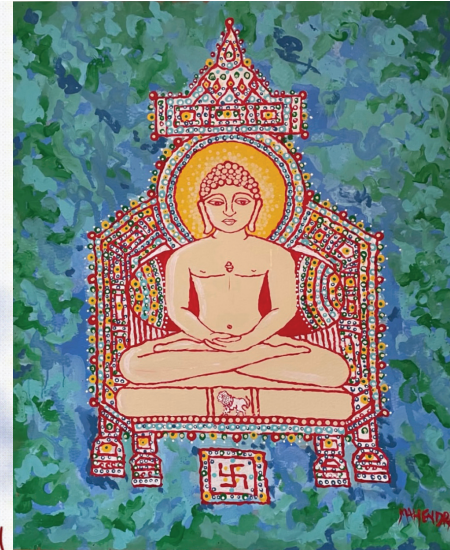


The Hindu Jain Temple

MONROEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA



Our Festivals: Our Cultural Heritage

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2023

Festivals: Our Cultural Heritage



A wise man once said that if you want to know the true character of a person then find out what makes him laugh. Similarly, it can be said that if you want to know about any culture, look into the kinds of festivals it celebrates. Festivals reflect the true character of a culture: what it values, what its ideals are, what is considered fun, and what hidden messages and teachings are being reinforced. In other words, festivals are key indicators of the inner beauty of any culture. The Hindu/Bharatiya culture is teeming with festivals, and these festivals reflect what our ancestors valued and cherished. Festivals are the mirrors through which we can see society. Each festival is celebrated in its own unique style but often there are slight variations from region to region within ancient and modern India.

When we try to celebrate Hindu/Bharatiya festivals in America, however, it often feels like we are transplanting something onto a foreign soil. It is like bringing a plant from Africa and trying to grow it in

South America. Culture and its festivals are live things that need care and nurturing, enthusiasm and understanding, warmth and watering to grow in a foreign soil. There are many practical and cultural problems that we face. For example, since Hindu festivals are not part of the mainstream culture in America, there are no observed public holidays on the days that these festivals fall. As a result, we often resort to celebrating them during a weekend that is closest to the actual day. There are other inherent problems such as differences in the climate of two countries. For example, every January 14 Hindus celebrate Makar Sankranti – a festival that is associated with kite flying in certain parts of India; however, it may be difficult to fly a kite in Northern part of America in January simply because the weather is not amenable for kite-flying. Also, different parts of India celebrate each of these festivals slightly differently so when we try to celebrate these festivals outside of India, we are faced with a challenge of integrating various types of celebrations to make them both practical and relevant.

How can we meet this challenge while keeping the true essence of the festival and the celebrations that are associated with the festival? We need to be pragmatic, resourceful, and creative. Each one of us should try to understand the essence of each festival and try to bring out its beauty with creativity. Let us understand why we celebrate these festivals in the first place, what is the most significant aspect of each festival, and how we can successfully combine the beauty and the essence of each festival that is consistent with the life we live outside of Bharat.

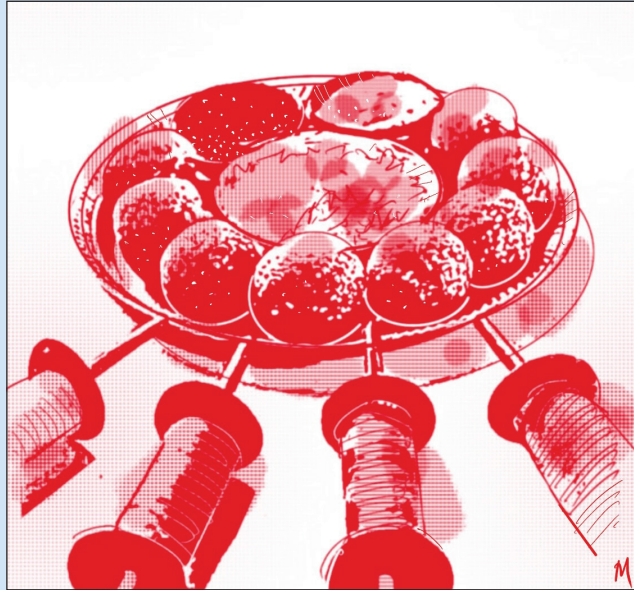
Each of these festivals is unique in its origin, its celebrations, and its messages.

Note: This year's calendar will cover ten festivals. Remaining festivals will be covered next year.

JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year Havan	2 Pausha Putrada Ekadashi Vrat	3 Pausha Pradosha	4	5	6 Paush Purnima	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Makar Sankranti
15 Bhavana	16	17 Shatila Ekadashi	18	19 Magha Pradosha	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Jaya Ekadashi				

Makar Sankranti (Lohri and Pongal)



This festival falls on January 14th every year. Makar is also called sign of Capricorn; it marks Sun's northward journey (Uttaraayan). It is observed as the most auspicious day by Hindus. The great hero of Mahabharat Bhishma Pitamah chose this day to leave his body. Lohri, a festival originated in Punjab, is celebrated one day before Sankranti. It is also known as Lohadi or Lal Loi. Also on this day Pongal, a harvest festival, is celebrated in the southern part of India.

Why do we celebrate Makar Sankranti, Lohri and Pongal?

On this day, we worship the Sun who gives light for the growth of crops and energy to living beings. Sun not only represents Bhagwan but also is embodiment of knowledge and wisdom. Gayatri Mantra is directed to Sun Bhagwan to bless us with knowledge and wisdom. Lohri marks the end of winter season and harvesting of rabi crops.

