

Mandir Vani

Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies
8375 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Littleton, CO 80128
(Tax ID: 84-1301209)

www.hindutempleofcolorado.org 303-948-9693 email:htcc@comcast.net

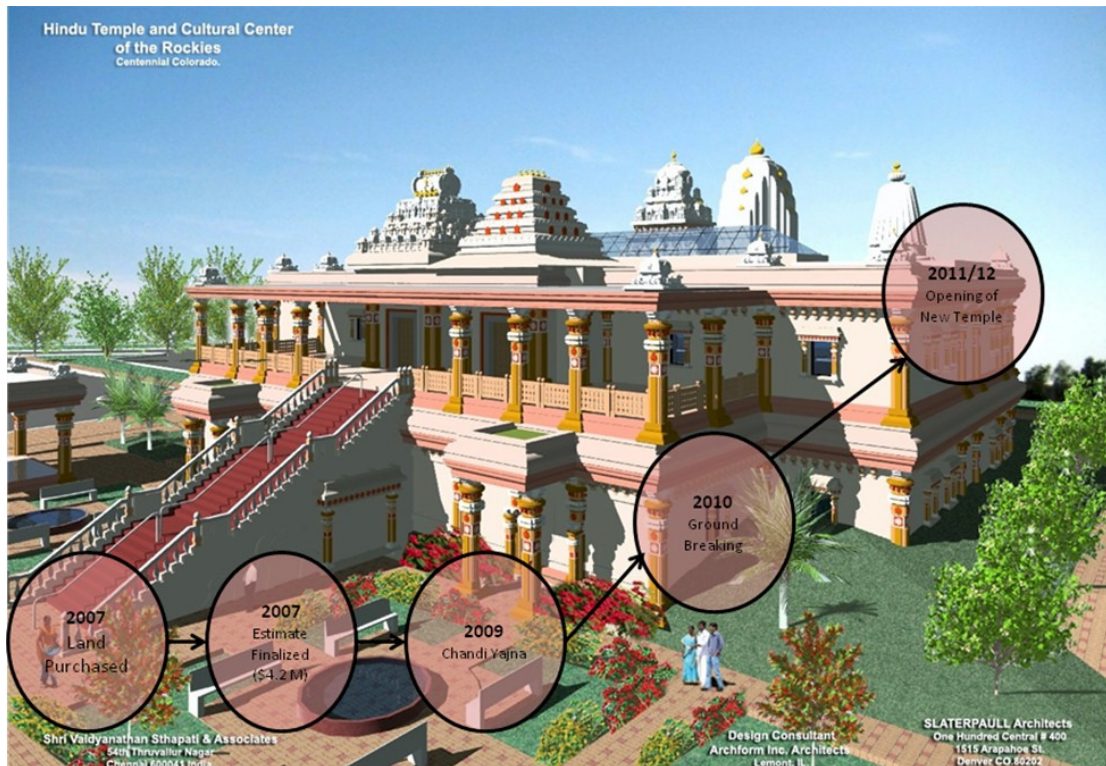
The mission of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies (HTCC) is to provide a forum for religious worship and celebrations, and for cultural, religious, and spiritual development activities based on Hindu / Vedic / Sanatan - Dharma traditions.

Editorial Board

K. C. Upadhyay (Priest)

Prabhakara Rao (Editor)

Reva Nayar (President)



New Hindu Temple Rendering
Please Donate Generously

President's Page

Dear Fellow Devotees,

Greetings from the Board of Trustees and Blessings from Acharya ji and Pandit ji.

It is indeed my great honor to be serving The Hindu Temple. We have reached an important milestone in our Temple's history. Thanks to all your donations and fund raising efforts, voluntary work and commitment that has made our temple a great place to achieve spiritual guidance, peace and harmony for all.

The temple operations, are progressing well. The new policies and procedures have been implemented and running fairly smoothly. We have received some feedback and we are reviewing those suggestions. We welcome your input to help us with the continuous improvement of Temple operations. Please feel free to contact us with your comments, suggestions and offer of voluntary help. The temple can always use your energy, expertise, and time. Your participation as a devotee and as a volunteer enhances and enriches our temple. We look forward to hearing from you.

