

ॐ SANDESH ॐ

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023



Hindu Society
OF NORTH EAST FLORIDA

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Web site. www.hsnef.org.

Hindu Society OF NORTH EAST FLORIDA

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Executive Board

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Kadambi Srinath

Other priest

Venkata Pulikanti

Temple Staff

Asha Sharma, Office Manager

Shree Laxmi M

Ragha Suda

Mahak Gupta

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

Dear Devotees,

Namaste, Saluting the Divinity in everyone of you.

Hope you all enjoyed adhik Shravan Maas Poojas at the temple. We are going to celebrate the last quarter of year with grand festivals of our Sanatana Dharma.

In Sanatana Dharma, Concerning the special obligations of every individual, the holy scriptures Vedas states, ***“jayamano vai tribhir rinavan jayate brahmacaryena rishibhyo yajnena devebhyah prajaya pitribhyah.”*** Whenever one takes birth, three debts are born along with, 1. One can pay his debt to the sages by studying vedas, 2. debt to the demigods by performing Yajna sacrifice, and 3. debt to their forefathers by begetting progeny to perform shraddha for ancestors.

Studying Vedas, performing Yajnas and performing Shraddha are three important religious duties according to Sanatana Dharma. Why is Shraddha performed? According to Hindu mythology, after death, soul must wander in the various worlds. Pitra Paksha is an occasion to pacify the departed ancestors by performing Shraddha.

I would like to bring to you notice that this year Pitru Paksha will commence from 29th September 2023 (Friday) till 14th October 2023. Pitru paksha is a 16-day period of Shraddha (sraddh) from Bhadrapada purnima to Sarva pitru Amavasya. It is also known as Shraddha Paksha. In this period, Hindus pay homage to their ancestor, especially through water and food offerings. According to legends (puranas) before worshipping the God, a man should worship his ancestors because it is believed that the God is pleased with that.

During this period, the Shraddha or Tarpan of the ancestors is performed on the Tithi on which they met eternity. Shraddha is one of the meritorious deeds according to Sanatana Dharma. People can visit the temples and offer shanti path prayers for the peace of their departed ancestors. It is believed that before navaratri festivals observing shraddha paksha is important and holy.

The grand upcoming grand festival of our temple is Sharat Navaratri (nine celebrated nights) festivals. This year Navratri festival begin on Sunday, October 15,2023 and end on Tuesday, October 24th, 2023. All these nine days special rituals are observed. Ras Garbha offering to Ambe Maa, Lalitha Sahasranama Parayan, Devi Jagrata, Saptasati Path and Ramleela Ravan Dhahan on Dassera day are significant.

Navratri festival is one of the most auspicious festivals of our Sanatana Dharma. During the nine-day-long festival, devotees worship Maa Durga and observe fast. The nine avatars of Goddess Durga worshipped in all nine days are Shailputri, Brahmcharini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skandmata, Katyayani, Kaalratri, Mahagauri, and Siddhidatri. Each day has its own importance and significance.

The Devi Navaratri is celebrated four times in a year, Vasanta Navaratri, Ashada Navaratri, Sharat Navaratri and Magha Navaratri. Among these four, Sharat Navaratri is highly celebrated. Please come together, let us all celebrate grand Navaratri celebrations and enjoy the divine bliss. Please mark your calendars for Diwali, Annakut, Tulsi Vivah, Annual Gala and Gita Jayanti and Vaikunta Ekadashi. Wishing you all Happy festivals to Happy Near 2024.

Navaratri Mantra

1. Shri Shaila Putri Devi

- Om Hreem Shri Shailaputri Durgaaye Namaha
- Om Devi Shailputryai Swaha
- Vande Vanchhit Laabhaay, Chandrardhkritshekharaam | Vrisharudham Shoodharaam Shailputriim Yashaswinim ||

2. Shri Brahmacharini Devi

- Om Hreem Shri Brahmacharini Durgaaye Namaha
- Om Devi Brahmcharinyai Namah
- Dadhaanaa Kar Padmaabhyaamakshamala Kamandaloo | Devi Prasidatu Mayi Brahmcharinyanuttamaa

3. Shri Chandra Ghanta Devi

- Om Hreem Shri Chandra Ghanta Durgaaye Namaha
- Om Devi Chandraghantayayi Namah
- Pindaj Pravaarudh chandkopastrkairiyuta | Prasadam Tanute Madhyam Chandraghanteti vishrutaa ||

4. Shri Kushmanda Devi

- Om Hreem Shri Kushmanda Durgaaye Namaha
- Om Devi Kushmandayayi Namah
- Suraasampoorna Kalasham Rudhiraaplutamev Cha | Dadhaanaa Hastpadmaabhyaam Kushmanda Shubhdaastu Me ||

5. Shri Skanda Mata Devi (Mother of Skanda/Kumara/Shanmukh/Karthik)

- Om Hreem Shri Skanda Mata Durgaaye Namaha
- Om Devi Skandmatayayi Namah
- Sinhaasangataam Nityam Padmaanchit Kardwayaa | Shubhdaastu Sadaa Devi Skandmata Yashaswini ||

6. Shri Katyayani Devi

- Om Hreem Shri Katyayani Durgaaye Namaha
- Om Devi Katyayanyayi Namah
- Chandrahaasojjval Karaa Shaardoolvarvaahanaa | Katyayani Shubham Dadyaad Devi Daanavghatini ||

7. Shri kaalaratri Devi (Shubhamkari)

- Om Hreem Shri Kaala Ratri Durgaaye Namaha
- Om Devi Kalratryayi Namah
- Ekveni Japakarnpoora Nagna Kharaasthita | Lamboshthi Karnika karni
Tailaabhaktshariirini
Vaam Paadollasallohlata Kantakbhushanaa | Bardhan Moordham Dhwajaa
Krishnaa Kalatrirbhayankari ||

8. Shri Maha Gauri Devi

- Om Hreem Shri Maha Gauri Durgaaye Namaha
- Om Devi Mahagauryayi Namah
- Shwete Vrishesamarudha Shwetaambardhara Shuchih | Mahagauri Shubham
Dadyanmahadev Pramodadaa ||
- Sarava Mangala Mangalye Shive Sarvartha Sadhike
Sharanyei Trymbake Gauri Narayani Namosthute

