



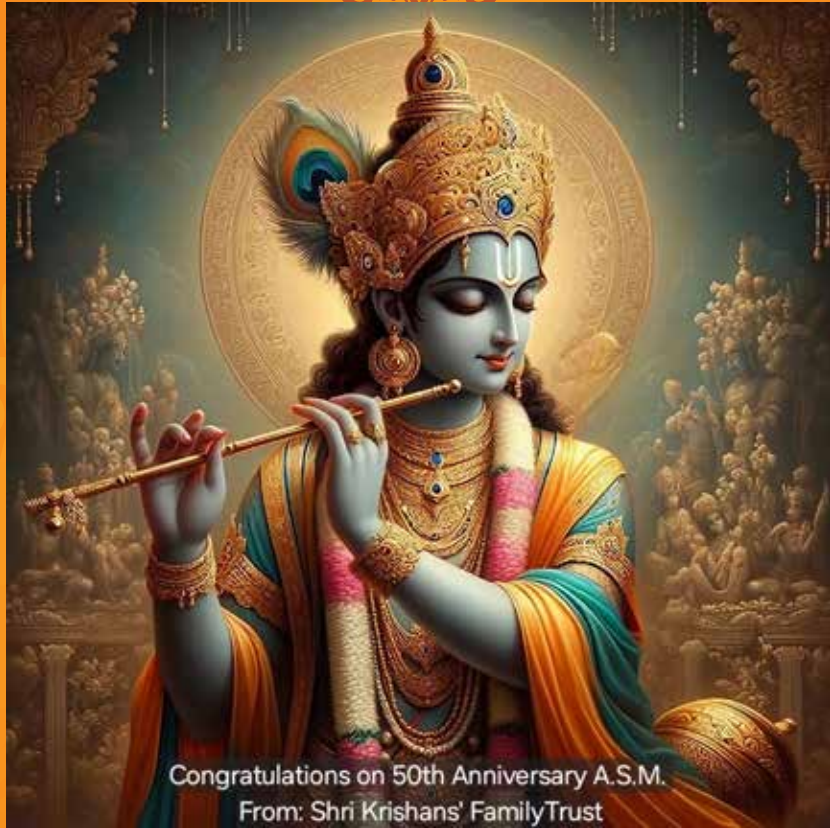
WITH GRATITUDE FOR THE BLESSINGS OF OUR PAST
AND PRAYERS FOR GUIDANCE IN OUR FUTURE ENDEAVOURS

50 YEARS OF DEVOTION
OCTOBER, 1974 - 2024

19 OCTOBER 2024

MAY OUR ACTIONS CONTINUE TO GLORIFY
AND SERVE A HIGHER PURPOSE





Congratulations on 50th Anniversary A.S.M.
From: Shri Krishans' FamilyTrust



Happy Diwali 2024 to all
From: Shri Krishan's Family Trust



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

October 19, 2024

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating the 50th anniversary of Arya Samaj Markham.

Since 1974, Arya Samaj Markham has played a key role in the life of the community. This milestone offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the history of the organization, to celebrate its many accomplishments, and to set goals for the future. It is also a chance to highlight the many contributions that Hindu communities from coast to coast make to our country.

I would like to everyone involved with Arya Samaj Markham, past and present, for their dedication to fostering fellowship in the community. Canada is truly a multicultural nation, made stronger and more resilient by our diversity.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada





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Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

October 19, 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DOUG FORD

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Arya Samaj Markham.

I want to thank the dedicated and hardworking staff and volunteers for hosting this event and for your dedication to looking after the spiritual and social needs of the Hindu community. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring people together to celebrate their faith and their many contributions to this great province.

Ontario is home to a large and vibrant Hindu community whose members have made significant contributions in science, medicine, education, law, public service, business and culture. Our government will continue to work with all our diverse communities to build a strong and resilient province.

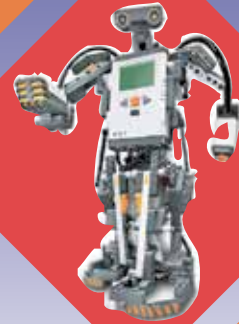
Have a meaningful and memorable celebration of your community and your faith.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Ford".

