



आराधना

Aradhana

A Publication of the Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati
Devdham of North America™

Paush/Magh
Vikram Samvat, 2064
February 2008

Happy Mahashivaratri

Website: www.cincinnatitemple.com
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Phone: 513-528-3714



Lord Shiva on snowy Mount Kailas

MAHA SHIVARATRI

Sri Devnathan M. Shivachariyar

Maha Shivaratri is one of the most important festivals associated with Shiva worship. Shivaratri (the night of Lord Shiva) is observed on Chaturdasi (14th day), the eve of New Moon Day (Amavasya) falling in the middle of Maagha and Phalguna (February-March). During Shivaratri night, penance should be observed without sleep and food, along with the worship of Shiva.

There are five nights of Lord Shiva: 1) Maha Shivaratri (Great Night of Lord Shiva, see below), 2) Yoga Shivaratri (night which a Yogi creates for himself by Yogic trance), 3) Nitya Sivaratri (Nightly Shivaratri), 4) Paksha Shivaratri (Fortnightly Shivaratri) and 5) Masa Shivaratri (Monthly Shivaratri).

A Vrata (penance) is observed on Maha Shivaratri during the night. The night is divided into four quarters called Yama. Believers stay awake and fast during the night while worshipping the Lord Shiva. Observing people take a single meal during the day and sleep in a

clean place during the night previous to the beginning of the day of penance. In the morning of Shivaratri, believers take a ritual bath in a holy river like Ganga, Kaveri, Godavari, Krishna etc., if possible. Then visit a Shiva temple and worship or witness the worship of Lord Shiva. The worship is continued throughout the night. According to scriptures the penance should be observed by worshipping Lord Shiva with lotus flowers, offer Him a pudding called Pongali - rice and Mung bean cooked together in milk, and recite Rigveda till the end of first yama (quarter of the night). In the second Yama, they should worship Him with Tulasi leaves (Occimum sanctum), offer Him a pudding called Payasam- rice cooked in milk to a liquid consistency, and recite Yajurveda. In the third Yama, bael leaves (bilva leaves, Aegle marmelos or Crataeva religiosa) worship, offering of sesame flour mixed food, and recitation of Samaveda are observed. In the fourth Yama or the last quarter of the night, Neelotpala (blue lotus or Sengalinir) flower worship, offering of simple food and recitation of Athrvaveda are observed. (Food is offered to the Lord, but not eaten until the entire penance is completed in the next morning).

In different parts of the Indian Continent, various myths are attributed to the observance of the day. It is said that Lord Shiva destroyed the whole world in a deluge on this night, which is part of a cyclical creation and destruction. However, Lord Shiva's wife Parvati worshipped the Lord and requested him that life be restored back, and bless the mortals with salvation when they worship Lord Shiva, as she did. Her request was granted. The night, which Parvati fixed for mortals for the worship of Ishwara (Lord of the Universe), was named Mahaa-Shiva-Ratri (Great Night of Shiva).

Cont'd on page 6

HSGC Temple Information

Page: 2

Current Events & Pooja Information

Page: 3

Regular Weekly & Monthly Events

Page: 4

Upcoming Events

Page: 5

Note: If you or someone you know, is not receiving ARADHANA, or if you need a change in address, please contact Mr. Mohan Chopra at 859-331-2416 or Meena Mehta at 513-574-6763.

Deadline for submission of articles and advertisements for the next issue is February 10th, 2008

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You may wish to use this occasion to celebrate important events such as wedding anniversaries, birthdays, ishta devata pooja, graduation, and other memorable days. Events can be hosted by individuals, families, groups of families or organizations. Please reserve your Sunday of choice ASAP by putting your name and phone-no in the calendar at the temple and calling Bobba Chaudhary at (513) 984-6074</div> <div>TEMPLE SCHEDULE</div> <div>Monday - Friday :9:00AM-12:00 Noon</div> <div>5:00 PM - 8:00 PM</div> <div>Saturday, Sunday & US Holidays9:00 AM - 8:00 PM</div> <div>SPECIAL PROGRAM ON WEEKENDS</div> <div>9:15 - 9:30 A.M.Suprabhatam</div> <div>9:30 - 11:00 A.M.Daily pooja of Temple Deities</div> <div>11 :00 - 11:30 A.MSponsored Pooja</div> <div>11 : 30 - 12:15 A.MBhajan</div> <div>12 : 15 -12:45 P.M.Religious discourse</div> <div>12:45-1:00 P.M.Birthday and Anniversary pooja and announcement</div> <div>1 : 00 P.M.Aarti</div> <div>Please Donate Generously for your Temple</div> <div>Your Temple needs</div> <div>1. Sponsors for flower \$50/week</div> <div>2. Sponsors for Sunday pooja</div> <div>3.Your temple needs your support</div>	<div>2008 POOJA COMMITTEE & RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES MEMBERS</div> <div>To participate in/ sponsor please contact a Pooja Committee chairperson & member or Temple.</div> <div>Bobba Choudhary:984-6074</div> <div>Acharya Kailash. Sharma770-0705</div> <div>Pandit Devnath Sivachar528-4831</div> <div>Acharya Chakreshwar Sharma528-0901</div> <div>Sri Srinivas Bhattar528-3714</div> <div>Hindu Temple:528-3714</div> <div>Madhu Sharma232-9991</div> <div>Kiran Dayal474-4051</div> <div>Suchitra Mishra573-9775</div> <div>Rani Dhameja984-5777</div> <div>Sameer Rao793-5821</div> <div>Meena Karamchandani683-9454</div> <div>Kalpana Srivastava233-9184</div> <div>Uma Sanguai793-9384</div> <div>Muralee573-0550</div> <div>Minati Bhattacharya272-0361</div> <div>Vasundhra Dasari777-3353</div> <div>Anee Deka336-9554</div> <div>Manju Gupta232-3331</div> <div>Temple Manager's Committees</div> <div>Laxmi S. 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Pooja Information