9. Shri Siddhidatri Devi

- Om Hreem Shri Siddhidatri Durgaaye Namaha
- Om Devi Siddhidatryayi Namah
- Siddha Gandharva Yakshdyairasurairamarairapi | Sevyamaanaa Sadabhuyaat
Siddhida Siddhidayini ||

Mantras Dedicated to Goddess Durga for The First Three Nights of Navratri

- Om Dum Durgayaia Namaha

Mantras Dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi for The Second Three Nights of Navratri

- Om Hrim Mahalakshmyai Namaha

Mantras Dedicated to Goddess Saraswati for The Last Three Nights of Navratri

- Om Aim Saraswatyai Namaha

With Divine thoughts
Pandit Shrinath Kadambi
Pradhan Acharya, Head Priest
HSNEF

Events for October-December 2023

October			
Date	Day	Event	Time
Oct 1 st	Sun	Ganesh Abhishek	10.00 to 11.00 am
Oct 2 nd	Mon	Sankataharanachaturthi ganesh abhishek	6.00 to 8.00 pm
Oct 7 th	Sat	Sri Venkateswara suprabhata seva. Shri ram parivar pooja	10.30 to 11.45 am 10.30 to 11.45 am
Oct 8 th	Sun	Shiv Pooja Jain Samavesh	9.30 to 10.30 am 10.30 to 11.30 am
Oct 12 th	Thu	Mahapradosha Shiva Abhishek	6.00 to 8.00 pm
Oct 14 th	Sat	Sri venkateswara suprabhata Seva	9.30 to 10.30 am
Oct 15 th	Sun	Sharat Navratri Begins (See special event page) Satyanarayana pooja	10.00 to 11.00 am
Oct 18 th	Wed	Vinayaki Ganesh Abhishek	6.00 to 8.00 pm
Oct 21 st	Sat	Navaratri Mata Ki Jagaran (See special event page) Venkateshwara subprabhata seva Venkateswar Abhishekam and pooj	9.30 to 10.30 am 10.00 to 11.45 am
Oct 22 nd	Sun	Durgashtami (See special event page) Balakrishna pooja Jain Samavesh	10.30 to 11.45 am 10.30 to 11.30 am
Oct 24 th	Tue	Vijayadashami Dasera celebration (see special event)	
Oct 28 th	Sat	Venkateshwara suprabhata seva Navagraha abhishek	9.30 to 10.30 am 11.00 to 11.45 am
Oct 29 th	Sun	Regular Pooja	
November			
Nov 1 st	Wed	Karvachouth (See special event page) Sankataharana Chaturthi Ganesh Abhishek	4.00 to 6.00 pm 6.00 to 8.00 pm
Nov 4 th	Sat	Venkateswara surabhata seva Sri Ram Parivar pooja	9.30 to 10.30 am 10.30 to 11.45 am
Nov 5 th	Sun	Ganesh Abhishek	10.00 to 11.00 am
Nov 10 th	Fri	Mahapradosha Shiva Abhishek	10.00 to 11.00 am
Nov 11	Sat	Venkateswara suprabhata seva Devi pooja Samuhika soundaryalahari prayana	9.30 to 10.30 am 10.30 to 11.45 am
Nov 12	Sun	Diwali Celebrations (See special event page) Shiv pooja Jaim Samavesh	9.30 to 10.30 am 10.30 to 11.30 am
Nov 13	Mon	Annakoot Govardhan Puja (See special event page)	
Nov 16	Thu	Vainayaki Ganesh Abhshek	6.00 to 8.00 pm
Nov 18	Sat	Venkateswara Suprabhata Seva Venkateswar ABhishekam and pooja	9.30 to 10.00 am 10.00 to 11.45 am
Nov 19	Sun	Sri Satyanarayan pooja.	10.00 to 11.45 am
Nov 23	Thu	Tulsi Vibah (See special event page)	
Nov 25	Sat	Krittika Bharani Deepam (See special event page)	6.00 to 8.00 pm

		Venkateswara suprabhata seva Sri Lakshminarayana pooja Navagraha Abhishek	9.30 to 10.30 am 10.30 to 11.00 am 11.00 to 11.45 am
Nov 26	Sun	Balakrishna Pooja Jain Samavesh Karthika Poornima Samuhika Satyanarayana pooja	10.30 to 11.45 am 10.30 to 11.30 am 5.00 to 7.00 pm
December			
Dec 2	Sat	Venkateswara suprabhata seva Shri Ram parivar pooja	10.30 to 11.45 am
Dec 3	Sun	GaneshAbhishek Shankataharana Chaturthi Ganesh Abhishek	10.00 to 10.30 am 6.00 to 9.00 pm
Dec 9	Sat	Venkateswara suprabhata Seva Devi Pooja Samuhika Soundaryalahari prayana	9.30 to 10.30 am 11.00 to 11.45 am
Dec 10	Sun	Shiv pooj Jaim Samavesh Mahapradosha Shiv Abhishek	9.30 to 10.30 am 10.30 to 11.30 am 6.00 to 8.00 pm
Dec 16	Sat	Venkateswara suprabhata seva Venkateswara abhisheka and ppoja	9.30 to 10.30 am 10.00 to 11.45 am
Dec 17	Sun	Satyanarayana pooja	10.00 to 11.00 am
Dec 22	Fri	Vaikunta Ekadashi and Gita Jayananti (See special event page)	
Dec 23	Sat	Sri Venkateshwara suprabhata seva Sri Lakshminarayana pooja Navagraha Abhishek	10.30 to 11.00 am 10.30 to 11.00 am 11.00 to 11.45 am
Dec 24	Sun	Balakrishna Pooja Jain Samavesh	10.30 to 11.45 am 10.30 to 11.30 am
Dec 30	Sat	Sri Venkateswara Suprabhata Seva	9.30 to 10.30 am
Jan 1	Mon	Happy New year (See special events page)	