Doug Ford
Premier



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MESSAGE

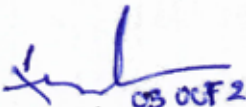
I extend my heartfelt greetings to the Arya Samaj Markham as it celebrates the momentous occasion of the 50th anniversary of establishment of Arya Samaj in Canada. The enduring contributions of Arya Samaj in promoting the values of Vedic teachings, service to humanity, and unity within the Indian diaspora in Canada is well recognized.

Though I regret my inability to attend this significant event in person, my thoughts and best wishes are with you. Over the past five decades, Arya Samaj has played a pivotal role not only in preserving the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of India but also in promoting Indian culture within the broader Canadian society. Its dedication in fostering a deep connection with Indian traditions and values, while nurturing the principles of truth, equality, and harmony has strengthened the bond between India and Canada and enriched the cultural landscape of both the nations.

In today's global context, the objectives of Arya Samaj are more relevant than ever. The principles of unity, social justice, education, and spiritual enlightenment offer meaningful guidance in a world facing challenges of inequality, conflict, and disconnect. By promoting the timeless wisdom of Vedic teachings, alongside scientific values, Arya Samaj contributes to building a more compassionate and harmonious society—one where diverse cultures and traditions can coexist with mutual respect and shared values.

The Arya Samaj's commitment to education, selfless service, and the well-being of society resonates deeply with the values India stands for, and I am confident that it will continue to make an even greater impact in promoting Indian culture, spirituality, and social harmony in the years to come.

I congratulate Arya Samaj Markham on this remarkable milestone and wish success in all its future endeavors.


03 02F 24
(संजय कुमार वर्मा)
(Sanjay Kumar Verma)

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Best wishes to **Arya Samaj Markham**
on your **50th Anniversary Celebration**.
Wishing you continued success in promoting
culture, community, and tradition.



NC. Kanapathi

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*I bow with all humility to the Almighty God
for giving me an opportunity to serve such a great institution.*

*With gratitude for the blessings of our past
and prayers for the guidance in our future endeavours.*



*Yash Kapur & Kapur family
Prem, Angela, Rishi, Aryana, Aakash
Tina, Anuj, Tara, Sameera*



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ओ३म

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Celebrating

**Happy 50th
Anniversary**

*Cheers to future achievements
and past glories*

from:



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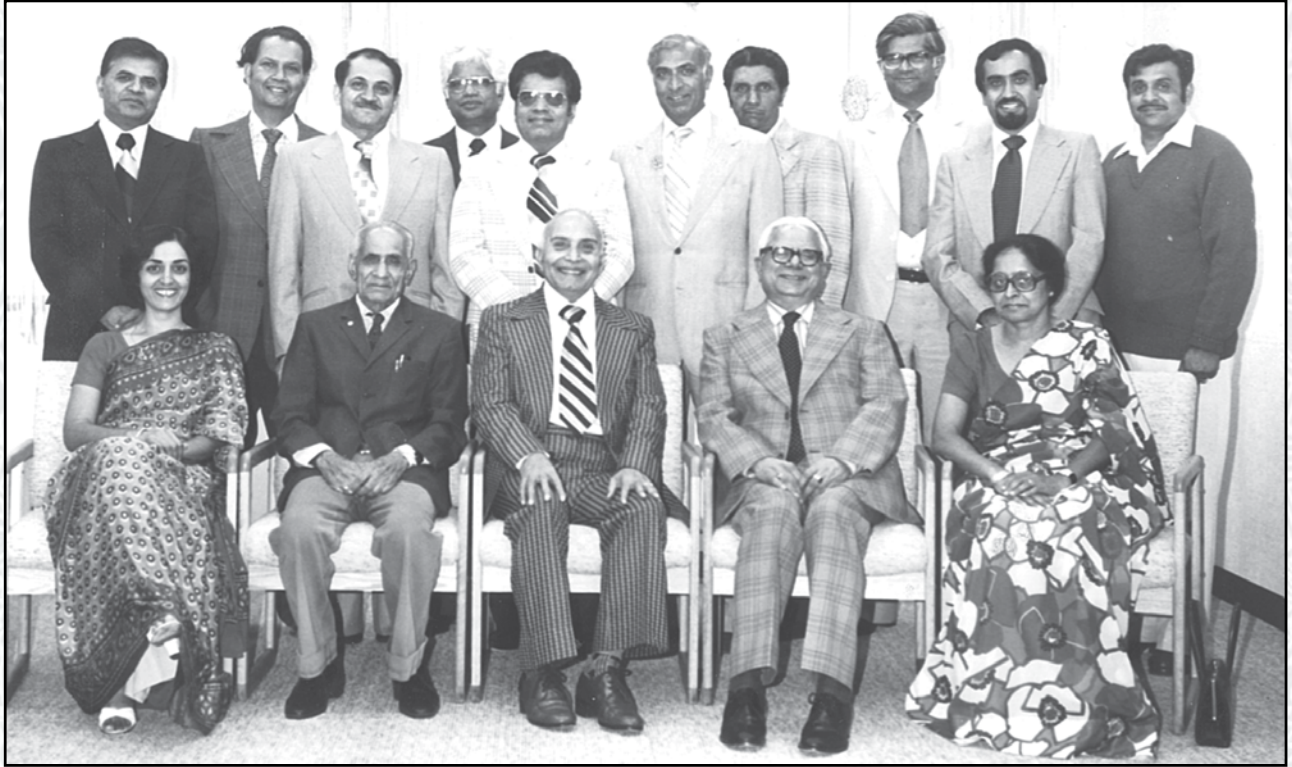
President: Parbhat Sood 647-609-0321