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Pooja Committee Announcement:

To schedule a Pooja or to rent a temple hall (lower level)
please contact Babba Chaudhury at 984-6074

1. **Archana** performed during temple hours by sponsorship. No Archana on Sundays between 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
2. **Outside poojas** and other religious services will be conducted by appointment only.
3. To **schedule any poojas** please contact Pooja Committee chairperson at least one week in advance.
4. If you would like to bring **food and prasad** in the temple, Please contact Pooja Committee chairperson .
5. **Cancellations** of pooja should be done 3 days in advance or else the full fee for the pooja will be charged

RATES FOR POOJA & PRIEST SERVICES |

Effective March 2007

SERVICE	IN	OUTSIDE
	TEMPLE	TEMPLE
Abhishekam (All Deities)	\$101.00	Aksharabhyas
	\$101.00	\$151.00
Anna-Prashanam	\$101.00	\$151.00
Ashtottharam (108) Archana	\$21.00	---
AyushyaHomam/B'day Celebration	\$101.00	\$151.00
Ground Breaking Ceremony	---	\$151.00
Griha Pravesh	---	\$151.00
Kalayana Uthsava (Lord Ram/ Sita)	\$121.00	- -
Kesh Khandan (Churakaran)	\$101.00	\$151.00
Nam-Karan	\$101.00	\$151.00
Navagraha Pooja	\$101.00	\$151.00
Nischitartham (Engagement)	\$151.00	\$251.00
Nitya (1 Day) Kainkaryam (Seva)	\$101.00	---
Poolangi Seva (With Flowers)- (Only During Off Winter Season)	\$101.00	---
Sahasranama (1008) Archana	\$51.00	---
Sathyanarayana Pooja	\$101.00	\$151.00
Seemantham	\$101.00	\$151.00
Devi Jagaran	\$75.00	\$101.00
Akhand Ramayan Paath	---	\$151.00
Shashti Poorthi (60th B'day Celeb.)	\$101.00	\$151.00
Anniversary celebration	\$101.00	\$151.00
Suprabhat Seva	\$21.00	---
Unjal (Swing) Seva	\$31.00	---
Upakarma (thread changing)	\$51.00	---
Upanayam/Brahmopadesham/ Thread Ceremony	\$151.00	\$251.00
Vahan Pooja	\$51.00	---
Yearly Shradham (Barkhi)	\$101.00	\$151.00
Wedding	\$301.00	\$501.00

SPECIAL POOJA RATE

Rates for Mata Ki Chauki performed at another temple will be 15% of the money collected at the temple or a minimum of \$ 501.00.

1. Poojas performed by priests outside the temple will be rated according to the number of poojas performed.
2. 40 Cents/Miles for Travel expanse to the Priest to perform pooja at your home.

Rates are subject to change without notice. Rates of Poojas out of Greater Cincinnati will be \$100.00 more than the rates of outside pooja within greater Cincinnati area.

Temple Rental: Lower Floor Only

	Full day	1/2 day
M-Th. (except holidays)	\$301	\$151
Fri., Sat & Holidays	\$501	\$351
<u>Sunday after 3PM only</u>		\$351

Note: For half day select one of the two.

8:00 AM - 2 PM OR 4PM - 11 PM

Temple rental applies to all private reservations for those events/poojas that are performed by private parties and not announced in the temple.

Security/ Cleaning deposit: \$151 required. This deposit will be forfeited if the basement hall bathrooms and kitchen area are not cleaned by the party renting the place.

NOTE: To schedule a Pooja or to rent a temple hall (lower level) please contact pooja Committee chairperson only.

Regular Weekly & Monthly Events at the Temple

Monthly Navgrah Pooja

Every first Saturday of the Month
February 2nd Saturday 3 pm to 5:30 pm
Sponsors needed for Pooja \$51.00
For Details please call
Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074
Sri Devnathanji: 528-4831 Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Murugan Abhishekham /Pooja

Every second Saturday of the Month
February 9th Saturday 4.00pm
Sponsored by Murugan Group.
Please contact Bobba Choudhary :984-6074.