We started off the year 2011 with the Ganesh Pooja, followed by Navgraha Pooja, the next day. With God's grace and your active participation these events went very well. About 500 devotees attended. The two functions brought in about \$70,000, in donations. This will help in the great cause of building our New Hindu Temple. We celebrated Shiv Ratri on March 2nd. Your dedication is gratefully appreciated.

The Great challenge of starting the construction of New Temple in the 3rd quarter of 2011 is hovering above us. We are reviewing the design and drawings and getting a grip on the financial demands to realize this dream. We have requested in the past and appeal once again that we need your help more than ever before. Let's all welcome this challenge, and respond to this call for action. We need at least a million dollars by July, 2011, to get started on the construction. The new Temple will be built to serve the spiritual needs of our growing community for decades to come. Our goal is to provide for the participation of the larger community who believe in and practice the religious Hindu way of life.

Let us together build THE NEW HINDU TEMPLE AND CULTURE CENTER OF THE ROCKIES for our children and grandchildren. Now is the time to build the Temple for ourselves and for our future generations, far away from India, where we have decided to settle down. Our future generation will be proud of our sacrifices and dedication for the cause. Please come forward and donate generously. It is our temple and the blessings from God, though not always evident, come in many latent forms, such as health, prosperity and well being for us and our families. These are very important ingredients of life. Let us express our gratitude by sharing some of the fortunes with Him, who is initially responsible for granting them to us. The pleasure derived from giving is far more reaching than the pleasure derived from receiving.

The temple is counting on your participation to volunteer and financial support in order to make this a successful project. It is definitely a daunting task, but we are confident that with your help we will be able to raise these much needed funds.

Please contact www.hindutempleofcolorado.org or 303-948-9693 to offer your talent and support.

On behalf of the board of Trustees and blessings from Acharya ji and Pandit ji., my best wishes to you and to your family for good health, prosperity and peace in 2011.

May the blessings of the Lord be with you.

Thanks for the trust and support from all of you.

Cordially,
Reva Nayar
HTCC President

Recent Celebrations at HTCC - Madhu Mahajan

We are excited to inform you that several major holidays were celebrated in the month of January. The New Year celebration started with Ganapati Pooja, once again Ram Vaithianathan, former HTCC trustee, and family sponsored the pooja.

On first Sunday of the year Nava Graha pooja was performed, sponsored by Reva and Inder Nayar. Both events have become a great tradition at the Hindu Temple; a significant number of people attended the events. Several community members opened their wallets and donated generously.

Maha Shiv Ratri was celebrated on March 2; several poojas of Rudrabhishekam were performed during the day and in the evening. Special tribute to Lord Shiva was given by a continuous recital of Rudra Ashtadhyaay from 10 PM till midnight.

Thanks to all the sponsors, participants and volunteers who support the Hindu Temple and make each event successful and memorable.

Heartfelt gratitude to HTCC priests who work very hard and serve the community with a blissful smile.

Upcoming Events:

Sunder Kand Paath: First Saturday of the Month

Every first Saturday of the month, Acharya ji and devotees recite Sunder Kand from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. We invite you to join in the reading of this holy chapter from Shri Ram Charit Maanas.

Holi Celebration: March 20th

Holi, the most exuberant spring festival of India, will be celebrated at the Temple on March 20th. Narasimha Pooja and Havan will be performed followed by cultural program and lunch prasad.

Sri Rama Navami Celebration

Preparations for a big celebration of Shri Ram Navami are on its way. Once again, we are working hard to make this event a grand success. We invite you to join in the 15th annual celebration of Shri Ram Navami on April 16 and 17. The program will begin on Saturday at 10 AM with the Akhand Paath (continuous recital) of Sri Ram Charit Maanas and conclude on the next day at 11 AM, followed by Bhajans and Sri Ram birthday celebrations. For more details, please see the attached flyer.

