



GANEŠĀNJALI



Temple Newsletter

JUNE 2021



ŠRI EKADANTA 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.nyganestemple.org

email: canteen@nyganestemple.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 9:00 PM

Take-Out - for info see: canteen.nyganestemple.org/

Indoor Dining - Full indoor dining at 100% capacity with seating availability on a first - come, first - serve basis. Devotees wishing to use the indoor option must strictly adhere to all current NYC Indoor Dining guidelines including mask wearing and social distancing.

Outdoor Dining - is also available. You can still order and enjoy your food with the traditional sit-down experience.

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

A Letter From the President

Dear Fellow Devotees,

Namaste & Greetings!

We began the New year under the shadows of COVID-19 with limited number of devotees allowed for darshan during specified times. In spite of bitter cold weather, several devotees stood in line in a very orderly fashion to enter the Temple for darshan. All the precautionary measures and guidelines as recommended by the CDC and local government authorities are being followed strictly. All the nitya poojas and festivals continue to be performed by the Priests. Several of the religious services are being live-streamed including weekly online chanting followed by Sarva Devata Hārati. All these have become quite popular. All the major festivals including Mahā Śivaratri, Śri Rāma Navami and Śiva Mahotsavam were live-streamed.

Among the cultural events was the virtual Harikatha in English - 'Lava & Khusha' - The Incredible twins of Lord Śri Rāma & Sita by Veena Mohan on January 17, 2021, 72nd Republic Day of India and Remembering Leaders of Non-violence: Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela on February 6, 2021, Annual Holi Festival with colorful dances and talk on Holi & Earth Day celebrated on April 18, 2021 and Śri Rāma Bhajans by Smt. Saavitri Ramanand on April 24, 2021. Akshayam group continues to organize the monthly 'Learning Series' on various subjects. Patašala, Yoga and Senior activities continue virtually. Temple had organized a Prayer Vigil for India as the country is facing the deadly second covid wave. Our priests chanted slokas specially chosen for the occasion and Ms. Saavitri Ramanand sang songs seeking the blessings of Navagrahas (planets) - most appropriate for the occasion.

My sincere thanks and gratitude to all the devotees for their support of the Temple by their generous contributions in this difficult time. We are also grateful to them for their understanding and cooperation by adjusting to the darshan timings to visit the Temple. We look forward to your continued support in coming months and years as well.

Due to COVID pandemic, Mahā Kumbhābhishekam planned in 2020 and then postponed to 2021 is now further postponed to 2022. Sponsorships made towards Kumbhābhishekam in 2020 will be automatically credited towards Kumbhābhishekam 2022. Devotees will be kept informed of the developments.

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 sterling services. May God bless them. Our thanks to our volunteers and our gratitude to our excellent staff for their devoted services.

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Uma Mysorekar
President



THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA
Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati Devasthānam
45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355



ONLINE SUMMER CAMP 2021

July 19th - July 23rd, 2021

5 DAY - ONLINE CAMP SESSIONS

AGES: 7 YRS & Above

MONDAY - FRIDAY : 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Theme:

**Saints of India &
Bhagavad Gita**

The online summer camp will be conducted this year with a focus on the Saints of India and Bhagavad Gita.

Activities include : Saints of India, Bhavagad Gita, Bhajans and Yoga.

Fee for the online Camp is \$50.00

Those interested may please register online at

<http://nyganeshtemple.org/summer>

...**DEADLINE** for Registration - June 30, 2021...

Enrollment - ONLY UP TO 50 CAMPERS

**Early Registration Recommended - Accepted
on "First Come" basis.**



For further information please email: patasala@nyganeshtemple.org
or Prema Desai : pdesai82@aol.com

SWASTIKA

By: M.R. Ravi Vaidyanaat Śivāchāriar



In the State of New York, in the Senate, on January 22, 2021 a bill was proposed to enact and amend the education law in relation to requiring instruction regarding symbols of hate and requiring New York school children from grades six through twelve be educated on the meaning of *swastikas* and nooses as symbols of hatred and intolerance www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S2727 as youth are not aware of the hateful connotations behind *swastikas* and nooses, by creating a new section § 801-B. The proposed bill describes *swastika* as the emblem of Nazi Germany and as a symbol of racism and intimidation. And this act is to take effect on the first of September 2021 succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.

Sensing the gravity of misunderstanding and misconception that would be created by the wrong interpretation given to this symbol in the young minds of this age group, Hindu organizations including The Hindu Temple Society of North America, convened and participated in several town hall meetings together with Jews, Buddhists, Jain communities, Interfaith councils and lawmakers and expressed their concerns with the language of the bill that categorized *swastika* as a hate symbol. Probably the lawmakers were not aware or neglected the significance and usage of *swastika* by many Asian countries as an ancient symbol of peace and prosperity. Without considering the ancient history and complete facts behind the symbol, the bill was introduced. Finally, in the month of March 2021, the bill was withdrawn by the senator who tabled the original bill.

