BTI - BCC Newsletter

July 2026 to September 2026









Bharatiya Temple

1612 County Line Road, Chalfont, PA 18914

Ph: 215-997-1181 www.b-temple.org

Temple, Cafeteria & Aarti Timings

Temple Timings

Monday to Friday
9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
5:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Saturday and Sunday
9:00 AM to 8:30 PM

(March – October closes at 9:00 PM)

Aarti Timings

Hindu Aarti
12:00 PM and 7:00 PM daily

Jain Aarti
11:45 AM and 6:45 PM

BTI Cafeteria / Bhojanshala

Thursdays and Fridays
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Saturdays and Sundays
11:00 AM to 9:00 PM

***** In the event of inclement weather, please check the website or call 215-997-1181**

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Upcoming Major Events

Dhanteras ..... Nov 6, 2026
Kali Chaudas ..... Nov 7, 2026
Deepa Lakshmi / Kumkumarchana / Diwali / Deepavali / Chopda Pujan .. Nov 8, 2026
Kartika Masam Begins ..... Nov 9, 2026
Jain Mangalik Puja ..... Nov 10, 2026
Nutan Varsha ..... Nov 10, 2026
Jain Pancham Puja / Gyan Pancham ..... Nov 14, 2026
Skanda Shashti ..... Nov 14, 2026
Soora Samharam ..... Nov 14, 2026
Chhath Puja ..... Nov 14, 2026 – Nov 15, 2026
Annakut / Govardhan Puja ..... Nov 15, 2026
Subrahmanya Kalyanam ..... Nov 15, 2026
Ayyappa Mandal Puja Begins ..... Nov 16, 2026
Tulsi Vivah ..... Nov 21, 2026
Jain Chaudas Puja ..... Nov 23, 2026
Satyanarayan Puja ..... Nov 23, 2026
Kartika Poornima ..... Nov 23, 2026
Sarvalaya Deepam ..... Nov 23, 2026
Jain Navakar Jaap ..... Nov 26, 2026
Thanksgiving Day ..... Nov 26, 2026
Margasira Masam Begins ..... Dec 8, 2026
Tiruppavai Tiruvembavai Parayan Begins ..... Dec 16, 2026
Dhanurmasam Begins ..... Dec 16, 2026
Gita Jayanti ..... Dec 20, 2026
Vaikuntha Ekadasi ..... Dec 20, 2026
Ardra Darshanam ..... Dec 24, 2026
Christmas Day ..... Dec 25, 2026
New Year's Eve Puja & Bhajans ..... Dec 31, 2026

“Support Your Temple” Campaign



Bharatiya Temple &
Bharatiya Cultural Center

1612 County Line Road, Chalfont, PA 18914
PHONE: 215-997-1181
www.b-temple.org (Tax ID # 23-2959416)

Please help your Temple by making recurring tax deductible donation of your choice by clicking the donate button below. These donations will help the Temple continue with daily pujas, programs and pay for monthly operating expenses. Your donation will also help Vidyalaya/Sunday school.

Monthly Recurring Donation of Your Choice

You will be directed to secure Payment Website

$20

$50

$100

Your Choice Amount

For questions and information
please contact donations@b-temple.org

Taking Advantage of Corporate Matching



Each year, companies and businesses support nonprofits by distributing hundreds of millions of dollars in matching gift donations. Most companies match 1:1; some companies match 2:1 and even 3:1. Several of our supporters take advantage of this initiative and we are grateful for their support. Please check with your organization's HR department and follow their established procedures for matching funds.

The matching process can also be found on our website:
https://b-temple.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/BCC-Corporate-Matching-Contribution-Process.pdf

To view a List of Companies with Matching Gift Programs, you can visit:
https://www.1800runaway.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/corporate-match-directory.pdf

https://doublethedonation.com/tips/matching-grant-resources/list-matching-gifts-companies/

If your company matches, then please direct your donation to Bharatiya Cultural Center and follow up with your Company's HR department.

Thanking you in advance for your support!!!







BTI Cafeteria

BTI Cafeteria

Thursdays & Fridays: 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Saturdays and Sundays: 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM



Entrée / Rice Items

Paneer Tikka Masala, Parotha, Rice	$8.50
Chole Bhature	$7.50
Pav Bhaji	$6.00
Idli (2), Sambar & Chutney	$6.00
Medu Vada (2), Sambar & Chutney	$6.00
Dahi Vada (2)	$6.00
Daal Pongal	$6.00
Samosa Chaat (2)	$6.00
Bhel Puri Chaat	$6.00
Kachori Chaat (5)	$6.00
Kachori (6) with Chutney	$5.00
Samosa (3)	$5.00
Sambar – Vada	$5.00
Tamarind Rice	$5.00
Batata Vada (Aloo Bonda) with Fries	$5.00
Vada Pav (Mumbai Special) with Fries	$5.00
Yogurt Rice	$3.50

Dosas

Plain Dosa	$7.00
Ghee Dosa	$7.50
Masala Dosa	$8.00
Ghee Masala Dosa	$8.50
Plain Mysore Dosa	$7.50
Ghee Mysore Dosa	$8.00
Mysore Masala Dosa	$8.50
Ghee Mysore Masala Dosa	$9.00

Dosa Grill Closes at 8:30 PM

All prices include sales tax
Menu items are subject to availability

Utappam

Plain Utappam	$7.50
Onion Utappam	$8.50
Chili Utappam	$8.50
Onion Chili Utappam	$8.50

Combos

Idli (1), Medu Vada (1) Combo, Sambar & Chutney	$6.00
Idli (1), Medu Vada (1), Small Masala Dosa (1), Scoop of Pongal (1), Sambar & Chutney	$10.50
Malai Kofta Special Combo – Malai Kofta (3), Butter Naan (1), Jeera Rice and A Sweet	$12.00
Malai Kofta (3) and Butter Naan (1)	$7.50
Malai Kofta (3) and Jeera Rice	$7.50
Puri (2), Subji, Shrikhand, Pickle	$11.00

Additional Sides

1 Cup Chutney	$1.00
1 Cup Sambar	$1.50
1 Bhature, Idli or Medu Vada	$2.00
1 Pav Bun	$1.00
1 Naan	$1.50
Only Fries	$2.00
1 Cup Chole	$2.50
Khaman Dhokla	$2.50

If have food allergies, please see staff member
Jain food option also available



Catering available for limited items

Tiffin service coming soon!!!