Sunday, 15th Oct to
Tuesday, 24th Oct 2023

Hindu Society
of North East Florida

SHARAD

NAVRATRI CELEBRATIONS

SHARAD NAVARATRI
BEGINS

Sunday, 15th Oct 2023
5:00 – 6:00 pm:
Kalasha Sthapana

VALMIKI SUNDARAKAND
& CHANDI PATH
Sunday, 15th Oct to
Monday, 23rd Oct 2023
5:00-6:00 pm
Path observed by the
Priests

SAMUHIKA
LALITHA
SAHASRANAMA
PARAYANA

Sunday, 15th October to Tuesday, 24th October 2023

Mon, Wed, Thurs & Friday: 7:00 to 7:45 pm
Sunday, 15th Oct 2023: 6:00 to 7:00 pm
Tuesday, 17th Oct 2023: 6:00 to 7:00 pm
Saturday, 21st Oct 2023: 12:00 to 1:00 pm
Sunday, 22nd Oct 2023: 4:00 to 6:00 pm

9 NIGHTS OF
RAAS GARBA

Sunday, 15th Oct - Monday, 23rd Oct 2023

7:00-9:30pm: RAAS GARBA to Ambe Maa at MP hall

8:30 pm: Ambe Maa Arati

Sunday, 22nd Oct 2023: Durgashtami

6:30-10:00 pm: Special LIVE Raas Garba

5:30 - 7:30 pm: Dinner Prashad

MATA KA
JAGRATA

Saturday, 21st Oct - Sunday, 22nd Oct 2023

10:00 pm - 7:00 am: Devi Jagaran

DURGASHTAMI

Sunday, 22nd October 2023

VIJAYA DASHAMI &
DASSERA
CELEBRATIONS

Tuesday, 24th Oct 2023

9:30-11:30 am: Shri Durga Havan followed by Arati

9:30 - 11:00 am: Shri Rama Rajyabhishek & Shami Pooja
Arati & Prashad

5:30- 6:15 pm: Dassera Special Puja for Young Genera

8:00 pm: Ram Leela Ravan Dahan

6:30-9:00 pm: SARVA DARSHAN

6:30, 7:30, 8:30 pm: ARATIS

Temple Evening Arati Timings Navaratri 6:45 to 7:00 pm

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Special Events for October-December 2023

Sharad Navaratri Begins, Sunday 15th October 2023

Kalasha Sthapana 5.00—6.00 PM

(Valmiki Sundarakand & Chandi Path will be observed from Oct 15th thru 23rd Oct by the priests as a part of Navratri Puja 5.00-6.00 pm)

Samuhika Lalitha Sahasranama Parayana 7.00 to 7.45 PM everyday

Oct 15th, 22nd and Oct 17th 6.00 7.00 pm, Oct 21st 12.00 to 1.00 PM, Mon, Wed, Thursday & Fridays 7.00 to 7.45 pm

During Navaratri October 15th thru October 23rd, 2023, RAS GARBHA offering to Ambe Maa Durga 7.00-9.30 PM at MP Hall

During Navaratri celebrations Temple Evening Arati timings 6.45 to 7.00 pm

Saturday, 21st October 2023

Shri Mata Ki JAGRATHA Devi Jagaran

10.00 PM to 7.00 AM 22nd October 2023

Durgashtami, Sunday, October 22nd 2023

Shri Durga havan 9.30-11.30 AM followed by Arati

Tuesday 24th, October 2023

Vijaya Dashami & Dassera Celebrations

Dassera Shri Rama Rajyabhishek & Shami Pooja 9.30 to 11.00 am followed by Arati, Prashad

Dassera Special puja for young Generation 5.30-6.15 pm followed by

SARVA DARSHAN 6.30-9.00 PM ARATIS AT 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30 pm

Raam Leela Ravan Dahan 8.00 PM

Wednesday 1st November 2023

Karava Chouth Puja and Vrat Katha Wednesday 4.00-6.00 pm

Sunday 12th November 2023

Diwali Celebrations

Lakshmi Poojan & Chopda Vasan Pooja

4.30 – 5.30 PM

Diwali Special puja for young Generation 5.45-6.15 pm followed by

SARVA DARSHAN 6.30-9.00 PM ARATIS AT 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30 pm

Monday, 13th November 2023

Annakoot, Govardhan Pooja,

Annakoot Puja and Prashad and Bhog Samarpan 6.30 to 7.30

Arati followed by Prashad 7.30-8.00 PM

Thursday, November 23rd, 2023

Karthik Sukla Ekadashi Celebrations

TULSI VIVAH 6.30-8.00 PM followed by Arati

Saturday, November 25th, 2023

Karthikai Bharani Deepam, Karthika Swami Puja 6.00-7.30 pm

Sunday, November 26th, 2023

Krittika Deepotsava DEV Diwali Celebrations

With Samuhika Satya Narayana Puja 5.00-7.00 pm followed by Arati

(Devotees to bring fruits, flowers and Shira or Halwa Prashad)

Saturday December 2nd, 2023, HSNEF ANNUAL GALA

(Please contact office for tickets)

Friday Dec. 22nd, 2023

Gita Jayanti and Vaikunta Ekadashi

Vaikunta Ekadasi Vaikunta Dwara Puja and Vaikunta Gadya Parayana 9.00 – 10.00 am

Gita Jayanti Gita path recital 6.00-7.00 pm

**Selected Chapters from Holy Gita followed by Samuhika Vishnu Sahasranama Parayana
followed by Bhajan and Arati**

Monday 1st January 2024

Happy New Year's Day, Monday

Maha Ganapati Havan & Special Abhishek & Shrinagar 9.00—12.30 Noon

Shri Venkateswara (Balaji) Kalyanotsavam 4.00 -- 6.00 pm

Sarvadarshan 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm Arati. 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30