General Secretary: Yash Kapur 416-835-9030

For membership please call 416.835.9030

Established: July 1998 as UHOC. Formally incorporated as 'United Hindu Federation of Canada' on March 9, 2018 (Corporation Number 1067424-9 and CRA Business Number 765922885RC0001), as a Not-For-Profit Corporation.

191 Manhattan Drive, Unionville, On L3P 7S9 | 416-835-9030 | email: uhfcan@outlook.com



**Back Row (L to R): Amar Erry, Gobind Bedi, Gian Kohli, Kewal Sethi, Sat Chopra,
Mitarpal Seth, Vish Bhandari, Surinder Shahi, Yogi Suri, Surinder Sharma
Front Row (L to R): Parveen Sharma, Jagannath Chopra,
Gian Chand Shastri, Girdhari Sethi, Sarla Bedi**



An Idea that changed our lives

It was the night of Shivaratri in 1938 that a simple experience in a Shiva Temple transformed Mool Shankar into Swami Dayanand Saraswati.

Fast forward, Swami ji, the great revolutionary, social reformer, and reviver of great Vedic culture founded Arya Samaj on the 10th Of April 1875 in Mumbai (known then as Bombay).

Almost 100 years after the foundation of Arya Samaj, a Priest from Kenya – Pandit Gian Chand ji Shastri while passing through Toronto asked his friends from Kenya “So how is it going? “Ah, what’s going on? There is no Ved Vaani to listen to! ... No place to go to listen to a bhajan or satsang or listen to pravachans”, Well, said Pandit ji. “Gather some people and let us set up and Arya Samaj here.

Steve Jobs – the co-founder of Apple once said that – “the value of an idea lies in using it”.

After a couple of days of planning around, Arya Samaj Toronto was formally established on October 20, 1974, at 1:30 pm. With an enrolment of 55, the first General Body Meeting was held and elected Bauji Jagan Nath ji Chopra as their first President. The other office bearers were Surendra Shahi as the First Vice President, Sarla Bedi as the Second Vice President, Krishan Sharma as Secretary, and Kewal Sethi as the Treasurer. The seedling looked like standing on its own by spreading its roots into the grounds of Toronto.

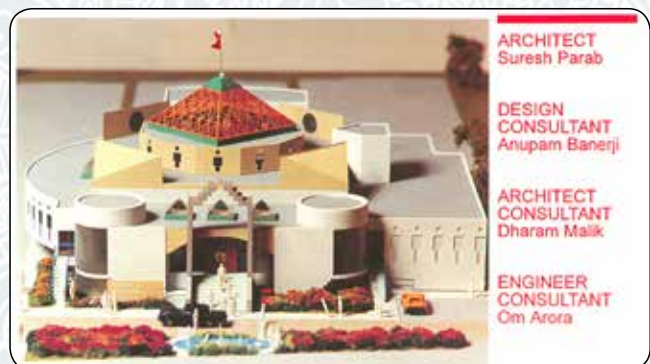
Today, when we celebrate the milestone event of 50 years of Arya Samaj Markham, we salute our visionary leaders, who changed the religious and social landscape in Canada.

Initially, the havans were performed at the homes of our members before we started meeting at Flemingdon Park Community Centre in Don Mills and later at W.A.Porter Collegiate and Agincourt Collegiate Institute. The Vedic Cultural Centre at its present location at #4345-14th. Avenue Markham was formally inaugurated on Sunday, August 18, 1996. Today, this majestic building is our pride and is considered the best Arya Samaj Mandir in the world.