BTI Cafeteria

BTI Cafeteria

Thursdays & Fridays: 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Saturdays and Sundays: 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM



Home Made Snacks

Fafda with Chutney	$7.00
Methi Puri	$5.00
Black Pepper Puri	$5.00
Masala Papadi	$4.00
Fulvadi	$3.50
Dry Kachori	$3.00
Kenya Mix	$2.50

Sweets

Ladoo (4)	$5.00
Mohanthal (4)	$5.00
Jalebi	$5.00
Ras Malai	$5.00
Gulab Jamun (6)	$5.00
Mysore Pak	$5.00
Dudhi Halwa	$5.00

Beverages

Bottled Water	$1.00
Coffee / Tea	$1.50
Coke / Sprite	$1.50
Lemonade (Home Made)	$2.00
Rose Lassi	$3.00
Mango Lassi	$3.50

All prices include sales tax
Menu items are subject to availability

Home Made Ice Cream

Ice Cream $3.00

Available Flavors

- Kesar Pista
- Rajbhog
- Mava Kulfi
- Chikoo
- Pistachio
- Falooda Kulfi
- Sitafal

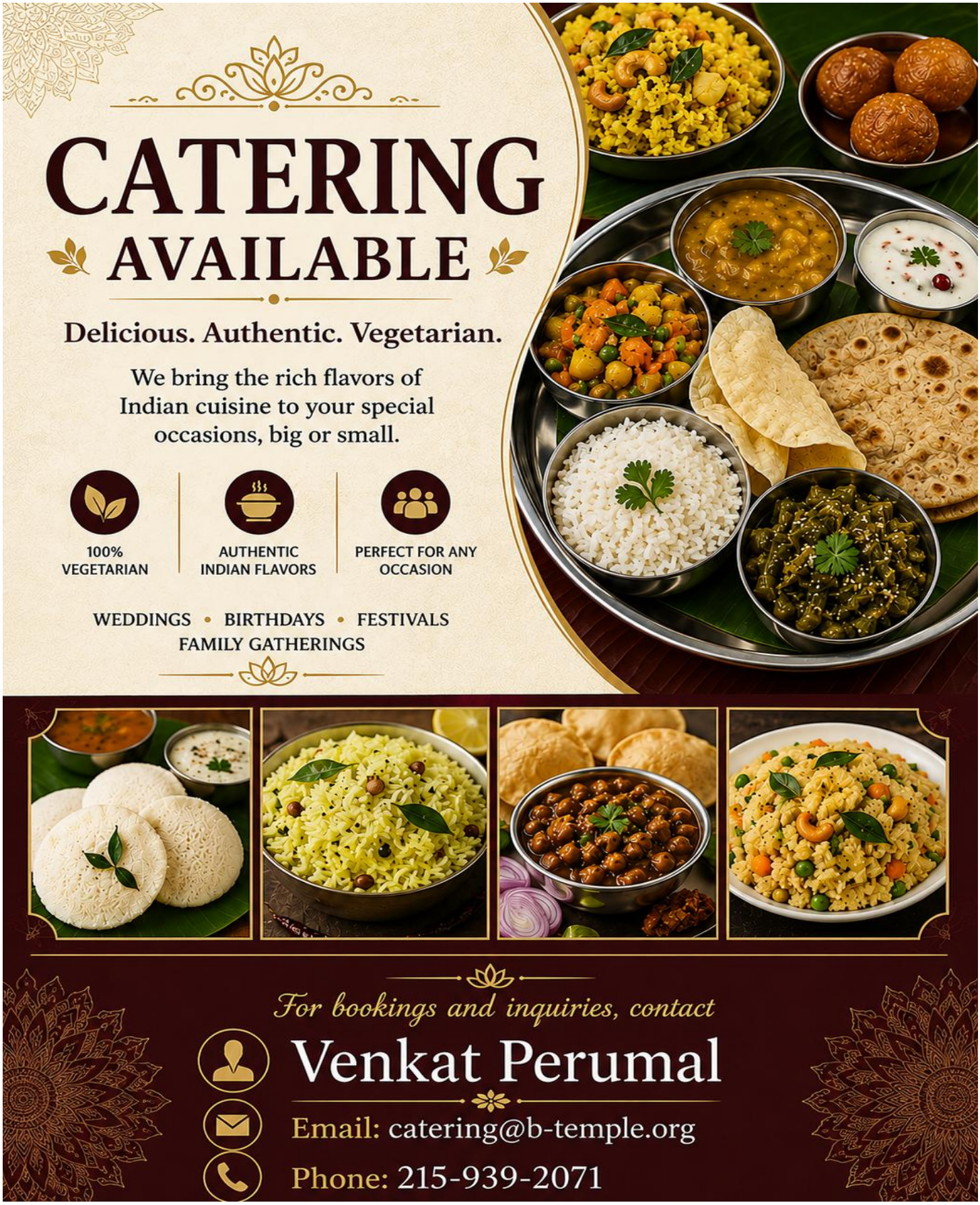
If have food allergies, please see staff member
Jain food option also available



Catering available for limited items

Tiffin service coming soon!!!

BTI Cafeteria Catering Services



Religious Committee - Hindu

July 2026

Guru Purnima – A Day to Honour Our Gurus (28 July 2026)

Guru Purnima holds a special place in Hindu tradition. Celebrated on the full moon day. The day is also known as Vyasa Purnima.

Guru Purnima holds significance in different spiritual traditions:

- Hindu tradition: It honors Maharishi Ved Vyasa and the invaluable contribution of spiritual teachers in guiding humanity towards knowledge and enlightenment.
- Yogic tradition: The day commemorates Lord Shiva as Adiyogi, who imparted the first yogic sciences to the Saptarishis (seven sages).
- Buddhist tradition: It is associated with Gautama Buddha delivering his first sermon to his five disciples at Sarnath.
- Jain tradition: It commemorates the occasion when Lord Mahavira accepted Indrabhuti Gautama as his first disciple.

Above all, Guru Purnima reminds us that our parents are our first gurus. They nurture us, teach us the values of life, and guide us on our journey. The day encourages us to express gratitude to everyone who has helped shape our lives through knowledge, wisdom, and guidance.

To mark this auspicious occasion, Bharatiya Temple organized a Samoohik Saytanarayana Puja, which was attended by numerous devotees. Families arrived dressed in beautiful traditional Indian attire and participated in the puja with devotion. The ceremony was not merely a religious ritual but also an interactive and informative experience, allowing devotees to understand and participate in the various aspects of the worship. The puja concluded with aarti, enthusiastically sung by the devotees. The prasadam, lovingly prepared by devotees, was first offered to Lord Satyanarayana and subsequently distributed to everyone present. It was a beautiful celebration of faith, gratitude, togetherness, and the timeless tradition of honouring our gurus.

