

🕒 TEMPLE HOURS

Monday - Thursday  
9 am to 12 noon & 6 pm to 8 pm  
Friday, Weekends & Holidays  
9 am to 8 pm



# PASCHIMAVANI

📍 DIRECTIONS

From Freeway 580 in Livermore  
Exit North Vasco Road,  
Left on Scenic Ave,  
Left on Arrowhead Avenue

## NEWS FROM THE HINDU COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER, LIVERMORE SHIVA - VISHNU TEMPLE

"OM NAMAH SHIVAYA"

🌐 [www.livermoretemple.org](http://www.livermoretemple.org)

☎ (925) 449 6255

@ [info@livermoretemple.org](mailto:info@livermoretemple.org)

"OM NAMO NARAYANA"



# Happy New Year

# 2025

May Lord Shiva and Vishnu shower  
you and your family with their blessings

### *Chairman and President's Message*

Dear Devotees of the HCCC,

Namaskarams and blessings from the Shiva Vishnu Temple, Livermore, CA. Wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year 2025!

Our sincere gratitude to all the devotees for your excellent participation, invaluable volunteering efforts and generous donations, which contributed to the successful completion of several HCCC events and projects such as - Venkateshwara Vaibhavotsavam, Skanda Shashti, Navarathri, Durga Pooja, Karthika Masa Maha Rudra Vaibhavotsavam, Pushpa Yaagam, Sita Parinayam, as well as community programs such as blood drives, blanket & toy drives, senior trips, yoga classes, and young adults programs .

Your volunteering time and generous donations continue to make a significant impact, so HCCC can deliver unparalleled services and experiences to Greater Bay Area devotees. Our deep gratitude to numerous donors who have generously donated to the New Year Annadana Program and year-end fundraising efforts including Annual Donor Appreciation Fundraising Banquet. Every dollar raised will be allocated for a great use as per the devotees request and the temple's expense budget approval process, and any excess donations are applied as per the HCCC Donation Policy.

We are pleased to share significant progress in several key areas of temple infrastructure and operations. The architectural enhancements of the Lakireddy Admin Building have advanced considerably, thanks to the tireless efforts of the TAC (Temple Architectural Committee) and started making progress with other buildings and structures.

We are in the midst of the Annadana and Naivedyam Kitchen Renovation. We have also modernized the temple's IT systems, including upgrades to devotee services and payment system modules, as well as the successful completion of HINTS 2.0. Looking ahead, we are awaiting city approval for the Annadana Hall project and are preparing for the completion of HINTS 2.5, which includes further enhancements to our IT systems.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the numerous volunteers who dedicated countless hours in preparation for the New Year celebrations on January 1, 2025 and to welcome thousands of devotees on that day. Hundreds of volunteers signed up for volunteering during New Year Celebrations and preceding days, in the areas of traffic & parking (multiple lots avoiding neighborhood roads) for smooth flow, kitchen for preparation and distribution of Prasadam, and overall queue management -- including the staging rooms to keep devotees warm and comfortable while minimizing outdoor waiting, the Voices of HCCC teen & young adult volunteers to inform about HCCC in waiting rooms, garland making, hundi counting, registration desk. Our IT team has also worked hard to bring in technology where needed to assist with messaging and easing the burden on our front office team.

Temple is planning to conduct the first ever Hanuman Maha Yaagam from January 30, 2025 to February 2, 2025. Please join and receive the blessings of Lord Hanuman.

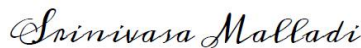
Please visit the temple website [www.livermoretemple.org](http://www.livermoretemple.org) for the latest information covering the annual and special events.

Looking forward to your participation. Please come and join the "Happy Volunteering and Donors" group of HCCC.

