

## IT WAS A YEAR TO REMEMBER

Despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic, HAF pulled together, pivoted, and delivered.

So what exactly did we do?

### IN THIS ISSUE

Our New Website and Podcast . . . . .	2
COVID Webinars . . . . .	2
Instagram . . . . .	2
Virtual Galas . . . . .	3
Policy and Advocacy . . . . .	4
Pakistani Hindus . . . . .	4

Dharma Advocates and Dharma Ambassadors . . . . .	4
Education Beyond Diwali . . . . .	5
A Special Gift for You . . . . .	6-7

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# Our new website and podcast expanded awareness about Hinduism.

Our new website—[hinduamerican.org](http://hinduamerican.org)—reached over 500,000 people in 2020. That means, more people are receiving fair and accurate content about Hinduism. Check out our most popular blogs:

- › 10 Things About Swastika
- › 12 Things About Hinduism
- › 4 Stages of Hindu Life
- › 4 Things About Hinduism and Vegetarianism



Garnering over 13,000 downloads in its first year, That's So Hindu—our new podcast—brings together entrepreneurs and activists, politicians and professors, journalists, entertainers, and spiritual teachers. We talk about how Hinduism shapes their work and lives. Check out our most popular podcasts:

- › Sheetal Shah talks to Ashtanga Yoga legend Eddie Stern about his new book *One Simple Thing*.
- › Easan Katir talks about Dharmic investing
- › Suhag Shukla speaks with Guru Prakash about ending caste based discrimination
- › The influence of Islamist ideology in the Kashmir Conflict: Samir Kalra Speaks with the Middle East Forum

## Almost 2,000 folks benefited from our *Coping With COVID* webinars?

Featuring the likes of Former Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, Ashtanga Yoga legend Eddie Stern, and wellness icon Deepak Chopra, our *Coping With COVID* webinars provided beneficial and relevant programming. We even made stewed apples with the cooking expertise of ayurvedic chef Divya Alter.

## By the way, have you checked us out on Instagram?

You may want to... @hinduamerican! We created 101 posts on Instagram for our Hinduism 101 content and expanded our social media reach by 11%.

# Our three virtual galas connected 1,000 of us from across the country.



The virtual nature of the year allowed us to connect directly with many of you who have not been able to attend our in-person events in prior years. Our three virtual galas brought together over 1,000 of you from across the country. We heard from Grammy nominated artist Chandrika Tandon, played Hinduism Trivia together, and were awe-struck by the talent of speed painting artist Vilas Nayak.



Our year end gala featured a conversation between Fred Stella and Drishti Mae about their respective journeys to Hinduism. It was so popular that we offered the recording on demand and even brought Fred and Drishti back for a second conversation.





# Our policy team has been working to ensure Hindu Americans are treated fairly and afforded the equal rights and opportunities.

We successfully partnered with community members to fight off a bill in New York that would have forced the swastika to be taught solely as a symbol of hatred. We continue to push for the elimination of green card country caps that disproportionately affect Hindus.

Our new Advocacy Center allowed community

members to contact elected officials directly. 12,000 advocates sent 33,000 messages to over 400 offices in 2020.

Our annual Advocacy Forum went virtual this year with 350 of you joining in over the two days. Themed Dharma Advocacy: Empowering Hindus at Home and Abroad, the forum addressed Hindu human rights in Bangladesh and Pakistan as well as US-based issues including Hinduphobia.

**12,000** advocates  
sent **33,000** to over  
**400** offices

## Pakistani Hindus continued to be a focus for 2020.

We continued our support for the wellbeing of our Hindu brothers and sisters who fled persecution in Pakistan and still live in refugee camps in India. Thanks to the generosity of many of you, over 4,000 refugees have received vital medical services for the past five years.

Additionally, we published *Hindus in Pakistan: A Survey of Human Rights, 2020* to continue highlighting the discrimination and persecution faced by the minority Hindu community in Pakistan.