Continuing with the first set of pioneer office bearers, other Presidents, who carried the torch forward with sincerity and utmost dedication include (late) Amar Chand Erry, Dr. Rajendra Kashyap, Sat P. Chopra, (late) Ajit Wadhwa, (late) Sudershen Beri, Sneha Sachdev and the current President, Yash Kapur.

*“The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,
And I Have promises to keep
And miles to go, before I sleep,
And miles to go, before I sleep”.* — Robert Frost

Yash Kapur
President, Arya Samaj Markham



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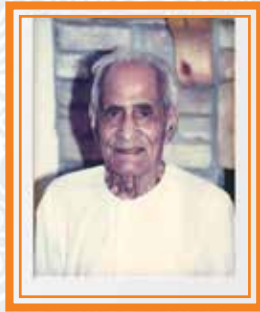
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Presidents of Arya Samaj Markham



Jagan Nath Chopra



Amar Chand Erry



Dr. Rajendra Kashyap



Sat P. Chopra



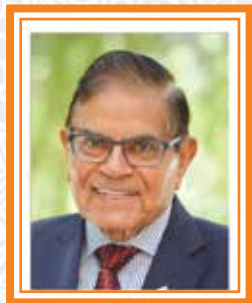
Ajit Wadhwa



Sudershen Beri



Sneha Sachdev



Yash Kapur (incumbent)



As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Arya Samaj Markham.
I salute countless volunteers who performed
selfless 'Seva' and sacrifice often neglecting
their personal and family life during the
5 decades

They were never recognized or appreciated.

They were the backbone of our Samaj .

They were not only precious but priceless.

we are blessed that some of them are still with us,
performing 'seva' without the expectation
of any reward or recognition.

we can never repay their debt to us .

My pranam and Naman to each one
of our known and unknown Heroes .

a without you , there is no way.

Yash Kapur
President





Greetings from the Chopra Family on this Momentous Occasion

We are delighted and overjoyed on this special day to witness the celebration of the 50th anniversary of our Samaj. We consider ourselves fortunate to be among a handful of people who have been part of this organization since its inception and can share in these celebrations.

Fifty years ago, a few new Canadian families, from Kenya, gathered at a private residence and decided to establish an Arya Samaj, to help grow a local community. At that time, it was named Arya Samaj Toronto, and our **Bauji, the late Jagan Nath Ji Chopra, was elected as the *founding president* of the first Canadian Arya Samaj. Bauji took the initiative to obtain a license and became the **first registered priest of our Samaj.****

From our humble beginnings, when we first met at members' homes and then moved to school halls and community centers, we have come a long way.

The Vedic Cultural Centre was completed in 1994 and is now considered to be the finest Arya Samaj building in the world. We only wish that our Bauji was alive to see the finished building.

As we celebrate this milestone, we reflect on the journey of our Samaj with pride and gratitude. We look forward to many more years of growth and service to our community.

With warm regards,
Sat, Vijay, and the Chopra Family

Vedic Cultural Centre - Our Pride




Arya Samaj Markham and Toronto Arya Samaj are housed in the Vedic Cultural Centre, located at 4345-14th. Avenue Markham (at the Southwest corner of Kennedy Road and 14th. Avenue).

It is an **Edifice** commemorating the core Principles enunciated by the ancient Sages and *Rishis* of India, emerging from deep meditative states.

The vision of a monument incorporating core Vedic Principles took form under the genius of the Design Consultant, Anupam Banerji, assisted by his Architects Suresh Parab, and Dharam Malik and Engineering Consultants Om Arora, Krishan Sachdev and Yatindra Sinha.

The following is a recap of the Organising Principles of the Centre's architecture:

1. A 12-foot high glazed glass crown at the apex of the Edifice – a symbol of *Agni* - a geometric rendering of Light and Fire. The Sacred Fire ceremony is at the centre of all worshipful ceremonies from childbirth to marriages to end-of-life commemorations and major life events in between. During full moon nights, it lights up the inner sanctum with a soft glow. The unique design of the large skylight also resonates with a favourite *Mantra* from Upanishad. "Lead us from death to immortality, from darkness to light" and truth to falsehood.