Thank You and Best Wishes  
Happy New Year 2025

Sainath Kala

Srinivasa Malladi



President of HCCC 2024-25

Chairman of HCCC 2024-25

## 2024-25 Management Team

### ***Board of Directors***

### ***Board Liaisons***

Srinivasa Malladi	Chairman, Treasurer, Finance, Fundraising, Endowment Fund, Annadana Hall
Sainath Kala	President, Kitchen Renovation, Fire sprinkler
Usha Ramaswamy	Vice Chairman, Human Resources, Religious Inventory and Procurement & Cultural
Chitra Mani	Corporate Secretary, Hundi, Food, EC-Secretary, Election
Ramarao Yendluri	Young Adults, Sampradaya
Mahesh Illuri	Construction, Facilities Committee, & HINTS Member, Temple Architecture
Krishna Vutukuru	Religious, Publicity (Calendar) & Youth and Education, Hindu Heritage Hall
Prabhakar Bhanoori	Maintenance, Volunteer Coordination & Administration, Security Grant Task Force
Sudha Surapaneni	Information Systems, Human Services & Public Relations

### ***Executive Committee Members***

### ***Portfolios***

Bhaskar Chadalavada	Construction Committee
Bhaskar Swaminathan	Human Services Committee
Dimple Cyril	Young Adults Committee
Ganesh Puram	Facilities Committee
Goutham Vedanti	Youth and Education Committee
Kala Iyer	Human Resources Committee
Naveen Mareddy	Information Systems Committee
Neelamegam Govindsamy	Administration Committee
Calaimany Bhoopathi	Volunteer Coordination Committee
Raghu Malladi	Fund Raising Committee
Ramesh Gadamsetti	Food Committee
Rema Ramani	Cultural Committee
Sainath Kala	President
Shyamala Venkateswaran	Publicity Committee
Sudhakar Mallampati	Public Relations Committee & Vice President
Suresh Kolan	Maintenance Committee
Umashankar Meda	Religious Committee
Upendra Tiwary	Hundi Committee (Joint treasurer)
Vani Pulapa	Religious Inventory and Procurement Committee
Venkat Rangan	Finance Committee (Treasurer)
Vivek Deshpande	EC Secretary

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Request for Coordinators for 2024-2025 Religious events

We, at Shiva-Vishnu Temple, are very proud to have an unmatched group of volunteers helping with various religious events throughout the year. If you are interested or know someone who is interested in coordinating a particular event, please send an email to Religious Chair Umashankar Meda ([ec\\_religious@livermoretemple.org](mailto:ec_religious@livermoretemple.org))





Please include the following information in the email:

- Your name
- Contact Phone Number & email ID
- Interested in event.

Kindly note that the factors such as commitment and experience among others will be considered when assigning co-coordinators for an event. Please do not get disappointed if your name or your nominee's name is not chosen. It will be added to the potential coordinator list and reviewed for future years.

### Religious Schedule - Planned Special Events


	EVENT NAME & DATE
	<b>Dhanur Masa Puja</b> Sunday, December 15th, 2024 to Monday, January 13th, 2025, Andal Kalyanam - Saturday, January 18th, 2025
	<b>Ayyappa Makara Deepa Puja Celebrations</b> Tuesday, Jan 14th and Sunday, Jan 19th 2025
	<b>30th Annual Arudra Natyanjali Dance Festival</b> Sunday, January 19th, 2025 - 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM
	<b>Basant Panchami</b> Sunday, February 2nd 2025
	<b>Ratha Saptami</b> Tuesday, February 4th 2025
	<b>Sri Madhwa Navami Celebrations</b> Thursday, February 6th 2025

	<p><b>Thai Poosam</b> Monday, February 10th 2025 - 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM</p>
	<p><b>Shiva Brahmotsavam</b> Friday, February 21st to Sunday, February 23rd 2025</p>
	<p><b>Maha Shivarathri</b> Tuesday, February 25th 2025</p>
	<p><b>Ugadi Celebrations</b> Saturday, March 29th 2025</p>

Shiva-Vishnu Temple, Livermore, CA will be performing

# Hanuman Maha Yaagam

Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025



Hanuman Yaagam will be performed at Shiva-Vishnu Temple  
from January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

The Hanuman Yaagam is believed to bring numerous spiritual, emotional, physical, and material benefits. By invoking the blessings of Lord Hanuman through the Yaagam, devotees seek to enhance their well-being and attain divine protection and strength.

