Swami Ramdev’s first overseas center comes to Houston

HOUSTON

The reach of his breathing exercises is literally breath taking. Swami Ramdev, who commands millions of followers in India and abroad with his breathing movement, will have his first overseas institution in Houston.

During a “Pranayam” (breathing) camp in Toronto from Oct. 12 to Oct. 17, Swami Ramdev announced that he would lay the foundation for the Pathanjali Yog Peeth in Houston in July 2008, the decision to build a center here is an added bonanza.

It would benefit millions of people not only in the Indian community, but in the mainstream in Houston and in the US as well, Bhutada said.

“We are fortunate to have received this boon,” he said.

The Houston camp will be held from July 16 to July 20, 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the George R. Brown Convention Center which can accommodate up to 4,500 people, he said.

Swami Ramdev has already agreed to conduct a camp in Houston in July 2008, the decision to build a center here is an added bonanza.

Agrawal said.

The entire audience will be encouraged to participate in the grand finale with DJ partying and dancing from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

For more details, to participate in the program, to volunteer, or to sponsor the event, visit www.musicmasala.com, and contact us at info@musicmasala.com or 281-277 – MUSIC (6674).

Diwali festival at Sugar Land Town Square

Masala Radio and Tara Energy will host Festival of Lights - Diwali 2007 on Sunday, Nov. 4 at the Sugar Land Town Square from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Houston Grand Opera will arrange to build a center here is an added bonanza.

The Houston Grand Opera will present an exclusive number from countless interviews with individuals who have immigrated to Houston, including those from India and Pakistan.

Masala radio host says “Don’t miss this spectacular light and sound Indian music and dance experience as the special lighting arrangements will dance to the beats of music.”

The festival features henna, Indian fashion show, jewelry, Indian cuisine, and Indian dances. Indian cuisine will be provided by local restaurants.

Indian cultural dance presentations by Anjali School of Dance, Kalanagaay, Natya Upasana Dance Academy, Shivangi Dance School, Shri Natraj School of Dance, Urban Gypsy Dance Troupe, and many others.

Also present will be local businesses and non-profit organizations.

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Roop Gir to address the UN expert group on women

HOUSTON

and the first overseas institution in Houston, has joined hands with Ramesh Bhutada of Sugar Land, along with Ramesh Bhutada of Houston, has joined hands with the PYP Yog Foundation Trust in the US to build the center.

The Hardwar project, along with a university, is nearly half complete. It is a Rs.600-crore project.

Agrawal said the Houston center will be built on 30 acres of land and the first phase is expected to cost about $3 million.

“We are looking at a few sites and have not chosen any particular site yet,” he said.

The Houston center will impart training in Yoga, help conduct research in Ayurveda and Yoga, maintain a herbal garden, and provide treatment to various ailments.

The Houston center will be modeled after the Pathanjali Yog Peeth in Hardwar, India, an institution for treatment and research in Yoga and Ayurveda, Agrawal said.

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The Houston center will impart training in Yoga, help conduct research in Ayurveda and Yoga, maintain a herbal garden, and provide treatment to various ailments.

Roop Gir, current Director, Corporate Technology Watch, is one of only 15 women from around the world to be invited by the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advance-ment of Women, to give a speech, at a UN Expert Group Meeting.

The meeting on Measures to Accelerate the Improvement in the Status of Women in the United Nations System will be held from Nov. 14 to 16.

Gir has a very impressive academic and work background. She has worked for over 25 years for Schlumberger, starting in Houston, as a Senior Development Engineer in Product Development.

She has worked in Operations for 17 years in South East Asia, in various capacities, including Business Development Manager for the Asia Pacific region. From 2000-2004, she worked as Business Development Manager for North America in Data and Consulting Services.

From 2004-2007, she has been in the Corporate Communications Group as Scientific Advisor and Editor, Oilfield Review. She has published over 35 papers in international journals.

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U.S. Congress recognizes Diwali festival

WASHINGTON, DC

A bill recognizing “the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali” passed in the full House of Representatives by a mammoth margin of 358 to 0 on Oct. 24.

House resolution 747 was introduced jointly by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Jim McDermott (D-WA) and with its passage becomes the first bill to ever pass the House recognizing a Hindu festival that is also marked by Sikhs and Jews.

Intending to have the bill passed prior to Nov. 9, when Diwali will be celebrated this year, the bill was introduced and passed in the Foreign Affairs Committee last week and moved quickly to the successful full vote last week.

“My resolution acknowledges the international, religious, and historical importance of the festival of Diwali as well as the religious diversity in India, the United States, and throughout the world,” said Wilson in a statement that was read on the floor of the House prior to the vote today. “It shows our support for the strong and growing partnership and dialogue in international efforts between the United States and India.”

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) also took the floor to speak on behalf of the bill.

Wilson acknowledged the Hindu American Federation’s key role in promoting the bill and for working closely with his office to get the bill passed. Ishani Chowdhury, HAF Executive Director, hailed the bill as a “landmark legislation” and “an important step in expanding the recognition of the Hindu American diaspora, and reaffirmed the HAF’s commitment to see a matching Senate resolution, S.R. 299, also passed.