2. The Agni symbol emerges from a 12-sided circular base representing 12 of the 108 known *Upanishads* which are the summaries of the most ancient scriptures known to man - The *Vedas* - which form the four corners of the large square with triangular openings at the corner to let laser-like beam of light to enter the inner sanctum.

3. The 12 *Upanishads* also adorn the giant Circle on the East representing the Cosmos enclosing the temporal activities within.

4. The 3 skylights, behind the *Namaste* sign at the entrance, represent the three attributes *Gunas* of Primordial Matter *Prakriti* - all that comes into existence – *TAMAS* (Inertia), *RAJAS* (euphoric activity), and *SATTVA* (Purity)

5. The glass-enclosed cylindrical columns on either end of the building represent the twin Principles of Pure Consciousness – *Paramatma* and *Atman*.

6. The cylindrical column on the left, an embodiment of the Silent Witness, only enables entry and exit into the building.

7. Since the Centre faces North, the large stage for cultural activities also faces North, but the main platform for spiritual practices faces East.

Many Scholars have extolled the symbolism of Vedic Principles in the Centre's Architecture as being one of the finest in North America and perhaps unique even among the new Indian temples, which are often dedicated to a particular lineage.

The Centre is our inheritance and as its custodians, it behoves us to preserve it for future generations. May we be single-minded in protecting this heritage sacrificing our personal perspectives, differences of opinions, likes and dislikes.

Chander Khanna

Greetings to Arya Samaj Markham On Your Historic Golden Jubilee

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50th Anniversary Souvenir Magazine Commitee

- Sunil Chandna • Vineet Abbi
- Kapil Mehta • Yash Kapur











HAPPY DIWALI


Guided and Inspired by the blessings of our elders



Late Shan Dhingra



Late Mataji Radhika Dhingra
w/of Late Jessa Ram Dhingra



Late Krishan Sachdev

We proudly celebrate 50 glorious years of Arya Samaj Markham. As we come together for Diwali, let us also reflect on the Punya Tithi of Maharishi Swami Dayanand Saraswati, who devoted his life to enlightening humanity and making the world noble through his teachings and ideals.

Best Wishes
**Sneh Sachdev (Former President),
 Kusum & Surendra Girdhar, Asha & Pawan Dhawan**

Chander M. Kapur, CPA, CA, CMA



C.M. Kapur
Professional Corporation
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With Greetings from Vijay Ghai and Family



Yoga Sutra: The revered sage Patanjali systematized yoga philosophy some 2000 years ago in the Yoga Sutra (Aphorisms of Yoga). The Yoga Sutra is credited as the classical text on Raja Yoga or Royal Yoga. It is also called Ashtanga Yoga. Ashtanga means ‘eight limbs’.

**The eight limbs of Ashtanga Yoga are:
yama, niyama, asana, pranayama, pratyahara, dharana, dhayana and samadhi.**

Vedic Cultural Centre has been promoting the teaching of Yoga for more than 25 years. I commend Kamlesh & Vijay Ghai for diligently managing this program for many years. With their hard work and dedication, they collected more than \$125,000 from the Yoga students.

Their services are commendable.



*Greetings from
The Seniors of Arya Samaj*





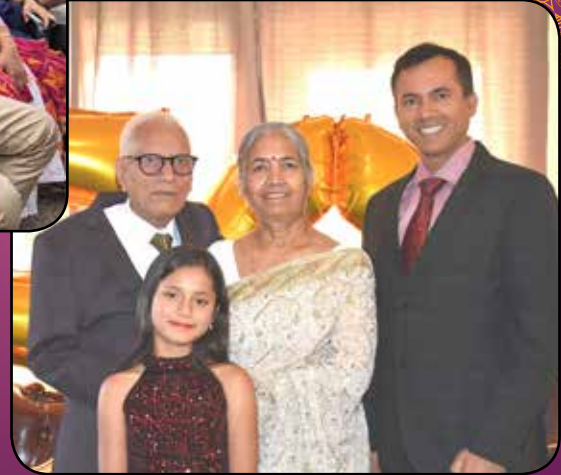
*Greetings from
The Seniors of Arya Samaj*

Archana Gupta
Mohini Babber
Sudha Ben
Kamla Bhola
Balbir Anand
Kanta Anand
Madan Lal Bhola
Nirmal Dadlani
Kamlesh Ghai
Arvind Jolly
Achla Kalra
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Shashi Sehgal
Hansa Shah
Usha Shankar
Manju Sharma
Sheela Sharma
Girdhari Singla
Surinder Pal Singh
Lata Soni
Satish Sood
Shashi Sondhi
Madhu Suri



Best wishes from Abbi Family



ॐ

On this significant day,
we wish for a glorious future for Arya Samaj Markham,
to stay connected and committed to serving the community
for many years to come.

