

ॐ SANDESH ॐ

April-June 2023



Hindu Society
OF NORTH EAST FLORIDA

4968 Greenland Road., Jacksonville, FL 32258. Phone. 904 268 7630.
Web site. www.hsnef.org.

Hindu Society
OF NORTH EAST FLORIDA

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Executive Board

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Ragha Suda

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Ritu Sharma



Temple Staff



Temple timing

Weekdays. 9.00 - 11.00 am (Arati 9-45 am)

6.00 - 8.30 pm (Arati 7.00 pm)

Weekends. 9.00 am to 8.30 pm (Arati 11-45 am; 7.00 pm)

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Message from Head Priest

Namaste,

Hari Om. Wishing you all Happy Ugadi, Gudi Padwa and Naya Shalivahana Shaka Samvat Hindu New Year celebrations.

On behalf of you, the special prayers are offered to Lord Ganesha and all the forms of the one Almighty every day at the temple. Visiting temples is one of our dharma observed in our faith. Whenever you have time, please visit the temple with your family for our pujas and arati services.

Coming to upcoming the events of this quarter, we are going to celebrate, Ugadi, Gudi Padwa and Naya Samvat on 22nd of March. All these festivities together meaning 'Hindu New Year'. Let us know in brief about these festivals.

Ugadi or Yugadi (also known as Samvatsarādi 'Beginning of the Year'), is New Year's Day according to the Hindu calendar. The festival marks the beginning of a new Hindu calendar year and is celebrated on the first day of "Chaitra" month, which falls in the months of March-April as per the Gregorian calendar.

Gudi Padwa is a spring-time festival that marks the traditional new year for Marathi and Konkani Hindus but is also celebrated by other as well. **Naya Samvat** is also beginning of Shalivahana Shaka New year.

The followers of Sanatana Dharma follow three calendars, with three Happy New year days. Out of three, the first one is known as Chandra Maan (Lunar calendar), the second one, Suara Maan (Solar calendar) and the third one is Barhaspatya Maan (Jupiter calendar). Ugadi, Gudi padwa and Nayasamvat come under Lunar new year or Shalivahana Shaka Era. Baishakhi and Tamil New Year's Day come under solar calendar and Gujarati New Year is fall under Barhaspatya system (calendar computation according to Jupiter system) known as Vikram Samvat.

In the year 2023, the first day in the Vikram Samvat calendar falls on 13 November, Monday. This New Year is usually observed on the day after the festival of Diwali.

Shalivahana Shaka and Vikram Samvat are two eras that are used in India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and rest of the Hindu world, wherever Hindus live.

We celebrate all new years in our temple including English New Year's Day. We always trust in '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**' meaning '**the world is one family**'.

The first day of Nayasamvat marks Vasanta Navratri, which will be ended with Shri Ram Navami. Please sign up for temple emails and visit our temple website (hsnef.org) or Facebook for the details of upcoming events, Ram navami, Sitarama Kalyan Utsav, Akhanda Ramayan path,

Mahavir Swami jayanti and Hanuman Jayanti. Please remember we are going to conclude all these festivals with grand food festival 'Anand bazaar' on Saturday April 8th, 2023.

I would like to wish you all for our Temple sixteenth anniversary celebrations, which will be celebrated on Sunday 26th March 2023. This year our temple anniversary will be celebrated with upcoming project '**Yajna Shala Bhoomi Pujan**'. Please participate in Yajna Shala Bhumi Pujan and offer your sankalp for one more milestone of temple Yajna Shala Project.

Once again happy festivals. Looking forward to seeing you at the temple.

