



**SANATAN DHARAM SABHA**

**सनातन धर्म सभा कुआलालमपुर**

**(SHREE LAKSHMI NARAYAN TEMPLE)**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **1,000 MALAYSIAN HINDUS TO GATHER IN UNIQUE SOLIDARITY AT GITA JAYANTI 2005**

**Kuala Lumpur** – More than 1,000 Malaysian Hindus from all walks of life are expected to gather at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Gita Jayanti celebrations to be held in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

The event which will be held at the Shree Lakshmi Narayan Temple will witness members of various organisations and communities coming together to sing the entire Bhagavad Gita, the holy book of the Hindus.

Gita Jayanti has long been celebrated as the day on which the Bhagavad Gita or Gita, was revealed, more than 5,000 years ago.

Datuk A. Vaithilingam, president of the Malaysia Hindu Sangam and Mother A. Mangalam, president of the Pure Life Society are the patrons of Gita Jayanti 2005.

According to Bhaskar Rai, advisor to the Gita Jayanti organising committee 2005, 44 Hindu/Indian organisations have voiced their support for the event.

“This year’s event is the biggest to date to be held in Kuala Lumpur. It is a testimony to the fact that it is indeed possible for Hindus from diverse organisations and communities to celebrate their unity in diversity by coming and singing our universal scripture together at an event like this,” he said.

The first Gita Jayanti to be held in Kuala Lumpur was initiated by Dina A. Das, spiritual preacher and co-chairman of the Gita Jayanti organising committee 2005, in 2002 and was attended by about 35 people.

Since then the event has grown by leaps and bounds with more than 600 people gracing last year's Gita Jayanti organised by the Inter-faith Spiritual Fellowship INSaF (a sub-committee of the Pure Life Society). The Deputy Minister of Tourism, Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, graced the occasion as the guest of honour.

Dina has also been responsible for initiating this ancient tradition of observing Gita Jayanti by singing the entire scripture slowly, in Singapore, Auckland in New Zealand, and in Chennai, India.

"The vision of the Gita Jayanti organising committee is that each year, one organisation will come forward to take the lead in organising the celebrations with the co-operation of all other Hindu/Indian bodies, as the Shree Lakshmi Narayan temple has done this year," Rai said.

"This is the case in Singapore where since its beginning in 1997, numerous organisations have stepped forward each year to help organise the Gita Jayanti. Usually the list of institutions wishing to organise the event has a waiting list for the next five years!

"I believe that this event truly has the potential to bring together the various traditions, communities, organisations and ethnic groups within the Hindu faith and strengthen the unity between all Hindus. As His Holiness Bhaktisvarupa Damodara Swami said at last year's event, 'Gita Jayanti is a very good platform for Intra-faith activity amongst all branches of Hinduism.' "

"We envision that in five years, the event will be attended and celebrated by at least 15,000 Hindus from all denominations and from across Malaysia," Rai added.

According to Dina, the primary attraction of the Gita Jayanti programmes initiated in Malaysia and other countries is that everyone can actually join in, not merely observe passively. He says this is because the entire Gita is sung in a slow pace

with a simple tune. Traditionally it is chanted very fast and only the experts can keep up.

Dina has also discovered Simplified Romanized Sanskrit, a unique method of presenting the verses where the words are broken up making it very easy to read. The Bhagavad Gita can be pronounced with complete accuracy by just using romanized sanskrit, normal English alphabets with a few dots and dashes added to increase the number of sounds.

Dina has published a Bhagavad Gita book in this simplified format and it will be on sale at a special price of RM30 only on that day. The simplified verses will be projected on a large screen so that all can easily sing along.

This technique allows those who are unable to read Sanskrit or other Indian scripts to precisely pronounce the words and thus participate in the singing. Since Dina evolved this technique from 1992 to 1996, he has been conducting Gita pronunciation classes in numerous countries including Malaysia, Singapore, India, New Zealand, Italy etc.

Leading up to the Gita Jayanti 2005 celebration on December 11, two Gita pronunciation classes will be held at the Shree Lakshmi Narayan Temple on:

- 1<sup>st</sup> batch (one day): Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 9.30 am – 4 pm; and
- 2<sup>nd</sup> batch (three parts): Tue, Wed & Fri, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm - 9.30 pm.

For further information about the Gita Jayanti celebration or the Gita pronunciation classes, please contact Dina at 016-2157773

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**Issued with the compliments of the Gita Jayanti 2005 Organising Committee  
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