Please mark your calendars & plan on participating in this divine event and receive blessings

### Event Gallery

### Navarthri Celebrations



### Vishnu Brahmotsavam



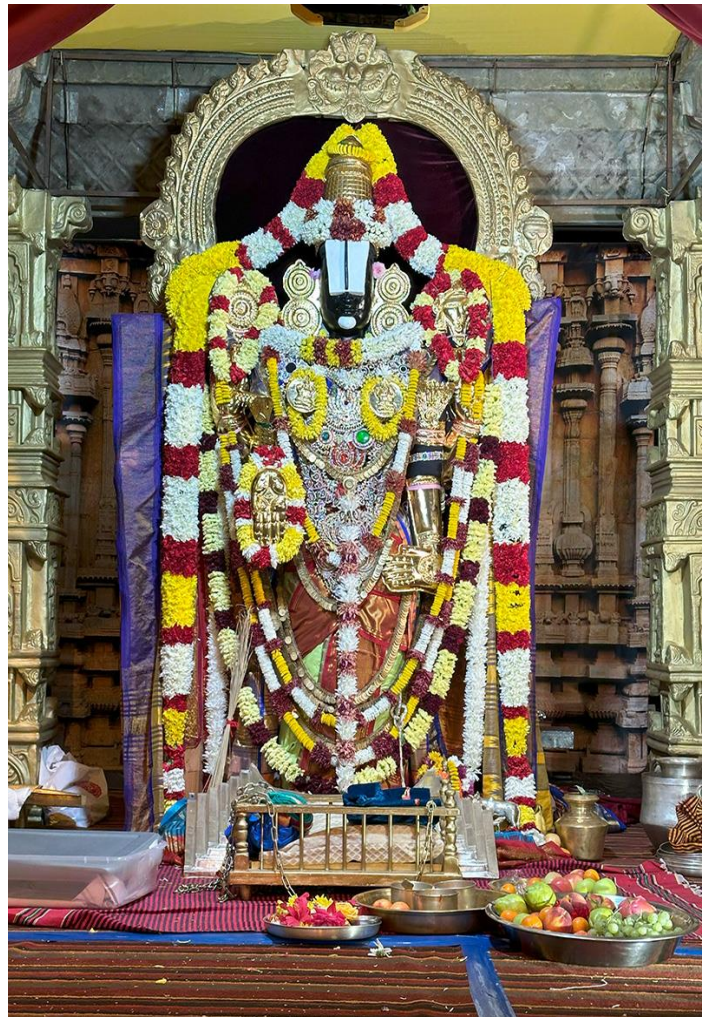


**Durga Puja and Asthana Pooja**





### One Day in Tirumala



### Kailasa Vaibhastsavam



### Ayyappa and Architectual



## Fundraising Banquet



## Human Services

### **HCCC Human Services Committee has been involved in a lot of community services from October to December.**

Blood Drive by Vitalant, Stanford Blood and American Red Cross were conducted in the temple premises.

HCCC donated Toys, Blankets and Winter warmers for the needy. The volunteers visited in person and made the donation to different shelters.

Human Services hosted the annual flu shots on October 19, 2024 in association with Safeway Clinics. Nearly 200 visitors benefited with FREE Vaccines and booster Covid shots.

The Health Advisory Center started doctor's services on both Saturday & Sunday by volunteer doctors. Timings are from 1PM to 3PM effective Jan 01, 2025.

We encourage anyone interested in volunteering contact Human Services EC chair for additional details to join this group at.

[ec\\_human\\_services@livermoretemple.org](mailto:ec_human_services@livermoretemple.org)

### **Diwali Mela in Livermore Downtown**

Human Services celebrated Diwali on November 07, 2024 in Downtown Livermore partnering with Livermore Valley Arts. This event was inaugurated with lighting of lamps by Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert and Livermore Mayor John Marchand. Twenty plus small businesses participated in displaying their arts, and crafts.

The highlight of the event was dance performances by various dance organizations which were well received.

This event is a major participation of HCCC working with the local community and is welcomed by everyone.

### **Senior Diwali Program**

Senior Diwali program was Celebrated on November 09, 2024 in the Akela Hall. Program included Bhajans, Karaoke by HCCC volunteers and Dances, where seniors participated and celebrated with friends and family. This was followed by a sumptuous lunch.

### **Senior Theertha Yatra**

Human Services Committee organized a daytrip "Theerthra Yatra" for seniors on October 20, 2024, Bus departed from Temple at 9:00 AM and visited Sacramento area Buddhist Temple, Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Sri Siddhi Vinayaka Temple, Sri Surabhi Go Kestra (Goshala) in Pleasanton and returned at 7.00 PM. Seniors had a great fun the entire trip with Bhajans Songs and unique puja at the Goshala.