Monthly Satya Narayan Pooja

On Every Purnima of the Month
February 20th Saturday 5:00 pm
Sponsorship \$ 51.00
To sponsor pooja please call Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074
Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Sundar Kand Path

February 10th Sunday 10:30 am
Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074 Acharya Kailashji: 770-0705
Temple Priests: 528-3714

Monthly Shri Ganesh Pooja & Shri Ganesh Atharvshirsha Path

Every 4th Sunday of the month: February 24th Sunday
This pooja is dedicated to each month's
Sankashti Chaturthi to Lord Ganesh.
For more information & Sponsor the pooja please call

Anuradha Kulkarni: 271-2749 Uma Sangvai: 793-9384
Kiran Dayal: 474-4051 Temple Priests: 528-3714

Monthly ABHISHEKAM/KALYANOTSAVAM FOR LORD SRI VENKATESWARA

On 4th Saturday of each month from 10:30 AM-12:30PM.
To sponsor and details please call any of the following:
Anand Konda: 481-4119 Vasundhara Dasari: 777-3353
Suseela Paturi: 867-8591 Vicheta Pemmaraju: 398-9833
Sailaja Gannamraj: 697-1412 Usha Indrakanti: 583-5995

Weekly Shiv Mahiman Stotram

Every Monday at 6:30pm

Weekly Hanuman Chalisa Path

Every Tuesday at 6:30pm
To sponsor pooja please call Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074
Temple priests: 528-3714

Weekly Vishnu Sahasranaam Parayana

Vishnu Sahasranaama Parayana (chanting) will now take
place Every Thursday at 7:00 pm in the temple.
Please join us for the chanting.
For more information, please contact the priest at 528-3714

Weekly Venkateswar Pooja

Every Friday at 6:30pm
To sponsor pooja please call Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074
Temple priests: 528-3714

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 - ⇒ The Bhagavad-Gita is the most systematic statement of spiritual evolution of endowing value to mankind. *It is one of the most clear and comprehensive summaries of perennial philosophy ever revealed; Its enduring value is subject not only to India but to all of humanity.* -Aldous Huxley
- Join us in understanding and appreciating the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad-Geeta.

When: Fourth Sunday of the month, 11am to 12:45pm

Where: The Hindu Temple

Taught by: Sri Koti Sreekrishna,

Notes with transliteration guide (Sanskrit to English) provided.

Contact

Manju Gupta: 232 - 3331 Vasanta Vemuri: 232- 5767



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Upcoming Events at the Temple

February 2008 Highlights

February 10 Sunday Sundarkand Path
 February 11 Monday Vasant Panchami
 February 17 Sunday Vasant Panchami Celebration
 February 20 Wednesday Shri SatyaNarayan Pooja
 Omasimagam

Please refer to Page 2 for regular weekly and monthly pooja and path.

March 2008 Events

March 6 Thursday Mahashivratri Celebration
 March 16 Sunday Sundarkand Path
 March 21 Friday Holika Dahan 7:30pm
 Shri SatyaNarayan Pooja
 Panjuni Uttaram
 March 22 Saturday Holi Celebration: Culture Program for detail see page 10
 March 30 Sunday Shri Jagannath Pooja

Vasant Panchmi Celebration

On

Sunday Feb. 17th 2008

10:30 am to 1:00 Pm

10:30 to 11:30 Saraswati Puja
 11:30 to 11:45 Vidyarambha Puja (For Children)
 11:45 to 12:00 Pushpanjali Offerings
 12:00 to 1:00 Bhajans , Pravachan & Aarti
 Prasad (Lunch)

This Event is sponsored by Agrani Bengali Association .
 For Details Please call Bobba Choudhary :984-6074 or
 Temple: 513-528-3714.

Everyone believes in **God**. If not, everyone believes in someone bigger and higher than himself. **God** is the one who is the biggest and highest than everyone. Therefore one, believes in **God**.

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MAHA SHIVARATRI PUJA CELEBRATION

On

Thursday March 6th, 2008

6 pm to 4 am (All Night) Puja

First Puja

6 pm to 7 pm Shivabhishek
 6 :30 to 7:30 Puja Thali offering (Archana)**
 7: 30 to 8:00 Shiv Mahimnah Path, Bhajans
 8: 00 pm Aarti Followed by Prasad (Dinner)

Second Puja

9:30pm to 10:30pm Shivabhishek *
 10:30pm to 11:30pm **Shiva Shahashranama Path,**
 Shiva Mahimnah Path & Bhajans
 11:30pm Aarti & Prasad

Third Puja

12:30am to 1:30 am Shivabhishek *
 1:30am to 2:00 am Shiv Mahimnah Path
 Arti & Prasad

Fourth Puja

2:30am to 3:30am Shivabhishek *
 3:30am to 4:00am Shiva Mahimnah Path,
 Arti & Prasad

We Need sponsors Sponsorship

* **Shivabhishek.: \$101.00. ,**

All Night Puja: \$251.00

**** Puja Thali: \$21.00 with Ganga jal & Milk**

Please sponsor one of the Abhishek for lord Shiva on this auspicious day. **We also request devotees to bring only very small amount of milk for offering due to big collection of milk, which** we cannot offer on same night. Please donate money instead of milk or dry nuts for prasad.

For Details Please call Bobba Choudury :984-6074;Janak Dave: 859-371-9645; Temple Priests: 513-528-3714.

Holika Dahan

On

March 21st Friday

7:30pm After Aarti.

