

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** there is an estimated one billion Hindus worldwide, and approximately 2.23 million Hindu Americans live across the nation; and
- WHEREAS,** Hindu Americans in Vermont represent diverse ethnic backgrounds, including individuals of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Malaysian, Indonesian, Afghani, Nepali, Bhutanese, Sri Lankan, Fijian, Caribbean, and European descent; and
- WHEREAS,** the Vermont Hindu Temple was formally established in 2015 by a group of refugees from Bhutan and Nepal to celebrate and promote Hindu culture and values in Vermont; and
- WHEREAS,** the Vermont Mandir and Cultural Center (VMCC) was formally established in 2020 by the Hindu community of Vermont to celebrate and promote Hindu culture and values in Vermont; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont and our nation have greatly benefited from Hindu Americans, especially through the Vedanta philosophy, Ayurvedic medicine, classical Indian art, dance, music, meditation, yoga, literature, and community service; and
- WHEREAS,** 2021 marks the 128th anniversary of when Hinduism was officially introduced to the United States by Swami Vivekananda at the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago, and the 121st anniversary of when he founded the Vedanta Society in San Francisco, in 1900; and
- WHEREAS,** Hindus are primarily an immigrant community and first started immigrating to United States in the early 1900s, many of them seeking better economic opportunities, to unite with family members, or fleeing religious persecution; and
- WHEREAS,** Hindu Americans contribute significantly to our community by sharing their culture, starting businesses, working typically in high-skill occupations, and providing public service in government; and
- WHEREAS,** despite their positive contributions to our nation, Hindu Americans face stereotypes and misconceptions about their heritage and have been the targets of bullying, discrimination, hate speech, and bias-motivated crimes; and

WHEREAS,

Hindu Americans promote the ideals of pluralism, religious freedom, and mutual respect, which are inherent to their teachings. The Vedas, the ancient sacred texts of Hinduism, provide the basis for these core principles: "Truth is one, the wise call it by many names" (Ekam sat viprah bahudha vadanti). In particular, the Hindu principle of "Vasudhev Kutumbukam" signifies that the whole world is a family, carrying a message of unity and tolerance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim October 2021 as

HINDU HERITAGE MONTH
in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 19th day of October, A.D. 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney C. Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

Brittney C. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs