

HINDU CHAPLAINCY

2023-2024 newsletter

Namaste dear friends,

The Tufts Hindu Chaplaincy greets you in the spirit of a revitalizing wellspring where you come to nourish yourself, share and learn with others, and build community. This is a community that cares deeply about supporting growth across all the koshas (layers of being): physically, emotionally, mentally, energetically and spiritually. As part of a team of chaplains committed to this deep caring and support for future leaders like yourselves, I look forward to exploring all the opportunities that Tufts has to offer with you. Exploration requires rest and rejuvenation, and I am here to offer spiritual support, tools, and techniques throughout your time at Tufts.

I work closely with Tufts' Hindu Student Association (HSA), and we are available to anyone curious about learning more regarding Hinduism across the spectrum of philosophy, spirituality, religion, and practice. The HSA is a student group fostering community and interaction around the concepts of Hindu faith and identity here at Tufts. We offer you our warmest welcome!

I look forward to connecting more with you. Dhanyavaadah and best wishes,

Preeta Banerjee, PhD

Hindu Chaplain



**Hindu Chaplain
Preeta Banerjee, PhD**

Regular Programming

- Reading and discussion groups
- Weekly student-led meetings
- Diwali and Saraswati pujas
- Holi celebration
- Unlearning Retreat with the Humanist Chaplaincy
- Alum networking events
- Senior Week lunch and Commencement Weekend open house



**Fletcher graduate students
celebrate Holi, March 8, 2023 on
the Medford campus**

In line with the University Chaplaincy, the Tufts Hindu Chaplaincy's mission is to: provide individual and group care through deep and sacred listening; support community building across the spectrum of what it means to be a Hindu; educate about spiritual and ethical issues in society and the world; and promote multifaith engagement.

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Program Spotlight: Autobiography of a Yogi Discussions

This year undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff participated in discussions about the book written by Parahansa Yogananda. Sessions began with a practice followed by answering deep questions arising from material in the book, and closed with lunch from Guru the Caterer. Participants, whether attending regularly or only once or twice, covered topics including different ways of knowing, synchronicities, vocation and calling, paths of Divine union (Yogas—karma, bhakti, gyan), knowledge of the absolute, and having presence.



Students enjoy a spring 2023 book discussion with lunch in the Interfaith Center



"I initially got involved with the Hindu chaplaincy my freshman year looking for a community in college. As someone who isn't religious, I was afraid that I wouldn't fit in with any faith-based organizations at Tufts. However, the chaplaincy has been a rock for me these past four years: from book discussions with Preeta to interfaith events, the community I found has been such an important part of my college experience."

-Nitya Nadgir, A23

SUPPORT HINDU LIFE AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

It is through student advocacy and institutional support that the Tufts Hindu Chaplaincy came into being, and we have accomplished so much in starting a new initiative at Tufts and in the world. As we enter our third year, please support us in continuing to grow the Hindu Chaplaincy at Tufts.

- **\$25** supports offerings for puja, including sweets and flowers
- **\$75** contributes to senior gifts and community meals for the Alumni Networking Events and Graduation Ceremonies in December and May
- **\$150** covers the replacement of murtis that were donated many years ago

To give to the Tufts Hindu Chaplaincy Fund online, please visit <http://go.tufts.edu/giveHindu>. To discuss a major gift, endowment, or bequest, please contact our Advancement liaison Lorraine Sparrow:

(617) 627-2052 | Lorraine.Sparrow@tufts.edu

Thank you for your generosity and support.