Hindu Society
OF NORTH EAST
FLORIDA



श्रीमद्
भगवत
कथा

BHAGWAT KATHA SAPTAH

8th October 2023

to

14th October 2023



RECITED BY DR. SHRI SWAMI RAMKAMAL DAS VEDANT JI, FROM BANARAS, INDIA





Hindu Society
of Northeast Florida



HSNEF is Specially Inviting You

BHAGWAT KATHA SAPTAH

EVERY EVENING FOLLOWED BY ARATI & PRASAD

Sun, 8th October thru Sat, 14th October 2023

Dr. Shri Swami Ramkamal Das Vedant Ji

SHRI SWAMI DR. RAMKAMAL DAS VEDANT JI PRESENTLY ADORNS THE SEAT OF PARAM PUJYA SRIMAD JAGADGURU ANANTANAND DWARACHARY KASHIPITHADISHWAR AND SHRI MAHANT OF SHRI RAM MANDIR, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED ABOUT 650 YEARS AGO IN WHICH GOSWAMI TULSI DAS LIVED DURING HIS STUDIES. SHRI SWAMI JI IS ONE OF THE PROMINENT ORATORS OF RAM CHARIT MANAS, SHRIMAD BHAGAWAT PURAN, SHRIMAD BHAGAWAT GITA AND VEDANT DARSHAN.



Bhagwat Katha Day 1- Sunday - Oct 8th

Kalash Yatra @ 4 pm

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm: Katha Aarambh followed by arati & prashad

Bhagwat Katha Day 2 & 3 - Mon, Oct 9th & Tue, Oct 10th

5:30 pm to 8 pm followed by arati & prashad,

Bhagwat Katha Day 4 - Wed, Oct 11 th

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm: Krishna Janam followed by arati & prashad

Bhagwat Katha Day 5 - Thu, Oct 12th

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm: Govardhan puja followed by arati & prashad

Bhagwat Katha Day 6- Fri, Oct 13th

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm: Krishna Rukmani Vivah followed by arati & prashad

Katha Day 7 - Sat, Oct 14th

2:00 to 6:00pm: Katha Samapan and Purnahuti followed by arati & prashad



Significance of Bhagawat Saptah

Dr. Kris Gopal

This article will help us understand about Bhagawat saptah being held (Oct 8-Oct 14)

Bhagavat saptah literally means assimilating the whole gist of Bhagavata purana, also known as Srimad Bhagavatam or Bhagavata, in seven days. Bhagavatam is one of the Maha puranic texts of Sanskrit Literature. This book's primary focus is to imbibe bhakti by describing all the incarnations of Lord Vishnu particularly of Sri Krishna. It covers everything from the nature of the self to the origin of the universe. It contains over 18,000 verses contained in twelve volumes. Each volume also called canto or skanda in Sanskrit. It has several chapters (adhyaya) contributing to 335 chapters in all. The **tenth book**, which is dedicated to **Krishna**, takes up about one quarter of the entire Bhagavata. The writer of this book is named Krishna Dvaipayana Vyasadeva also called Badarayana. Vyasa was the grandfather of the Kuru dynasty. This book has been translated into several European Languages as early as 1840.

The format of this great work is in the form of a story recounting Vyasa's work as recited by his son Suka to the dying king Parikshit (son of Abhimanyu, Grandson of Arjuna). It is said that while hunting, King Parikshit entered the ashram of sage **Shamika** who was in deep meditation. Sage Shamika did not respond to the king's inquiry. King Parikshit got angry with the sage for not answering him, and in fit of rage threw a dead snake lying nearby on the sage. The son of the sage, **Shringi** having learnt of this episode cursed that King Parikshit will die in 7 days from the bite of a snake. Son Shringi later having learnt about the noble King, informed him of the curse and death in seven days. The king accepted the curse. He was advised, by his ministers that if he listens to Bhagawat katha for seven days he will attain immortality. It is stated that by listening to such a seven-day narration of Bhagwat Katha King Parikshit attained liberation! This liberation was attained not by death, but by emancipation from ignorance and fear.

Content wise it comprises three main dialogues or principal conversations- the first being that of Shukadevji and King Parikshit, the second being between Sutji and Shaunak and other rishis at Naimisharanya, and the third being between Vidurji and Maitreya on the banks of the river Ganga. Ordinarily, reading and listening to Srimad Bhagawat is a week-long Anushtan (a religious commitment), but even an entire lifetime may not be enough to understand it in depth and explain it to others. It is such a sublime scripture.

Here are some contents of the each of the Skanda in brief.

Skanda 1 (19 Chapters) Prologue, end of the Mahabharat war. Kunti-stuti and Bhisma stuti). The departure of the Pandavas. Birth of King Parikshit. Curse on him. His prayopavesha on the banks of the Ganges in anticipation of the best to be known in the remaining seven days of his life. Coming of Suka.

Skanda 2 (10 chapters) Parikshit's eagerness to listen to stories of the Lord. Sukacharya's assurance. Brief account of Creation. Bhagavatam in four slokas, as given by the Absolute to Brahma the first born.

Skanda 3 (33 chapters) Details of Brahma's creation. Maitreya explains to Vidura. Cosmic Time. The first Rishis. Varaha Avatar. The first Manu. The first ritualized marriage. Kardama and Devahuti. Avatar of Kapila. Kapila-Gita. Devahuti Stuti of Kapila

Skanda 4 (31 Chapters) Dynasty of Uttanapada, Daksha Yajnam. Shiva and Sati. Dhruva Charitram. Dhruva stuti. Story of Prithu. Rudra-gitam, Puranjana Upakhyanam.

Skanda 5 (26 chapters) Dynasty of Priyavrata. Jada Bharata Upakhyanam. Geography of the universe.

Skanda 6 (19 chapters) Story of Ajamila, Dynasty of Daksha. Indra-Vritrasura war.

Skanda 7 (15 chapters) Story of Prahlad. Narasimha Avatar. Narasimha stuti. Tripura Samharam. Account by Narada of various dharmas.

Skanda 8 (24 chapters) Gajendra Moksham. Amrita Mathanam.

Skanda 9 (24 chapters) Vamana Avatar. Ambarisha Story. Ramachandra Yayati.