For details Call Tempel: 528-37214

Mata Ki Chouki

On

March 1st 2008

4PM to 8PM

Sponsored by Minhas, Pathak, Mantor Families

According to a legend in the Shiva Purana, once Brahma and Vishnu were fighting over who was the superior of the two. Horrified at the intensity of the battle, the other gods asked Shiva to intervene. To make them realize the futility of their fight, Shiva assumed Linga form of a huge column of fire in between Brahma and Vishnu. Awestruck by its magnitude, they decided to find one end each to establish supremacy over the other. Brahma assumed the form of a swan and went upwards and Vishnu as Vahara went into the earth. The column of fire had no limit and though they searched for thousands of miles, neither could find the end. On his journey upwards, Brahma came across a Ketaki flower wafting down slowly. When asked where she had come from, Ketaki replied that she had been placed at the top of the fiery column as an offering. Unable to find the uppermost limit, Brahma decided to end his search and take the flower as a witness. At this, the angry Shiva revealed his true form. He punished Brahma for telling a lie, and cursed him that no one would ever worship him. The Ketaki flower too was banned from being used as an offering for any worship, as she had testified falsely. Since it was on the 14th day in the dark half of the month of Phalguna that Shiva first manifested himself in the form of a linga, the day is especially auspicious and is celebrated as Mahashivratri.

According to Kannassa Ramayana, Brahma was born in the lotus that originated from the navel of Sri Maha Vishnu. Brahma tried to find the origin of the lotus and found Lord Vishnu. He asked Vishnu, "Who are you?" Vishnu replied, "I am Vishnu, your father." Father and son got into a quarrel over the origins Brahma and then into a fight. They shot their respective, the most powerful weapons of mass destruction, Brahmastra and Narayanastra arrows, which caused devastation of the world. At that point a great lingam appeared to the amazement of both. They both determined to find the beginning and end of the great lingam and failed to reach its edges. At that moment Lord Shiva revealed himself and withdrew both weapons of mass destruction. Shiva enjoined that Brahma, Vishnu and the whole world should do penance that night every year by fast and worship of his great lingam, Shivalinga. That night was Shivaratri.

According to another legend, Lord Shiva performs the ritualistic dance of Creation, Preservation and Dissolution on this night and so devotees also spend the night fully awake while reciting praises of Shiva. In some parts of the country Shivaratri is believed to have been the night when Shiva consumed the poison to save the world. Shiva was in pain and agony. The whole night, water, milk and other cooling material are poured on the Shiva Linga to relieve Shiva of suffering from the heat and burn of the poison.

Worship of Shiva in general

According to Agnipurana, Nandikesa and Mahakala should be worshipped first. Then Ganga, Yamuna, the Ganas, Vastupurusa, Sakti, and Dharma are to be worshipped. Later, the Navasaktis (nine energies), i.e., Vaama, Jyeshtha, Raudra, Kaali, Kalavikarini, Balavikarini, Balapramathini, Sarvabhutadamani, and Manonmani should be worshipped. Then chanting of mantra, "Haam, huum, haam, Shivamuurtaye" should be performed.

The Shiva worship should incorporate six items: offering Bilva leaves to the Linga after giving it a ceremonial bath, which represents purification of the soul; applying vermilion paste on the Linga after bathing it, which represents virtue; offering food, which is conducive to longevity and the gratification of desires; lighting incense, which yields wealth; lighting a Ghee lamp, which signifies the attainment of knowledge; and offering betel leaves, which marks satisfaction with worldly pleasures.

Shivaratri's importance is described in many stories. According the following stories, even if one prays inadvertently to Shiva during Shivaratri, s/he would go to heaven even if s/he were a dreadful sinner..

According to Sivaratrimahatmya, Sukumara was the son of a Brahmin manager of the king of Kunjara, a kingdom on the banks of river Sindhu (Pakistan). He married a non-Brahmin and relinquished Brahminism. One day he went to a Shiva temple searching for flowers for his beloved wife. It was the night of the Shivaratri and the festival was being celebrated at the temple. Sukumara participated in the celebrations. Shortly afterwards he died. Agents of Kala Yama came to take his soul to hell for he relinquished his dharma and religion. At the same time angels from Kailasa also came to pick Sukumara's soul. Shiva's angels won over Yama's agents and took Sukumara to Shivaloka due to his accidental participation in Mahashivaratri celebrations.

Another Brahmin youth of a very bad character was once banished from his country as a punishment for his sins and evil deeds. One day he was wandering from morning to night looking for food. At the sunset he reached a Shiva temple. He saw offerings placed in front of the Lord in sanctum sanctorum of the temple. He wanted to steal the food. He went into the sanctum and increased the light by adjusting the dying lamp. However, he was caught. It was the night of Maha Shivaratri. After the penance was complete, he was put to death for his crime of attempt to steal. It was believed that because he participated in the penance by performing the fast and stayed awake the entire night listening to recital of prayers and vedas in the temple, although involuntarily, he went to heaven.

Once upon a time, a hunter with his wife and a child lived in a forest. One day he went out hunting as usual. Night approached, but he was not able to hunt any thing. On his way back home, he stopped at a lake and climbed a bilva tree, hoping to catch an animal that might approach to drink water. Soon a doe approached the tree to eat the bilva leaves dropped by the hunter. The hunter took aim and was about to shoot the doe with his arrow. Suddenly, the doe addressed the hunter in a human voice, "O Hunter! Do not kill me, please." Startled by the human voice, the hunter said, "My dear doe! I have to kill you. You must be food for my family tonight." The doe requested the hunter to let her go home and bid final goodbye to her family and promised to come back to become hunter's food. The hunter, moved by her request, permitted her to go home. While he waited for the doe to return, a stag approached his tree. He was about to shoot the animal and again he was surprised when he heard that deer also beg him in a human voice to let him go home to see his wife and child and say goodbye. The hunter granted the request. Soon after a fawn appeared and also requested the hunter to let it go home to its parents and say goodbye. The hunter let the fawn go

Cont'd to page 9

Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati
Minutes of December 9, 2007 General Body Meeting

Secretary opened the meeting at 11 am and read the agenda for the meeting.