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Religious Committee - Hindu

Ratha Yatra – The Divine Journey of Lord Jagannath (16 July 2026)



The 16th of July 2026 was a joyous and spiritually uplifting day as devotees across the world celebrated Ratha Yatra, the grand Chariot Festival of Lord Jagannath. The festival symbolizes the divine journey of the Lord from the temple into the streets, giving devotees an opportunity to receive His blessings. The festival is particularly associated with the world-famous Ratha Yatra of Puri, Odisha. For devotees, pulling the ropes of the chariot is an expression of devotion and surrender. It symbolizes their desire to serve the Lord and seek His divine grace.

Bharatiya Temple celebrated Ratha Yatra with immense bhakti, enthusiasm, and devotion. More than 200 devotees participated in the celebrations, making the occasion truly memorable. Dressed in vibrant and colorful traditional Indian attire, devotees gathered to witness the beautifully decorated chariot carrying Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Goddess Subhadra. The chariot was brought outside the temple and taken around the temple premises in a grand procession. Devotees eagerly pulled the sacred ropes, taking turns to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to participate in this auspicious service to the Lord. The procession was filled with the rhythmic beats of drums, devotional singing, chanting, and joyful dancing. The atmosphere resonated with divine energy as devotees enthusiastically accompanied the deities throughout the journey. After nearly two hours of celebrations, the deities returned to the temple's sanctum sanctorum. A special puja was then performed, followed by the distribution of sumptuous Mahaprasadam (Khichadi, a mix of Rice, lentils, vegetables & spices) to all devotees. The celebration was a wonderful reminder that the Lord comes out of His temple to bless His devotees, bringing people together through faith, devotion, and service.

Jaya Parvati Vrat and Gauri Vrat – Celebrating the Divine Mother

Jaya Parvati Vrat is an important Hindu observance, particularly popular among women in Gujarat. Dedicated to Goddess Parvati, the divine consort of Lord Shiva, this vrat is observed by unmarried girls seeking a suitable life partner and by married women praying for the happiness, prosperity, and well-being of their families.

Religious Committee - Hindu

The Legend of Jaya Parvati Vrat

According to a popular legend, there once lived a devout Brahmin couple who were ardent devotees of Lord Shiva. Although they were blessed with all the comforts of life, they were deeply saddened by the absence of a child. The couple worshipped Lord Shiva every day with unwavering devotion. Pleased with their prayers, Lord Shiva appeared in a divine revelation and instructed them to worship a neglected Shiva Lingam located deep inside a forest. He assured them that their wishes would be fulfilled if they performed the prescribed puja. Overjoyed by this revelation, the couple went into the forest and found the Shiva Lingam. The Brahmin then went in search of flowers for the worship. Unfortunately, while gathering flowers, he was bitten by a snake and fell unconscious. When her husband did not return, his wife became worried and went looking for him. Upon finding him unconscious, she prayed fervently to Lord Shiva for his safety and well-being. Moved by her sincere devotion and prayers, Lord Shiva restored her husband's consciousness. The couple subsequently performed the puja with great devotion, and in due course, they were blessed with a son.



This legend reminds devotees of the power of sincere prayers, steadfast faith, and divine grace.

Rituals and Observances

Jaya Parvati Vrat is traditionally observed for five days. During this period, devotees follow certain dietary restrictions and rituals.

- Planting Javara: On the first day, wheat seeds, known as Javara or Javara, are planted in a small earthen pot. The pot is placed near the household temple and worshipped every day.
- Daily Worship: A special cotton-wool necklace called Naglais decorated with kumkum (vermillion). Prayers are offered every morning, and the wheat seeds are watered regularly.
- Dietary Restrictions: Devotees traditionally avoid tomatoes, salt, spices, and certain vegetables during the fasting period.
- Jagran: On the fifth night, devotees observe Jagran by staying awake throughout the night in prayer and devotion.
- Udyapan and Immersion: On the sixth day, after completing the vrat, devotees take a bath, dress in traditional attire, visit the temple, and offer

prayers to Mataji. The Javara are then immersed in a river or pond, and the fast is broken with a regular meal.

Gauri Vrat is another important observance dedicated to Goddess Parvati, especially popular in Gujarat. It is generally observed by unmarried girls seeking an ideal life partner and married women praying for family happiness and prosperity.

Both Jaya Parvati Vrat and Gauri Vrat reflect the deep faith of devotees in Goddess Parvati and celebrate the virtues of devotion, patience, commitment, and family well-being.

Sudarshana Homam – Invoking Divine Protection and Universal Well-being (19 July 2026)

The 19th of July 2026 marked a spiritually significant occasion for Bharatiya Temple as it conducted one of the most sacred Vedic fire rituals – Sudarhsana Homam.

Bharatiya Temple believes in promoting not only the spiritual and personal well-being of individuals but also the welfare of society and the environment. In Hindu tradition, homams and yagnas have long been regarded as sacred practices that invoke divine blessings, purify the surroundings, and create an atmosphere of positivity and spiritual harmony. A homam is a Vedic fire ritual in which sacred offerings are made into a consecrated fire (Yagnagni) while priests chant powerful Vedic mantras. Offerings typically include ghee, turmeric, sandalwood, camphor, and other prescribed herbs and sacred materials.

<u>Significance of Sudarshana Homam</u>

Sudarshana Homam is dedicated to Lord Vishnu's divine discus, the Sudarshana Chakra, which symbolizes divine protection, righteousness, and the destruction of evil forces. Sudarshana Homam is traditionally performed to invoke divine protection, overcome obstacles, dispel negative influences, and restore harmony. Devotees seek its blessings for good health, peace of mind, prosperity, success in their professional and personal lives, and spiritual well-being.

<u>The Grand Homam at Bharatiya Temple</u>

Our dedicated priests and volunteers worked tirelessly to arrange all the materials required for this elaborate ritual. In today's fast-paced world, traditional Vedic yagnas and homams are not frequently witnessed in their complete and elaborate form. The Sudarshana Homam conducted at Bharatiya Temple offered devotees a rare opportunity to experience the profound beauty and spiritual intensity of an authentic Vedic fire ceremony. More than 100 devotees participated in the homam, with each person actively performing the prescribed offerings while

remaining immersed in the chanting of sacred mantras. The entire temple atmosphere was serene, sacred, and filled with spiritual energy. The elaborate homam continued for approximately two and a half hours. The ritual concluded with Purnahuti, the final and most significant offering into the sacred fire, symbolizing the completion of the yagna. The sacred ashes from the Homakund were subsequently collected and distributed as prasadam. Devotees reverently applied the holy ash to their foreheads, seeking divine blessings. It was much more than a religious ceremony. It was a beautiful combination of devotion, tradition, community participation, and collective prayers for the well-being of humanity. The Sudarshana Homam will remain a memorable milestone in Bharatiya Temple's spiritual journey.

