



GANEŠĀNJALI



Temple Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020



ŠRI DUNDHI GANAPATI

THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, NY

Šri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati Devasthānam

45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, New York 11355-2202

Tel: (718) 460-8484 ext.112 • Fax: (718) 461-8055

<https://nyganeshtemple.org> • Email: hts@nyganeshtemple.org

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CANTEEN & CATERING SERVICES of The Hindu Temple Society of NA

143-09 Holly Ave. Flushing, NY 11355



Please visit the Temple Canteen's website: canteen.nyganesh temple.org
email: canteen@nyganesh temple.org
Tel: (718) 460-8493 or (718) 460-8484 ext.123

Temple Canteen is currently offering the following dining options
Daily from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM

Take-Out and 'Contactless Curbside Pickup' - for info
see: canteen.nyganesh temple.org/contact

Indoor Dining - Limited Indoor Dining at 25% capacity (*Occupancy shall not exceed more than 91 persons*). Availability on a first - come, first - serve basis. You can still order and enjoy your food with the traditional sit-down experience. Devotees wishing to use the limited indoor option must strictly adhere to all NYC COVID Indoor Dining guidelines.

You can now order your favorite idli, dosa, vada and more from Temple Canteen for delivery at your door-steps!

Temple Canteen now offers delivery services
with UberEats, Grubhub and DoorDash from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM all days

Enjoy a delicious dosa, vada and much more from the Temple Canteen!

A Letter From the President

Dear Fellow Devotees,

Namaste & Greetings! On behalf of the Hindu Temple Society of North America, I extend my warm greetings and wish you all a very happy and covid-free New Year.

All the festivals including Nava-Dina Brahmotsavam for Šri Ganeša Chaturthi, were performed as per 'Agama Sastras', although without the devotees. Largely participated Chatur Laksha Ganapati Moola Mantra Japam, popular Ratha Yatra among others were also missing. Other festivals such as Šri Raghavendra Swāmy Ārādhana, Devi Navarātri, Deepāvali, Skanda Shashti etc. were all celebrated at the Temple with all the rituals and most of these were live streamed. Live streaming of special poojas and celebrations in addition to scheduled daily poojas has kept our devotees constantly in touch with the Temple.

Temple conducted a few other events virtually such as International Yoga Day, Music programs, educational programs such as 'Emotional Health in the time of COVID' - an interactive talk by Temple youth. Akshayam has continued its monthly learning series. In addition, Patasala conducted virtual Summer Camp from July 20th - July 24th and was very successful. Temple representatives continue to participate in various virtual Interfaith programs, Zoom calls with community officials, Police Dept. as well as State and City officials. These calls keep us informed on the status of covid19 and updates on guidelines.

Patrons of our Temple canteen are being served to the best of our ability, with limited indoor dining, food deliveries through UberEats, DoorDash and GrubHub. There has been a gradual increase in number of visitors to the Canteen, strictly observing social distancing and other safety measures as mandated by NY State and City regulations.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to all the devotees for their support of the Temple by their generous contributions in this difficult time. We look forward to your continued support in coming months and years as well.

As we continue to cope with this pandemic, we should all be thankful to the countless essential workers, doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, first responders, law enforcement and many others for their great service. May God bless them. Our thanks to all the dedicated groups of volunteers for their sterling services and our gratitude to our excellent staff for their devoted services. We appeal to all the devotees to volunteer their time and talents and serve Šri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati and be blessed.

May the blessings of Šri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati be always with you and your families.

Sincerely,



Dr. Uma Mysorekar
President

TEMPLE FUNCTIONING DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

(in continuation of our earlier article released in June 2020 Volume 43-20)

We gave a brief on how the temple took swift action to implement emergency preparedness since beginning of pandemic till June 2020 in our previous issue. You can still download and view the soft copy at: <https://nyganeshtemple.org/publications>

As the community continue to stay vigilant till this date in helping to overcome the challenges presented by this virus, we at the temple also continue to update on how effectively handle the situation as it develops and adjust to the needs in strict conformity of NY State and local City guidelines.