## **Upcoming Events**

- **Canned Food Drive**

Currently Human Services Committee is running a Canned Food drive till 30th January 2025 to support Alameda County Food bank. Barrels are placed on the campus to drop-off canned food. Cash donations are also accepted. Please support this cause.

<https://livermoretemple.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/food-drive-2024.pdf>

- **Annual Grant-in-Aid Application 2025 is available online**

Human Services invites Charitable Nonprofit organizations registered in the US and abroad to apply for the Annual Grant in Aid 2025. Application deadline is 17th January 2025. Email the application or drop off at the temple front desk. For additional details, please refer to

<https://livermoretemple.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/GIA-2025.pdf>

- Senior monthly meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at Palani Hall
- Weekly Yoga sessions on Saturday between 8 to 9AM at Tirumala Hall
- Blood drive in January, partnering with Vitalant at Tirumala Hall
- Blood drive partnering with America Red Cross are being scheduled.  
Please visit the Temple website to donate blood. By donating blood, you are saving Lives.

Please check the temple website for more information [www.livermoretemple.org](http://www.livermoretemple.org)

## Human Services Photo Gallery



## Priests



### **P.D.T. SAMPATH SRIDHARAN (CHIEF PRIEST)**

**P.D.T. Sridharan** born in Bhattacharyar family and hails from Kattumannar Koil, Tamilnadu. He studied Nalayara Divya Prabhandam, Krishna yajurvedam and Pancha Rathra Agamam at Sri Rangam Kusi Patasala. He graduated in Panch Ratra Ratnakara. He served at TTD as Ekangi for 16 years. He joined Temple in 1998. He speaks Tamil, Telugu, and English.



### **P.D.T. DIVI PAWAN KUMAR**

**P.D.T. Divi Pawan Kumar** is a Vaikanasa Priest. He hails from Tenali, Andhra Pradesh. He has graduated from Sri Venkateswara Veda Pathasala, Tirumala with first class in the Pratishanta Vaikanasa Agama examination after 8 years of study. He has also passed the Archaka Pravesa and Vara examinations conducted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh with first class. He has been involved in the Pratishtas, Brahmotsavams, Pavithrotsavams for the last 3 years, and is also associated as priest with Sri. Chitti Anjaneya Swamy Mandir, Tenali. He has also passed Sanskrit Vichakshana examination with distinction. He speaks Telugu, Tamil, English, Hindi and Sanskrit.



### **P.D.T. RAGHUNATHAN NATARAJAN**

**P.D.T. Raghunath Natarajan** is a Krishna Yajurveda Priest. He hails from Ariyalur, Tamilnadu. He studied for 12 years and completed his Veda Adhyayanam Kramantham in Kumbhakonam. He is well trained in all rituals of Vaideekam (Poorva and Aparā). He served as a Head Priest for 23 years in Mumbai Sri Ram Temple (1984-2006) besides teaching Veda. He speaks English, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi.



### **P.D.T. RAMANAN SUNDARA SRINIVASAN**

**P.D.T. Ramanan Sundara Srinivasan** is a Vaikanasa Priest. He hails from Madurai, Tamilnadu. He has graduated from Sri Venkateswara Veda Pathasala, Tirumala with second class in the Pratishanta Vaikanasa Agama examination after 8 years of study in 2001. He has also passed the Tamilnadu HRNCE Board Vaikana Archaka Exams conducted by the Government of Tamilnadu in Utsava Pratishta Bhagam with first class. He hails from a family of priests going back seven generations in Sri Villiputtur and Madurai. He has worked as a temple priest in Madurai, London and Uganda before he joined us in April 2015. He is a specialist in Alankaras. He has been involved in the Pratishtas, Brahmotsavams, Pavithrotsavams for the last 22 years. He speaks Tamil, Telugu, English, Hindi.



### **P.D.T. HARE KRISHNA MAHAPATRA**

**P.D.T. Harekrishna Mahapatra** is a Shukla Yajurveda Priest of Smarth and Sakta Agama. He hails from Balasore, Orissa. He has graduated from Maharshi Veda Vigyan Vidya Peeth, Noida, Ghaziabad, UP after 6 years of study in 1989. He has also passed the Shastry Vidya examinations conducted by the Radha Krishna Sanskrit Vidyalaya in Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad, UP with a second class after 6 years of study in 1995. He has worked as a Veda Parayan Pandit for 5 years priest before becoming a teacher in Shukla Yajurved in Dudeshwarnath Vedh Vidya Peeth for 8 years. He then worked as a Head priest in Lakshmi Narayan temple in Singapore for about four years before he joined us in Oct 2015. He has been involved in the Murthi Pratishta, Brahmotsavams, Maha Kumbhabhishekam over the last 13 years. He speaks Odiya, Hindi, & Bengali.