With Divine thoughts,

Pandit Shrinath Kadambi
Director of Worship

Events for April 2023

Date	Day	Event	Time
1 st	Sat	Sri Rama Navami Begins Akhand Ramayan	10:30 am
		Meditation	2:00-3:00 pm
2 nd	Sun	Akhand Ramayan, Poornahuti, Bhajans, Aarti Prasad Ganesh Abhisheka	9:30 am - noon
4 th	Tue	Mahavir Swami Jayanti	6:00 – 7:00 pm
5 th	Wed	Hanuman Jayanti	See special flyer
8 th	Sat	Sri venkateswara suprabhata seva	9:30 – 10:30 am
		Devi pooja Samuhika Soundryalahari Parayana	10:30 – 11:30 am
9 th	Sun	Shiv Pooja Rudrabhishek	9:30 – 10:30 am
		Jain Samavesh	10:30 – 11:30 am
		Sankataharana Chaturthi Ganesh Abhishekam	6:00 – 8:00 pm
14 th	Fri	Baishaki; Tamil new year day	See special events
15 th	Sat	Venkateshwara suprabhata seva Venkateswara Abhishekam and pooja	9:30 – 10:30 am 10:00 – 11:45 am
		Meditation	2:00 – 3:00 pm
16 th	Sun	Sri Satyanarayana pooja Mahavir Swami Jayanti Celebration.	10:00 – 11:45 am 10:00 – 3:00 pm
17 th	Mon	Mahapradosha shiva Abhishek and puja	6:00 – 8:00 pm
22 nd	Sat	Sri Venkateshwara suprabhata seva	9:30 – 10:30 am
		Sri Lakshminarayana pooja	10:30 – 11:45 am
		Navagrah Abhishek Meditation	11:00 – 11:45 am 2:00 – 4:00 pm
23 rd	Sun	Balakrishna Pooja Jain Samavesh	10:30 – 11:30 am 10:30 – 11:30 am
		Vinayak Ganesh Abhishekam	6:00 – 8:00 pm
24 th	Mon	Shankara Ramanuja Jayanti	6:00 – 7:00 pm
29 th	Sat	Sri Venkateswara Suprabhata Seva	9:30 – 10:30 am

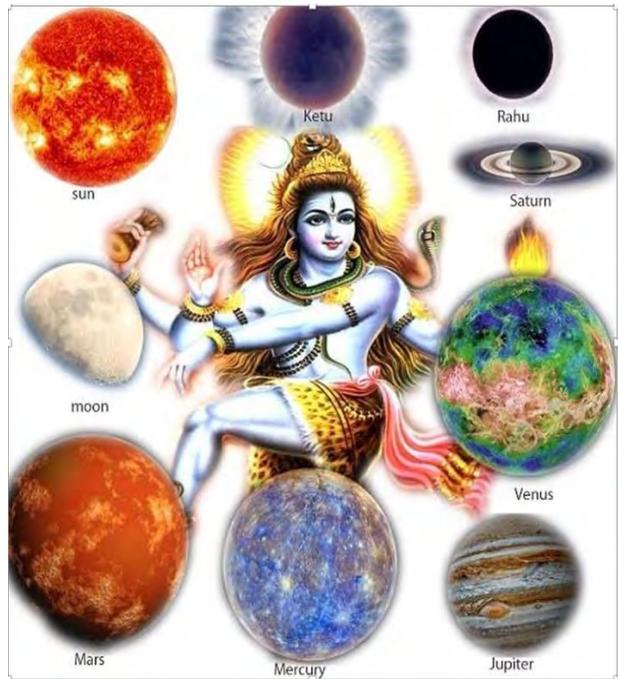
Navagrahas- Iconography in Sanatana Dharma

Nine Planetary Gods

Dr. Kris Gopal

From ancient times Hindus had their version of astronomy, whose origins are in the Vedas, and is based upon the configuration of the nine planets (grahas) and their collective influence on the world in general and in everyone. Nava in Sanskrit means nine and Graha means “seizing, laying hold of, holding. Depending upon where these planets are located at the time of a person’s birth, Hindus believe that the possibilities and potentialities of his life and energies are determined well in advance.

The planets are collectively known as Navagrahas. They are worshipped for good luck or to overcome adversity, bad luck, or misfortune, arising from past karmas (doshas). One can find these planets grouped together on a panel or on a pedestal in commonly visible areas of the temple. The devotees usually propitiate these gods before offering prayers to the main deity in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple. Our solar system has seven planets (corresponding with the names of the seven days in a week of calendar). Each one of the planets is identified with a deity, so each of the seven planets have a deity associated with that planet. But Navagrahas have nine planetary gods, but the last two planetary gods Rahu and Ketu are not considered a planet. The other seven planets are Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, and Saturn.



Hindu astrologers draw the birth charts of individuals based upon their position at time of their birth. They either exert positive or negative influence upon the people. The position of Sani, Rahu and Ketu especially considered important. If their positions are not favorable, astrologers suggest remedial measures to pacify the planets and ward off their negative influence.