Skanda 10 (90 chapters) Story of Krishna. Krishna Leela. Killing of various asuras. Brahma stuti. Kaliya mardhanam. Lifting of Govardhana Hills. Rasa leela. Gopika Gitam. Akrura's vision. Rukmini Kalyanam. Story of Syamantaka Gem. Killing of Narakasura. Banasura, Jarasandha. Sishupala, Dantaavaktra. Shruti Gita.

Skanda 11 (31 Chapters) Uddhava Gita

Skanda 12. (13 chapters) Kaliyuga, Markandeya stuti, Epilogue.

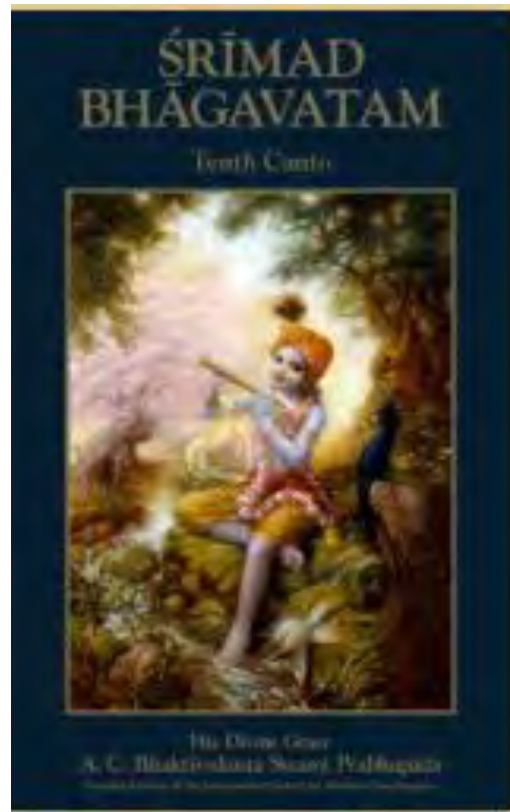
The narration of Srimad Bhagawat Katha is arranged for many reasons; but it is mainly arranged for the upliftment and welfare of the people and society. By listening to the katha, one would understand God and learn the way to reach him. Listening to this also induces spiritual growth in us, and most importantly helps us to become righteous and virtuous human beings. By listening to "Srimad Bhagwat Katha", devotion (Bhakti) pervades our heart and mind. The devotion destroys attachments, sorrow, and fear from our minds.

When universal love and devotion is attained, the sorrow, attachment, and fear vanish. Sorrow or mourning relates to the past; attachment related to the present and the fear with the future. Who does not long for peace? Whether a person is a theist or an atheist, everyone longs for peace. When these three dominant influences vanish, one becomes quiet and lucid.

The study of Srimad Bhagavatam has a powerful and positive effect on us. Besides giving us spiritual benefit, character development and strong faith, it also educates us in a variety of subject areas. Therefore, those who are inclined to enrich their intellectual life through the study of history should educate themselves in the historical narration of Srimad Bhagavatam.

"Incessantly thinking of me (as you do), having devoted to Me your whole (undivided) mind, which has completely shed all (other) thoughts, you will come to Me before long."

-Srimad Bhagavatam 10.47.36



Adi Shankara: Biography and Contributions

Dr. Kris Gopal

In a remote village in Kerala, called Kaladi, there lived a learned Brahmin Namboodiri by name Sivaguru with his wife Aryabal. They were very pious and religious, and devoted their life in various pooja. This childless couple prayed for a son and visited several religious places and did puja in Trichur religious center and prayed for 48 days to Lord Shiva. Lord Shiva pleased with their devotion and austerities, appeared in their dream, and told them they will beget a son, but he will have short life span but would become world famous.

A few months later the couple got a male boy, and they named him as **Shankara**. यः सम्करति सः शंकरः इति (yah: sam karati saha; shankara iti;) (*One who gives prosperity is shankara*) His birth date is not very clear, Most believe that he lived in the **eighth century AD** (about 1400 years ago).



At the **age of four**, he lost his father. Hence his mother Aryambal alone had to bring him up. At the age of five, he was initiated in (**Brahmopadesam**) Brahmacharyam, i.e., the holy thread ceremony was conducted, and he was sent to Gurukul for learning of scriptures.

As per the practice then, a brahmachari must go from house to house and take alms for **bhiksha**. One day Shankara happened to go to the house of a very poor lady and asked for the alms. The lady did not have a single grain of rice in her house to give. However, she had kept a single Amla fruit for herself, and she **unhesitatingly** gave this Amla fruit to Shankara as she could not send a Brahmachari empty handed.

Shankara was moved by her selflessness and the poverty of the lady and prayed to Goddess Lakshmi with a beautiful sloka, which is called "**Kanaka Dhara Stotram**".

अङ्गहरेःपुलकभूषणमाश्रयन्ती
भृङ्गाङ्गनेवमुकुलाभरणंतमालम्।
अङ्गीकृताखिलविभूतिरपाङ्गलीला
माङ्गल्यदास्तुममङ्गलदेवतायाः॥१॥

Anggam Hareh Pulaka-Bhuussannam-Aashrayantii
Bhrngga-Anggan eva Mukula-abharannam Tamaalam |
Anggii-Krta-Akhila-Vibhuutir-Apaangga-Lilaa
Maanggalya-Daa-,stu Mama Manggala-Devataayaah ||1||

Salutation to mother lakshmi who always dwell in the body of Hari like an ornament of ecstatic delight. On completion of this stotram, Goddess Lakshmi appeared in person and showered golden coins on the poor lady's house.

One day while Sankara was taking bath, in a well, a **crocodile** caught hold of his leg. Sankara called out to his mother. Aryambal who came running and to her horror she found her son in the grip of the crocodile, and she cried that she did not know how to help her son. Sri Sankara informed his mother that his life was nearing to an end and wanted to take a sanyasa and die as a sanyasi (**Apat sanvasi**). (*Apat Samnyāsa* in Sanskrit Apat means urgent) His mother reluctantly agreed for this and thus Sankara obtained permission from his mother to become a sannyasi. The moment he obtained the permission the crocodile left his foot and Shankara survived.