From the Kashyap Family

*Rashmi and Rajendra,
Rohit and Karen, children Carson and Mia,
Ruchi and Shailesh Ambike, children Rahul and Nikhil,
Ritu and Aaron Appleby*

2023-25 ARYA SAMAJ MARKHAM TEAM

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Associate Director: **Madan Lal Bhola**

Associate Director: **Prem Sharma**





Celebrating 50 years of Arya Samaj Markham is a significant milestone.

“Om Shanti Shanti Shanti”
- *May peace prevails everywhere.*

“Satyam Vada, Dharmam Chara”
- *Speak the truth, follow righteousness.*

“Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niramayah”
- *May all be happy, may all be free from illness.*

“Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”
- *The world is one family.*

“Om Asato Ma Sadgamaya, Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityor Ma Amritam Gamaya”
- *Lead me from untruth to truth, from darkness to light, from death to immortality.*

Self-realization and dissolving the ego, insecurity, and greed

ॐ नमः शिवाय

Om Namah Shivaye

Meaning: My adoration and respect for aligning with Absolute Reality.

May the power of these mantras continue to resonate within us and guide us toward a brighter future. Let us carry the intention of peace and harmony within our hearts as we go forth from here, and let us work together to make this world a better place.

2)Sangacchadhvam (Isha Basya) from the Rig Veda. X. 191.

san gacchadhvam sam vadadhvam sam vo manamsi janatam/
deva bhagam yatha purve sanjanana upasate//

*Come together! Speak together! Let our minds be all of one accord
as the gods of old sat together in harmony to worship.*

These greetings reflect the core values of Arya Samaj embodied in the ten principles, emphasizing truth, righteousness, and universal well-being.



Many Congratulations
— Shailesh, Chetna and Roshni



On behalf of the Canadian Intercultural Association for Community Development, I would like to extend our warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to Arya Samaj Markham on the joyous occasion of your 50th anniversary celebrations.

This milestone represents not only five decades of your commitment to fostering spiritual growth and community service, but also your ongoing dedication to promoting the principles of Vedic wisdom, equality, and intercultural understanding. Your unwavering contributions have significantly enriched the lives of so many in our community and beyond, and we truly admire your efforts to uphold the values of harmony, mutual respect, and inclusiveness.

As you celebrate this momentous occasion, we wish Arya Samaj Markham continued success and prosperity for many more years to come. We look forward to collaborating and supporting your initiatives that further contribute to the betterment of society.

Warmest regards,
Neetu Gupta, President
Canadian Intercultural Association for Community Development
(C.I.A.C.D)
(416) 833-8400



*Best Wishes to
Arya Samaj Markham
on their 50th Anniversary*

*From
Girdhari Singla & Family*



*Best Wishes to
Arya Samaj Markham
on their 50th Anniversary*

*From
Mohini Babber & Family*



*We are blessed to be associated with
Vedic Cultural Center Markham
and being a part of the Arya Samaj
community since 2001.*

Our parents always looked forward to attending the weekly Havan and seniors' meetings. We have also made friends for life at the Samaj. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Arya Samaj Markham, we wish continued growth and harmony amongst all and offer our best wishes to all friends and families of Arya Samaj Community.

Krinvanto Vishwam Aryam

Yatika & Rajesh Kohli





ओ३म्

**Congratulations to Arya Samaj Markham on celebrating its
50th anniversary.**

**In honour of our parents who were amongst the families
who founded Arya Samaj in Toronto. Those no longer with
us: Jai, Vimla, Swadesh and Krishan Channan. Those still
with us: Nirmila and Adrien Channan. A family that's
always been very proud of the work done by the community
in growing the institution.**

Deepak Channan

Anjana Kaushal

Sunil & Niru Channan

Arun & Dymphna Channan

Neena Channan

Dr. Peter & Dr. Heather Channan

*The grand children and great grand
children of the Channan family*

*Greetings to
Arya Samaj Markham
on this historic occasion
— Satya and Sham Arora*



*Diwali Greetings
from:*

VINOD & VEENA RALHAN
AND
DAD SH. HARCHARAN
DASS RALHAN



Best wishes to everyone from:

**Dr. Tulsi Ram Sharma, Gianender Sharma
and Pushpa Sharma Family**



**Dr. Shalini Sharma Patel
Sanjiv Patel
Aasha Patel
Rohun Patel**

**Dr. Deepak Sharma
Chelsea Chim Sharma
Aryana Sharma
Chloe Sharma
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**Dr. Alok Sharma
Chitra Shah Sharma
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ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं। भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात्॥

Om bhur bhuvah swah. Tatsavitur varenyam bhargo devasya dhimahi. Dhiyo yo nah prachodayat.