A Community United Through Faith and Devotion

The month of July 2026 was truly special for Bharatiya Temple. From honoring our spiritual gurus and celebrating the divine journey of Lord Jagannath to observing sacred vrats and conducting an elaborate Sudarshana Homam, each occasion brought devotees closer to their spiritual roots.

The enthusiastic participation of devotees, the dedication of our priests and volunteers, and the spirit of togetherness made every celebration memorable.
Bharatiya Temple continues to uphold our rich cultural and religious heritage by creating opportunities for devotees to learn, participate, serve, and experience the timeless traditions of Sanatana Dharma.

May the blessings of the Divine guide us all towards peace, prosperity, wisdom, and harmony.

August 2026

August was an auspicious month, full of festivities. It is a particularly special month as it welcomes Shravan Maas, the fifth month of the Indian calendar. In 2026, we have a combination of Ashada and Shravan Maas. The first half of the month is Ashada Maas (the fourth month of the Indian calendar), followed by Shravan Maas in the latter half.

This month began with two important events: Sankashti and Hindola.

Sankashti – A Special Day for Lord Ganesha

The month of August began on the 1st and also concluded on the 30th with Sankashti. Sankashti Chathurthi, a special day dedicated to Lord Ganesha, is observed on the fourth day of the Krishna Paksha (the fourth day after the full moon). Sankashti Chaturthi holds special significance for devotees of Lord Ganesha. The word *Sankashti* means deliverance from difficulties or obstacles. It is believed that worshipping Lord Ganesha on this auspicious day helps devotees overcome

challenges, brings peace and prosperity, and blesses them with wisdom and success. Lord Ganesha, also known as Vighnaharta, is worshipped as the remover of obstacles and the harbinger of auspicious beginnings. On this day, devotees fast throughout the day and break their fast only after moonrise. This ritual symbolizes devotion, discipline, and faith.

A special and elaborate Ganesh Abhishekam was performed in the presence of at least a hundred devotees. Following the Abhishekam, Ganeshji was beautifully decorated with flowers. The divine atmosphere, the chanting of Ganesha mantras, the beautiful Abhishekam, and the melodious Aarti made this occasion truly special.

It was heartwarming to see families and devotees of all ages come together to seek the blessings of Ganeshji. The Aarti, which marked the conclusion of the puja, was truly wonderful. We all enjoyed a sumptuous Mahaprasadam lovingly prepared by our devotees.



Hindola – A Month-Long Celebration

The second special moment of the month was the inauguration of Hindola on the 1st of August. What is Hindola?

Hindola is a traditional festival during which the idols or Utsav Murtis of Lord Krishna or Radha are placed on beautifully decorated swings (Hindolas) and gently swung in temples. Hindola is also known as Jhulan Yatra or Jhulan Purnima. It is celebrated across various parts of India, with particularly grand celebrations in Uttar Pradesh (Mathura and Vrindavan), Gujarat (Surat and Ahmedabad), and West Bengal (Mayapur and Kolkata), among other regions. Bharatiya Temple represents every part of India, and our priests left no stone unturned in making this festival truly memorable. We celebrated Hindola for almost an entire month, with Balkrishna on the swing, creating a beautiful and festive atmosphere for all devotees.

Shravan Maas – A Month Dedicated to Lord Shiva

Shiva Abhishekam is performed every Monday throughout the year. However, during the auspicious month of Shravan Maas, it is performed every day at 6 PM. As this is a particularly special month, devotees had the privilege of performing Shiva Abhishekam individually using Panchamrut, a sacred mixture of milk, yogurt, ghee, honey, and sugar. This opportunity allowed devotees to experience the joy

and satisfaction of performing a personal puja, making the occasion even more meaningful and fulfilling.

Varalakshmi Puja – Celebrating the Blessings of Goddess Lakshmi

In South India, the second Friday of Shravan Mas is considered extremely auspicious. This year, it fell on the 21st of August. On this day, women perform Varalakshmi Puja, praying for good health, prosperity, and happiness for their families. It is believed that Goddess Lakshmi showers her special blessings upon those who perform this puja with devotion. Continuing the tradition and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of our nation, Varalakshmi Puja was performed at the temple under the guidance of our priests. It was a beautiful gathering of families, with women dressed in elegant Kanchivaram silk sarees and adorned with fragrant jasmine flowers.

One of the most interesting features of this puja is the exchange of Tamboolam among women. Tamboolam typically includes fruits, sweets, betel leaves, soaked chana, bangles, haldi, kumkum, and gifts. This beautiful tradition symbolizes goodwill, friendship, and the sharing of blessings.

Onam – Bringing a Little Kerala to Our Temple

August also gave us the privilege of celebrating Onam on the 26th. Onam is Kerala's annual 10-day harvest and cultural festival, celebrated during the Malayalam month of Chingam (August–September). It marks the agricultural harvest season and celebrates nature's bounty, prosperity, and new beginnings.

There is also a beautiful story associated with this festival. According to Hindu mythology, King Mahabali, an Asura king, ruled Kerala with great fairness, peace, and prosperity. He was immensely powerful and loved by his people. The gods, feeling threatened by his growing popularity, sought the help of Lord Vishnu. Lord Vishnu appeared in the form of Vamana, his dwarf avatar, and requested three paces of land from Mahabali. When Vamana grew into a cosmic giant, he measured the earth and heavens in just two steps. For the third step, Mahabali humbly offered his own head, upon which Vamana pushed him into the netherworld (Pathala). Pleased with Mahabali's devotion and righteousness, Lord Vishnu granted him a boon to return once every year to visit his beloved subjects. This annual visit is commemorated as Onam.

The temple was specially decorated for Onam with beautiful Kolams. Devotees attended the celebration dressed in traditional attire, creating an atmosphere that truly felt like a little Kerala right here in our temple!