President Raj Bodalia spoke first.

He expressed condolences for the passing away of Panditji B. C. Sharma and paid tributes to the Panditji for his long service to the temple.

- announced that the temple is in very good state overall, and expressed satisfaction that EC has accomplished all its goals set out at the beginning of the year, except one. In particular, he said the temple income exceeded the initial goal set at the beginning of the year. He informed that the campaign to gather signatures for changing the constitution needs more work.
- reported on the accomplishment of Barg Salt Run road project.
- thanked all the committee chairs for their hard work, and especially thanked Pooja Chair Bobba Choudary for his hard work and accomplishments in spite of the shortage of priests. He thanked for the new Pooja festivals organized successfully during the year.

Treasurer gave his report of the temple budget for 1/1/2007 through 11/30/2007. Total income and expenditures during the period was \$396,106 and \$307,121. Non-routine expenses were reported to be \$72,260; this included expenses such as additional principal payments on the mortgage.

Secretary reported about the accomplishments of various committees such as the holding of Hindu Awareness Day at the temple, the new look of Aradhana and the cost being covered by its advertisements, the successful events organized such as Mela, Navaratri, Hatha Yatra, and on the monthly report by the treasurer on the financial status of the temple.

Laxmi Srivastava reported that one new priest has already joined the temple and another new priest is expected to arrive soon.

On behalf of the Election commission consisting of Ambikaipakan Balasubramaniam, Mohan Chopra, and Raneshwar Gupta, announced Mohan Chopra read the slate of candidates. Without any opposition the following candidates were elected to serve in 2008.

President	Raj Bodalia	Religious and Pooja	Bobba Choudhury
Vice President	Rameshwar Dayal	Long Range Planning	Jitu Patel
Secretary	Siva Sivaganesan	Religious Education	
Treasurer	Amar Sharma	and Youth Activities	Manju Gupta
Communucation/Editor	Meena Mehta	Property management	
Fund raising	Hari Maddali	and Maintenance	Shiv Sharma
Cultural Committee	Jyoti Desai	Youth Member	Surbhi Sharma

Secretary thanked every one for attending the meeting.

Sincerely

Siva Sivaganesan

Minutes of December 9, 2007 Executive Council Meeting

Member Present: Raj Bodalia, Prem Garg, Amar Sharma, Anil Jindal, Jyoti Desai, Meena Mehta, Bobba Choudary, and Siva Sivaganesan. Meeting started at 10:15 AM

EC approved Raj Agrawal as the accountant to facilitate with an internal audit. Mr. Agrawal will provide his services on a voluntary basis.

Treasurer reported that income for the year 2007 increased by about \$70,000 over the last year amount.

It was pointed out that the canopy over the deities need vacuuming.

Bobba Choudary reported that over the year there were 10 major pujas which brought in a total of \$122,000 income to the temple. He expressed a need to recognize volunteers. The committee chairpersons were requested to provide names of volunteers to publish in Aradhana.

Sincerely

Siva Sivaganesan

Community Corner

THE POLIO FOUNDATION OF INDIA

Polio (also called **poliomyelitis**) is a contagious, historically devastating disease that was virtually eliminated from the Western hemisphere in the second half of the 20th century. Although polio has plagued humans since ancient times, its most extensive outbreak occurred in the first half of the 1900s before the [vaccination](#), created by Jonas Salk, became widely available in 1955.

At the height of the polio epidemic in 1952, nearly 60,000 cases with more than 3,000 deaths were reported in the United States alone. However, with widespread vaccination, **wild-type polio**, or polio occurring through natural infection, was eliminated from the United States by 1979 and the Western hemisphere by 1991. Six countries (Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Niger, Nigeria, and Pakistan) still have polio circulating, and the virus could be introduced to other countries.

The Polio Foundation of India is a leading Non Profit Organization in India, fighting against Polio and Cerebral Palsy. More than 50,000 polio affected people have been examined and 10,000 people have been operated in hospital set ups and in 150 outdoor camps all over India. The foundation provides complete facilities from prevention to rehabilitation including immunization, early diagnosis, counseling, corrective surgery, caliper workshop and socio-economic rehabilitation within its premise at no cost to the patients. Foundation also provides therapies to Cerebral Palsy children under one roof, not only as a part of duty but wholehearted affection for the task. More than 17,000 CP children have been examined and thousand of them are under going different therapy.

The foundation started in 1987 and worked for five years in private set up. Impressed by its work, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation had given the Foundation an Institution at the token rent of Rs.101 per year from 1992-93 and since then it has been able to help large number of people.

Encouraged by the result oriented work of the Foundation, the Govt. of Gujarat has honored the Foundation by allocating land of 5,500 sq. yards in the heart of the city to establish an institute-cum-hospital for Polio and Cerebral Palsy children.