### **P.D.T. SAI KISHORE GUDURU**

**P.D.T. Sai Kishore Guduru** is a Saivagama Priest. He hails from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. He has graduated from Sri Venkateswara Veda Samskrita Patashala in Isaragutta, Hyderabad, with first class in the Saivagama examination after 8 years of study. He has also passed the Archaka Pravesa, Vara and Pravara examinations conducted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh with first class. He is a Gold Medalist from Sri Venkateshwara Veda

Shastra Agama Vidvath Sadassu Saivagama Purva Bhaga. He hails from a family of priests going back to over 9 generations. He began his career as a priest in Nageshwara Swamy Devalayam in Chinakallepalle, Krishna District where he served for 9 years. He then worked as a lecturer in Sri Venkateswara Veda Samskrita Patashala in Isaragutta, Hyderabad, for three years. He started work with us in Jan 2018. He has been involved in the Pratishtas, Brahmotsavams, Pavithrotsavams, Kumbhabhishekam for the last 8 years. He speaks Telugu, Tamil, English, Hindi.



#### **PDT KIDAMBI PAVAN KUMAR**

**PDT. Kidambi Pawan Kumar** is a Pancharathra Priest. He hails from Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. He attained a Doctorate in Pancharathra Agama Shastra from Sri Venkateshwara Vedic University, Tirupati after 15 years of study in 2020. He has also passed the Archaka Pravesa, Vara and Pravara examinations conducted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh with first class. He is a Gold Medalist from TTD Veda Sadas Purva Bhaga in 2013. He has been involved in the Pratishtas, Brahmotsavams, Pavithrotsavams for the last 6 years, and is also associated as priest with Sri. Sitarama Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Nellore. He hails from a family of priests going back to about 8 generations. He has also passed a Certificate course in Sanskrit conducted by Rashtriya Sanskrita Vidya Peeth, Tirupati. Before starting work with us in Apr 2022 he was a Lecturer in Pancharathra Agama at Tirumala Veda Patshala. He speaks Telugu & Tamil.



#### **PDT MADHAVA SHARMA ILAVAJJALA**

**PDT. Madhava Sharma Ilavajjala** is a Smartha Priest. He hails from Proddatur, Andhra Pradesh. He attained a doctorate in Krishna Yajurveda Pourohityam (Apastambapourohitya) from Sri Venkateswara Vedic University, Tirupati, AP after 13 years of study. He was a university topper in MA from the same University. He has also passed the Archaka Pravesa, Vara and Pravara examinations conducted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh with first class. He is a Gold Medalist from Sri Venkateshwara Veda Shastra Agama Vidvath Sadassu in Krishna Yajurveda Smartham. He worked as a priest in Ayyappa Swamy Devalaya in Prodattur, for about 2 years before joining us here in June 2022. He is well tversed in all rituals of Vaideekam and Smartham. He speaks Telugu, Tamil, English, Hindi and Sanksrit.



#### **PDT GANAPATI BHAT**

**PDT. Ganapati Bhat** is a Smartha Priest. He hails from Yellapur, Karnataka. He is a Krishna Yajurveda Salakshana Ghanapathi from Karnataka Samsrita University, Chamarajapet, Bangalore after 15 years of study. He is a Gold Medalist from in Krishna Yajurveda Mula Kramantha Salakshana Ganantha and Boudayana Apasthamba Smartha Prayoga conducted by Karnataka Samsrita University, Chamarajapet, Bangalore. He worked as a private priest (Purohitam) in Bangalore for 15 years before joining us in August 2022. He hails from a family of priests going back to about 7 generations. He has also studied Sanskrit Pradhama and Kavya. He is well trained in all rituals of Vaideekam and Smartham. He speaks Kannada, English and Sanksrit.



