, therefore, rally round this sacred institution- our temple- in the best interest of all of us and our children and our posterity. Shed all your mental reservations, cynical observations and untold frustrations because we are here to stay! Get into the temple which is your temple with a clean heart and folded hands and leave the rest to God Almighty.

Hope that my sincere appeal will not go in vain. Hope that our Sunday congregations will be packed to capacity in future and also hope that we can all move about hand in hand as compatriots hailing from a great country. Let me offer you all our traditional Diwali greetings and let us pray God for all our well-being! NAMASTE!!!

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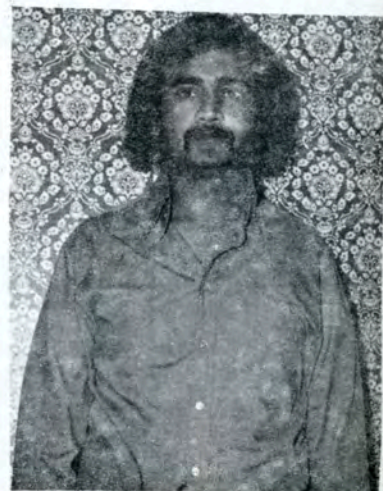
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AT THE TIME OF INAUGURATION OF OUR TEMPLE



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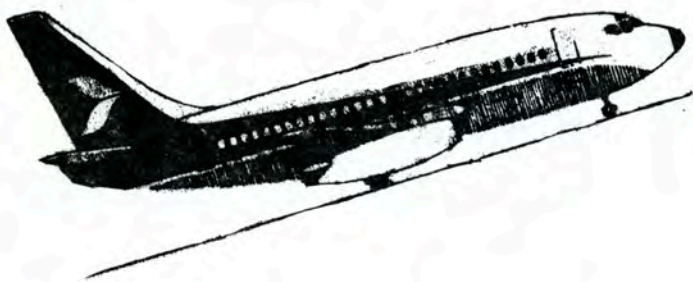
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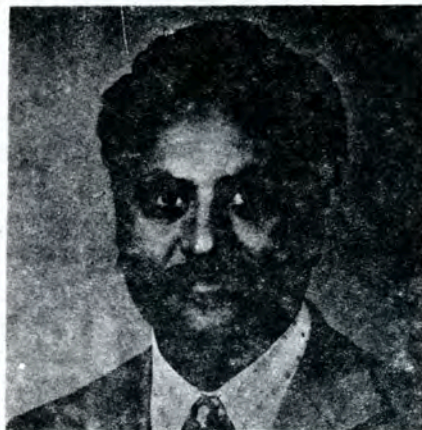