Sri Shankara went in the search of a Guru to be formally initiated as a Sannyasi. At the banks of the river Narmada, he found the river gushing forth into floods. By using his powers, he contained the river. **Sri Govindapada** an ascetic who saw this at the marvel of Sri Shankara took him as his shisya. Sri Govinda pada (disciple of Gaudapada, and both staunch advocates of Advaita) taught various vedas to Sri Shankara. He also taught about **Advaita, the principle that everyone in this world is the manifestation of God and that God and Atman are one and the same**. He also encouraged the young Shankara to write commentaries on Upanishads. Shankara not only wrote exhaustive and authoritative commentaries on many of the Upanishads (10 or 11 which were considered important), but also on Brahma sutras and finally on Gita. These three works of Shankara (**Brahma sutra, Upanishad and Gita**) was completed when **Shankara was merely 16years old** and came to be known as **Prasthan triya**.

As it was customary for seekers to travel to Kasi in those days for further spiritual knowledge, Adi Shankara and few of his followers travelled to Kasi. Once, while in Kasi, Sri Shankara was going to the Vishwanath Temple, his path was blocked by an "untouchable" Chandala (dog eater) who was accompanied by his wife and 4 dogs.

The disciples of Sri Shankara shouted at him to make way, and to keep a distance. The untouchable smiled and said, ""According to your principle of Advaita, which you practice, all the Jivatma are same as God. How do you ask me to go? How am I different from your Paramacharya? What you say is unreasonable. How can I go away from myself?"

Sri Shankara realized that it was not an ordinary person and understood that it was Lord Shiva himself who had come along with His consort and the four Vedas. He prostrated before the Lord and sang five slokas called "**Manisha Panchakam**". It is called Manisha panchakam as each one of the five stanzas end with ***esha manisha mama*** (This is my firm conviction). Lord Shiva appeared in his true form with his consort and blessed Shankara.

Another time while Shankara and his disciples were walking on the Ganges Bank, Adi Shankara noticed an old man trying to learn the Sanskrit Grammar and was annoyed to see how he was wasting his time in his last days without having bhakti towards Iswara and composed the famous Bhaja Govindam to point it to him.

***Bhaja Govindam, Bhaja Govindam, Govindam Bhaja Mooda Mathe,
Samprapthe sannihithe kale, Nahi nahi rakshathi dookrunj karane.***

Seek Govinda (God) Oh fool when the time comes grammar will not save you.

As Shankara and his disciples travelled, he learned that there was a great learned person by the name **Mandana Mishra** who followed the **Karma Mimaamsa** method of devotion. But Sri Shankara explained the **uselessness** of such rituals. Yagna and other rituals are done mainly for material benefits and serve no purpose. He urged him to pursue jnana yoga for liberation. To convince this point he debated with Mandana Mishra for 18 full days and finally convinced Mishra that jnana yoga is the way to pursue. As per the original condition, Mandana Mishra became an ascetic (**Sureshwarar**) and he accompanied Shankara in his travel. Mishra's wife Bharati Sarasawani, claiming that it is dharma of Hindu wife to accompany the husband, and so too joined them to travel with them.

In their travels, they reached **Sringeri** in Karnataka, which is on the **banks of Tungabhadra**. While Sri Shankara and Mandana Mishra were walking, Sarasawani did not move and stood fixed in the sands of Tungabadra. Sri Shankara turned back and realized by his divine powers that Sarasawani did not want to go any further and created a seat for her for spreading the Advaita. This seat is today called the **Sharada Peetham or the Seat of Sharada with instructions that all the heads of the Mutts will be called Shankaracharyas**, and they will have a lineage of Shishyas or disciples. Later, he established three more **peetham one at Dwarka, Puri and at Badrinath.**

Adi Shankara attained the status of Jagad guru (world teacher) in his short life span of 34 years by mastering in all branches of learning and proving it to the satisfaction of all learned scholars in Debates. (No easy Feat)

Shankaracharya is called Adi because it is believed that he was an Avatar of Lord Shiv. He is said to incarnate to propagate and establish the supremacy of Sanatan Dharma.

Shankara's contributions

They are innumerable, but to name a few of them are.

1. Commentaries. Primary commentary on various Upanishads, Brahma sutra, Gita (prastana trayam). Principles of Vedanta.
2. Treatises. Upadesa Sahasri, Vivekachudamani, Atma Bodha, Aparokshanubuthi. Standard Vedanta textbooks.
3. Hymns over 80 hymns. Saundarya lahari, Bhavani ashtakam, Siva aparadha kshamapana stotram, Madhura ashtakam, Bhaja Govindam. Etc. [SEP]Manisha panchakam.
4. Monasteries. Established four monasteries in Srigeri, Dwarka, Badrinath, and puri.
5. Monastic orders. Organized ten monastic orders (dasaanaami)
6. Vedanta Training School. For teaching Vedanta.
7. Temples. Removed many abandoned and built new ones.
8. Responsible for decline of Buddhism.



What is maturity by Adi Shankara

Maturity is

1. When you stop trying to change others,
2. When you accept people as they are.
3. When you understand everyone is right in their own perspective.
4. When you learn to "let go".
5. When you are able to drop "expectations" from a relationship
6. When you understand whatever you do, you do for your own peace.
7. When you stop proving to the world, how intelligent you are.
8. When you don't seek approval from others.
9. When you stop comparing with others.
10. When you are at peace with yourself.
11. When you are able to differentiate between "need" and "want"
12. When you stop attaching "happiness" to material things!!

Sanatana Dharma Customs Explained

Dr. Kris Gopal

Our customs are based on from generations to generations as traditions.

Many of you may already know these facts, nonetheless.
It may be helpful for our younger generation.

Why we go to temples?



Our temples are built based on Agama Shastra. They emit energy fields invoking God's energy and create bhakti. The site for the temple is chosen where the maximum energy is emitted.

Why Temples have bells?