#### **PDT SRINIVAS PEESAPATI**

**PDT. Srinivas Peesapatiis** a Pancharatra Agama Priest. He hails from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. He hails from a family of priests going back to about 9 generations. He had his initial training in Srimaan Trust, Srirangam, Tamilnad where he learnt Nalayira Divya Prabhadham and Sri Pancharathra Agamam and Aapa Stambiea Pancha Dasa Karmas. He is a Gold Medalist from TTD Veda Saras Purva Bhaga in 2014. He attained his Bachelor's of Commerce from Gitam University, Visakhapatnam in 2015. He has a Masters in Pancharathra Agama from Venkateshwara Vedic University in 2019, Tirupati and Masters in Astrology from Central Sanskrit University, Tikrupati in 2022. He has been involved in the Pratishtas, Brahmotsavams, Pavithrotsavams since the age of 12, and is also associated as priest with Sri. Kodandaramalayam, Salagramapuram, Visakhapatnam. Before starting work with us in June 2024 he was an Asst Professor in Pancharathra Agama in the Vedic



University, Tirupati. He speaks English, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada & Sanskrit.



#### **PDT SREERAMA DHAVALA**

**PDT. Sreerama Dhavala:** Pandit Sree Rama Dhavala is a distinguished Smartha and Saktha Agama priest hailing from Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh. He holds a bachelor's degree in Smartha Agama from the prestigious Sri Venkateshwara Veda & Samskrutha Veda Pathashala, Keesaragutta, Hyderabad, following eight years of rigorous study. He further specialized in Saktha Agama (focusing on rituals and worship dedicated to Shakti as the primary deity) under the esteemed guidance of His Holiness Amrutananda Swaswathi (Dandukoori Mallikarjuna Somayaji). Pandit Dhavala has been honored for his knowledge and service by the Sringeri Sarada Trust, Sringeri, and the Virupaksha Peetham, Guntur. He is also officially certified by the endowments departments of Telangana for his expertise in performing traditional rituals and ceremonies. His skillset includes conducting Vivaham (marriages), Upanayanam (sacred thread ceremonies), and various other rituals. He is particularly adept in performing advanced rituals such as Chandi Homam, Mahavidya Homam, and Srichakra Archa (Navavarana Archana). Pandit Dhavala comes from a lineage of spiritual leaders, with his grandfather being the founder of the Sri Shankar Math in Vizianagaram, where Pandit Dhavala currently serves as the Pradhana Archaka (chief priest). Prior to joining us in July 2024, he rendered his services at SLNSS Virginia, USA. Fluent in Telugu, Hindi, and English, Pandit Sree Rama Dhavala continues to uphold and propagate traditional Hindu rituals with exceptional dedication and skill.



#### **PDT HARIHARAN ANANDAKUMAR**

**PDT. Hariharan** is a Shaiva Agama Priest. He hails from Chennai, Tamilnadu. He hails from a family of priests going back to about 9 generations. He began his education in Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam in Kanchipuram, Tamilnadu where he studied for 5 years and attained a Bachelors in Shivagama Chudamani. In 2011 he attained his Masters in Shivagama from Sri Venkateshwara Vedic University, Tirupati. From 2011 to 2018 he underwent special education in Sanskrit and Astrology to attain a Diploma, Bachelors and Masters in Sanskrit & Astrology from Madras Sanskrit College Mylapore, Chennai, Tamilnadu. He is a gold medalist in a National Level Slokha Antakshari competition held in Agartala, Tripura by the All India Sanskrit Samsthan in 2018. He has been involved in Pratishtas, Brahmotsavams, Pavithrotsavams and all types of Homams since 2009. He was working in Vadapalani Murugan Temple in Chennai, Tamilnadu before he joined us. He speaks English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Sanskrit.



#### **PDT VENKATA PARASARAM**

**PDT Venkata Sridhar Parasaram** is a Vaikhanasa priest on the Vishnu side. He hails from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. He hails from a family of priests going back to over 9 generations. He completed his studies with first class in Vaikhanasa Agama Prathishta Prayaschitham from Sri Venkateshwara Vaikhanasa Agama Patashala in Dwarka Tirumala, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh in 2012. He passed Archaka Pravesha Vara Examination conducted by Govt of Andhra Pradesh with First Class in 2013. He was involved in Pratishtha, Brahmotsavam, Pavitrotsavam for the last 9 years. He worked in Sri Venkateshwara Padmavathi Temple in Gadchibowli Hyderabad from 2013 to 2017. Before joining us he was a priest in the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center, Seattle, Washington from 2017 to 2022. He speaks English, Hindi, Telugu & Tamil.