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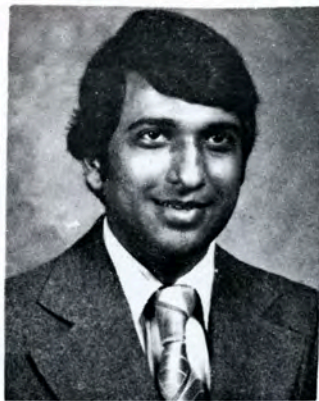
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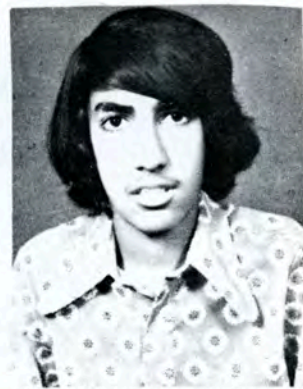
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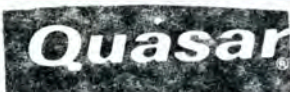
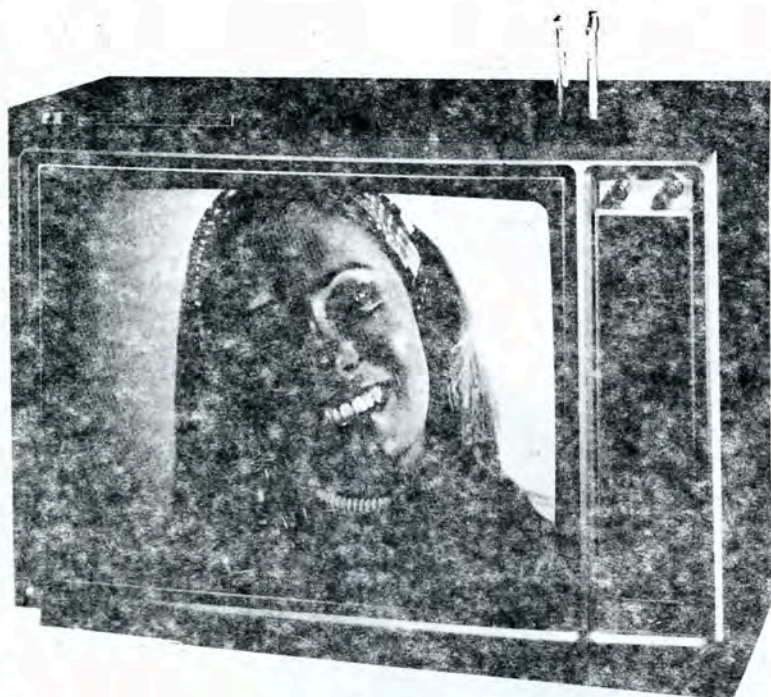
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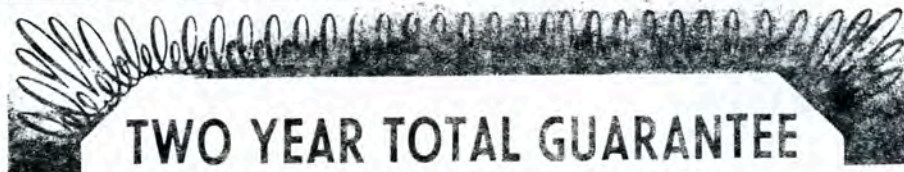
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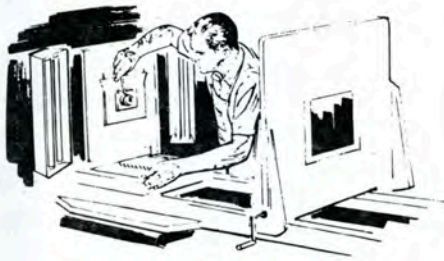
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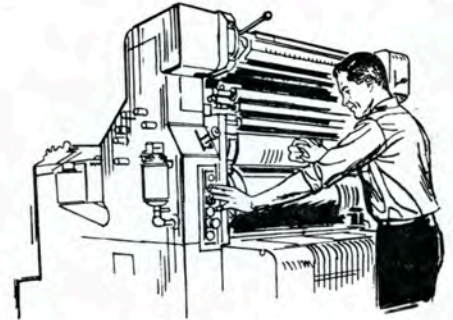
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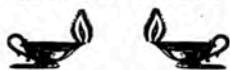
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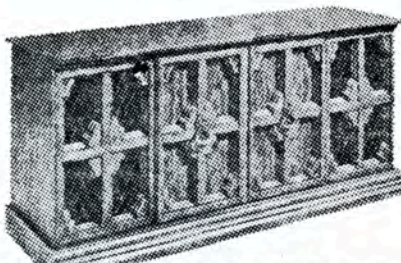
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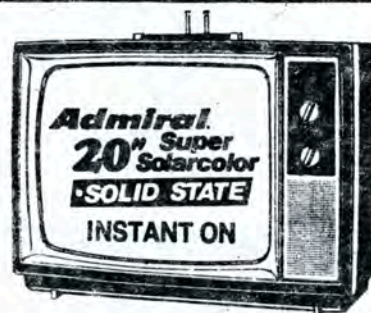
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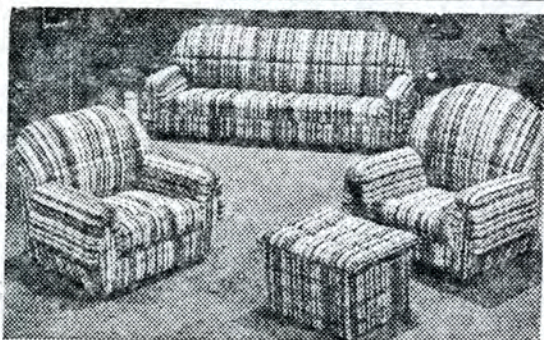
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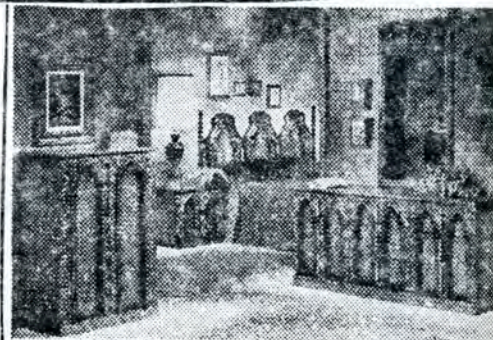