1. Surya (Sun)

He is the sun god also called Ravi. He usually stands in the center facing east while the other planets stand around him in eight different directions, but none facing each other. He rides a chariot that has one wheel and pulled by seven white horses. The seven horses represent the seven colors of the white light and the seven days of the week.

2. Chandra (Moon)

Also is known as soma, due to its waxing and waning qualities. He is never depicted full but see him only his upper body from chest upwards with two hands holding one lotus each, riding upon a chariot drawn by 10 horses.

3. Mangala (Mars)

Also known as Angaraka the ferocious god with four hands. He has mace and javelin in two hands and the other two are held in abhya and vardha mudras. His vehicle is Ram

4. Budha (Mercury)

He is depicted with four hands, riding upon a chariot or a lion. Three of his hands hold a sword, a shield and mace while the fourth one is held in usual varada mudra (giving gesture)

5. Brihaspati (Jupiter)

Also known as Brahmanspati is the teacher of gods and is praised in many hymns of Rigveda. He is generally shown with two hands seated in a chariot driven by eight horses. The eight horses probably represent eight branches of Knowledge



6. Sukra (Venus)

He is the teacher of demons and author of sukraniti. He is shown generally with four hands, riding upon a golden or a silver chariot drawn by eight horses. Three hands hold a staff, a rosary, a vessel of gold and the fourth one is held in Varada mudra.

7. Shani (Saturn)

He is a turbulent and troublesome god who makes and breaks fortunes by his influence and position in the planetary system for which he is invariably feared and especially worshipped by those who believe in Hindu Astrology. He is generally shown with four hands riding upon a chariot or a buffalo or a vulture. In his three hands he is holding an

arrow, a bow, and a javelin while the fourth one is held in Vardamudra.

8. Rahu (Mercury)

His image resembles that of Buddha in some respects but differ in nature and temperament. He is generally shown riding a dark lion in contrast to the white lion of Buddha.

9. Ketu (comet)

In Sanskrit Ketu means comet. The scriptures describe him as having a tail of a serpent, which matches, with image of a comet. However, in the image he is usually shown with a poke marked body riding upon a vulture holding a mace.

The worship of the Navagraha is not considered Shaivism or Vaishnavism. It is its own separate thing. But between the two, it is more associated with Shaivism.

Navagraha altars are common in Shiva temples but absent in most Vishnu temples. However, occasionally seen in some Vishnu temples.

It is common to see the Nava Grahas installed as *murtis* in Hindu temples and people will perform *pujas* to these *grahas* in order to propitiate these influences. It is often the case that a Hindu will consult an astrologer and be told that one of the *grahas* is exerting a negative influence over his life and that he should perform a *puja* to diminish the negative influence. Occasionally, even the reverse is true, someone may be told that a particular graha is exerting a positive influence and so the person may perform a *puja* to increase the positive influence. There is a popular *puja* called “Graha Shanti” to make peace with the *grahas* (*shanti* means peace) that is often performed before weddings and other important times. You can think of a Nava Graha *puja* as paying the cosmic “utility bill.” Indeed, the *Nava Grahas* still play an important role in Hinduism.

Hindu society of Northeast Florida (HSNEF) now has Navagraha idols and conducts monthly abhisheka for them on the 4th Saturday of Each month.

Primer on Rudrakshas

Dr. Kris Gopal



**Ugram Viram Maha Vishnum Jvalantam Sarvato Mukham
Nirisimham Bhishanam Bhadram Mrutyur Mrutyum Namamy Aham**

'May my head be protected by the moon colored one, who is the greatest among humans. My obeisance's unto the ferocious and powerful, the great Vishnu, the fiery one, who's faces are on all sides, the fearful one, Narsimha, who causes the death of even death personified, (or who can overcome death)

The legend behind Rudraksha

Lord Shiva is the legend behind the Rudraksha. Rudraksha is believed to be the direct blessings of Lord Shiva. The word Rudraksha is formed with the combination of two different Sanskrit words, "Rudra" and "Aksha". The word "Rudra" stands for Lord Shiva and the word "Aksha" stands for the tears of Rudra (Lord Shiva). We get the details about Rudraksha in number of "Granthas" and "Shastras" (the holy books of Indian Mythology). There are various stories about the origin of Rudraksha. One can find the greatness and detailed literature about the properties of Rudraksha in ancient Vedic scriptures like, Maha Shiva Purana. Rudraksha is believed to have the direct blessings of Lord Shiva, which contains the properties to remove the effects of sins of the wearer. It is even said that if one wears the Rudraksha (in any form) on his body, even without worshiping or energizing it, does not get near any sinful act or thought. And this happens only due to the direct blessings of Lord Shiva.