O God (Om), the giver of life (Bhur), remover of pains and sorrows (Bhuvah),
bestower of happiness (swah), and creator of the universe (tatsavitur).

Thou art most luminous, (devasya) pure (bhargo) and adorable (varenyam).

We meditate on Thee (dhimahi).

May Thou (yo) inspire and guide (prachodayat) our (nah) intellect (dhiyo) in the right direction.

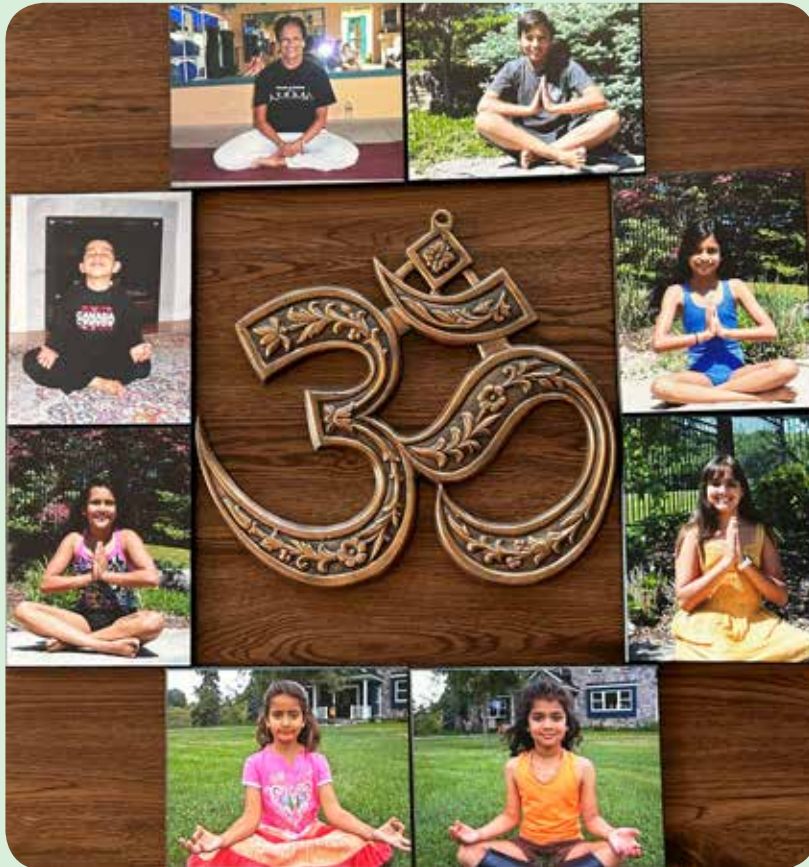
On the 50th anniversary of Arya Samaj Markham, we extend our heartfelt congratulations! May Arya Samaj continue to be a pillar of community and tradition, fostering the values of service, humility and intellectual curiosity that unite us all. May it also continue to promote the physical, spiritual and social good of everyone. Make the world noble.

With love and sincere appreciation,

The Wadhwa Family

In loving memory of Mrs. Ajit Wadhwa, former President, Arya Samaj Markham

On behalf of Mr. Satya Prakash Wadhwa and the entire family



**Congratulations on
50 amazing years!**

***Proud to be a part
of Samaj
since its' inception.***

***Greetings from
Lalita Sharma
and family.***

**Grandchildren:
Amit & Meera Sayal,
Kaya, Niam & Avaani Bratch,
and Maliya & Sahana Sharma.**



Arya Samaj Markham

Congratulations to Arya Samaj Markham on 50th year anniversary!

Thank you for half a century of service to the community, it has been a source of strength and inspiration for 50 years. Truly commendable!

Celebrating the strength and unity of our community on this Golden Jubilee Anniversary.

Krishan Bhatia and family

Congratulations!

Arya Samaj on 50 years

Bob, Deepti Aurora & Family



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