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This year, nomination board succeeded in convincing Eighteen members to accept different jobs but some members succeeded in convincing nomination board that they would be able to work easier if not taken on the board. -

Hindu Parishad is also proud of having such devoted silent workers. Here are some of our silent workers. (The silent workers are requested to forgive us if their pictures were stolen for publication)



KEWAL KISHIN KHOSLA



Dr. MATHUR



SAMTANI KNUB



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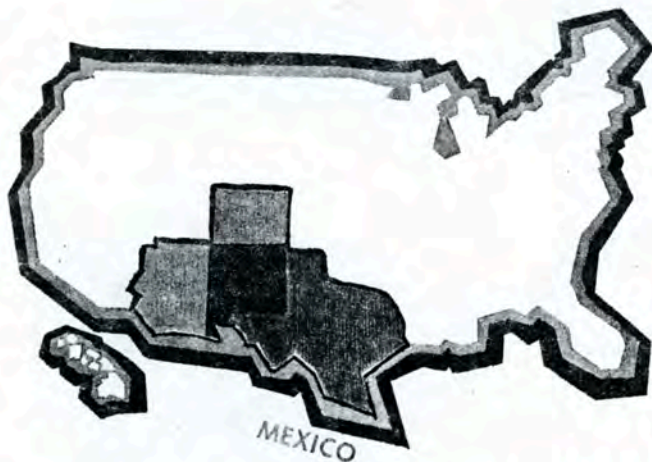
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BETWEEN YOU AND ME



Dear friends,

I am almost in the last pages. Once again, I am facing a big problem. Last year, I had the same problem too. But this year, the problem is bigger because this year, there are more than one dozen writers who have written almost on every topic connected with our Parishad. Nothing is therefore left for me to write. Also, as you know, I am a very poor writer. This year, my wife Veena was in India and as usual, I failed to write nice letters to her. Many have complained that being a Program Committee Chairman, I should have written letters of appreciation to workers and artists who are going to make our Diwali function a grand success. But no one seems to realise my difficulty. Firstly, I am not a good writer. Secondly, I consider Parishad workers and artists like members of my own family. One hardly thanks ones own family members. This is what usually happens in every home; own people are always forgotten when it comes to appreciation. But own people always remain deep in heart.

However, as a chairman of Cultural Committee, I appreciate the excellent sense of devotion shown by our artists to make our cultural and variety program a grand success. I express my deep sense of gratitude to the various committees listed elsewhere in this Diwali Souvenir who have always pooled their resources and co-ordinated their efforts to produce this grand Diwali show for you all. In additions, there are many Parishad workers who helped us behind the scene and offered their services for Diwali celebrations. Our respected priest, Pandit Gianchandji and our beloved President, Dr. Goel are the other two great unifying forces who always guide us to right path whenever there are problems in such big celebrations. My respectful Parnams to Panditji and Doctorji.

Last but not the least we should thank the charming ladies who have done setting of most of our DIWALI SOUVENIR. I am unable to mention their names as I have specific instructions from them that any mention about their names will meet with hostile outbursts from them. But most of you can guess, who the charming ladies can be? My DEEP LOVES for all my co-workers and artists.

Ever yours own

Gope. C. Shewa
GOPE SHEWA

Our Artists in ACTION



NIMMI BALI Principal of NATRAJ DANCING SCHOOL showing poses to her pupils.