Where did the Rudrakshas come from...

Some epics say that there was a demon called Tripura Sur who was gaining more and power and becoming invincible. Lord Brahma, Vishnu and other Gods and Goddess went to Lord Shiva for help. They asked him to control the devil and conquer him.

Lord Shiva used his most fierce fire weapon called 'Aaghor' to destroy the demon. But Lord Shiva knew about the devastating effect of this weapon, and this brought tears to his eyes. When he opened his eyes, a few teardrops fell on the earth. Wherever his tears fell, trees grew and were named the Rudraksha trees meaning 'Tears of Lord Shiva', though the English name for the Rudraksha tree is 'UTRASUM BEAD TREE'.

What are mukhis....

A Rudraksha bead can have several faces or mukhis. Mukhis or faces are visible vertical lines seen across the Rudraksha bead. Each bead has a different effect on you, depending on the number of mukhis it has. There are 38 varieties of Rudrakshas in total available in up to 21 mukhis or faces. Not all are available. Some are easier to get than others and hence the large variation in their prices. Below we mention the different Rudrakshas, their benefits and their estimated costs.

One Mukhi Half-moon. large size. Aaik Mukhi (Single Line)
Original Nepali Rudraksh - it is very rare



10 faced



Rudraksha beads are basically the tears of Lord Shiva that rolled down his eyes after seeing the sufferings of people. It is owing to this reason that these Rudraksha beads are of paramount

importance. In the eyes of people, Rudraksha beads are the gift of God to mankind. There are various types of Rudraksha beads available, each having its own importance. To know about the different kinds of Rudraksh beads,

Qualities of Mukhis

One Mukhi: It is one of the costliest beads, which is rarely available. It is known to bring luxury, power, wealth, and enlightenment. A one mukhi Rudraksha can bring you immense power, wealth, luxuries, fame, and massive confidence.

Two Mukhi: It helps in building healthy relationships. It is believed to control all negativities. The Two Mukhi Rudraksha symbolizes the united form of Shiva and Parvati also known as Arthnarishwor/Ardhnarishwar which brings unity in form, speech and meaning.

Three Mukhi: It aids in boosting the confidence of the wearer, thus enabling him to cope with tough situations. Three Mukhi Rudraksha bead is one of the most sought after Rudraksha beads due to its memory enhancing powers. Three Mukhi Rudraksha is called the Saraswati Roopam and is much in demand amongst students.

Four Mukhi: It helps a great deal in developing the power of speech. It is very beneficial for treating the problem of stammering. The Four Mukhi Rudraksha bead influences the wearer's creative power and knowledge.

Five Mukhi: It raises the concentration level and power of gaining knowledge, The Five Mukhi Rudraksha is one of the most common of all Rudraksha beads. It destroys the five main sins: Kama (Lust), Krodha (Anger), Lobha (Greed), Moha (Attachment) and Ahankar (Unwanted Ego).

Six Mukhi: It is known to bring wealth, power, name, and fame. It helps the wearer in achieving eternal bliss. This bead enriches the career path and helps you achieve immense professional and academic success. It helps you fulfill dreams and lead a very luxurious life.

Seven Mukhi: It helps a person achieve what he desires. It enables a person to prosper academically the seven mukhi helps in building finances and amassing wealth. It can help attain prosperity and peace of mind. It is considered very auspicious because it helps ward off fatal diseases and death and achieve longevity.

Eight Mukhi: It brings wealth and luxury. It helps to ward off evil spirits and get rid of various forms of diseases. This bead increases the strength of character and mind and help achieve happiness, fame, good health and increase confidence. The Eight Mukhi Rudraksha is the reflection of Lord Ganesha, Lord Shiva's second son who is worshipped before all the other gods. This Rudraksha increases an individual's pleasure and decreases his/her difficulties.