Please See Attached Ram Navami Flyer for Details

Treasurer's Report (Jan to Dec 2010) - Satish Kumar, Treasurer

Month	Income	Expense	Major Celebrations
Jan	13,753.05	20,401.33	New Year Ganesha Puja
Feb	13,719.72	13,474.31	
Mar	18,969.57	19,879.53	Maha Shivaratri
Apr	13,090.76	12,830.04	Sri Rama Navami
May	10,009.50	13,153.71	
Jun	19,458.06	12,396.67	Graduation Puja
Jul	13,520.00	17,862.30	
Aug	16,925.02	16,923.29	
Sep	18,488.75	16,872.54	Krishna Janmastami & Ganesh Chaturthi
Oct	20,459.66	12,316.62	
Nov	24,103.92	12,316.62	Diwali Celebration
Dec	16,170.00	11,270.00	
Total	\$198,668.01	\$188,989.89	
Current Temple Fund		\$131,400.00 approx	
New Temple Fund		\$565,200.00 approx	
Total		\$696,600.00 approx	

Sai Organization and HTCC

The Board of Trustees of HTCC, after due deliberations, has decided that in accordance with the long standing original HTCC mission, the new HTCC facilities will have "Deities" of traditional Gods and Goddesses only and not for any Gurus and Saints, including Sai Baba. Based on above consideration, the HTCC Board is in process of revising the design of the New Hindu Temple. The reduction in size and hence the cost, will help us realize our dream sooner.

Shri Shirdi Sai Baba of the Rockies provided a list of Sai devotees and their donations. A mutually acceptable lump sum transfer of funds from HTCC to Sai Organization was authorized by the HTCC Board. The disbursement of funds, was based upon the approval of their donations by the Sai Donors. Letters were sent to the Sai donors to seek their approval prior to transfer of their donations.

HTCC Board of Trustees and Officers

Officers:

President	Reva Nayar	303-690-4347
Vice President - Operations	C. P. Mishra	303-973-7765
Secretary	Mukherjee, Modhumita	303-499-5208
Treasurer	Satish Kumar	303-973-4635

Board of Trustees:

Agarwal, Bipin	303-883-6198	Bhat, Pawan	720-870-2244
Budhiraja, Arun	303-755-4805	Jha, Mahesh	303-883-6198
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HINDU TEMPLE AND CULTURAL CENTER OF THE ROCKIES
8375 S. WADSWORTH BLVD. LITTLETON, CO 80128,
TEL: (303) 948 - 9693

2011 Festivals Celebration Calendar (April to September)

<u>Festival</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
April			
Hindu New Year (Ugadi)	03	Sunday	
Vikram Samvat 2068 Begins	03	Sunday	
Vasant Navaratra Begins	03	Sunday	
Durga Ashtami	10	Sunday	
Shri Ram Navami	11	Monday	
Akhand Ram Charit Manasa Paath begins Saturday 16 April at 11 am and ends Sunday 17 April at 11 am			
Poornima/Satyanarayana Pooja	17	Sunday	6:45 pm
Shri Hanuman Jayanthi	17	Sunday	
May			
Akshaya Trititeeya	06	Friday	
Aadi Shankaracharya Jayanthi	10	Tuesday	
Nrisimha Jayanthi	16	Monday	
Poornima/Satyanarayana Pooja	17	Tuesday	6:45 pm
June			
Graduation Pooja	05	Sunday	11 am
Ganga Dashami	11	Saturday	
Nirjala Ekadashi	12	Sunday	
Poornima/Satyanarayana Katha	15	Wednesday	6:45 pm
July			
Devashayini Ekadashi	11	Monday	
Poornima/Satyanarayana Katha	14	Thursday	6:45 pm
Shravan Month begins	15	Friday	
August			
Naaga Panchami	04	Thursday	
Vara-Lakshmi Vrat	12	Friday	
Upaa-karma/Rakshaa Bandhan	13	Saturday	8:00 am
Poornima/Satyanarayana Katha	13	Saturday	6:45 pm
Shri Krishna Janmashtami	21	Sunday	6:00 pm
Hari Taalika Teej Vrat	31	Wednesday	
September			
Ganesh Chaturthi Celebration	01	Thursday	9:30 am
Poornima/(Satyanarayana Katha)	12	Monday	6:45 pm
Pitri Paksh (Shraddha) Begins	13	Tuesday	
Pitri Paksh (Shraddha) Ends	27	Tuesday	
Sharada Navaratri Begins	28	Wednesday	