MISS SHALINA VIRANI



MISS SEEMA DESAI



MISS ALKA GOEL



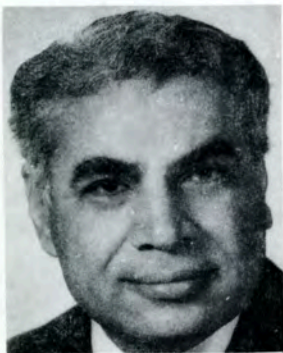
MISS DOLLY SHEWA
with her Guru Nimmi Bali



MISS SARITA CHOUBE & MISS SANGEETA CHOUBE

YOUR MONARCH MAN IN ANYWHERE

helping you
take care of
tomorrow
....today

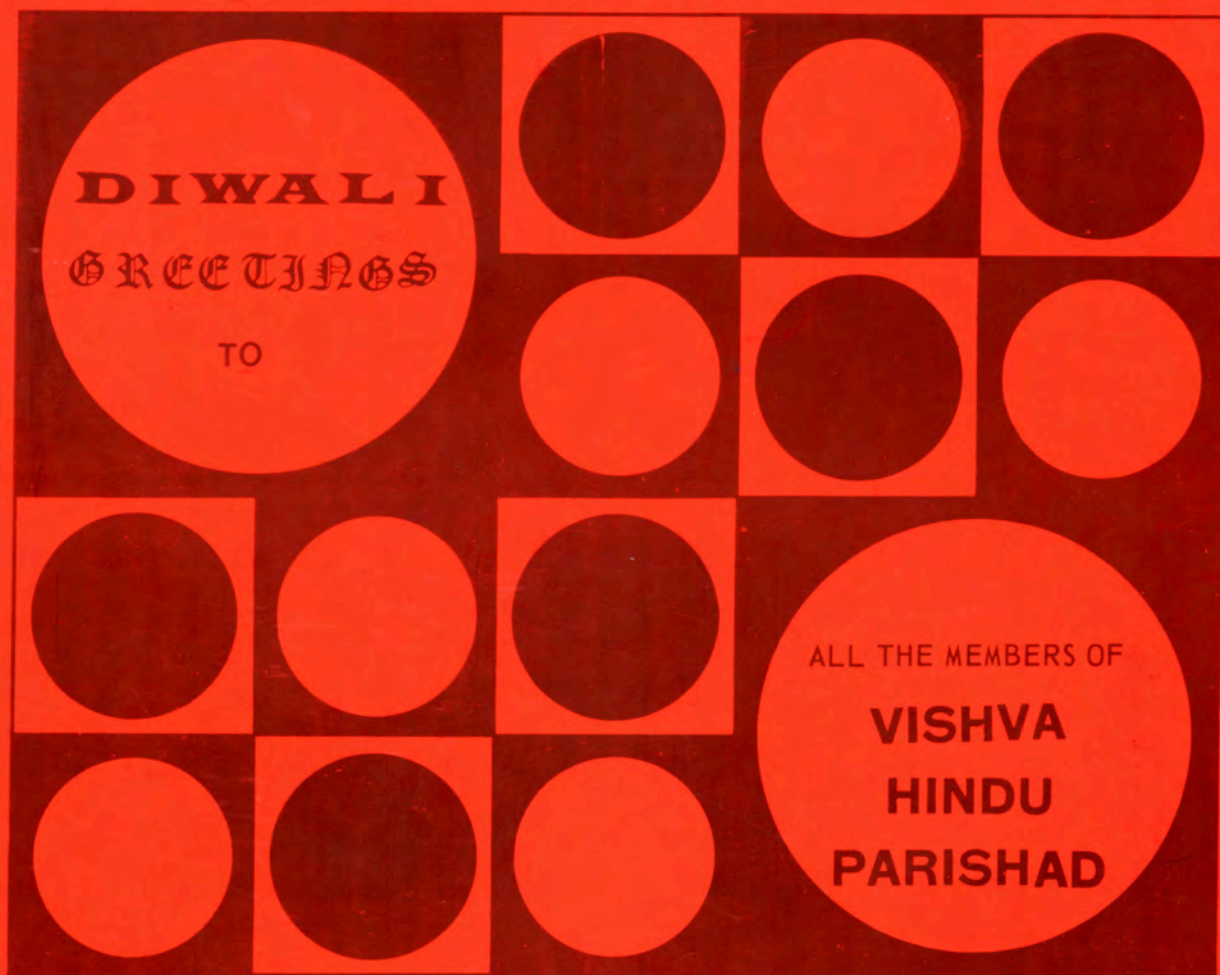


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