

135+ Hindu American Organizations Unite for "Universal Oneness Day" in New York, Featuring RSS Chief Dr. Mohan Bhagwat

AHEAD Forum-led gathering reimagines Raksha Bandhan as a call for unity across communities, nations and humanity

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, August 21, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- NEW YORK — More than 135 Hindu American organizations from across the United States are joining hands on

August 29th, 2026 for the [Universal Oneness Celebration](#), a large-scale gathering in New York built around an ancient Sanskrit ideal: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — "The World Is One Family." Organized by AHEAD Forum (American Hindus for Engagement and Dialogue), the event has generated significant anticipation among Hindu Americans in New York and across the country. The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Mohan Bhagwat, Sarsanghchalak (chief) of India's Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), one of the world's largest volunteer-based social and cultural organizations. Additional speakers representing diverse faith traditions from the United States and abroad are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.



Bhagwat's Appearance Expected to Draw Attention:

Bhagwat's participation gives the event an additional international dimension. A trained veterinarian, Bhagwat became Sarsanghchalak of the RSS in 2009. During his tenure, he has spoken frequently about social harmony, family and community relationships, environmental responsibility, volunteerism and dialogue among different sections of society. He has always shown openness in reaching out to diverse communities including Minorities, Gender groups and most recently Gen Z.

Dr. Bhagwat, who has led the RSS since 2009, rarely addresses large public audiences in the United States, and his appearance is expected to draw interest well beyond the Hindu American community — including from those following Indian affairs, religious and diaspora studies, and the expanding civic footprint of Hindu Americans nationally.

Founded in India in 1925, the RSS has built an extensive volunteer network engaged in education, rural development, disaster response, community service and social outreach. The organization has also played a prominent and, at times, debated role in India's modern history, making Dr. Bhagwat a figure of considerable interest to observers, supporters and critics alike. His New York remarks will offer a direct opportunity to hear his perspective on the unity theme anchoring this year's program.

A Broad Coalition

The diversity of participating organizations is itself a defining feature of the event. Hindu Americans trace their heritage to India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Caribbean, Africa and beyond, representing a wide range of languages, customs and philosophical traditions. The Universal Oneness Celebration seeks to bring many of these communities together around shared principles rooted in Hindu thought.

Expected attendees include entrepreneurs, physicians, educators, attorneys, artists, youth leaders, veterans, faith leaders, volunteers and public officials, along with representatives from temples, yoga organizations, educational institutions, charitable and service organizations, linguistic and regional associations, cultural groups and interfaith organizations.

From Family Bond to Global Message:

Since the early 2000s, American Hindus have marked Raksha Bandhan — traditionally a festival celebrating the bond between brothers and sisters — as "Universal Oneness Day," extending its themes of affection, responsibility and protection beyond family to society at large, regardless of faith, race, gender or background.

This year's New York event builds on that tradition, using the occasion to broaden the idea of mutual responsibility from family to communities, nations, humanity and the natural world — a message organizers say is especially urgent amid ongoing global turmoil.

About AHEAD Forum:

AHEAD Forum (American Hindus for Engagement and Dialogue) is the organizing body behind the Universal Oneness Celebration, working in partnership with more than 135 Hindu American organizations nationwide.

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Universal Oneness Celebration

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