**HINDU TEMPLE and CULTURAL CENTER of the ROCKIES
INVITES YOU TO JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION of**

Sri Ram Navami



Saturday, April 16 to Sunday, April 17 2011

Program

Saturday, April 16	Ram Poojaa	10:00 AM
	Akhand Paath of Ram Charit Maanas begins	11:00 AM
Sunday, April 17	Akhand Paath of Ram Charit Maanas ends	11:00 AM
	Bhajanas, Pravachan etc.	11:00 – Noon
	<u>Sri Ram Birthday CelebrationS</u>	12:00 - 12:15
	Stotra Reading	12:15 -
	Announcements, Update on New Temple Project Arati and Prasad	12:45 - 12:50 12:50 – 1:30

If you are interested in participating in Akhand Ramayan Paath, please call Manohar Arora at 303-568-0746.

For further details, please call Acharya ji or Pandit ji at (303) 948-9693.

Direction: From C-470 & Wadsworth Blvd. – north on Wadsworth Blvd., west on Chatfield Ave (first light), make a U turn on Yukon Street, right on Wadsworth court (second street), first left to the Temple Parking area.

Major Hindu Pilgrimage Centers

by
Mahesh C Jha

As some of you may know, my wife, Subhadra Jha and I made three pilgrimage trips to India and Nepal during 2006 – 2010 and visited most major Hindu pilgrimage centers. In this article, I would like to present a broad overview of these places. Pilgrimage is an integral part of most religions and definitely more so for Hindu religion. The closest Sanskrit word for a pilgrimage place is *Teerth*. All major Sanskrit religious texts that I have read, indicate that a *Teerth* is located on a body of water e.g. ocean, rivers, lakes.

I would like to start listing and briefly describing the major Hindu *Teerth* by groups that they belong to. It would be noted that some places belong to more than one group.

Char Dham (Four Abodes): these most important Hindu Teerth are located on four corners of India: Badrinath (a temple for Vishnu) in North (Uttaranchal, on the banks of river Alaknanda), Jagaanath (a temple for Lord Krishna, his brother Balram and sister Subhadra) in east (Odissa, by Bay of Bengal), Rameshwaram (a temple for Shiva) in south (Tamilnadu, by Indian Ocean), and Dwaraka in west (Gujarat, by Arab Sea). People in Uttaranchal, have their own limited edition of Char Dham – the major pilgrimage centers in Himalaya – Badrinath, Kedar Nath, Gangotri and Yamunotri. We feel fortunate to have visited all of these places.

Saat Puri (Seven Cities): The Sanskrit shlok below:

Ayodhya Mathuraa Maayaa, Kaashee Kaanchee Avantikaa
Puri Dwaaraavatee Chaiva, Saptaitaa Moksh Daayikaa

says that following seven cities are holy and provide salvation. Ayodhya (U.P.) on the bank of river Saryoo, is birthplace of Lord Ram. Mathura (Vrindavan) in U.P., on the bank of river Yamuna, is birthplace of Lord Krishna. Maayaa Puri is an old name for Hridwar (Uttaranchala), and Kaashee for Varanasi (U.P.), both on the bank of river Ganga. Dwaaraavatee is the old name for Dwaraka (Gujarat), by Arab Sea and Avantika for Ujjain (M.P.) on the bank of river Shipra. Kancheepuram, west of Chennai, is considered Kashi of South because of the large number of temples. All these cities have a large number of temples, some over a hundred, devoted to various Hindu gods and goddesses. Again, we were fortunate to have visited all these seven cities.

Seven Rivers: While there are probably over a thousand rivers in India, the following Sanskrit shloka describes the seven that are considered very holy. This shlok is chanted to invoke the waters from these rivers to enter the water in Kalash to be used for worship.

