



Shiva-Vishnu Temple

Om Namah Shivaya Om Namo Narayanaya

Hindu Community and Cultural Center

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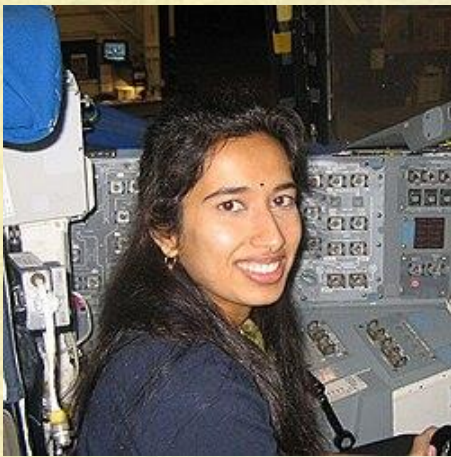
HCCC Youth and Education Committee Presents

From Curiosity to the Cosmos

An Interactive STEM Conversation with Dr. Swati Mohan

When: Friday February 20, 2026, 7 PM - 8 PM

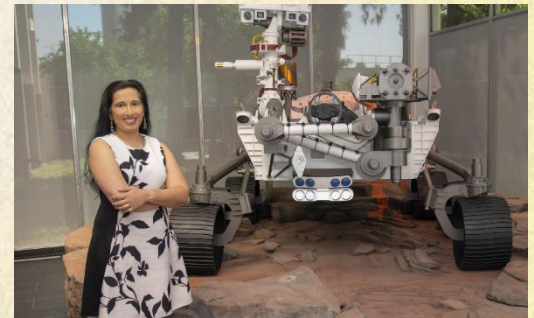
Where: Akella Assembly Hall, Shiva Vishnu Temple, CA



We are honored to welcome **Dr. Swati Mohan**, renowned aerospace engineer and a key leader of NASA's historic Mars 2020 Perseverance mission, for a special interactive session designed to inspire and engage young minds. This unique event offers children a rare opportunity to learn directly from one of the brilliant scientists who helped guide a spacecraft safely onto the surface of Mars.

This session is thoughtfully designed as an interactive dialogue with kids, encouraging curiosity, questions, and exploration. Dr. Mohan will share her personal journey, challenges, and discoveries, while offering young participants insight into careers in science, technology, engineering, and space exploration. Students will gain inspiration, confidence, and a deeper appreciation for how curiosity, dedication, and learning can truly reach beyond Earth.

Dr. Swati Mohan is an Indian-American aerospace engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and served as the Guidance and Controls Operations Lead for the Mars 2020 mission. She was responsible for ensuring the precise orientation and navigation of the spacecraft during its journey and famously announced "Touchdown confirmed" as the Perseverance rover successfully landed on Mars in February 2021. Her calm voice and technical clarity during those historic moments captured the attention of the world and inspired millions.



Dr. Mohan's academic journey reflects excellence and perseverance. She earned her undergraduate degree in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Cornell University, followed by a Master's degree and PhD in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her research and professional work span advanced space navigation, autonomous systems, and mission-critical operations. Prior to Mars 2020, she also contributed to NASA missions including Cassini to Saturn and GRAIL, which mapped the Moon's gravitational field.

This is more than a talk, it is an invitation for young minds to dream boldly and engage with the future of science.

For further details, please contact Senthil Annamalai (ec_youth_education@livermoretemple.org) or Temple office at 925-449-6255



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