Hindus, Buddhists and Jain faiths have substantial evidences to prove that the *swastika* (or *svastika*) is an ancient and greatly auspicious symbol. Several scriptures from *Vedās*, *Āgama*, *Upanishad*, *Itihāsa*, *Puranic* verses and *Sanskrit* literatures could be referred for an enhanced and enlightened awareness about *swastika* in terms of the word, symbol, meaning, application and significance.

Vedic scripts (in *smṛiti* form - Hindu text written down) were said to have been originated earlier to the bronze or iron age period (1500 to 500 BCE). However, the literature has its roots prior to this period, in *Sṛuti* form (Vedic revelations and unquestionable truth verbally transmitted and heard). The word *Swastika* occurs frequently in the *Vedic* text as well as in the classical literature meaning health, luck, success, prosperity and it was commonly used as an auspicious greeting.

Rig Veda ref: kramāṅga: 974 mandala: 01 sukta: 089 Mantra: 06
(Prayer to Almighty to enrich our knowledge & wisdom)

svasti na indrō vṛddhaśravāḥ svasti naḥ pūṣh viśvavēdāḥ |
svasti nastārḥṣyō ariṣṭanēmih svasti nō brhaspatirdadhātu ||

Swastika in tradition and culture: *Swastika* is just one among many religious symbols in the Hindu culture used mostly in ceremonial events. Using this symbol has never conflicted with Hindu theism which prides itself as democratic and secular. It is used as a symbol to express luck, happiness, good fortune and prosperity. It has always been a part of any celebration. *Swastika* sign occupies significant place in accounts ledger books, prominent places in *pooja* room, entrance of the building, *Rangoli* (designs) marking auspiciousness.

Swastika terminology is used in the architecture, design, construction engineering, yoga, meditation, mathematics and applied into visual artistic image, drawings, pictures and objects. Also used as logo for various products and services.

Svasti Mantra (Universal Peace Prayer):

svasti prajābhyaḥ paripālayantām nyāyēna mārgēna mahīm mahīśāḥ |
gōbrāhmaṇēbhyaśśubhamastu nityam lōkāssamastāssukhinō bhavantu ||

FESTIVALS



*New Year's Day
Friday, January 1st, 2021*



*Śri Hanumān Jayanti
Monday, January 11th, 2021*



*Makara Sankrānti - Śri Ayyappa Pooja
Thursday, January 14th, 2021*



*Śri Dhanvantari Mantra Japam
Thursday, February 4th - Wednesday, February 10th, 2021*



*Mahā Śivarātri Celebrations
Monday, March 8th - Friday, March 12th, 2021*



FESTIVALS



Šri Rāma Navami Utsavam
Monday, April 12th - Wednesday, April 21st, 2021



Šri Šiva Mahotsavam
Thursday, May 20th - Saturday, May 29th, 2021



Šri Šiva Mahotsavam
Thursday, May 20th - Saturday, May 29th, 2021



Šri Satyanārāyana Kalyāna Utsavam
Saturday, May 22nd, 2021



Šri Šani & Šri Guru Parihara Japam & Homam
Sunday, May 30th - Monday, May 31st, 2021



VIRTUAL CULTURAL & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



*Anubhava 2020: (Akshayam)
Saturday, December 5th, 2020*



*The Singing Portraits (Svara-Rāga-Chitra)
Saturday, December 12th, 2020*



*Health & Wellness during the Pandemic 2020
Sunday, December 13th, 2020*



*Virtual Harikatha in English - 'Lava & Khusha'
by: Smt. Veena Mohan
Sunday, January 17th, 2021*



*Republic Day Celebrations
Saturday, February 6th, 2021*

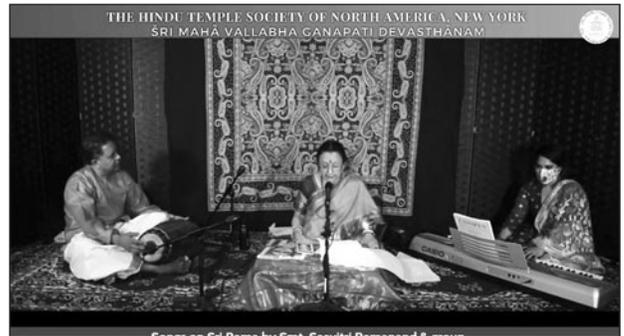


*Let's Talk Science with Patasala Session #2
Sunday, February 28th, 2021*

VIRTUAL CULTURAL & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



*Annual Holi Festival and Earth Day
Sunday, April 18th, 2021*



*Śri Rāma Bhajans (Śri Rāma Navami Celebrations)
Saturday, April 24th, 2021*



*Prayer Vigil for India
Saturday, May 8th, 2021*



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!