Gange Yamune Chaiva, Godavari Saraswati
Narmade, Sindhu, Kaveri, Jalesmin sannidhing kuru

Ganga and Yamuna are the holiest rivers originating from Himalaya and flowing into Bay of Bengal. There are beautiful temples at Gangotri (the river here near the origin is called Bhagirathi) and at Yamunotri. Gangotri can be reached by car but Yamuotri requires trekking.

In earlier, Vedic times, Sindhu and Saraswati, also originating from Himalaya were more important. Sindhu, which flows through what is now Pakistan, into Arab Sea, gave us the India and Hindu names. As for Sraswati, it is thought that at one time it flowed through Panjab / Rajasthan / Gujarat into Arab Sea. Some also believe that Saraswati river goes deep into earth near Badri Nath (Uttarnchal) and comes up in Prayag to join Ganga and Yamuna and that is why it is called Triveni sangam (confluence of three rivers).

Narmada and Godavari, originate from Vindhya mountains, and flow close to each other but in opposite directions. Narmada starts near Jabalpur (M.P.) and ends in Arab Sea near Surat (Gujarat) while Godavari starts near Nasik (Maharashtra) and flows in to Bay of Bengal. Kaveri is the most important and holiest river in South India. During our pilgrimage trips we touched the waters of five of these rivers (bath in Ganga only).

Four Kumbha Bathing Places: The huge gathering and auspicious bathing takes place at following four locations, each one gets its turn once in every 12 years: Haridwar (Uttaranchal) – Ganga river; Prayaag (Allahabad, U.P.) – Ganga-Yamuna sangam (confluence), Nasik (Maharashtra) – Godavari river and Ujjain (M.P.) – Shipra river. We visited all four places, but not during Kumbh.

Dwaadash Jyotirling (Twelve in-situ Sivalingam temples): while there are thousands of temples with Shivalingams all over India, it is believed that in the twelve temples described in the following Sanskrit shlokas, the Shivalingams appeared in-situ and were not installed:

Sauraastre Somnathamcha, Srishaile Mallikarjunam
Ujjayinyaam Mahakalam, Omkaar Mamleswaram

Paralyaam Vaidyanathamcha, Daakinyaam Bhimashankaram
Setubandhe tu Raamesham, Naagesham Daarukaa Vane

Vaaraanasyaam tu Vishwesham, Tryambakam Gautamitate
Himaalaye tu Keddaram, Ghushmeshamcha Shivaalaye

Etaani Jyotirlingaani, Saayam Praatah Pathennarah
Saptjanmkritam Paapam, Smaranen Vinashyati

Over our three pilgrimage trips, we have visited all twelve temples. Here are their brief descriptions. Somnath temple in Saurashtra (Gujarat) is located right on ocean. The temple building was destroyed and built many times. The current beautiful temple, in Gujarati architecture, was started in 1950s. I consider this to be one the most beautiful temples. Watching the light-and-sound show, while being next to the ocean, is an unforgettable experience. The Mallikarjunam temple at Srishailam, south of Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh, is located near a dam on Krishna river. At the Mahakaleshwar temple on the bank of Shipra river is Ujjain (M.P.), the Bhashm arti is unique. About 100 miles south from Ujjain are Omkareshwar and Mamaleshwar temples on the two banks of Narmada river, near a hydroelectric dam.

There is some controversy about Vaidyanath temple. Some believe that Parali, mentioned in the above shloka, is located in Maharashtra, while some believe that it is located in Andhra Pradesh. Then, according to Shiva Puraan, it is “Vaidyanatham Chitabhumau”, and that refers to the most popular Shiva temple in eastern India, Baidyanath in the city of Deoghar (formerly Bihar, and now Jharkhanda). Bhimashankar temple is located between Mahabaleshwar and Pune in the hills of Maharashtra, from where Krishna river starts. Since the location is remote and we visited on a weekday, we were able to perform a long regular archana of the Shivalinga.