According to Agama Sastra, the sound from bell is to keep the evil forces away. It is also to clear our mind and help us stay focused on our Devotion. Sound also produces unity in the left and right parts of our brains. The sound produces a sharp enduring sound lasting about 7 seconds in echo mode. The time is enough for all the seven healing centers of our body. This will also empty all the negative thoughts of mind.

Why do We light a lamp?



Light removes our ignorance (darkness). The oil or ghee in the lamp is our vasanas and the wick is our ego. When we light with spiritual knowledge our vasanas get exhausted and ego slowly perishes. The garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum) where the deity (idol) is always dark. It is to depict our ignorance (avidya). When the lamp is lighted it is to overcome our ignorance (vidya).

Why we offer coconut?



It symbolizes the breaking of Ego. The juice within representing our vasanas along with the kernel, (the mind) is offered to the Lord. Thus, the mind is purified by the touch of the Lord used as Prasada.

Why do we burn Camphor?



Camphor when lit, burns without leaving any trace of it. Thus, our inherent tendencies (vasanas) are burnt without leaving. Any trace of ego. Also, some medicinal health benefit is also attributed for camphor burning.

Why do we do aarati?



At the end of every ritualistic worship of the lord we perform the aarti. As the light is waved, we do mental or loud chanting of prayers and behold the beauty of the Lord illumined by the lamp. At the end of the aarati we place our hand over the flame and gently touch our eyes. During aarati we turn our attention to the very source of all light symbolizing the knowledge of life. The Lord is beyond the mind, intellect, and speech.

Why do we partake the teerthum?



The water offered to God is made up of cardamom, cloves, nutmeg, tulasi leaves, and camphor. Partaking this water (teerthum) has medicinal value and is good for the health.

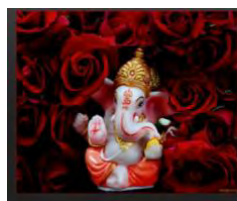
Why we chant Om shanti om shanti om shanti three times?



Generally, they are recited at the beginning and end of religious rituals and discourses. It is presumed that during this time the obstacles could come from three sources.

1. Adhi Bhautika – physical from world, natural calamities.
 2. Adi Daivikam – obstacles from deities, world of spirits and demigods.
 3. Adhyaatmikam – obstacles arising out of one's own mind and body, diseases, laziness.
- These are called "Tapa-Triya" three classes of obstacles. So, to overcome these obstacles we chant the Shanti mantra three times.

Why Idol worship?



Idol worship was established so that when people view idols it is easy for them to concentrate to spiritual energy and mediate without mental diversion.

Applying Tilak on the forehead?



Spot between the eyebrows is major nerve point. The tilak is said to retain the energy in the human and control concentration. Also, the tilak or Kumkum on the face is to press the Adnya Chakra and facilitate the blood and supply to face and muscles.

Why do we blow conch?



When the conch is blown, the primordial sound of OM Emanates. Om is an auspicious sound chanted by the Lord before creation of world. It represents the world and the truth behind it.

Why do we greet each other with joining of both palms?



This gesture called Namaskar joining both hands, ensure joining the tips of all the fingers together, which denotes the pressure points of eyes, ears, and mind. Pressing them together helps us remember that person for a long time. Namaste mean to imply namaha te, meaning I bow to the God in you.

Why do we do pradakshina in clockwise direction?



The lord is always on our right. The right side also symbolizes auspiciousness. Every point on the circumference of a circle is equidistant from the center, meaning that we are equally close to the Lord wherever we are.

Shikha on Male Head



The sensitive spot on the head is Adhipati Marma where there is nexus of all nerves. The shikha protects this spot. Also, at this spot the sushuma nadi arrives from lower part of the body. It is the center of wisdom. Shika helps boost this center and conserve energy known as Ojas.

Applying Mehndi/Henna



It prevents too much stress as it cools the body and keeps the nerves from becoming tense. It is usually applied on the hands and feet which house nerve endings in the body.

Why Shaivites apply 3 horizontal lines of Vibhuti on forehead?



The Three horizontal lines are called Tripundra and they represent:

- Three sacred fires of Vedas, The Three syllables of AUM,
- Three Gunas, Satwa, Rajas and Tamas, The three worlds, Bhu, Bhuv and Swar Loka,
- Three vedas (Excluding Atharva Veda) and the three tridents of Shiva,
- Three trinity, Vishnu, Brahma, and Shiva,
- Three cycles of creation, sustenance, and destruction.

What does Vaishnava Tilak mean?



The white Thiruman represents the two lotus feet of the Lord Sriman Narayana. The extension onto the nose represents a lotus flower on which the two feet are placed. The red/yellow Srichurnam represents Sri Mahalakshmi – the consort of Narayana.



Finance Report

Wells Fargo Bank Balance as on 07/31/2023 \$ 112,282.33
 Money in Emergency Fund as on 07/31/2023. \$ 15, 318.60
 Funds in Yagna Shala (Received in May and July) \$ 23,833.33

Income	May-July 2023		Expense	May -July 2023
Membership dues	5,453.00		Bank charges	-48.90
Classes Income	5,022.00		New temple expense	8,300.00
General Donation	16,084.63		Consulting expense	3,000.00
Hundi	24,360.71		Employee's salary	32,391.81
Hindu Day camp income (Received in March & April)	1,249.00		Hindu camp expense	11,177.49
Bank Interest	4,616.19		Maintenance	31,880.58
Pooja Collections	26,551.00		Miscellaneous expense	88.00
Facilities Rental	10,228.00		Pooja and garland	2,071.44
Sale income	623		Publication and postage	226.59
Special events	9,940.00		Classes expense	198.44
			Property insurance	4937.93
			Legal expense	55.00
			Special events	7,101.12
			Utilities	8,877.90
			Taxes, Payroll, and others	8,703.38
Total Income	104,127.53		Total Expense	120,829.76

Birthday Wishes

**Birthday wishes to those that have their birthdays in
October, November, and December 2023**

(Zodiac signs, Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius)