Religious Committee - Hindu

Samoohik Satyanarayana Puja – An Experience of Divine Bliss

The most awaited puja by our devotees, the Samoohik Satyanarayana Puja, took place on the 27th of August. Devotees arrived with fruits, flowers, and prasadam to worship and glorify Satyanarayana Swamy. Nearly 100 families gathered in the temple, and the vibrant chanting of our priests created a truly heavenly experience. The Samoohik Puja at our temple is almost like performing a personal puja in the comfort of one's own home. Every family gets the opportunity to perform the puja individually. The temple echoed with the divine chant of "Om Namo Narayana!" For a moment, it felt as though we were transported to Vaikuntha. The divine aura of the temple during the puja is beyond words. It is an experience that must be felt to be understood. If you wish to experience this divine atmosphere, please do not miss our next Samoohik Satyanarayana Puja!

Raksha Bandhan – Celebrating the Bond Between Brothers and Sisters

On the 28th of August, we celebrated Rakhi, also known as Raksha Bandhan, the festival celebrating the special bond between brothers and sisters. The expression "Raksha Bandhan" literally means "the bond of protection, obligation, or care" in Sanskrit. Traditionally, sisters tie a sacred thread or amulet, called a Rakhi, around their brothers' wrists as a symbol of love, protection, and lifelong bonding. Many sisters visited the temple on this special day to seek the blessings of their beloved deities before performing the Rakhi ritual with their brothers.

Regular Temple Activities and Weekly Pujas

Along with all these special celebrations, the temple continued to observe its regular pujas with the same devotion and enthusiasm.

- Sunday – Lakshmi Narayan Abhishekam: Lakshmi Narayan Abhishekam is performed every Sunday, offering devotees an opportunity to seek the blessings of the divine couple.
- Tuesday – Hanuman Abhishekam: The Hanuman Abhishekam every Tuesday is a special feature of our temple. Devotees offer Vadamala to Lord Hanuman and chant the Hanuman Chalisa. We regularly have at least 60 devotees attending this puja.
- Friday – Lalita Sahasranamam: Every Friday at around 6 PM, men and women gather to chant the Lalita Sahasranamam, the sacred 1,000 names of Goddess Lalita.
- Saturday – Lord Venkateshwara Suprabhatam: Every Saturday morning begins with Lord Venkateshwara Suprabhatam, followed by Abhishekam, Parayanam, Naivedyam, and Aarti. We are blessed to have a dedicated group of devotees who never miss a single Saturday.

Religious Committee - Hindu

September 2026

September 2026 was a deeply spiritual and vibrant month for the Bharatiya Temple community. By the grace of the divine, our temple was echoing with beautiful chants, the joyous laughter of children, and the deep devotion of our community members. As we transition into the fall season, we want to take a moment to reflect on the magnificent celebrations and festivities we shared together over the past month.

Shravan Maas & Sampoorna Puja (September 1st – 11th)



The auspicious month of Shravan Maas concluded on September 11th. Throughout the first eleven days of September, we were blessed to host daily Shiva Abhishekams, where devotees had the beautiful opportunity to personally participate in offering milk abhishekam to Lord Shiva.

To mark the conclusion of this holy period, we celebrated the Shravan Maas Sampoorna Puja. It was a breathtaking sight to see more than a hundred devotee sponsors and their families gathered on the temple floor performing this elaborate puja ceremony in unison. Following the divine ceremony and aarti, Mahaprasad was served to all the devotees.

Krishna Janmashtami & Nand Mahotsav (September 4th & 5th)



On September 4th, the temple was immersed in devotion as we celebrated Krishna Janmashtami. The festivities began early in the evening around 6:00 PM and carried on until the stroke of midnight to ring in the birth of baby Krishna. The evening was filled with soul-stirring bhajans sung by our priests, devotees, and even the children. At midnight, a truly special moment unfolded as our very own Nandji played the part of Vasudev, carrying baby Krishna in a basket to the cradle of Yashoda Maa. The magical night concluded with aarti and prasad.

The joy continued the next evening, September 5th, with Nand Mahotsav! The highlight of the evening was the depiction of the breaking of the dahi handi. To the immense delight of our younger devotees, the handi was wonderfully

stocked with chocolates for the children instead of traditional dahi!

The 22nd Philadelphia Ganesh Festival (September 14th – 25th)



This year marked the 22nd Philadelphia Ganesh Festival held at our temple, and the energy was absolutely phenomenal from September 14th through the 25th.

- **Opening Day (Sept 14):** Celebrations kicked off with an abhishekam in the morning and a sacred homam in the afternoon. This was followed by a vibrant and traditional procession featuring the energetic beats of dhol and tasha, beautifully complemented by ladies dancing with lezhims.
- **Daily Worship:** Every evening throughout the festival, devotees gathered for the daily Rajopchar puja of Ganapati at 6:30 PM, followed by Aarti at 7:15 PM.
- **Jyeshta Gauri Pujas:** The Jyeshta Gauri Avahan puja took place on September 16th, followed by the Jyeshta Gauri pujas on September 17th and 18th, and concluded with the Jyeshta Gauri visarjan on September 19th.
- **Ganesh Mahabhishekam (Sept 19):** On the morning of the 19th, a special Ganesh Mahabhishekam with pancha parimala was performed. Devotees and sponsors were blessed to offer abhishekam to the metal utsav murtis of Ganapati and Riddhi-Siddhi.
- **Ganesh Kalyanam (Sept 20):** Our priests did an absolutely excellent job conducting the divine Kalyanam ceremony of Ganeshji with Riddhi and Siddhi on this blessed Sunday morning.
- **Ganesh Visarjan (Sept 25):** We bid a loving and emotional farewell to Bappa on Friday the 25th with the final visarjan.

Religious Committee - Hindu

Sacred Rituals & Observances (September 26th onwards)

Following the Ganesh Festival, we held the Rig/Yajur Upakarma ritual on Friday, September 26th. This sacred day provided devotees the opportunity to change their sacred thread, or Yagnopavita, observing the holy traditions.

Simultaneously, the Mahalaya Paksha/Shradh period also commenced on September 26th, initiating the time of the year dedicated to remembering and honoring our ancestors.

Ongoing Worship

In addition to these grand festivals, all of our other daily and monthly pujas were celebrated diligently throughout the entire month, bringing constant peace and spiritual grounding to our temple community.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the priests, volunteers, sponsors, and devotees who made September's festivities so memorable. Your unwavering support, devotion, and hard work are what make the Bharatiya Temple a true spiritual home for us all.

May the blessings of Lord Shiva, Lord Ganesha, and Lord Krishna be with you and your families always!

Religious Committee - Jain

The BTI Jains group had an active 3rd 2026 quarter filled with a summer picnic, Paryushan Maha Parva, a Chaitya Paripati visit to our temple, and a full-day Chaitya Paripati visit to three temples. Through the collective efforts of our sponsors & volunteers, all of these events were highly successful!