Nine Mukhis: It is said to be associated with confidence, good character, happiness, and sound health. This Rudraksha can help amass wealth, property, assets and lead a luxurious life and help fulfill dreams and ambitions. It makes you more energized and more action oriented.

Ten Mukhi: It enables a person to earn loads of wealth. It is said to be associated with vigor and vitality. The ten mukhi Rudraksha is very powerful and can help overcome fears develop a sound mind. It can help a person enjoy the benefits of life attain happiness and success. It also safeguards you against evil influences around you and gives a secure and protective feeling.

Eleven Mukhi: It helps a person to overcome all his fears and insecurities. This Rudraksha is said to possess the strength of seven deities and hence considered to be extremely powerful. It helps lead a blessed, prosperous, and relaxed life. It can also help women give birth to a son. Because of its immense power, this Rudraksha demands extra care and precautions. Vedic scriptures state that Eleven Mukhi Rudraksha is the symbol of Ekadash Rudra (eleven forms of Lord Shiva). The eleven forms of Lord Shiva are: Ahirbhutanya, Bhav, Bhim, Chand, Kapali, Pingal, Shasta, Shumbh, Virupaksh and Vilohit and Hanuman. Hanuman is the eleventh form of Lord Shiva.

Twelve Mukhi: It is suitable for those who wish to acquire an influential position. It is believed to be associated with charismatic personality. The effects of this Rudraksha are like those of the one mukhi. It helps realize dreams and achieve goals. Should be worn by people wanting to attain influential and powerful positions. It is an extremely blessed bead and provides protection against many evils and perils. The bead is said to increase your charisma and charms. Goes on and on to describe up to 21 mukhis with each beneficiary.

Here are some special mukhis described.

- **Trijuti/Tribhagi Rudraksha**

Trijuti Rudraksha is a combined form of three Rudraksha and is a rare phenomenon. It is said to be a combination of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva



- **Ganesha Rudraksha**

A very influential Rudraksha. It is said to represent Lord Ganesha, son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. It is considered very sacred.



- **Who can wear Rudraksha?**

Rudraksha can be worn by any people of any religion. As rudraksha have natural energy within it, there is no need to have strong faith on the beads to work for Human. Even the person does not believe on rudraksha, it still works and give result.



- **Where can one purchase a genuine original rudraksha?**

From any Teertha sthanas specially of Shiva, Kasi, Haridwar, or Prayag., Pashupatinath

Benefits of worshipping in temples

Dr. Kris Gopal

Generally, the temples are in a place where earth's magnetic waves pass through. In simple terms, these temples are located strategically at a place where the positive energy is abundantly available from the magnetic wave distribution of north/ south pole thrust.

Because of its location, where high magnetic values are available, the Main Idol is placed in the center, and because they place a copper plate written with some Vedic scripts, which is buried, beneath the Main Idol's placement known as "Garbhagriha" or Moolasthan, the copper absorbs the earth's magnetic waves and radiates to the surroundings.

Thus, a person who regularly visits a temple and makes clockwise pradakshina of the Main Idol's placement, automatically receives the beamed magnetic waves which get absorbed by his body. This is very slow, and a regular visit will make him absorb more energy, known as positive energy.

In addition, the Sanctum Sanctorum is completely enclosed on three sides. The effect of all energies is very high in here. The lamp that is lit radiates the heat and light energy.

The ringing of the bells and the chanting of prayers gives sound energy. The fragrance from the flowers, the burning of camphor give out chemical energy. The effect of all these energies is activated by the positive energy that comes out of the idol. This is in addition to the north/south pole magnetic energy that is absorbed by the copper plate and utensils that are kept in the Moolasthan.

The water used for the Pooja is mixed with Cardamom, Benzoin, Holy Basil (Tulsi), Clove, etc. is the "Teertham". This water becomes more energized because it receives the positive-ness of all these energies combined.

When persons go to the temple for Deepa Aradhana, and when the doors open, the positive energy gushes out onto the persons who are there. The water that is sprinkled onto the people passes on the energy to all. That is the reason why, men are not allowed to wear shirts to the temple and ladies must wear more ornaments because it is through these jewels (metal) that positive energy is absorbed in ladies. It is proved that Teertham is a very good blood purifier, as it is highly energized.

