



# Arya Pratinidhi Sabha and Arya Samaj of Melbourne Inc. Newsletter

The prime object of this Samaj is to do good to the world

[www.aryasamajofmelbourne.com](http://www.aryasamajofmelbourne.com)

## IN THIS ISSUE

## From the Editor

by Editor Mr. Varun Dewan and Mr. Randeep Panwar

Namaste everyone and welcome to Arya Prathinidhi Sabha and Arya Samaj of Melbourne Newsletter (September 2018 to December 2018).

Some highlights of our events for these months were as follows:

**September 2018:** Ved Prachaar by Acharya Ved Prakash Shrotriya ji from New Delhi.

Prachaar topics were as follows:

- ❖ Shri Ram ji Ka Charitra
- ❖ Vedic philosophy in bringing about happiness and getting rid of anger, stress in our daily lives.
- ❖ Giving Sanskaars to our children and younger generation

**October 2018:** Normal Satsang with AGM

**November 2018:** Diwali function and Rishi Niwaan Diwas, which included:

- ❖ Pakshik Yaj by Pt. Prashant Sharma ji
- ❖ Lighting of Diyas by all attendees to signify triumph of knowledge over darkness.
- ❖ Speeches by our kids (Kanak Sharma and Priyanka Sharma. Kanak spoke on Significance of Lighting Diyas during Diwali. Priyanka spoke on Diwali's significance to Arya Samaj.
- ❖ Bhajans sung by Mrs. Shanta Singh, Mrs. Sanjogita Mongia, Khuushi Mongia and Muskaan Mongia.

**December 2018:** Workshop on Traitvaad by Pt. Prashant Sharma and our president Mr. Surya Soni. Examples were quoted from Vedas and different Aarsh Granths.

- Ved Prachaar- Sept,2018
- October 2018 Satsang and AGM
- November - Diwali Function & Rishi Nirwaan Diwas
- Dec,2018 Workshop



## SEPTEMBER 2018 VED PRACHAAR

Acharya Shrotriya ji is an excellent advocate of Vedic teachings. He is thoroughly versed with Vedas, the Brahmanas, the six Darshans, various Upnishads, Smirits and all of Rish Dayanand's granths along with other authoritative granths.

Acharya ji's prachaars were well appreciated by all attendees in Melbourne and some of the feedbacks received were:

- Really an eye opener talk by Acharya ji,
- Amazing and truly blessed to hear a great scholar like Acharya ji,
- What an enlightening prachaar!

Thank you, Acharya ji, look forward to see you in January 2019 for another prachaar in Melbourne



## MELBOURNE DIWALI 2018 CELEBRATIONS

The Diwali Function and Rishi Nirwaan Diwas in November 2018 was hosted by Mr. Vinit Sharma, Mrs. Reetu and family. It was a great opportunity for all members to get together and participate in yajna, kids programs and lighting of diyas. Attendees came to know the real reason for celebrating Diwali by our Pt. Prashant ji (obviously not the return of Shri Ram from exile). Some presentations by our kids on Diwali are enclosed at the end of this Newsletter.





## OCTOBER 2018 SATSANG AND AGM

The October 2018 satsang was mainly our samaj's Annual General Meeting, where the new officials were elected as follows:

Founding President and Samaj Purohit: **Pt. Prashant Sharma**

President: **Mr. Surya Soni**

Secretary: **Mrs. Shareen Sharma**

Treasurer: **Mrs. Sanjogita Mongia**

Prachaar Committee Head: **Mr. Vinit Sharma**

## DECEMBER 2018 WORKSHOP - TRAITVAAD



The workshop on Traitvaad was conducted by Pt. Prashant, assisted by Mr. Surya Soni.

Some of the contents of this workshop were:

- What are the three entities of Traitvaad?
- How to distinguish between the three entities, their attributes and science?
- What is Vaad?
- What is Siddhaant?
- Different Vaads prevalent today,
- Difference between Jad and Chetan, etc.
- Examples were quoted from Vedas, Darshans and Upnishads

## \*Kids Diwali Presentations:

**Kanak Sharma's presentation:** Significance of Lighting Diyas During Diwali

Namaste.

There are many different stories as to why Diwali is celebrated. But one thing that is common is the Diya, and the lighting of the Diyas during Diwali.

The Diya is made of the clay, the oil and the wick. The clay is our body, the oil is our sense organs and the wick is our mind. When our body, sense organs and mind are in the right place, we begin to remove darkness around us and bring light in the lives of others.

This verse from the Upanishad has the message:

**Asto Ma Sad Gamaya**

... Lead me from untruth to truth

**Tamaso Ma Jyotir Gamaya**

... Lead me from darkness to light

The lighting of the Diyas is a symbol of:

1. Making a new start
2. Keeping our senses free from wrongs
3. Motivating us to think correctly
4. Lighting a new flame of hope in our hearts

Happy Diwali and may there be light in your life always!

Thank you.

**Priyanka Sharma's presentation:** Diwali's Significance to Arya Samaj

*Namaste All,*

We are celebrating Diwali today in our Arya Samaj satsang. Let me ask you all a question – What is the significance of Diwali to you?

Some mythological reasons that you all may come up with regard to Diwali may be:

- The return of Shri Rama from 14 years exile,
- Lighting Diyas to dispel darkness,
- To do prayers
- To play with fireworks and sparkles.... Etc.....Etc

However, what is the correct reason for celebrating Diwali? We will find the correct reason for celebrating Diwali later in this program.

We all know that Arya Samaj is an institution which promotes Satya and Vidya. In philosophical sense and as Kanak has already covered in her presentation, Light represents knowledge and wisdom. As we light a Diya to dispel darkness during Diwali, we do the same in the Arya Samaj environment by promoting knowledge.

It was on the night of Diwali in the year 1883 that the founder of Arya Samaj – Maharishi Swami Dayanand Saraswati breathed his last. The date was 30<sup>th</sup> October 1883 around 6:00pm when the great Rishi shunned his destructible body and moved onto Moksh. Maharishi Dayanand is well known as a great reformer, uplifter of humanity and the promoter of the Vedas. Maharishi has given importance to shiksha regardless of diversity. Maharishi ji elevated the status of women by educating them and by abolishing sati pratha.

### **One might ask what is Shiksha?**

Maharishi has described Shiksha in his Sva mantavya amantavya Prakash as that which is conducive to Vidya or learning, civility, righteousness and sense-control and which frees humans from the blemish of ignorance etc.

### **What is Vidya & Avidya?**

Maharishi has explained in his Vyavahaar Bhanu as through which benefit is obtained by knowing the real properties of a substance and through which the happiness of self and the others can be found is known as vidya. To perceive the opposite properties of a substance and to do harm to self and others is called Avidya.

Diwali is of utmost importance to Arya Samaj as we lost a mahatama on this day, whom we can never thank enough for his determination and hard work towards humanity. We can never thank him enough for shunning avidya and bringing vidya amongst mankind by giving them the right knowledge. We can never thank him enough for teaching satya and we can never thank him enough for propagating the vedic teachings amongst us all.

Let us all resolve today that from now on we will work towards obtaining and promoting Vidya and will practice Satya in our life i.e. mentally, in our voice and in physical work.

Dhanyavaad and Namaste.