Our heartfelt thanks to our donors for the overwhelming donations for India's COVID19 Relief Fund. We have been comforted, encouraged and humbled by the outpouring of generosity and support from our community. Your help to meet the challenges of this moment was timely and valuable for people in India to get the best care with compassion, respect and excellence. Total of \$130,000.00 was received and sent to three of the hardest hit areas; Ramakrishna Mission Hospital (Haridwar), Dr. BabaSaheb Ambedkar Hospital (Aurangabad Maharashtra) and Vanvasi Kalyan (Karnataka) thru IDRf (India Development and Relief Fund). We will continue to pray for rapid recovery and return to normalcy in India.

SEVA: FOOD FOR THE SOUL

By: Abiramy Logeswaran (Akshayam - The Young Professionals Team, HTSNA)

"Living creatures are nourished by food, and food is nourished by rain; rain itself is the water of life, which comes from selfless worship and service."

- Bhagavad Gita, 3.14

To engage in *seva* is to engage in activity that nourishes the soul. It is an attitude that one must develop and foster that centers around unconditional service without any expectation of bearing the fruits of such actions. Living in a society where we strive for and are rewarded by instant gratification, taking part in *seva* helps liberate us from this illusion that clouds our perspectives, at least temporarily. It forces us to reconsider what it is that really adds value to our lives and what appears as such but actually detracts us from following our *dharma*. Freeing ourselves from this worldly entanglement is a process that will continue throughout our lives but, serving the Lord, via serving His people, is a useful compass that will help us along that journey.

As part of the Young Professionals Team, Akshayam members were blessed with the opportunity to serve the Lord and the community throughout this pandemic. Although Akshayam missed the opportunity of serving in the *Maha Mandapa* to the same extent as what would have been possible in normal circumstances, the team was able to engage in other forms of *seva* both inside and outside the Temple. Akshayam took part in food distribution to COVID's first responders by helping to coordinate meals to various hospitals at the peak of New York's lockdown. Food donations continue now, on the last Saturday of every month. Members helped coordinate the picking up and delivery of essential goods such as groceries and medications to the seniors of the community and others that were not able to leave their homes during the pandemic. Even though devotees were not able to witness the Temple rituals in person, they were able to partake in the services virtually from the comfort of their homes. Working with Temple staff and volunteers, Akshayam helped set up the technical aspect of these production services so that live-streaming wouldn't be interrupted and that devotees could continue to get darshan of the Lord and maintain some sense of normalcy. In addition, Akshayam aided in planning and executing virtual educational sessions, known as the Hinduism Learning Series and the annual Anubhava conference, cultural programs, health/wellness talks, etc. Of note was the COVID-19 Memorial that took place in 2020, which was the very first vigil that was organized by an institution in the United States.



During the larger festivals including Ganesh Chaturthi Nava Dina Mahotsavam, New Years Day, etc. members helped set up walkways and barricades to ensure that safety, social distancing, and a steady flow of the crowd would be maintained. In the canteen, Akshayam worked with staff to set up UberEats, GrubHub and DoorDash services to allow for food to be delivered to people's homes. In essence, although the young members missed not being able to physically be in the temple and serve the Lord, they are waiting for the opportunity to jump back into those services when normalcy returns.

Our appeal to all of the young professionals reading this today is for you to experience this immense satisfaction and joy that you gain from taking part in *seva*, as this lies at the core of our *Sanatana Dharma*. Cultivating values like this will allow our *dharma* to sustain for many generations to come. We invite you to join the Akshayam team that will offer you a great platform to engage in these activities and be part of the growth of this Temple. To learn more about our activities, please email akshayam@nyganeshtemple.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	
Šankhābhishekam	<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 Pratishtha	
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 Pārvasī Pooja	
Durga Deepa Namaskaram	<i>Praying for marriage</i>
Srinivāsa Kalyānam	
Pārvasī 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

Šankha 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)

Triśati (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

Šathābhishekam

Punyāhavāchanam

Griha Ārambham

Annaprāśanam

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**

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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 Prasadam sent to the respective devotees.

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

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

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

Devotees may watch LIVE: [Facebook.com/nyganeshtemple](https://www.facebook.com/nyganeshtemple) or [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 - nyganeshtemple.org/divya-prabhandha-veda-classes

Thank you for your cooperation.

SUPPORT THE TEMPLE

Dear Devotees, as you all know last one year has been truly challenging for all of us in so many ways. With the Blessings of Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati and other Devatas of the Temple along with your unstinted support, Temple has been functioning uninterrupted, performing all the scheduled services and celebrating festivals although without the devotees. We sincerely hope that normalcy will return soon so that all the devotees can come and offer their prayers anytime during the day and participate in the festivals and poojas like before.

Our humble appeal to all the devotees to kindly support the Temple by contributing generously so that the Temple can continue to function without interruption and bring Temple services to your homes by live streaming as many services as possible.

May the blessings of Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati and all Deities enshrined in our Temple be with you and your family.