

Ayodhya's Ram Lila

*A Strong Culture Bridge Between
India, Fiji & New Zealand*

*International Ramayan
Conference Fiji*



Date :

14-16 October 2016 Suva fiji

21-24 October 2016 Auckland Newziland

International Ramayan conference

SUVA Fiji 14-16 October 2016

Program for Ayodhya Research Institute Department of Culture
Government of UP INDIA

Fiji

- Thursday 13th October, 2016 : Arrival in Fiji
- Saturday 15th October, 2016 : Academic Presentation at the Ramaya Conference : Power Point Presentation '**Global Journey Of Ramayan**' by Dr. Yogendra Pratap Singh
Director : Ayodhya Research Institute
- Saturday 15th October, 2016 : Ram Leela Presentation at the Ramayan Conference Special Program at the Fiji Sevashram Sangha Head-quarters.
- Sunday 16th October, 2016 : Special Program at the Fiji Sevashram Sangha Head- quarters
- Monday 17th October, 2016 : Ram Leela Presentation in Lautoka
- Tuesday 18th October, 2016 : Ram Leela Presentation in Labasa
- Wednesday & Thursday
19-20th October 2016 : Excursion trip to Nadi & Suva
- Friday 21st October, 2016 : Depart for New Zealand

Thanks : **All Memmber's**

Fiji Sevashram Sangha - International Ramayan Conference - Fiji, 2016
6 Bau Street, Suva Phone: 3317625

Special Thanks : Mr. Akhilesh Prasad



**International Ramayan Conference
Auckland New Zealand 21-24th October 2016
Program for Ayodhya Research Institute Department of Culture
Govenment of UP India**

New Zealand

- Friday 21st October, 2016 : Arrival/Registration/Welcome reception and dinner
- Saturday 22nd October, 2016 : 7.30pm to 9pm
11 Brick Street, Henderson, Auckland
- Sunday 23rd October, 2016 : 1 : Time 11:00 AM
Hamilton City Council Reception Lounge Garden Place Hamilton central New Zealand
2 : Time 7:30 PM
Hosted by Waitakere Indian Association
- Monday 24th October, 2016 : Farewell and airport drop off

Thanks : **Mrs. Suman Kapoor, Mr. Sunil Kaushal**

Special Thanks : **Mr. Pravin Kumar**

**Managing Trustee
Shri Ram Mandir Charitable Trust
www.shrirammandir.org.nz**



Ram Lila



About Ayodhya Ram Lila:

Ram Lila (literally "Rama's Lila or play") is a folk re&enactment of major events in the Lila of Lord Ram. Lila refers to the mystery of God appearing in His own Creation and performing actions effortlessly and without desire.

Ram Lila is performed in several styles with the oldest being the open-air community style performed by amateurs and villagers. It is also performed nowadays on western style stages by professional drama troupes.

Ramlila ends with the epic battle between Lord Ram and Ravana, as described in the Hindu religious epic, the Ramayana of Tulsidas also called the Ramcharitmanas. This folk Lila tradition originates from the Indian subcontinent where the Lila is staged annually often over ten or more successive nights, during the auspicious period of 'sharad Navratri's, which marks the start of the autumn festive period, starting with the Dussehra festival, Usually the performances are timed to culminate on the festival of Vijayadashami day, that commemorates the victory of Lord Ram over the asura king Ravana, On this last day, the actors are taken out in a procession through the city, leading up to a mela ground or town square, where the enactment of the final battle takes place. At the end of the battle, giant effigies of Ravana, his brother Kumbhakaran and son Meghanath are set afire to be followed by the coronation (abhisheka) of Ram at Ayodhya, marking the culmination of festivities and restoration of the Divine Order.



Rama is the seventh incarnation of Vishnu and the central figure of the Ramayana. The Ramayana is based on the life, times and values of Lord Rama. Lord Rama is called the Maryada Purushottam or 'The Best among the Dignified'. The story of Lord Rama is so popular in India that it has actually amalgamated the psyche of the Indian mainstream irrespective of religion. The Ramayana is the ethical base of mainstream India.

Most Ram Lilas in North India are based on the 16th century Avadhi version of Ramcharitmanas that was written by Gosvami Tulsidas. This text is written entirely in verse and these verses are used in the dialogues in

most traditional versions of Ram Lila, where open-air productions are staged by local Ram Lila committees (Samitis) and funded entirely by the local population and the audience, it is close to the similar form of folk theatre called Rasa Lila, which depicts the life of Krishna and which is very popular in Uttar Pradesh, especially the Braja regions of Mathura and Vrindawan.

Ram Lilas has received considerable global attention, due to its diverse representations throughout the globe, especially amongst the Indian diaspora and regions where Hinduism has spread over the centuries, like Trinidad, Guana, Suriname, Fiji, Newziland, Astraliya, Africa, Holland, Britain, North America and several South East Asian countries. UNESCO proclaimed the tradition of Ram Lila a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2005.