Summer Picnic

On August 9, 2026, we held a fun-filled summer picnic at Lions Pride Park. The BTI Jains committee and other volunteers came together to create a fun day of singing, games, and great food. Approximately 50+ members came together to enjoy this day filled with fun and laughter.



Paryushan Maha Parva/ Das Lakshana Parva

Paryushan Mahaparva is the **most** important annual Parva- Festival for Jains, lasting eight days, and Das Lakshana Parva lasting for 10 days focused on spiritual reflection, self-purification, and forgiveness. During this time, followers observe austerities like fasting, meditation, and prayer to suppress negative passions like anger and greed, and the final day, called Samvatsari in Paryushan, involves asking

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Religious Committee - Jain

for and granting forgiveness from all living beings with the phrase "Michchami Dukkadam". For us, this is a time for:

- Spiritual reflection: The festival is a time for inner introspection to purify the soul, reduce negative emotions, and reconnect with one's true self.
- Penance: Jains practice self-restraint through fasting, increased prayer, and simplified routines.
- Forgiveness: A central theme is seeking and granting forgiveness for any harm caused, with the final day being a culmination of this practice.
- Religious practices: Individuals may attend sermons, read religious texts, and perform evening rituals of confession and repentance called Pratikraman.
- Dietary practices: To minimize harm to living beings, some Jains may avoid certain root vegetables, leafy greens, any foods that even remotely cause Hinsa (violence) and processed food during the festival



Religious Committee - Jain



Visiting Jain Sangh (Chaitya Paripati) from New Jersey

On Sept. 26, approximately 200 Jains from Jain Center of New Jersey visited Bharatiya Temple for Darshan and Bhakti followed by swamivatsalya. Our sangh members did an amazing job in hosting our visitors, greeting them with songs and Prabhavana.



Religious Committee - Jain



BTI Jains' Chaitya Paripati visit to 3 Temples

The idea of 'chaitya paripati' is have pilgrimages to Jain holy sites/temples. We were proud to organize this full-day bus pilgrimage to the Jain Center of America Flushing NY, Jain Temple of New York- Hyde Park and Jain Center of New Jersey. We had many sponsors for this event, including our maha sanghpati sponsors, the family of Amish & Divya Shah and Pratik Desai & Aksha Vora. After an early morning darshan at Bharatiya Temple, all participants embarked on the journey. All three temples greeted our sangh with a song-filled warm welcome, and bhakti, followed by delicious swamivatsalya at every temple. This is a day that will last in the memories of those who participated!

The BTI Jains committee looks forward to organizing more such events in the future!

Religious Committee - Jain





Education Committee

It is with considerable pleasure and distinction that Bharatiya Temple extended its welcome to Brahmasri Vaddiparti Padmakar Guruvugaru, who delivered a spiritual discourse in August 2026.

Brahmasri Vaddiparti Padmakar Guruvugaru stands as an esteemed spiritual scholar, accomplished Tri-Bhasha Mahaa Sahasra Avadhaani, and established founder of Pranava Peetham located in Eluru, India. He has devoted himself to the dissemination of Sanatana Dharma's timeless teachings through his comprehensive understanding of the Vedas and Puranas, utilizing his spiritual discourses as a vehicle for education, motivation, and enlightenment.

The discourse addressing Lalitha Sshasranama Vaibhavam garnered substantial appreciation from more than 100 attendees across both sessions held on August 13th and 14th.







Chairperson: Hemalatha Kalidindi 610.239.7839 hemak75@yahoo.com

Education Committee













Women's Group

The BCC Women's Group hosted a Summer Potluck Family Picnic on July 25th at the Spring Valley Park. This year the picnic was for the whole family and brought together around 55 attendees for a fantastic afternoon filled with mouthwatering food, exciting raffle prizes, fun-filled games, lots of laughter, and great friendships. It was a wonderful time for everyone to relax, mingle, make memories, and enjoy each other's company!















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Women's Group

The Women's Group Arts & Crafts Group continues to flourish with creative and engaging activities. On July 22nd, Hina Nakodkar and Hiral Sheth guided participants through the art of creating beautiful mosaic trays, inspiring creativity and providing an enjoyable afternoon of hands-on learning, conversation, and camaraderie.

On August 20th, the group gathered for a beautiful Lippan Art session under the creative and patient guidance of Nidhi Gangar. The women enjoyed a wonderful time together, exploring their artistic talents and making something exquisite.

The Women's Group Arts & Crafts Group also launched a wonderful volunteer project to knit scarves, hats, and gloves for people experiencing homelessness in Montgomery County. The first donation will go to Todi's Place of Hope in Lansdale, a new supportive housing program serving adult men and women, in early October.








The BCC Women's Group is continuing its initiative of community service by volunteering at SPARK Senior Center in Lansdale PA. We represent the Bharatiya Temple and serve lunch to the senior citizens on a weekly schedule. Our volunteers make the senior center a brighter place with their kindness, dedication, and enthusiasm.

Women's Group








The Women's Group organizes two book clubs that meet regularly. The Evening Book Club discussed Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt on July 28 and the Daytime Book Club discussed The Correspondent by Virginia Evans on August 5thth.




To continue receiving updates about our upcoming events, please like us on our BCC Women's Group Facebook page or be part of the BCC Women's Group WhatsApp group, or sign up for the Bharatiya Temple emails.

We have a very talented and enthusiastic group of women in the Women's Group Committee who are wholehearted committed to the success of the mission of this group.

Senior Citizen Group

We're delighted to present our BCC Senior Citizens 3rd quarter report, highlighting a year of growth and engagement.

Our revitalized committee has introduced various initiatives, including a monthly Seniors Games Night, (Karaoke, Bingo and light Snacks) which has become a staple for our Seniors community.

Our Technology Learning Program, lead by Vikrant Kambleji launched in September 2026, curriculum covers Smartphones Messaging, Video Calling, Internet Safety, Using Apps and Other everyday Tools has empowered seniors to confidently navigate the digital landscape.

This quarter we've also welcomed Veena Joshi to our team and bid farewell to some committee members.

As we look ahead to the next quarter, we're excited to plan more events and activities that promote connection and joy among our seniors.









Chairperson: Neelam Gupta 484.620.9222 neelam55@gmail.com
Co–chair: Gautam Shroff 267.261.5682 gautam1944@yahoo.com

Bharatiya Vidyalaya

Bharatiya Vidyalaya: Celebrating 21 Years of Dedicated Service

The 2026–27 academic session (August 2026 thru May 2027) has started with great enthusiasm among students, parents and volunteers. With 187 students already having registered, Bharatiya Vidyalaya continues to thrive as a vibrant center for spiritual, language, and cultural learning. Student sessions run from 9:30 am to 12:20 pm on Sundays. Following the main program, enrichment classes for Geeta chanting are held from 12:20 pm to 12:45 pm.