In addition, temples offer holy water (about three spoons). This water is mainly a source of magneto therapy as they place the copper water vessel at the Garbhagriha. It also contains cardamom, clove, saffron, etc. to add taste and Tulsi (holy Basil) leaves are put into the water to increase its medicinal value! The clove essence protects one from tooth decay, the saffron & Tulsi leave essence protects one from common cold and cough, cardamom and benzoin known as Pachha Karpuram, acts as a mouth refreshing agents.

Symbolism of Kalasa pot

The navadhanyams or rice on which the Kalash is placed symbolizes muladhara.

The kalash pot symbolizes human body.

The water in the kalash pot symbolizes blood.

The thread pattern worn around the kalash pot symbolizes nerves.

The flowers decorating the kalash neck represents the mind.

The five mango leaves covering the neck of kalash represents the five senses.

The coconut covered with turmeric represents head.

The kurcham or darbha grass tied together in a knot represents hair.

The 72 kalash stringing represents the 72,000 nerve endings in the body.

The ancient sages likened the human body to a kalash, saying that just as a pot contains fresh water for all occasions, the human body has the God within, provided the individual keep their body pure and healthy.

Finance Report

Income expenditure for January 2023

Income \$99,620,36; expenditure \$30,287.17

Report on Yagnashala account

Target amount \$300,000
Realized (as of Feb. 25, 2023) \$ 226,174.00

Mortgage Loan Details

Remaining balance \$223,151.72
Paid till date (Feb 23, 2023) \$100,000.00
Existing mortgage \$123,151.72

Recent Activities



Aiyappa pooja

Kavadi attam



Kavadi Dance



Maha shivaratri dance.



Holika dahan



Upcoming Events



**THE INDIAN FOOD FESTIVAL
ANAND BAZAAR**
SATURDAY 8TH APRIL, 2023
10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

Want to Participate / Volunteer

Join hands ... Support your regions
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Contact Padma Mukund @ 904-412-7936

VENDORS ARE WELCOME
Selling and Non Selling Vendors
Contact Anju Garg @ 904-616-7183

Support Temple- Be a part of the festivities
Call Temple @ 904-268-7630
4968 Greenland road, Jacksonville, Florida-32258. www.hsnef.org

**Want to Participate / Volunteer?
Come Join hands ... Support your Regions
Be a Regional Food Volunteer.**



HINDU DAY CAMP
APPLICATIONS ARE ON THE WAY

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**

2023 Camp Dates:
Session 1: June 5th - 16th
Session 2: July 10th - 21st

Look out for camper & counselor applications to
come out in early March!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOUR
APPLICATIONS SOON!

-YOUR JHDC TEAM

[Important Links](#)

[👉 Seniors forms](#)

[👉 Membership forms](#)

[👉 Donation](#)

[👉 Volunteering](#)

[👉 Pooja](#)

[👉 Events](#)

[👉 2023 Calendar](#)

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Rental and Advertisement

RENTAL RATES

Temple Facility (Multipurpose Hall minimum 3 Hours + \$75 Cleaning and Utility fees) is available for private events, personal functions, and social gatherings on first come first served basis and at a cost.

	Non-Profit	Members	Non-Members
Multi-purpose Hall	\$35	\$60	\$85
After house Rental Multi-purpose Hall	\$55	\$80	\$105
Gokulam Hourly	\$20	\$30	\$40
Conference Room/Library	\$10	\$15	\$20
Podium/Projects	\$10	\$10	\$10

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising in Sandesh is an excellent opportunity for business owners and professionals looking for exposure among local Indian community. It is a quarterly publication reaching Indian community households in the Jacksonville area. Sandesh publication is also available online at www.hsnef.org.

The rates for advertising per issue in Sandesh are as follows:

Full page: \$100 Half page: \$75 Quarter page: \$50

First and last page inside: Full: \$200; Half: \$150

Last page Outside: Full: \$250



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Your personal financial goals deserve a personal approach.

Putting the needs of my clients first is the approach I believe in. I'll work with you to find the right financial solutions to help you plan for your unique goals. And together, we'll track your progress over time, adjusting your plan along the way to help get you where you want to go.



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