

Namaste !

Wish you all Happy '*MakaraSankranthi*'

Those who would like to know more about *Makara Vilakku*, please visit the following links;

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"Makara Jyothi appeared thrice on the horizon at the Sabarimala temple this Thursday evening. The celestial light was seen after 6.40 p.m for few seconds and this is happening on every January 14th for centuries.

Sighting of the celestial light on the horizon is considered most auspicious, after a trecherous trekking for 4 hours in the mountainuos region of western ghat."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article80498.ece>

Uttarayana Punyakalam, is the six month period starting on January 14. On *Makara Sankranti* day, Sun transits into Makara Rashi, towards Northern celestial sphere. As per Hinduism and Puranas, on the beginning day of *Uttarayana punykal*, Bhishma went to his heavenly abode. As per his boon, Bhishma, also known as Devavrata, had to choose a day on his own to die and to get salvation.

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We have seen significant developments on all fronts in the last couple of weeks. Different groups are working, almost every day.

Highlights:

1. We had our bi-weekly progress review meeting on January 10th at Fr.Mercereddi School; Attendance was moderate. The discussions were about Constitution, Fund raising, name to be adopted etc. The minutes of the meeting attached.

2. The Constitution and Bylaws (final draft from the committee) is ready and will be send to various Hindu Societies across the country for comments.

Any member who would like to read/review the constitution before final adoption, is welcome to do so; Please send an email requesting for a copy.

3. We had a significant discussion/meeting with 'Abraham's Land' Project Manager on January 10th; Even though the meeting was not very promising, it gave us lot of information on Land allotment and the difficulties involved in the WB region. The effort has to be continued; We need to meet Municipal authorities next, and make our needs echoed all over the place. Along with the commercial land option, the Land subcommittee also need to explore leasing of land from Govt.

4. The Fund raising group is active and the pledges total exceeded \$170K. We also need to meet and greet people at their houses for which we need more volunteers.

Volunteer/ representatives are required in the following broad areas:

Thickwood East

Thickwood West

Timberlea South

Timberlea North

Eagle Ridge

Dickinsfield  
Wood Buffalo  
Downtown  
Abasand

If you are interested to spare some time for Mandir initiative, please write back or contact Devesh Amin (714 2026; [damin@shaw.ca](mailto:damin@shaw.ca))

The latest pledge total and the meeting minutes of 10th January are attached.

As I always said, your comments and feedback are quite valuable.  
Please let us know, are we on the right track or needs more 'fast track' and alignment towards the goal ??

With warm salutations,  
on behalf of Mandir Taskforce,

**Vish Warriar**