Raameshwaram temple, where Ram worshipped Shiva before building the Setu (bridge) to cross the ocean to go to Lanka, is probably the largest in size with its Gopurams and other features of South Indian architecture. Naageshwar temple in Gujarat, is located east of Dwaraka (referred to daarukavan in the shloka).

Varanasi or Kashi in U.P. is considered to be Lord Shiva’s city and the Vishwanath temple, located there on the bank of holy river Ganga, probably attracts the largest number of devotees from all over India. Tryambakeshwar temple is located in the hills of Maharashtra, just west of Nashik, near the origin of the Godavari river (referred to as Gautami in above shloka). The Kedarnath temple in the Himalayas (Uttarnchala) is located at an elevation of over 14,000 ft and can be reached only by a narrow 15 km long trail from GauriKunda, along Mandakini river, on foot or on pony or palki. The temple is closed during the winter months. The Shivalingam here, is the largest one. Ghushmeshwar temple is located near Ellora caves in Maharashtra.

We had heard that after visiting the 12 Jyotirlinga temples, one should go to Pashupatinath, located on the bank of Bagmati river in Kathmandu, Nepal. We visited this temple, built in Pagoda architectural style last November.

I will try to cover Devi temples, in a future issue of Mandir Vani, if there is interest. Please let us know.

Suggested Donations for Temple Services

The HTCC Board of Trustees adopted a standard policy regarding performance of various religious and cultural ceremonies by either of the priests at the request of the Yajmans (sponsors). It is requested that the sponsors (Yajmans) donate the amount indicated below, or more, for specific ceremonies. Please pay the amount by a check made to Hindu Temple and give it to the priest who performed the ceremony. If you choose to pay cash, ask and get a proper receipt. The priest will give the money and copy of the receipt to our Treasurer. The amounts suggested are for Denver and surrounding suburbs. Additional charges may apply for Boulder, Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, and areas beyond 50 miles radius from the Hindu temple.

Ceremony Performed	At Temple	Off Site**
:: PUJAS		
Archana (108 names) of any one deity	\$21	
Archana of any 5 Deities	\$51	
Arathi of any one deity	\$21	
Arathi of any 5 deities	\$101	
Sankata Haran Chaturthi	\$31	
Pradosh - Shiva Abhishekam	\$101	
Sunday Puja with Yajman providing Prasad	\$108	
Sunday Puja Prasad arranged by the Temple (additional charge)	\$300	
Puja of any deity, Satya Narayana Katha, Havan	\$161	\$211
Chandeepath (Durga Saptshatee) during Navaratri, one day	\$201	\$251
Birthday Puja	\$161	\$211
Punyahvachan	\$161	\$211
 :: SAMSKARAS		
Namakaran or Annaprashan (Naming baby/First Solid Food)	\$161	\$211
Vidyaarambh (Schooling initiation)	\$101	\$211
Choodakaran (Mundan)	\$161	\$211
Yagyopaveet (Janaeu) - Thread Ceremony	\$261	\$311
Vivah (Wedding)	\$401	\$501
Seemantham	\$201	\$251
Last Rite (performed at cremation)		\$211
Shraadh and Pinda Dan (at home)		\$211
 :: OTHER CEREMONIES		
Bhoomi Puja/Shilanyasa (for new building)		\$251
Grahapravesh/Vastu Puja (House warming)		\$251
Vaahan Aashirvaadam (blessing New Car)	\$31	

**** Please note that part of this money goes to Temple and part to Priests. Yajaman may provide additional Dhakshina to priest, but not required. Priests are instructed not to request any additional Dhakshina for services. You can sent an e-mail about your satisfaction of the services or any suggestion for improvement to Reva Nayar at amn116@hotmail.com.**

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Center of the Rockies**
8375 S. Wadsworth Blvd.
Littleton, CO 80128
303-948-9693

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Address Correction Requested

Donation Appeal

Please continue to show your support by making generous donations at the Temple or by mail (cut and enclose the coupon printed below) to : 8375 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Littleton, CO 80128. The contributions are tax deductible. The Tax ID Number for the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center is 84 -1301209

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____, my/our contribution for the New Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies.

Name: _____, Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____