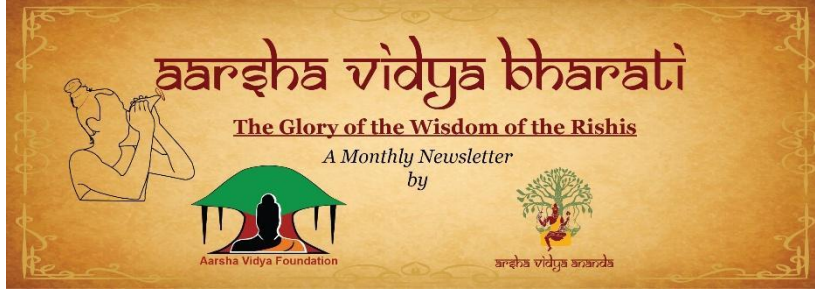

Aarsha Vidya Bharati - Feb 2024

Magha - Phalguna 2080

A monthly newsletter that will bring you more happiness, more wisdom and more freedom



This is one of many articles from our monthly newsletter. Access the [feb 2024 issue](#) or read any of [the articles](#).

Prāṇa-Pratiṣṭhā of Sri Rama in Ayodhya and our hearts!



22nd January 2024 marked a unique moment in the civilisational history of Bharat.

When history will look at this date, it will be a marker of how India was and how India that is Bharat re-emerged. There are many temples dedicated to Sri Rama in Bharat and yet the devotion, enthusiasm and anticipation for this event was unprecedented. Nobody asked us to do anything and yet everyone wanted to do their bit in welcoming Sri Rama to Ayodhya.

The devotion in our hearts flowered in different loving initiatives - from organising *annadānam* to organising bhajans to organising pujas to chanting Rama mantras an x amount of times to visiting temples to gathering together to watch Ramayana to listening to *pravacan*-s, it has truly been a coming together of the Hindu society like never before. All across Bharat and all across the Hindu diaspora of the world!

Building the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya was not only a historical moment for the Hindus, but a historical moment for all indigenous religions all over the world.

World history is testimony to temples after temples being destroyed in South America, Egypt, Rome, Greece and other places after the onset of the Abrahamic religions.

In the almost 2000 years that followed, no Greek has managed to build or reclaim a temple of Apollo. No Roman has reclaimed or rebuilt a temple of Jupiter. No Egyptian has reclaimed a temple for Porus. The list is endless. The civilisations of the Mayans, the Aztecs, the native American Indians have all been wiped out. Nowhere in the world has any temple or any structure been reclaimed and rebuilt by any of the indigenous religions. At best there are remnants of architectural ruins that the world and the indigenous religions merely wonder about.

It is truly a historical moment in the history of the world in which an indigenous religion, dismissed as a pagan religion and idol-worshipper by Abrahamic religion, has successfully reclaimed a site after 500 years and rebuilt a temple at this grand level. The *Tapasya* and *Tyāga* of many unsung heroes and the healing of a society has been underway and some of the wounds were healed last week.

Sri Rama Janmabhoomi Mandir should be taken as an inspiration for all indigenous religions, to reassert their identities, reclaim what is theirs so that the world can truly live as a pluralistic, inclusive and harmonious society.

Being a Hindu is not just about knowing our history (personal and collective) but also showing the courage to restore justice.

Being a Hindu is not just about relating with devotion but also about cultivating an unflinching shraddha in the vision of *Sanātana Dharma* and our harmonious way of life.

Being a Hindu is not just about strength but also humbly deepening our *sādhana*.

Sharing our joy with love and prayers,

Brahmavidananda
Brahmaprajnananda



Outpouring of our students:

The prana-pratishtha of Balaka Raama in Ayodhya is a momentous occasion. Hindus all over the world stand united to publicly witness this joyous commemoration. This global celebration is an overt show of love for the name and form of Bhagavan who is a representation of Dharma that is at the centre of our hearts and lives. || जय श्री राम ||

-Priya Gopie, Trinidad & Tobago

Really my heart is full as Ramlalla has come to reside in it permanently. It was historical day especially that 84 seconds of muhurta. At the moment of first Darshana of Balakram's divine face with mesmerizing smile and talking eyes transformed me many ways. Something great was happened and tears started rolling down from my eyes. I was charged, experiencing positivity, energy, creativity and a glimpse of pure Ananda. Something cleansed me in and out. I channelized my emotions to singing and spontaneously expressing glory of Ram.

- Sanjeevani Narvekar, Mumbai

This is perhaps the first instance when I was excited beyond words for a community event. My heart was filled with gratitude to all the great sevaks who sacrificed their lives over several centuries for this cause. I could realise the significance of dharma and the necessity to protect and follow it more than ever before. I could see more clearly why the preservation of Hindu dharma in Bharat is extremely crucial. HariH Om.

- Prashanth Mohan, Australia

Jai Shree Ram! I am overjoyed with love and bhakti after the prana-pratishtha of Lord Rama in Ayodhya. Even after thousands of years, still loved and looked upon as Maryada Purushottama who valued dharma above all. As a manifestation of Dharma. I revel in him, and I am overjoyed, and I hope to discover the Rama in me.

- Sheela Surendran, Mumbai

Lord Rama's prANA pratishtha marked a resurgence in Hindu pride and self-confidence. It united Hindus not just across Bharat, but across the entire world. Deep down within, one senses it being a momentous occasion for Sanatana Dharma and for Bharat's position in the world order. An occasion which was long overdue and was achieved in keeping with the legal norms and procedures of Bharat's judiciary. Jai Siya Ram!

- Karthik Narayanan, London

Jai Shree Ram! What a joy, an honour – to be able to witness this event that my ancestors have waited for, over so many generations! And to be able to share this day, and it's significance, with my children. To see them witness the bonding among neighbors in the community, in the streets! Truly, Ram belongs to each one of us and we are all his.

- Varsha Shankar, Bengaluru

I have never witnessed (live or recorded) any Praan Pratishtha ceremony in the past. This event enlightened me about the background and genesis of what this ceremony entails and why. It got me closer to understanding of our rituals and history better. I had never imagined the power this ceremony would have on Hindus (practicing / non practicing) but the fervour, reverence and devotion amongst people within and outside of India left me mesmerised and



in want of understanding more. I think that is the best effect an event can have - leaving the attendees with a quest to know more. Jai Siya Raam.

- Maansi Gagroo Jain, Singapore

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