NY State Governor announced through the executive orders permitting to reopen in phased manner over a period of time with stringent regulation and norms. New York City entered phase One of the reopening on Monday June 8th. The social distancing protocols, cleaning and disinfection protocols, and facilitating virtual services etc. were adhered, as advised by the Department of Health. Temple kept upgrading the existing systems and implemented additional norms as per the guidance.

A virtual tour of the Temple was made available through the Temple's website to enable people across the world to take a tour of the Temple and offer their prayers and worship while staying safe at home. This facility helped people of other faiths too apart from students learning world religion, research students, interfaith believers, and those interested in visiting the Temple utilized this virtual tour facilities. The Temple also conducted on demand virtual tours for various groups interested in visiting the Temple, through zoom meetings and google meets. Temple extended the virtual visits organized by Open House New York, Queens Historical Society, Flushing Interfaith Council's 'Unity Walk', Scarsdale Senior group, Jewish Community Center Oceanside Senior groups, and various Universities and Colleges across the country to benefit students pursuing religious studies.

Temple actively participated virtually in various Interfaith dialogues, Faith Leaders' Summit, and Local Government initiated meetings, to share, represent, and dialogue with local officials in handling the current pandemic efficiently and effectively.

A virtual guidance tour video on procedure and safety practices to be adapted at the Temple, while devotees visit the Temple was made available in the Temple website to assist anyone in knowing the procedures well before visiting the temple.

Hand washing process by water & soap and hand sanitizing dispensers were upgraded by installing advanced systems to prevent manual or physical contacts. Our Temple is one among the first to install an advanced infrared based automated temperature scanner system to monitor the body temperature with a provision to alert abnormal cases and verifies if a person is wearing a mask/face covering. Temple provides free masks at the entrance and created provision to wait under a tent for their turn to be called. Sanitized pens are kept for devotees to manually register their names and contact details as required by the Health Department for contact tracing purposes. Currently QR code scanning has been implemented for easy and touch free method.

Gradual increase in permitting number of devotees to the Temple based on the phased reopening order by NYC guidelines were implemented. Beginning with 10 devotees at one time and has increased to the current level of 30 devotees at a time. The darshan timings have been gradually extended based on the number of walk-ins and religious events taking place at the Temple. Similarly, 'Darshan only' permission for admittance was upgraded to include 'Darshan & Archana'. Since reopening, devotees are not permitted inside the Temple during scheduled rituals services. However, for private religious services such as weddings and ancestral rituals etc. devotees are permitted to have these services perform with pre-registration, at the venue allotted to them subject to the limitations of gatherings.

As religious services and poojas are performed as per the Agamic rule without interruption, Temple is also continues to carry out annual utsavams and other such events without any interruption. The foremost annual event 'Ganesh Chaturthi Nava-Dina Brahmotsavam' was performed without foregoing the minimum rituals, as guided by our priests' team. Complete program was live streamed. We are glad that it was well received by people all around the globe. Leading TV channels broadcasted the event fully. The much expected Rig-Yajur-Sama Upakarma, Vara Lakshmi Vrata and Mahalaya Paksha "in-person-ritual" normally done in person on an individual and group basis at the Temple, was successfully conducted maintaining the social distancing norms and by the cooperation of the devotees. Congregation for upakarma was limited by providing both in-person with social distancing and virtual sessions. Devi Navaratri Mahotsavam, Deepavali Celebrations, Skanda Shashti Mahotsavam were performed without compromise on a modified schedule considering all safety protocols.

Daily online chanting & prayer sessions are now taking place on a weekly basis effective from July 16, 2020, so as to extend the darshan time and accommodate devotees visiting the Temple. Sarva Devatā Hārati continues to be live streamed daily as this attracts huge virtual audiences across the globe.