About Ayodhya



Ayodhya is an ancient city of India, in the Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh. According to Ramayan, Manu (Hindu progenitor of mankind) had founded the city. Ayodhya had many names like *Avadh*, *Saket*, *Vineeta*, *Ayuta* etc. The word Ayodhya means 'Undeclared'. According to Hindu sacred writings for centuries the city was ruled by '*Surya Vanshi*' Kings and was the capital of the powerful kingdom of *Kosala*.

The history of *Ayodhya* starts with *Mahajanpads*. Gautam Buddha visited the city on numerous occasions. During the *Mauryan* Empire the city was the important social & religious center. Although the description of Ayodhya has been found in various ancient scriptures, it is believed that the city was lost in third and fourth centuries and that *Ayodhya* city was rediscovered by *Chandra Gupta Vikramaditya* (379-413 A.D.)

Chandra Gupta Vikramaditya made it *Ayodhya* the second most important city after *Pataliputra*. After the *Gupta Empire*, it remained as an important religious center but later lost its grace and beauty. During the *Sultanate and Mughal* period, the city was neglected but in 1756 CE. *Suja-ud-daula* made Faizabad city his capital and tried to rebuild the city. The British brought railways to the city and during their period various Indian kings built a number of temples which can be seen today.

About Ayodhya Research Institute



AYODHYA RESEARCH INSTITUTE was founded on 18 August 1986 as an autonomous organization of the Culture Department of UTTAR PRADESH. It is an organization formed to conduct research on Ramkatha, investigate the historical significance of Ayodhya in relation to all religions, study the Art, Literature, Culture, and Folk Art of Avadh, especially of Ayodhya, conduct research on Vaishnavism Bhakti movement and specially stories about Lord Rama, and preserve ancient documents of Avadh. 'Tulsi Smarak Bhavan' the current Head Office of AYODHYA REASERCH INSTITUTE is the same place where Tulsidas started writing Sri Ramacaritamanasa in Vikram Samvat 1631 (1574CE.)

Achievements

- Daily Presentation of "ANAVARAT RAM LILA" since 13 years-Traditional Ram Lila from various regions of India.
- A Hnadicraft Museum in Ram Katha financial support by Ministry of Textile, Government of India, DCH.
- Publication Schemes based on Ram Lila, Ramayana and Ayodhya Research

Works.

- Library consists 5000 books on Indian Culture and Traditions.
- Research Center recognised by university of Uttar Pradesh-Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya Avadh Vishva Vidyalay, Faizabad.

Goals

- Building a strong cultural bridge between Ayodhya, and Other Estate
- Infrastructure- Research Facilities, Hospitality etc. are currently provided to Research scholars and artistes from about the Ayodhya Research Institute. We need to have an exchange program between all over country in this regard.
- Determine long term goals on research on Indian Culture, Craft, Traditon, specially Ramlila, and Avadhi and Bhojpuri culture both in India and the Indian diaspora.
- Regular production of high quality Research Publications. 125 Publications
- Establishing a Museum in fiji based on Indian Ramlila, Ramayan, Handicraft and Avadhi and Bhojpuri cultural traditions.
- Establishing a sister museum in Ayodhya based on the fiji traditons of Ramlila, Ramayan, Handicraft and Avadhi and Bhojpuri cultural traditions and
- Roots Project to help the people of fiji trace their roots in India.



15 Members Delegation



DR. YOGENDRA PRATAP SINGH
Director
Ayodhya Research Institute



RAM TIRATH
Assit. Manager
Ayodhya Research Institute



HARI PRASAD
Ram Lila Director & Ram
Ayodhya Research Institute



SUNIL
Lakshman Etc.



DURGESH KUMAR SINGH
Vyas



SANTOSH KUMAR DUBE
Female Role Player
Koushlya Etc.



ANOOP
Female Role
Player KaiKey Etc.



PREM NARAYAN SHARMA
Male Role Player
Parshuram Etc.



GANESH JHA
Ravan, Dashrath Etc.



SURYA PRAKASH PANDEY
Tabla Player



POORAN CHANDRA
Darbari, Mantri Etc.



SRIKANT MISHRA
Benzo Player



UMESH JHA
Vadasur, Janak Etc.



RAM CHANDRA THAKUR
Comedy & Make-up Man



GOPAL
Ram Etc.



*All Artists of
Ayodhya's
Tradition Ram
Leela are only
MALE*



*Ayodhya's Tradition Ram
Leela Started by Goswami
Julsi Das Near About 500
Years Before
In 2005 UNESCO Declared
Oldest Living Traditions of
World*

Special Support By

Mr. Vishvas Sapkal
High Commissioner of India
Suva

Mr. Amarendra Khatua
Director General
Indian Council for Culture Relations
New Delhi

Dr. Hariom
IAS
Secretary, Department of Culture Government of UP &
Chairman Ayodhya Research of Institute
Lucknow

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High Commissioner of India
SUVA



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