

Prince Charles
charms Indians by
using Hindi words



See Page -26

Voice of Asian

virgin atlantic

Upper Class & Premium Economy Deals

Pure Luxury. Always. Arrive in Style.
Booking now for Diwali & Christmas Holidays0208 515 9200
deals@cruxton.comIATA ABTA ATOL 3348
quietly delivering value for over 25 years

VOL 42, ISSUE 28



Let noble thoughts come to us from every side

80p

16th November to 22nd November 2013

were organised by MASS (Multicultural Activities for Secular Society), a small group from Reading which aims to unite individuals and groups from different cultural backgrounds to celebrate and create awareness of all cultures.

Attendees at the celebration were able to enjoy a range of food and sweets and to buy traditional Diwali home deco-

awarded for the best Ramayan posters submitted and the best dressed couple.

Alok Sharma said: "I was delighted to be invited to attend the Diwali celebrations organised by MASS, who have a very positive message of inclusion and of celebrating other cultures and I hope to be able to support them again in the future."

Diwali with a bang in Leicester



Thousands of people gathered on the famous Melton Road in Belgrave to join together to celebrate Diwali. Restaurants were overflowing with revellers, while over 10,000 people gathered in Cossington Street Recreation Ground for the traditional fireworks display and celebrations. Side roads were also lit up as decorations from many houses beamed out of the windows, as peo-

ple celebrated the end of the Hindu year. Belgrave Road was also dazzling with more than 6,500 lights, loud music and dancing. The festival began two weeks ago when 35,000 visitors watched a lights switch-on spanning 1km along Melton Road. As well as the main entertainment by the firework display, many other Diwali events took place across the city.

4 Days of celebrations at Uxbridge Temple

Diwali celebrations took place over a four day period at the Adhya Shakti Mataji temple in Uxbridge. New year celebrations, Diwali, Chopda puja (worship of account books) and chanting of Hanuman Chalisa (a religious hymn in praise of Lord Hanuman)

all took place over the Diwali weekend.

Ankut Darshan, which literally means an offering of a mountain of food, was performed to the reigning temple diety. An oblation of 56 varieties of savouries and sweets were made to the Goddess and an Aarti (offering of wicks soaked in ghee lamps with an invocation song) was performed at noon. Devotees, dressed in their best clothes offered prayers and partook of the food later.



The temple reverberated with chants of Hanuman Chalisa on Saturday night. Singers and devotees chanted the hymn in unison for 108 times during the five-hour programme, which commenced at 7 p.m on Saturday and lasted until 1 a.m. on Sunday.

Account books and ledgers were placed by devotees and an Aarti was performed for Goddess Lakshmi, praying for more prosperity.

Health wealth and Happiness for all.

MPs indulge in Mithai and take diabetes test in support of Silver Star Diabetes challenge

Senior parliamentarians attended the annual diabetes charity event, the Silver StarDiabetes Health Challenge, as part of Diwali at Westminster at the House of Commons.

On Wednesday 30th October, Opposition Leader **Ed Miliband**, Shadow Home Secretary **Yvette Cooper**, **Steve Brine MP**, **David Ward MP**, **Mark Durkan MP**, **Caroline Nokes MP**, **Iain Stewart MP**, **Nic Dakin MP** and **Julie Hilling MP** along with other Members of Parliament were issued with a Silver StarDiabetes Pedometer. The pedometer will measure the amount of steps taken on a chosen day from the day of the event until World Diabetes Day



on 14th November 2013 to see who can take the most steps.

Matthew Hancock, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Education is the current holder of the 2012 Health Challenge. The winner of this year's challenge will have their award presented by the Reverend **Jesse Jackson** at the Silver StarDiabetes' Health and Diversity Breakfast Seminar on the 5th December 2013.

Hundreds attend Diwali Celebrations at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Southend-on-Sea

Hundreds of people from across Essex gathered to celebrate the most popular Hindu festival in the year in Southend-on-Sea on Sunday 3 and Monday 4 November at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Hindu Temple) in Queensway.

This year's Diwali and Hindu New Year celebrations were one of the best, lively and colourful to date, attracting hundreds of visitors over the two days of festivities, while raising valuable funds for BBC's Children in Need.

The festival was celebrated with great devotion and merriment over the two days - traditionally a time when charity, goodwill, family values and the love of God are celebrated and reinforced.

Those who attended witnessed beautifully bright and authentic Indian decorative patterns, flickering lamps, and elegant arrangements of delicious vegetarian food items.

The central attraction was the 'Annakut' - literally, 'a mountain of

food' - which saw a grand offering of more than 250 pure vegetarian food items of all tastes and varieties and left all who visited in awe. The dishes were prepared by devotees and offered to the deities with faith and devotion as a traditional form of thanksgiving. Everyone had the chance to share the food offered in the Annakut at the end of the day. The rich aromas, vibrant colours and classical Indian sounds provided the perfect ambience for the occasion.