Motivated by the response from the donors and encouraged by the benefits to the beneficiaries, the Foundation has decided to extend their wings and future vision. Following are the plans for the future:

- MODERN CEREBRAL PALSY INSTITUTE
- PAEDIATRIC SURGERY AND ORTHOPEDIC CARE
- OPHTHALMOLOGY CARE

TRAINING INSTIUTIONS FOR

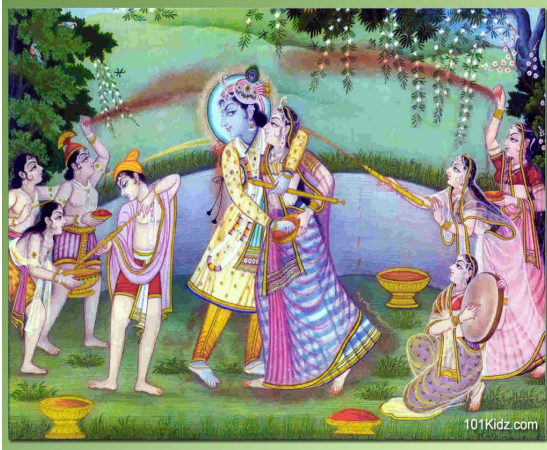
Special Education (DSE to cerebral palsy)
Occupational therapy
Orthotic and Prosthetic courses
Nursing courses
Medical Laboratory technology

The Foundation's dream is to evoke a strong awareness regarding physically handicapped people and cerebral palsied children in India and show the world that to a large extent these lesser-endowed children can surely lead a normal life.

The Foundation is seeking support through any means possible towards the treatment and management of children with cerebral palsy, polio or congenital deformities. All donations to the foundation are exempted under Income tax exemption Act, 35 AC and 80G. The Government of India has granted approval to collect international funds under FEMA.

Please visit www.poliofoundation.org for additional information. Also please contact Bipin Shroff in Cincinnati at (513) 232 -1190 or Email: bshroff@cinci.rr.com

HINDU SOCIETY OF GREATER CINCINNATI



Celebrates Holi Festival The Festival of Colors With Culture Program

*Holi Aayire Re Kanhaai
Holi Aayire
Rang Chhalake Sunaade
jara Baansuri
Holi Aayire..Aayire Holi Aayire...
Barase Gulaal Rang More
Anganavaa.....*



On

March 22nd, Saturday 2008

4:00pm to 6:00pm

At the Hindu Temple of Greater Cincinnati

We are inviting your participation in the Holi cultural program

Total number of entries will be 20. So act quick and Email your entry by 10th March to:

Jyoti Desai at Jyotidesai1@yahoo.com

Children under five years of age are not allowed to participate

Detail program will be in the March issue of Aradhana

Cont'd From page 6

as well. The hunter waited foolishly for the return of the three deer as promised. It was almost dawn and there was no sight of the animals. He was about to go home resigned to his fate, there he saw at the dawn the three honest animals return. About the same time he saw his wife and child come running to him after searching for him the whole night in the forest. At that tender moment, the hunter decided to let the animals go free. Unknown to the hunter, the tree on which he lodged for the night happened to be the bilva tree the leaves of which are held to be sacred to Lord Shiva; and he unwittingly offered worship to Shiva through out the night by dropping the leaves on an image of Shivalinga which was lying under that tree. To add to the hunter's fortune, the night on which all these things took place was Maha Shivaratri night, though the hunter was ignorant of it. Therefore, there appeared before the hunter a divine airplane and carried away the hunter and his family along with the animals to the abode of Lord Shiva who was pleased by the hunter's actions.

According to another story, a hunter who failed to kill any animal was up on a tree all the night for the fear of wild beasts. While the wild animals were waiting for him under the tree, he plucked the leaves of the tree and kept on throwing at the beasts to keep them away. The leaves fell on the Shivalinga under the tree. It was the night of Maha Shivaratri. So, he went to heaven as Lord Shiva saved him despite his sinful hunting life.

Jyotirlingas: There are Dwadasa (12) Jyotirlinga shrines enshrining Shiva in the form of a Jyotirlingam (Linga of Light), have been held in reverence since time immemorial in the Saivite religion. The 12 Jyotirlingas are Bhimashankar, Deogarh, Grishneshwar, Kedarnath, Nageshwar, Omkareshwar, Rameswaram, Somnath, Sree Sailam, Tryambakeshwar, Ujjain and Varanasi. The southernmost of these is located at Rameswaram, while the northernmost is located in the snowy heights of the Himalayas at Kedarnath. These temples are closely linked with legends from the puranas and are rich in history and tradition.

|| May Lord shiva bless you all ||

Read more on 'Shiva Linga' on page 15

Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati unaudited account for year 2007

Unaudited Income-Expense Report for 2007

Income Category	Total
400 General Donation	139,479
420 Puja Income	
<i>Mataki Chawki</i>	45,493
<i>Outside Puja</i>	79,746
Special Puja & Archana	9,251
430 Advertisement Aradhana	16,539
430 Advertisement Notice Board	80
440 Festivals Income	
<i>Chandi Havan</i>	40,000
<i>Diwali</i>	2,500
<i>Ganesh Chaturthi</i>	3,800
<i>Maha Shivratri</i>	3,590
<i>Mela</i>	12,200
<i>Navratri</i>	33,373
<i>Rath Yatra</i>	10,000
<i>Saraswati Puja</i>	3,000
<i>Sitaram Kalyanam</i>	7,600
499 Flower	5,583
Total Income	412,234