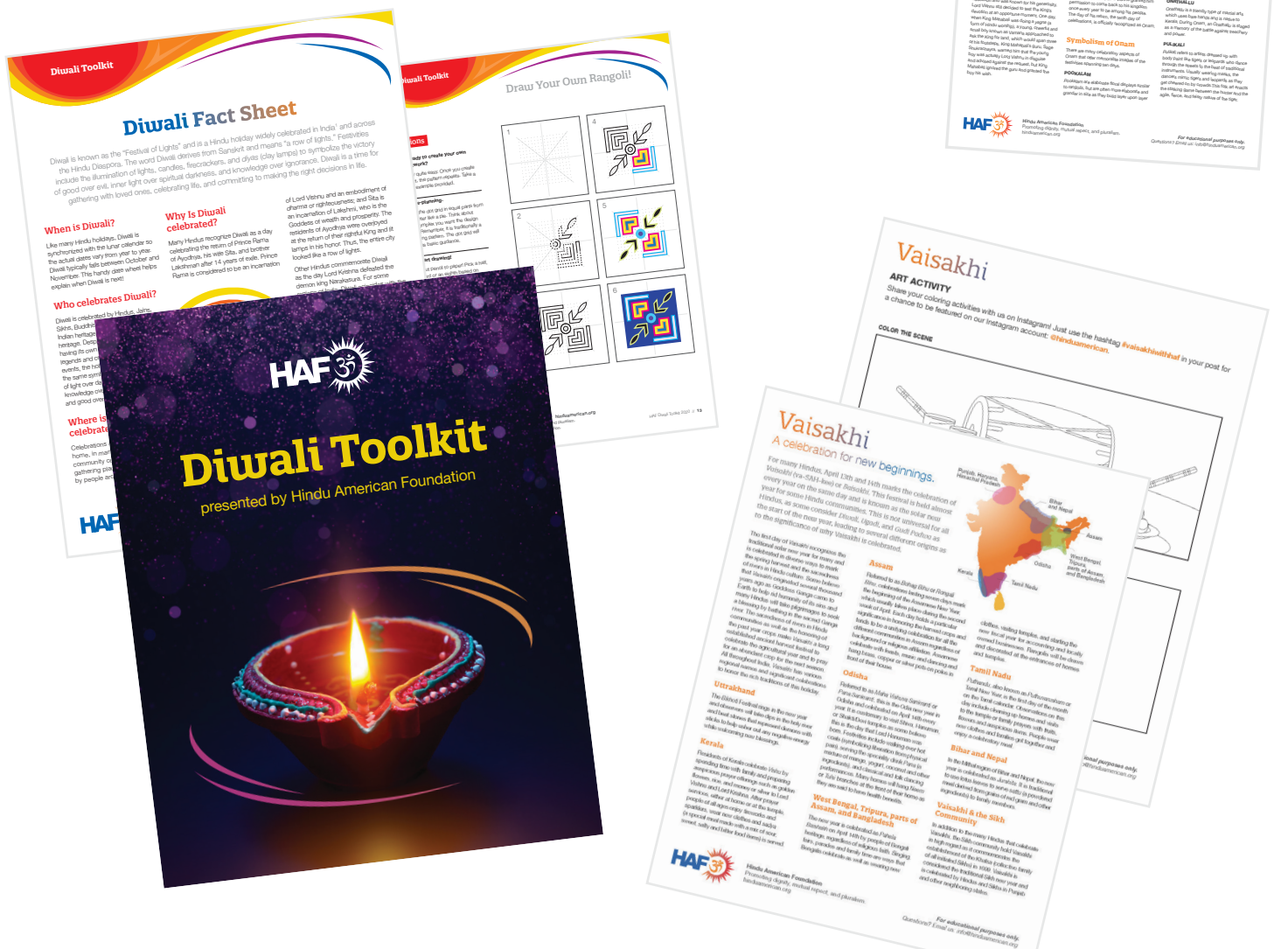
## 700 of you completed our community training programs.

We expanded our popular Dharma Ambassador program and launched a new program... Dharma Advocates designed to train Hindu Americans to become more effective and influential advocates on a wide variety of local, state, and federal issues of importance. More trainings are scheduled for 2021... we hope to see you at one of them!



# Our education efforts went beyond Diwali.

Our revamped Diwali toolkit brought one of Hinduism's most famous holidays right to your classrooms. We also created explainers about two popular but less known Hindu holidays, Onam and Vaisakhi. And we released our Kashmir conflict lesson plan, aligning our policy and education efforts.



# Thank you for all your support.

If you attended our virtual year end gala, you may have seen a preview of our latest activity, Find the Hinduisms. Some of you may have even won a premium printed copy of your very own. But we want to extend our gratitude to all of you. Your support keeps us going...through tough times and good times. The accomplishments in this newsletter are not just HAF's, but yours as well. So, we hope you and your family will have fun "finding the Hinduisms" in this scene.

From all of us at the Hindu American Foundation, thank you. We look forward to the new year filled with new challenges and opportunities.



# FIND THE HINDUISMS

ILLUSTRATED BY LIZ LAMANCHE | EARTHSIGN.COM



## BY THE HINDU AMERICAN FOUNDATION

CAN YOU FIND THE 30 HINDUISMS—THINGS THAT ARE SYNONYMOUS WITH HINDUISM, ITS CULTURE, STORIES, AND TRADITIONS—IN THE FESTIVAL SCENE? SOME ARE EASY, BUT OTHERS REQUIRE A BIT MORE THINKING. WE'LL START YOU OFF WITH THE TULSI PLANT BELOW, WHICH WE'VE CIRCLED. IF YOU'RE STUCK, DON'T WORRY, WE'VE GOT A LIST OF THE ANSWERS TO HELP YOU ALONG. VISIT [HINDUAMERICAN.ORG/FIND-THE-HINDUISMS-ACTIVITY](http://HINDUAMERICAN.ORG/FIND-THE-HINDUISMS-ACTIVITY), WHERE YOU'LL ALSO FIND A BIT OF EXPLANATION FOR EACH ANSWER.

### HAPPY HUNTING!

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [HINDUAMERICAN.ORG](http://HINDUAMERICAN.ORG)  
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Promoting dignity, mutual respect,  
and pluralism.

Visit our new website and URL at  
**hinduamerican.org**

*HAF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.*



Check it out! HAF is now  
Platinum rated on GuideStar!

**AS A HAF SUPPORTER,  
YOU ARE:**

- PROMOTING** pluralism and mutual respect
- ENSURING** an accurate understanding of Hinduism as a living tradition
- SUPPORTING** the human rights of Hindus worldwide
- STRENGTHENING** the Hindu American voice and ensuring our community's needs are met
- SHARING** Hindu solutions to contemporary problems
- BUILDING** the foundation for future generations



**VISIT HINDUAMERICAN.ORG  
AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!**