New Beginnings at the Bharatiya Learning Center

Our Bharatiya Learning Center has proven to be an optimized learning environment. Classrooms are fully equipped with advanced noise-proof walls to minimize distractions alongside interactive smartboards that enhance student engagement. Teachers have reported improved focus and engagement.

A Glimpse into a Typical Sunday

The day begins at 9:30 am with a morning assembly where students and volunteers engage in yoga, prayers, and Bhagavad Geeta chanting. Occasionally, students deliver short talks on religion, culture, or language. At 10:00 am, students attend religion classes, Hindu or Jain, followed by language classes at 10:55 am. Occasionally, culture classes replace these religion and language sessions to provide a broader perspective on Indian heritage (e.g., festivals, arts, history). We are proud to offer seven Indian languages: Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Sanskrit, Tamil, and Telugu. These are offered at various levels, based on proficiency. Students and parents participate in Aarati at 11:50 am.

While students are in class, parents have the opportunity to engage in their own learning and wellness. Options include a Bhagavad Geeta discussion group led by volunteers or a concurrent yoga and meditation session for quiet reflection.

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Co-chair: Vijay Chakravarthi 610.389.0465 vijaync.bv@gmail.com

Bharatiya Vidyalaya

Special Programs: Q3-2026

Online Sanskrit Program:

3 children and 6 adult students attended the program's weekly Tuesday evening Zoom sessions. Volunteers provided comprehensive learning resource documents and class recordings for home review. Students built conversational skills by constructing and recording sentences with English meanings. Curriculum activities featured memorizing, writing, and reciting traditional shlokas and verses.

Summer Program:

Thirteen students attended the five-day in-person summer program held from July 6th to July 10th. Catering to participants from first grade through high school, dedicated volunteers guided a well-rounded curriculum combining traditional practices like yoga, shlokas, and prayers with engaging hands-on experiences. The week featured a vibrant mix of creative arts, storytelling, traditional dance, cooking, and outdoor sports, creating a memorable and enriching experience for all participants.

India Independence Day Celebration (August 15):

Our community joyfully celebrated India’s Independence Day with enthusiastic student performances. Students showcased their talents through national song of the US and India and fashion show, reflecting universal unity. Families gathered in large numbers to honor the historic milestone together.

Open House – Student & Parent Orientation (September 13):

The Open House welcomed families for an overview of Vidyalaya’s spiritual, cultural, and language programs. Discussions covered Hindu and Jain traditions, student guidelines, and community engagement. A Q&A session allowed parents to connect and clarify expectations for the year ahead.



Families and students gather attentively in the assembly hall during the Open House orientation.

Philadelphia Ganesh Festival (PGF) Procession Dance (September 14):

Our students delivered a vibrant and energetic group dance performance during the PGF procession, adding a wonderful festive spirit to the celebration. Dressed in colorful traditional attire, the young performers danced gracefully amidst an enthusiastic gathering of families and community members.

Bharatiya Vidyalaya



Bharatiya Vidyalaya students in vibrant traditional attire performing a group dance outdoors during the PGF procession, surrounded by a joyful crowd and decorative canopies.

Bharatiya Vidyalaya

Vidyalaya Stall at Philadelphia Ganesh Festival (September 19–20):

Bharatiya Vidyalaya hosted a vibrant interactive stall during the Philadelphia Ganesh Festival. Students enthusiastically engaged visitors by sharing their learning experiences and answering community questions. Operating in rotating shifts, the booth provided a wonderful platform for cultural representation and meaningful connection.

Our Ethos

क्षणशः कणशश्चैव विद्यामर्थं च साधयेत् ।
क्षणे नष्टे कुतो विद्या कणे नष्टे कुतो धनम् ॥

One should acquire knowledge by utilizing every moment, and wealth by saving every single grain. Once a moment is lost, where is the knowledge? Once a grain is lost, where is the wealth?

Stay Connected

Volunteers: Supported by over 60 dedicated teaching and non-teaching volunteers.

Senior Students: During 2026-27, 13 students in Grade 9 and above are gaining teaching experience.

Library Services: Offers a wide selection of books for children and adults to support home learning. The popular genres are mythology and children's stories.

WhatsApp Community: Join for real-time updates:
https://chat.whatsapp.com/Ex6sOByBMlf4o5SaYiFt9c

Academic Enrichment Program at Bharatiya Temple

Dear Parents and Students,

Every Thursday evening this fall, the classrooms at the Bharatiya Learning Center have been buzzing with energy as students debate problem-solving strategies, tackle challenging concepts, and celebrate those rewarding *"I finally got it!"* moments. Following an engaging summer of enrichment, the **Academic Enrichment Program (AEP)** is off to a vibrant start for the **2026–2027 academic year**.

Our mission remains focused on building mathematical thinkers who are confident, curious, and capable of going beyond the standard school curriculum. By combining small-group instruction with exposure to prestigious national and international competitions, AEP continues to nurture critical thinking, perseverance, and a lifelong love for mathematics.

Summer Learning Recap: Cryptography & AMC 10 Preparation

Learning didn't stop over the summer—our students kept their mathematical minds sharp through two specialized enrichment offerings:

- **Introduction to Cryptography:** During this five-week summer course at the Bharatiya Learning Center, students explored the fascinating world of secret codes, historical ciphers, encryption, and online security. Through hands-on puzzles and pattern-recognition challenges, students discovered how mathematical logic safeguards information in today's digital world.
- **Summer AMC 10 Practice Series:** To help our advanced students prepare for high-school-level competition math, Dr. Raghunath Khetan led four interactive, 90-minute virtual practice sessions in July. Students worked through timed sets of 15 past AMC 10 problems before reviewing multiple solution strategies together.

Fall 2026 Program Highlights

- **Growing Participation:** We are thrilled to welcome 49 students from across the community into our 11-week Fall 2026 session—our largest cohort yet, growing from 40 students last fall!
- **Tailored Two-Stage Assessment & Small-Group Learning:** The fall session kicked off on September 3 with a comprehensive, two-tier placement assessment. By evaluating returning and new students across targeted assessments, we placed learners into small, focused instructional groups (2A1, 2A2, 2AB, and 2B) to ensure personalized attention and an interactive classroom experience.

