



## Dussehra Mela 2012



## Houston's First Ever Dussehra Mela at Skeeter's Constellation Field on Nov. 4

**By Dr. Nik Nikam**

HOUSTON: Shri Sita Ram Foundation, USA announces the first ever Dussehra Mela to be held on Sunday, November 4 from 3 to 9pm. This event has been supported by India Culture Center of Houston, India House, Hindus of Greater Houston, Houston Gujarat Samaj, Hindu Worship Society, Banke Bihari Parivar, Meenakshi Temple, Indian Senior Citizen's Association, Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Ashtalaxmi Temple, and Govindji Gudia Maatha.

The program will include children's costume contest, bhajans, Ram Leela stage show, dances by premier dance schools of Houston area, maha aarti, burning of effigies of Ravan, Meghnath and Kumbhkarn (first of its kind in Houston) which have been imported from India for this specific purpose. This will be followed by fireworks and Dandia Rass.

The food stalls will have a number of delicious mouth watering food items from well known vendors like Mirch Masala, Natura, WJ farms, Baloch Ice Cream, Durrani's, Sankalp, Pavani, and Bombay Sweets.

The non food Bazaar will have nearly 30 booths for ladies suits, bangles, bindis, cosmetics, balloons, mehndi, various Diwali & Dussehra items, face painting etc.

The entire show will be on a stage in the field and will also be displayed on a 200' x 90' digital screen and all the TV monitors at the Constellation Field Stadium which can be watched from the stands with comfortable seats.

Parking is free. Valet parking is provided free for all Mercedes owners by one of the sponsors, Mercedes Benz of Sugarland.

Experience the Indian culture, food, costumes, music, dance, sweets, drama, hospitality, networks, effigy burning & fireworks. Become a part of Houston's first ever Dussehra Mela. You may even catch a glimpse of yourself on the giant screen. Let your children experience and share the Indian heritage with their friends and family.

For the spiritually minded, there is a pre- event 'SunderKaand' by Ishvar Bhai group starting at 1:30pm at the temporary Ram Mandir on site at the stadium. The Mandir will be kept open during the entire program. The 'Mishri' Prasad that will be distributed there has arrived directly from Ram Janam Bhumi, Ayodhya, India.

This auspicious Dussehra Mela is expected to be graced by several dignitaries, including mayors and council members of Houston, Stafford and Sugarland, Consul General of India and Chancellor of University of Houston System.

Carry your dandias, as you will be dancing the night away to the melodious tunes of Kashmira Nayak, set to the most versatile and energizing harmony from our one and only drummer, Darshak Thacker.

Listen to Shri Sita Ram Foundation's special segment on Ram Leela and Dussehra Mela 2012 on 1480AM on Saturdays between 9-10AM