Temple Canteen - During the summer, in adherence with NY State and local guidelines, outdoor dining was opened under the tents near Smart Street (entrance to Temple Canteen). Tables and chairs were arranged based on six feet physical distancing. Curbside take-out and online delivery options were made available and continue to be offered. On September 30th, indoor dining was permitted with restrictions not to exceed 25% of the total capacity. Temple Canteen lay out was adapted to ensure all dine-in customers maintain six feet social distancing. Dining tables were arranged with six feet distancing and no more than 4 people per table are allowed. A physical barrier between customers and Canteen counter staff was installed. A dedicated security at the entrance conducts temperature checks of all patrons. Contact tracing information by customers is being requested, either through QR code scan or hand written as required by the Health Department. All floors are marked with six feet physical distancing stickers and separate barricades are put in place to indicate appropriate entrances and exits.

The Canteen, offers accessible sinks and supplies for all visitors to wash their hands often and cover their coughs and sneezes including soap dispensers, paper towels, hand dryer, and hand sanitizers (containing at least 60% alcohol), placed on walls, tissues, disinfectant wipes, masks (as feasible), and no-touch/foot pedals for water. Schedule routine cleaning and disinfecting is vigorously maintained. Signs are posted in highly visible locations throughout the Canteen to actively promote daily safety protocols such as proper washing of the hands, properly wearing a mask or face covering and maintaining six feet distancing. Frequently touched areas in the building are sanitized and cleaned twice in a day using disinfectants. The HVAC system was upgraded using high rated MERV-13 filters so that it can filter micro-organisms also along with dust particles. For wedding ceremonies - not more than 25 people are allowed in the wedding halls and also with strict social distancing guidelines. Masks are mandatory at all times while inside the wedding halls. The HVAC system is also upgraded with MERV-13 filters.

Our Temple continues to provide support despite this unprecedented crisis. All the priests, cooks and staff members are frequently being updated in effectively handling the situation and adjusting to NYC guidelines as they are implemented. Frequent medical and health checkups are carried out by all staff members.

Despite the pandemic and steps taken by the Temple, devotees are appreciative and continue to support and contribute to Temple by way of donations and online sponsorship of religious services. Temple performs all the sponsored services and promptly mails out all prasādams. It has been a strange and awful experience for all of us, in handling a deadly virus outbreak of this magnitude and to be dotted in the history of events.

FESTIVALS



*Šri Sudaršana Mantra Japam
Saturday, May 23rd - Sunday, May 24th, 2020*



*Šri Devi Khodiyār Mātā Pooja
Sunday, June 7th, 2020*



*Vara Maha Lakshmi Vratam
Friday, July 31st, 2020*



*Sri Raghavendra Swamy Aradhana
Wednesday, August 5th - Thursday, August 6th, 2020*



*Sri Krishna Janmashtami
Tuesday, August 11th, 2020*

FESTIVALS, CULTURAL & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



*Sri Ganesa Chaturthi Nava Dina Brahmotsavam
Friday, August 14th - Sunday, August 23rd, 2020*



*Sri Ganesa Chaturthi Nava Dina Brahmotsavam
Friday, August 14th - Sunday, August 23rd, 2020*



*Sri Devi Navaratri Mahotsavam
Saturday, October 17th - Sunday, October 25th, 2020*

FESTIVALS, CULTURAL & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



*Deepavali Celebrations
Thursday, November 12th - Saturday, November 14th, 2020*



*Skanda Shashti Mahotsavam
Sunday, November 15th - Saturday, November 21st, 2020*



*Archarya Day
Saturday, May 2nd, 2020*



*Covid Memorial Service
Sunday, May 24th, 2020*

FESTIVALS, CULTURAL & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



*“Vimochana” (relief)
Sunday, June 7th, 2020*



*6th International Yoga Day
Sunday, June 21st, 2020*



*43rd Temple Anniversary Celebrations - Bhajans
by Smt. Saavitri Ramanand, Sri. Murali Balachandran
Saturday, July 4th, 2020*



*Carnatic Vocal Concert
by: Kumari Spoorthi Rao
Saturday, August 15th, 2020*



*Breast Cancer Drive-thru
Sunday, October 18th, 2020*



*“Let's Talk Science” (Ganesa Patasala)
Sunday, November 8th, 2020*

AKSHAYAM: THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TEAM,
NEW YORK GANESH TEMPLE