Chairperson: Jatinder Duggal 607.542.1958 jatinderduggal@yahoo.com

Academic Enrichment Program at Bharatiya Temple

- **New Thursday Schedule:** Beginning this fall, AEP classes moved to Thursday evenings at the Bharatiya Learning Center. An added highlight of the Thursday schedule is that the temple cafeteria is open during class hours, giving parents a welcoming space to relax, socialize, and enjoy refreshments while classes are in session.
- **Digital Classroom Integration:** This session, we fully integrated Google Classroom for weekly homework distribution, PDF submissions, and grading, paired with class-specific WhatsApp groups to keep families connected and informed.

Mathematics Competitions & Exam Readiness

A cornerstone of AEP is familiarizing students with national-level exam formats, reducing test anxiety, and sharpening timed problem-solving skills. Throughout the 2026–2027 academic year, our students are preparing for and participating in five prestigious mathematics competitions:

1. **MOEMS (Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary & Middle Schools):** A series of five monthly mathematics contests offered throughout the academic year that builds consistent practice in logical reasoning and analytical thinking (with Round 1 kicking off on November 19).
2. **MATHCOUNTS:** A premier national mathematics competition for middle school students in Grades 6–8 that emphasizes speed, accuracy, and collaborative problem-solving under pressure.
3. **AMC 8 (American Mathematics Competitions):** Nationally recognized mathematics contest for students in Grade 8 and below that emphasizes creative problem-solving.
4. **PiMC (Pi Math Contest):** A challenging competition offered in two divisions—the Euler Division for students in Grade 5 and below, and the Fermat Division for students in Grade 8 and below.
5. **Gauss Mathematics Contest (University of Waterloo):** An internationally recognized mathematics contest designed primarily for students in Grades 7 and 8, encouraging creative mathematical thinking.

Reminder for Parents: *To participate in competitions through AEP, please ensure your child's signed School Eligibility Letter (confirming whether their school participates in these exams) is submitted so we can finalize registrations before our first contest.*

Academic Enrichment Program at Bharatiya Temple

The continued growth and success of AEP is truly a community effort.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the **Bharatiya Temple management** for providing the classrooms, facilities, and logistical support that make this program possible. To our **parents**, thank you for encouraging your children to embrace academic challenges, observing lessons in class, and supporting their learning at home. To our dedicated **AEP instructors and volunteers**, thank you for the countless hours spent planning lessons, grading assignments, and mentoring our students.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to **Dr. Raghunath Khetan** for his continued guidance, summer coaching, and unwavering commitment to the Academic Enrichment Program. His leadership plays a vital role in inspiring our students and strengthening this initiative within our community.

Congratulations to all 49 students on a fantastic start to the Fall 2026 session—your curiosity, effort, and enthusiasm make every class a rewarding experience. We look forward to an exciting season of learning, growth, and competition ahead!

Becoming a Member of BTI / BCC





Membership Categories	
Annual Membership	**$100**
Life Member	**$1,200**
Patron	**$5,000**
Grand Patron	**$10,000**
Senior Trustee	**$25,000**

Benefits of becoming a Trustee, Patron or Life Member

- All mailings including Brochures, newsletters and calendar.
- Complementary Pujas performed at the temple for you and your family member on birthdays.
- Discounted or complimentary admission to selected events.
- One time per calendar year, receive a 20% discounted fee for Hall rental (Max discount of $100)
- Eligible for Board of Director's position.

All donations to Bharatiya Temple and Bharatiya Cultural Center are tax deductible!

Bharatiya Temple Tax ID: 23-2959416
Bharatiya Cultural Center Tax ID: 76-0706802

For additional information regarding membership and to download application forms, please visit the Temple website.

Puja Request



To schedule a Puja or inquiries pertaining to this, please contact:

Hema Channarasappa
267-396-PUJA (7852)
priest@b-temple.org



If you are requesting specific priests for your puja, this will only be confirmed by Hema Channarasappa and not by the priests themselves. Please keep in mind that:

- All services (except Archana, Abhishekam & Vehicle Puja) must be scheduled in advance.
- All private puja services are charged on an individual puja basis.
- Mileage charges will apply for all outside pujas.

For a complete list of Pujas and prices, please visit the temple website.

Volunteers Needed

The Temple is always in need of help and volunteers! If there is a committee that interests you, please reach out to the respective chairperson. If there is an event that you would like to help in, please refer to the respective flyer and reach out to the contact person(s) listed. If you can only volunteer for a day or even a few hours, it will be greatly appreciated! Please reach out to the contact person for the event based on your availability.





Bharatiya Temple Hall Rental Information

For Hall Rentals or inquiries pertaining to this, please contact:



Dixal Patel

610-291-7493

hall@b-temple.org



Hall Rental	$600 for 4 hours + $100/additional hour (Friday evenings, Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays) **OR** $400 for 4 hours + $75/additional hour (weekdays)
Education Room Rental	$100 for 2 hours + $50/additional hour (Friday evenings, Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays) **OR** $50 for 2 hours + $25/additional hour (weekdays)
Kitchen Rental	$75 for warming food. Food cooking is not permitted.
Audio Equipment Rental	Basic Package—$75 (includes 1 wireless and 2 wired mics, connection for laptop or phone) Enhanced Package—$250 (includes 1 technician and use of all audio facilities for 4 hours., $50/hour extra thereafter)
Wedding	$1,300 for all day—includes access to kitchen and Basic Package for audio equipment rental
Cleaning	$100—this includes sweeping and mopping only; you still have to pick up trash
Discounts (once/year)	20% or maximum $100 for Life Members of BTI/BCC (once/year) 20% or maximum $100 for nonprofit organizations (once/year) 10% or maximum $100 for annual members of BTI/BCC (once/year)

For additional information or to download the rental agreement, please visit the Temple website.

About BTI / BCC

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Priest services:
Hema Channarasappa
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priest@b-temple.org

Hall Rental
Dixal Patel
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Temple Priests



Sri. Vishnuji Parshad Vassyal



Sri. Seshasai Rompicharla



Sri. Umamaheshwara Shivam



Sri. Nikul Prasad Joshi

Connect with the Community and the Temple

Bharatiya Temple App

You can download this **FREE** app by simply scanning the barcode or by searching "Bharatiya Temple" in iTunes (Apple) or Play Store (Android).

With this app you can easily view upcoming events, view monthly calendar, request hall rental, request priest services, listen to bhajans, post pictures, send a message, etc.

If you choose to receive notification, you will receive real-time information about parking situation at the temple, temple closings due to inclement weather and reminders about special events at the temple.

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