## Slow Time: Meditations on a Moonless Monday

**By Gaurav Rastogi**

On the last Monday of 2024, as devotees gather at the Livermore Temple for Somvati Amavasya, I reflect on how this simple ritual connects us to one of humanity's oldest pursuits - the search for patterns in our world. This was the last moonless Monday in the shortest days of the year.

**We humans were pattern-seekers** When the night sky was our only entertainment, our ancestors looked up and saw stories. The Rishis who composed the Vedas weren't just poets—they were astronomers mapping the paths of celestial bodies. Those first observations of the nakshatras, the meticulous tracking of planetary positions, and the precise calculations of lunar phases were the foundations of a science that would span millennia. The temples they built encoded this knowledge in stone - each alignment, each proportion, each measurement reflecting their understanding of cosmic patterns.

**Time is the price of cosmic knowledge** Let us think about what it takes to know the sky truly. To map Jupiter's path through the zodiac requires watching every single night for twelve years. That's just one basic cycle. For the complex alignments of Jupiter with Saturn, you need a full sixty-years of careful observation. A grandfather begins the observation, his son continues it, his grandson completes one cycle - and realizes they need five more cycles to be sure. There are so many generations of unbroken and diligent observations. We must have continued the observations unbroken through wars, famines, sudden wealth, and then upheaval again. If we missed a cycle, we would have had to start this journey of several generations again.

**Every temple ritual is a gift from the past** When we stand in a temple today, participating in ceremonies timed to celestial events, we're receiving the accumulated wisdom of hundreds of generations: astronomers who watched the skies, mathematicians who calculated the cycles, architects who encoded this knowledge into stone according to Sthapatya Veda, and priests who preserved the timing of rituals through their family traditions.

That simple act of gathering for Somvati Amavasya? It represents thousands of years of human dedication to understanding our place in the cosmos.

**We still are pattern-seekers** Today, we seek patterns in stock markets and social media trends. We track patterns in our lives - the rise and fall of fortunes, the cycles of fashion, the rhythms of fate. Our algorithms search for patterns in vast seas of data, just as our ancestors searched the vast ocean of stars. But standing in the temple today, participating in rituals that connect us to ancient astronomical knowledge, I am humbled by the patience of our ancestors. From those first observations of the nakshatras to the precise temple alignments, they gave us the gift of cosmic time, measured in stone, remembered in ritual, and preserved in the sacred geometry of temple architecture.

The patterns we seek today are faster and more fleeting. But we could learn something from those ancient sky-watchers about patience, the value of slow observation, and the profound insights that come only with time. Patterns set into stone, geometry, verse, and the very fabric of our sacred spaces.

As we perform our simple Monday ritual, we connect to an unbroken chain of observation and remembrance that stretches back centuries. In these ancient practices, I see an echo of our oldest pattern-seeking stories, written first in stars, then in stone, and now in light. Each temple standing today is a testament to this ancient wisdom, and every ritual is a thread connecting us to those first skywatchers who looked up and began to measure the cosmos.

About: Gaurav Rastogi is a Board Member and Dean of the Hindu Spiritual Care Institute and also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA.

## Note from Publicity Chair

Dear Devotees Namaste.,

Please review individual event flyers posted on our Temple web site (<https://www.livermoretemple.org>) for most current information on events. Event schedules may change after publication of this newsletter and devotees are requested to visit our Temple website for most accurate schedules.

We have made several enhancements to our HCCC publicity efforts in order to reach out to broader devotee community including our presence on social media to stay connected. We now have official presence on facebook, twitter and Instagram.



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Livermoretemple>



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/livermoretemple>



Instagram: <https://instagram.com/livermoretemple>



YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/LivermoreTempletv>

Please do like us on Facebook and follow our HCCC activities on twitter and Instagram. Our presence on social media should encourage technology savvy individuals as well as younger devotees to connect with our Temple activities more closely.

Please mark your calendar and plan on participating in all the events planned.

Finally, you can now view/read your favorite quarterly newsletter PaschimaVani on any device whether it is mobile or otherwise with a custom reader to fit your needs. Please do send us your feedback on our newsletter as well on our web site content.

May the divine blessings be with you and your family always.

Regards,

Shyamala Venkateswaran

Publicity Committee

Email: [ec\\_publicity@livermoretemple.org](mailto:ec_publicity@livermoretemple.org)