Akshayam is a team of Hindu young professionals based at The Hindu Temple Society of North America in Flushing, NY, whose aim is to see this temple and our Hindu community sustain and grow for many more generations to come. Members engage in seva at the Temple and in our community, discuss topics related to the Sanatana Dharma and its application in our lives, and host events such as lecture demonstrations and cultural programs. The team consists of individuals in the age group of roughly 18-35 years old and are diverse in their Hindu perspectives, which establishes a unique platform in a traditional Hindu temple. Akshayam is encouraged to question age-old beliefs in order to find answers that speak to them so that their connection to the faith is individually customized. Temple leadership and staff advise and mentor Akshayam members, and provide a supportive network for the team to pursue its vision and interests.

The team uses a combination of digital and in-person communication to stay connected. Many of the members are based locally, but a number of members stay involved from afar. Akshayam connects mostly through social media, email and conference calls, but also meets in person at the Ganesh Temple as they get ready to organize large scale events.

Akshayam wishes to use this unique opportunity to learn as much as possible about the beauty and intricacies of our ancient traditions and belief systems. One of the team's educational initiatives is the monthly Hinduism Learning Series where guest speakers present interesting topics such as the purpose of various religious rituals to the application of the tenets of the Sanathana Dharma, and everything in between. A new topic is chosen every month and the audience is given the platform to ask questions towards the end of the session. These sessions are open to the public via the Temple's Facebook and YouTube pages.

Anubhava, a conference for Hindu young professionals, has become an Akshayam annual tradition. Like-minded young Hindus come together to engage in religious discussion as it relates to the evolving modern world. Participants are encouraged to push the envelope in order to better understand accepted practices so that they can gain a different perspective and appreciation of age-old wisdom and conventions. Anubhava 2020 is set to take place on Saturday, December 5th, 2020.

To learn more about the team or get involved, please email: akshayam@nyganesh temple.org



SUGGESTED HOMAMS / POOJAS FOR PARIHARA,
GENERAL WELFARE & DURING OTHER
AUSPICIOUS EVENTS

Mahā Ganapati Homam	
Sudaršana Homam	<i>Removal of all obstacles</i>
Sankata Hara Chaturthi Pooja	
.....	
Mahā Lakshmi Homam	
Śankhābhishekam	<i>Success in all endeavors</i>
.....	
Mrityunjaya Homam	
Dhanvantari Homam	<i>Recover from ill-health</i>
Āditya Hrudaya Pārāyanam/Homam	
.....	
Nāga Śanti Homam	
Subrahmanya Homam	
Kāla Rāhu Śanti Homam	<i>Removal of Sarpa Dosha</i>
Nāga Pratishta	
Āślesha Homam	
Garuda Homam	
.....	
Chandi Homam	
Sudaršana Homam	<i>Recovery from difficult times</i>
Navagraha Homam	
.....	
Navagraha Homam	<i>Overcoming problems</i>
Sudaršana Homam	
.....	
Santāna Gopala Krishna Homam	
Purusha Sookta Homam	<i>Praying for child</i>
.....	
Swayamvara Pārvasi Pooja	
Durga Deepa Namaskaram	<i>Praying for marriage</i>
Srinivāsa Kalyānam	
Pārvasi Kalyānam	
.....	
Bāla Mārkaṇḍeya Homam	
Āyushya Homam	<i>Protecting child</i>
.....	
Mahā Ganapati Homam	
Sudaršana Homam	<i>Moving into new house</i>
Vishnu Homam, Vastu Homam	
Rakshoghna Homam	
.....	
Āyushya Homam	<i>First and subsequent birthdays</i>
.....	
Āyushya Homam	
Rudra Homam	<i>60th, 70th, & 80th birthdays</i>
Navagraha Homam	<i>and Longevity</i>
Mrityunjaya Homam	
Sarva Devata Homam	
Sudaršana Homam	
Dhanvantari Homam	
.....	
Saraswati Homam	<i>Initiating into studies</i>
Sudaršana Homam	<i>Business Development</i>
.....	
Chandi Pātha Samputi	
Pārāyanam / Homam	<i>Career Advancement</i>
.....	
Sandhi Śanti Homam	<i>Graha Śanti</i>
.....	
Lakshmi Nārāyana Hrudaya	
Pārāyanam / Homam	<i>Prosperity</i>
.....	
Satyanārāyana Pooja	
Budha Graha Śanti Pooja	<i>Wisdom</i>
.....	
Tila Homam, Prāyaschitta	
Pavamāna Homam	<i>Repentance</i>
.....	
Satyanārāyana Pooja	<i>General Welfare (Loka Kshemam)</i>
.....	
Sundara Khānda Pārāyanam	<i>For success in all efforts</i>
.....	