जन्मदिनमिदं अयि प्रिय सखे, शन्तनोतु ते सर्वदा मुदम् /
प्रार्थयामहे भव शतायुषि / ईश्वरः सदा त्वां रक्षतु /
पुण्यकर्मणा कीर्तिमर्जय / जीवनं तव भवतु सार्थकम् /

*Oh, dear friend! may your birthday bring you goodness and joy forever.
We all pray for your long life of hundred years, and may the Lord always protect you.
By noble deeds may you attain fame and may your life be full filled.*



Resources of health insurance for uninsured

RESOURCES for UNINSURED in North East FLORIDA (as of April 2023)

- * Note that the information below is provided as a courtesy only and may not be up to date.
- * Website to find free/discounted community health resources: <https://www.findhelp.org/>

- **AGAPE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (SLIDING SCALE)** <https://agapefamilyhealth.org/locations/>
 - o Phone number: 904-760-4904
- **VIM (Volunteers in Medicine)** vim-jax.org
 - o 3728 Phillips Highway, Suite #34, Jacksonville, FL 32207; Phone: 904-399-2766
 - o 5927 Old Timuquana Rd., Suite #2, Jacksonville, FL 32210; Phone: 904-539-3020
- **WE CARE JACKSONVILLE, INC.** wecarejacksonville.org
 - o Phone: 904-674-6450
 - o Address: 4615 Phillips Highway, Jacksonville, FL 32207
- **ST. VINCENT'S H.O.P.E. (Health Outreach Patient Eligibility) PROGRAM**
 - o Phone: 904-308-1956
 - o Website: <https://healthcare.ascension.org/locations/floridafjac/jacksonville-ascension-st-vincent-riverside/financial-assistance>
 - o Address: 3 Shircliff Way, Dillon Building, #525, Jacksonville, FL 32204
- **SULZBACHER CENTER Health Services** <https://sulzbacherjax.org/get-help/#healthcare>
 - o Phone: 904-394-1660 (Downtown); 904-224-3550 (Beaches)
 - o Address: 611 E. Adams Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202 &
 - o Address: (Beaches): 850 6th Ave South, Ste. 500, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
- **MOBILE HEALTH UNITS**
 - o Sulzbacher Center HealthMobile: 904-422-6921
 - o St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry: 904-308-7300
 - <https://healthcare.ascension.org/locations/floridafjac/jacksonville-ascension-st-vincent-riverside/outreach-ministries>
 - o Duval County Health Department (medical and dental): 904-253-1130 or 904-253-1230
- **MASS Clinic (Muslim-American Social Services)** <https://massclinic.org/>
 - o Address: 2251, St. Johns Bluff Rd. S. Jacksonville, FL 32246; Phone: 904-419-8006
- **DUVAL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**
 - o <https://duval.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/index.html>
- **UFHEALTH JACKSONVILLE**
 - o Financial Assistance: 904-244-4015
 - o <https://ufhealthjax.org/patient-care/financial-assistance.aspx>
 - o Total Care Clinic for patients with "City Contract" Insurance
 - o <https://ufhealthjax.org/location/171/uf-health-total-care-clinic-jacksonville/>
- **LEGACY OF CARE HEALTH CLINIC, INC.**
 - o <http://legacyofcare.net/> Phone: 904-563-3989; Email: legacyofcare@yahoo.com
 - o Address: 1620 St. John's Bluff Rd. Jacksonville FL. 32225
 - o Times: By appointment only; open every second Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM
- **FLORIDA DISCOUNT DRUG CARD PROGRAM** FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com 1-866-341-8894
- **Free Medications to those who cannot afford them** <https://www.rxassist.org/>

Important Links

 Seniors forms

 Membership forms

 Donation

 Volunteering

 Pooja

 Events

 2023 Calendar

 Join Mailing list

Rental and Advertisement

RENTAL RATES

Temple Facility (Multipurpose Hall minimum 3 Hours + \$100 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	\$50	\$80	\$100
After house Rental Multi-purpose Hall	\$70	\$100	\$120
Gokulam Hourly	\$30	\$40	\$50
Conference Room/Library	\$15	\$20	\$25
Podium/Projects	\$15	\$15	\$15

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: \$1000

Half page: \$600

Quarter page: \$350






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May the blessings of the Lord be on
Your Family and You

Hari Om

Cultural Events

Adhik Maas



Sri Venkateswara Kalyanaotsavam



Sudarshana homa



Sundara Kadam





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Show your Talent



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH 11AM-5PM



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DJ BINEL**

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SHOPPING, GAMES/PRIZES**



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SNOW CONES-NOODLES-PIZZA
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PANEER NAAN-MANCHURIAN
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LIVE MUSIC BY
DJ BINZ

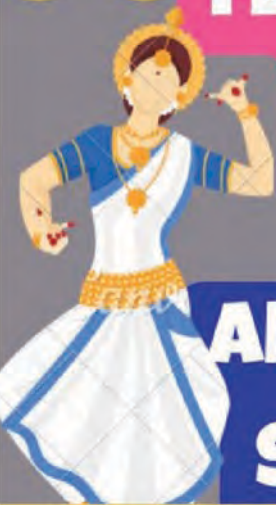


**CARNIVAL GAMES, BOUNCE
HOUSES, DUNK TANK, ETC!**

**FEATURING BOLLY-X KID-FRIENDLY
WORKOUT WITH SHIREEN AT
12PM-12:30PM**

BOLLY X
The Bollywood Workout

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SHOW AT 2PM-3PM AS WELL!**





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EVENT SPONSORED BY:

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MINERVA—FIFTH ELEMENT

TEA OF JAX—DUNKIN' DONUTS

KRUTI KREATIONS

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MISHTHANN BY RINKY

JAIN'S KITCHEN

CAKES AND BAKES BY SHUCHI





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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH 11AM-5PM

VISIT OUR VENDORS!!



***R'S DESIGNS
BANJARA SAREES
INDY DIVAS***



BRICKS, BOTS, AND BEAKERS



***SHIVA ROBOTICS
GAURAV THAKKAR
PHOTOGRAPHY***





CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL 2023



CREDIT: GAURAV THAKKAR PHOTOGRAPHY



CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL 2023



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CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL 2023



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