Welcome Sri Srinath Bhattar our newest priest

We are pleased to welcome Sri Srinath Bhattar who joined our temple at the dawn of New Year. He has served as priest for nearly 2 years at the Jakarta (Indonesia) Hindu temple, and prior to that for 18 years as a priest at the Lakshmi Venkateshwara-Satyanarayana Swamy temple of Chamaraipet, Bangalore. He holds a Bcom

degree. He is fluent in Kannada, Telugu and Tamil languages. His brother Srinivas Ji served our temple for nearly a decade. Besides, his grand father Sri Narayana Bhattar and his father Sri Sheshadri Bhattar, participated in the Pranapratishtapana celebration of our temple in 1997.

Let us give him a warm welcome and pray Almighty that his wife Smt. Sudha, and children [Aishwarya (11), Anirudh (8) and Abhiram (1)] will be able to join him in the near future.

Aradhana Advertise

If you are interested in advertising in Aradhana or renewing current advertisement in Aradhana please contact Meena Mehta at 513-574-6763 or Aashish Shah at 513-942-8264.

Expense Category	Total
Aradhana Publication	14,003
Bank Charges (safe deposit vault)	64
Cultural Center	253
Festival Expense	200
Chandi Havan	12,318
Navratri	15,171
Rath Yatra	5,272
Mela	6,627
Flowers	16,833
Mortgage	50,035
Office Expense	4,615
Property Insurance	3,866
Property Tax	8,700
Repair & Maintenance	
<i>Grass Cutting</i>	1,225
<i>Pest Control</i>	612
<i>Repair & Maintenance - Unassigned</i>	23,549
<i>Snow Removal</i>	2,418
<i>Temple Cleaning</i>	18,841
Security ADT	3,618
Supplies	
<i>Temple</i>	13,405
<i>Pooja</i>	569
<i>Food</i>	7,725
Utilities	
<i>Garbage Removal</i>	1,156
<i>Gas & Electric</i>	30,546
<i>Telephone Bill</i>	1,777
<i>Water & Sewer</i>	1,118
Wages & Salary	
<i>Bonus</i>	1,820
<i>City Income Tax</i>	88
<i>Federal Income Tax</i>	10,421
<i>Health Care</i>	23,264
<i>Housing Allowance</i>	14,072
<i>Life Insurance</i>	369
<i>Net Pay</i>	37,950
<i>State Income Tax</i>	399
Total Expense	332,900
Income less Expenses	79,334

Non-Routine Expense

Category	Amount
Mortgage: Principal	25,000
Severance B.C.Sharma	16,800
Road Project	35,460
Total Expense	77,260



ANNOUNCEMENT

GREAT NEWS !!

Our dream has come true.

Our prayers to have a RamKatha in Cincinnati have been answered.

Pujya shree Moraribapu will have "RamKatha USA" in Cincinnati,

from July 5 Saturday to July 13 Sunday 2008.

Mark your calendar now!

More details will be forthcoming.

JAY SIYARAM

Science and Religion

There is a knowledge that allows man to know himself and his relationship to all existence.

This direct knowledge is the goal of **Vedanta, the Science of religion.**

The series of different topics of this knowledge will feature in every issue of Aradhana..

In January issue of Aradhana you read the "My Idea Of God" by one of the greatest scientist, Albert Einstein, of our time.

'In this February issue let us find the "Footprints of God" by following the footsteps of Shri Shankaracharya.

Meena Mehta

FOOTPRINTS OF GOD

H. H. SHANKARACHARYA OF KANCHI

When we see a house, we infer that there must be someone who has built it. We learn that a certain engineer constructed it. When we see anything which has abrasion confirming to an order, we infer that there is somebody who has fashioned it. If so, there must be one who created this world governed by innumerable marks of order.

If it is asked who made this shed under which we are sitting, we are able to give an answer. Who made this plantain tree? We are not able to point to any visible person. Yet there is one who brought it into being. That is why the plantain has grown layer after layer in perfect arrangement without a flaw. We do not know what perfect instruments He used to bring it about in beautiful order. Even so, we are not able to point to Him who created that mountain, those stars above, the moon and such like. It may be said: "These arose a long long time ago. How can we now point to him who produced them?"

Well, take this rose. It developed much later than that plantain. The day before yesterday it was but a bud. Now it is a lovely flower. There are hundreds of petals in it. Each of them has a minute lines and a fragrance. It blossomed forth before our eyes. But we do not see Him who made it blossom. We believe that we are wise men who know everything. But even as an animal who goes around Madras (the city) would blink in wonder appalled at its ignorance of everything, so are we in respect to this universe. One who is wiser than man has kept him in this condition.

All the roses in the world blossom by the same law; all the mountains stand rooted in accord with the same nature; all the stars revolve by an identical plan. It is plain, therefore, that the same architect determined all these. As the entire universe is seen to have been fashioned in the same manner according to definite causal laws, it is clear that the same intelligence fashioned it all.