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ABHISHEKAMS:

Regular **Abhishekam** for all deities
Śankha Abhishekam for all deities (at Temple only)
Ekādaśavāra Rudrābhishekam
Kanaka Abhishekam for all deities (at the Temple only)
Sarva Devata Abhishekam

ARCHANAS:

Ashtottaram (108)
Sahasra Nāma (1,008)
Triṣati (300)

HOMAMS:

Ganapati Homam	Śri Rudra Homam
Sarva Devata Homam	Sudaršana Homam
Chandi Homam	Dhanvantri Homam
Vishnu Homam	Saraswati Homam
Lakshmi Narasimha Homam	Navagraha Homam
Nāga Śanti Homam	Mrityunjaya Homam
Śri Subrahmanya Homam	Āyushya Homam

SAMSKĀRAS:

Nāma Karanam	Seemantham
Shashti Abda Poorthi	Śathābhishekam
Punyāhavāchanam	Griha Ārambham
Annaprāshanam	Griha Praveśam
Apara Kriyas	Vidyārambham
Upanayanam	Hiranya Śrāddham / Pitru Tarpanam
Hair Offering	Vivāham (Wedding)

SPECIAL POOJAS for Deities:

Śri Satyanārāyana Pooja	Navāvarana Pooja
Śri Guru Pāduka Pooja	Śree Mahā Meru
Kalyāna Utsavam	Navagraha Śanti

OTHER POOJAS / SERVICES:

New Business	Veda Pārāyana
Sundara Khānda Pārāyanam	Saptasati Pārāyanam
New Vehicle/ New House	Travel

**Book Religious Services over the
Phone at (718) 460-8484 ext.112
or online at nyganeshtemple.org**

*Please support the Temple
and donate generously!*

THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, NY

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... Participate from home with your family ...

In view of the wide spread situation of COVID-19 virus, the Temple has implemented careful opening to the public for Darshan & Archana only during limited hours - please visit the Temple website for details and updates .

All scheduled poojas and rituals are carried out by the priests. Archanas, abhishekams and other scheduled poojas sponsored by devotees are also being performed by the priests inside the Temple and Prasadams sent to the respective devotees.

Please call the Temple at: (718) 460 8484 ext. 112 or visit the Temple website for booking services, religious schedules and live streaming info.

Join Online Chanting and Prayer on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. see - nyganeshtemple.org/prayer

Weekly live-streaming schedules see - nyganeshtemple.org/tv

Devotees may watch the LIVE Telecast on:

Facebook at: [Facebook.com/nyganeshtemple](https://www.facebook.com/nyganeshtemple)

YouTube at: [YouTube.com/nyganeshtemple](https://www.youtube.com/nyganeshtemple)

Schedule changes - nyganeshtemple.org/schedule-changes-temporary-suspensions

Please support the Temple during these challenging times by donating online generously at - nyganeshtemple.org/donations-annadanam

Patasala Online Classes see - nyganeshtemple.org/patasala

Yoga Classes Online see - nyganeshtemple.org/yoga

Veda & Divya Prabhandha Classes Online for Adults see -
nyganeshtemple.org/divya-prabhandha-veda-classes

Thank you for your cooperation.

SUPPORT THE TEMPLE

Please join us from home celebrating the religious and cultural activities of the Temple with your family and receive the blessings of Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati.