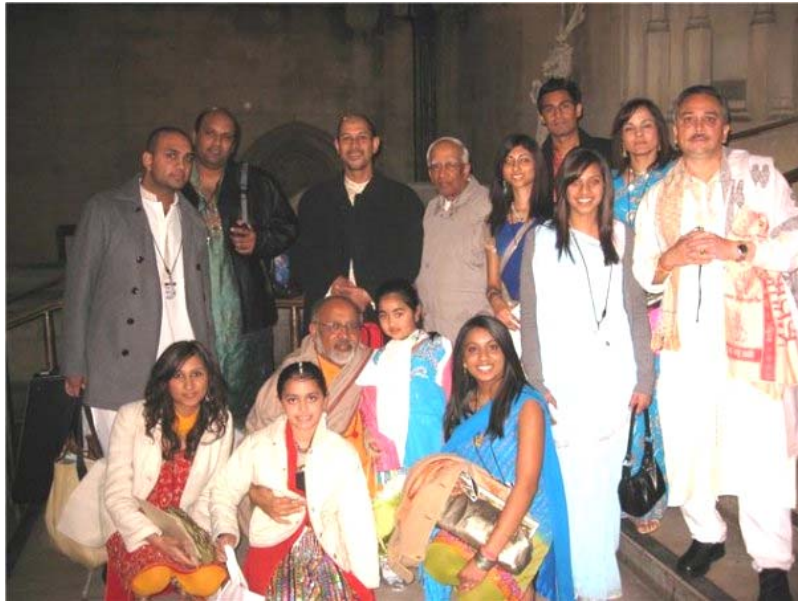


## Maha Lakshmi Vidya Bhavan leads in prayers and bhajans as Raamnaumi 2009 is celebrations in the House of Commons



MLVB Group at the House of Commons

The birthday of Lord Rama was celebrated at the House of Commons on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009, as the Members' Dining Room was converted into a Mandir for the duration of the celebration. The third annual event of its kind, the festival was once again hosted by Tony McNulty MP and Abhay Lakhani, Parliamentary Advisor on Community Issues.

Over 200 invited guests, dignitaries and parliamentarians sang Bhajans led by Shri Bankim Gossai and eagerly watched the Aarti ceremony performed by two young children of Maha Lakshmi Vidya Bhavan, Maya Devi Ramnath and Anya Kapur. It was a unique occasion where Hindus from many different traditions celebrated the festival beneath the flag of Lord Hanumaan ji as Parliament reverberated to the chanting of the Hanumaan Chalisa led by the MLVB.



Sunil Gossai, Kiran Eshwarlall, Bankim Gossai, Ramesh Charan, Anya Kapur & Maya Devi Ramnath

Invocational Mantras and Prayers were led by Shri Gossai Ji from Maha Lakshmi Vidya Bhavan based in Forest Hill, South London. Music was provided by Sunil Gossai - tabla, Keeran Eshwarlall - Santoor and Ramesh Charan - Mageera. Pooja was conducted by Brahmachari Vrajvihari Sharan.

Shri Gossai Ji in his opening remarks said "Observing RN in these prestigious offices, the House of Commons, means a special celebration of the birth of Lord Raama by the entire population of the UK and further enshrining Shree Raam in the hearts of us all. Today, these premises and the seat of our British Parliament have become Ayodhya, the original birth place of our Lord, but this time far away from the UP state of India. Indeed today also, the House of Commons become Raama's Parliament and indeed Shree Raam's Mandir!!"

He further added "It is now a unique occasion for the world to rekindle the ideals of man based on the principles of truthfulness, morality, service, good leadership and love. The very birth of Shree Raam represents the [reawakening of the birth or appearance of God in our hearts.](#)"

"Today we are here to celebrate Ram Naumi in this majestic building, the Mother of all Parliaments, the Palace of Westminster," said Abhay Lakhani. "It is absolutely right that we celebrate the birth of Lord Ram here. He was the embodiment of Truth, of Morality, and above all the ideal King. The Law maker himself."



[The Jhanda \(flag\) of Shri Hanumaan Ji being hoisted in the Houses of Parliament by Shri Ramesh Charan](#)

Reminding visitors that such an event would not be possible in the Indian Parliament, Mr Lakhani suggested the festival proved that we live in a nation which truly values its Hindu brothers and sisters, a nation which demonstrates the principles of Ram Rajya in practice.

Anil Bhanot, General Secretary of the Hindu Council UK, was invited to speak at the event and he too highlighted how British representative democracy embodies the aspirations of Ram Rajya. My message is that we need to always apply ancient wisdom to run our fast moving modern living, and that we can learn a lot from the principles that Lord Rama governed with."



[Tony McNulty MP addressing the gathering](#)



[Baroness Verma](#)

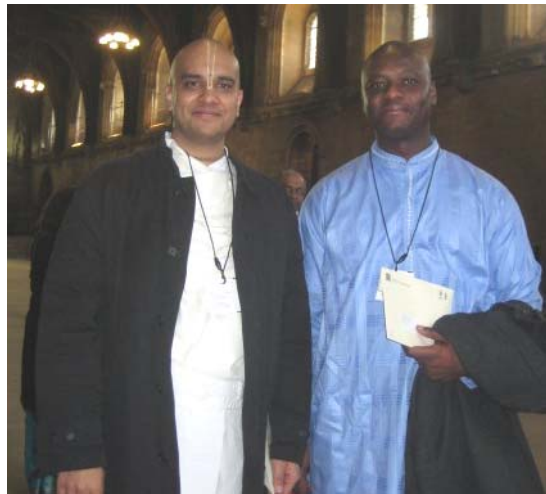


[Mr John Prescott MP](#)

Sanjay Jagatia, General Secretary of the National Council of Hindu Temples reminded us of the loving devotion held for Lord Rama in the hearts of all Hindus.

Several other MPs attended the event, among them the former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott; Liberal Democrats' Leader Nick Clegg; Simon Hughes and Stephen Pound. Baroness Verma also came from the House of Lords. All praised and welcomed the enormous role of Hindus within the UK, mentioning Hindu contributions to the economy, cultural diversity, morality and above all else strong values.

This memorable celebration concluded with the traditional Aarti ceremony led by the MLVB, with a call from Gossai Ji to join hands as a show of unity and solidarity.  
Jai Shree Raam!!



Brahmachari Vrajvihari Sharan & "President" Junior

**Jai Shree Raam**  
**MLVB Youth Group**  
**April 2009**