Man, who boasts he is clever, must get to know that there is one who is infinitely cleverer than he. That is because not only is He very clever; he is also very good. Apart from being the superior intelligence which created all this, He is also the supreme compassion which protects everything. Realizing that our cleverness is His gift, if we pray to Him. He will do good to us. It is He who we call God.

This, our cleverness itself, is one of His marks. As the footprints of a thief furnish the clue to his discovery, so are found everywhere the footprints of God, the stealer of our hearts. Even our cleverness in one of His footprints. It is clear that there must be a ground for all this cleverness.

We ourselves are the proof of the existence of God who is the creator. Can we draw the intricate and variegated lines like those that He has drawn on the palms of every one of us? He has embellished a single leaf with lines more wonderful than the handiwork of man in the whole of this city. All these are the marks of that Master Thief. As a thief remains in hiding, He too is hidden. The Vedas declare again and again that He is hidden in a cave. That cave is our heart. Hiding within us, doing all these without us, filling us with wonderment, God makes us search for Him.

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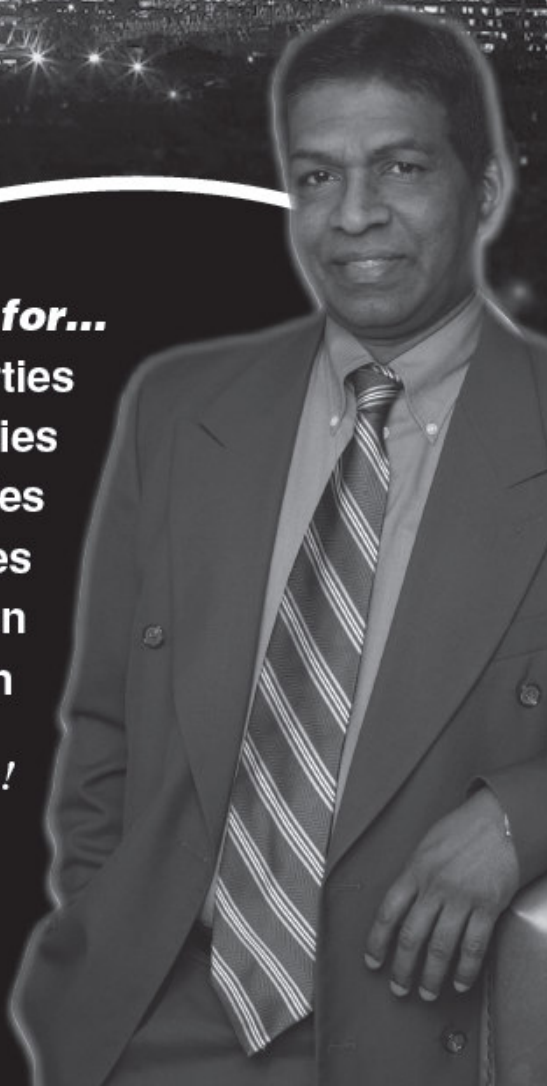
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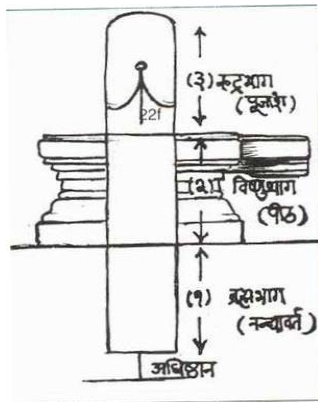
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SHIVA LINGA



Shiva



Vishnu



Brahma

The meaning of the word Linga is that which indicates. The Shiva Linga that is visible after the installation is the top one third and the other two third forms the base. The first one third of the base which is square shaped column stands for Brahma: the aspect of creation in the cosmos. As the creation brings things into the existence, naturally the process is directed outwards i.e. towards the object of creation. Since the creation is going on endlessly, the four directions of the square represent this concept. One can move in each direction without reaching the end. This aspect (the creation) of the Lord is called Brahma- the Lord as the Creator and is represented by the square cross section standing for four directions. The middle one third octagon

column represents Vishnu, the one pervades everything in the creation. The four directions and four corners totaling to eight along with up and down directions cover everything and it is indicated by the octagonal middle cross section.

The top one third circular column represents the Shiva aspect of the creation. The circular cross section indicates Limitlessness, the beginningless and endlessness aspect of the creation.

Thus, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva (Mahesh) are no three different entities!!! It is one Limitlessness viewed from different aspects so mind has a direction to contemplate. Lord Vishnu is also worshipped and invoked in the form of Shaligram (a spherical shape) standing for the Limitlessness as so is Lord Shiva.

Thus, the Shiva Linga when worshipped all three inseparable aspects Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, are worshipped.

This is one of the different interpretations but not known as a common knowledge, of the symbolic significance of Shiva Linga.



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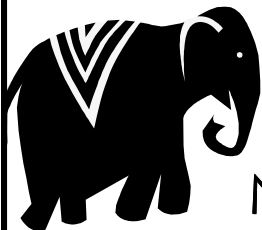
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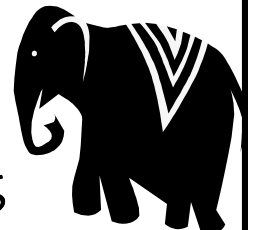
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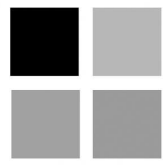
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