

St. Croix County Board of Supervisors: To start its day with ancient Hindu mantras

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Saint Croix County Board of Supervisors (Wisconsin) will open its meeting with Hindu invocation on February two, containing verses from world's oldest extant scripture.

Hindu statesman Rajan Zed will deliver the invocation from ancient Sanskrit scriptures remotely before Saint Croix County Board of Supervisors. After Sanskrit delivery, he then will read the English interpretation of the prayers. Sanskrit is considered a sacred language in Hinduism and root language of Indo-European languages.

Zed, who is the President of Universal Society of Hinduism, will recite from *Rig-Veda*, the oldest scripture of the world still in common use; besides lines from *Upanishads* and *Bhagavad-Gita* (Song of the Lord), both ancient Hindu scriptures. He plans to start and end the prayer with "Om", the mystical syllable containing the universe, which in Hinduism is used to introduce and conclude religious work.

Reciting from *Brahadaranyakopanishad*, Rajan Zed plans to say "Asato ma sad gamaya, Tamaso ma jyotir gamaya, Mrtyor mamrtam gamaya"; which he will then interpret as "Lead us from the unreal to the real, Lead us from darkness to light, and Lead us from death to immortality." Reciting from *Bhagavad-Gita*, he proposes to urge supervisors and others present to keep the welfare of others always in mind.

Zed, a global Hindu and interfaith leader, has been bestowed with World Interfaith Leader Award. Zed is Senior Fellow and Religious Advisor to Foundation for

Religious Diplomacy, on the Advisory Board of The Interfaith Peace Project, etc. He has been panelist for “On Faith”, a prestigious interactive conversation on religion produced by The Washington Post; and produces a weekly multi-faith panel “Faith Forum” in a Gannett publication for over nine years.

Hinduism, oldest and third largest religion of the world, has about 1.2 billion adherents and moksh (liberation) is its ultimate goal. There are about three million Hindus in USA.

Saint Croix County, headquartered in Hudson, whose tagline is “Innovation Through Cooperation”, was reportedly created in 1840. David Peterson, William Peavey and Ken Witt are Board Chair, Board Vice-Chair and Administrator respectively of the County.