How is it celebrated?

Generally, Makara Sankranti is celebrated by exchanging till (sesame) seeds or products made from till and jaggery. It is an auspicious occasion for Daanam (charity). In different part of India this festival is celebrated differently.

- In Gujarat, Andhra and Uttar Pradesh it is celebrated as Kite Flying festival and sharing of sweets as a community.
- In Punjab and Haryana, it is celebrated one day before and is called Lohri. It is celebrated with prayers for abundance and prosperity. People gather around bonfire and throw till, puffed rice and popcorn.
- In Tamil Nadu it is celebrated for 3-4 days as Pongal. It is celebrated by thanking farmers, earth, animals, sun, and Bhagwan for giving food and nourishment.

How does our community celebrate in Pittsburgh?

- Many organizations arrange Kite Flying Festival.
- Punjabi Community organize community celebration with a symbolic bonfire, and cultural programs.

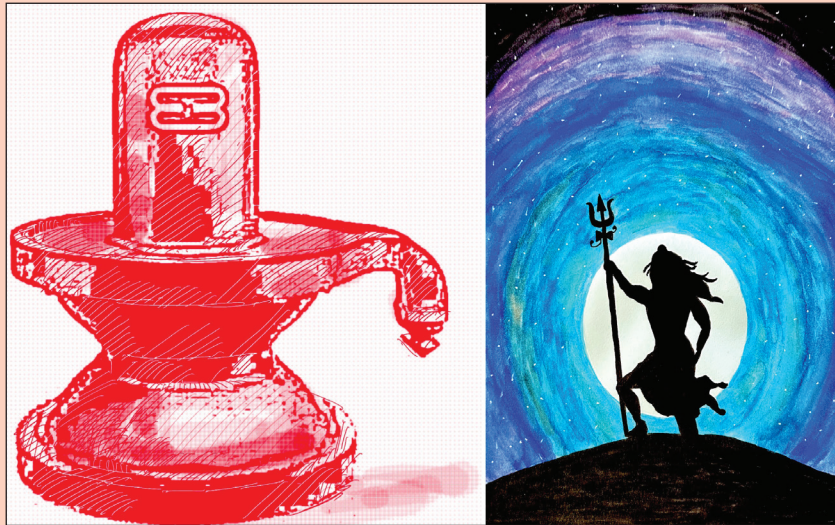
What is the learning?

- Exchanging till and sweets made from till and jaggery spreads community love and tender feelings.
- Giving Daanam (monetary or raising awareness of good values) is a part of social responsibility.
- Respect for mother nature (Sun, harvest) in its divine form.

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Magha Pradosha	3	4 Magha Purnima
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Vijaya Ekadashi	17 Phalguna Pradosha	18 Maha Shivaratri
19 Bhavana	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Maha Shivaratri



Maha Shivaratri is observed on Krishna Paksha Chaturdarshi (14th Day) during Magha (the 11th month) of the Hindu lunar calendar that occurs sometime between late February and the middle of March. This festival is celebrated during the nighttime. It is believed that on this day, the stars in the Northern Hemisphere are at the most optimum positions, which are believed to help boost a person's spiritual energy.

Why do we celebrate Maha Shivaratri?

There are several legends associated with Shivaratri.

- Bhagwan Shiva incarnated as Rudra.
- Bhagwan Shiva got married to Devi Parvati, i.e., Convergence of Shiva and Shakti.
- It is believed that on this day Bhagwan Shiva's performed Cosmic Tandava dance signifying the day of dissolution of universe.
- It is believed that on this day Bhagwan Shiva drank the poison to protect his devotees, which came out during churning of ocean.

How do we celebrate?

- The day and night long fasting.
- Abhishek by bathing Shiva Lingam with water milk and honey.
- Offering Bel Patra, wood apple leaves and white flowers to Bhagwan Shiva.
- Chanting Shiva Mantra and Stotram.

How does Hindu Jain Temple Celebrate?

- Devotees observe a complete or partial fast and come to temple and do Abhishek.
- Shivalinga made of Ice is placed near Shiva Parivar mandir.
- At nighttime Maha Abhishek is performed by the Priests. There is chanting of Mantras, Bhajans and cultural program by the children.

What is the learning?

- Bhagwan Shiva is one of the deities of Tridev – Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh (Shiv).
- Also, known as Maheshvara, Mahadev, Shankar, Neel Kantha, Natraj, Bhairav, Rudra, Mahakal, Bholenath.
- Bhagwan can be worshipped in Sagun (with attributes) forms - Meditation Pose (Adi Dev), Dance Pose (Nataraja) – energy and creation, and Nirgun (without attributes) form Linga – Cosmic power with no beginning and no end.

MARCH 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Amalaki Ekadashi	3	4 Phalguna Pradosha
5	6 Phalguna Purnima Holika Jain Chaumasi Chaudas Vir Samvat 2550	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Papmochani Ekadashi	18 Temple Holi Celebration
19 Chaitra Pradosha Bhavana	20	21	22 Chaitra Navratri Day 1	23 Navratri Day 2	24 Navratri Day 3	25 Navratri Day 4
26 Navratri Day 5	27 Navratri Day 6	28 Navratri Day 7	29 Navratri Day 8 Jain Ayambil Oli Begins	30 Navratri Day 9 Ram Navami	31	

Holi: A festival of colors and social harmony

Holi falls on the purnima (full-moon day) of Phalguna (the last month of the Hindu lunar calendar that occurs sometime between late February and the middle of March). It is celebrated at the arrival of spring/end of winter and welcomes the beginning of a good spring harvest season.

Why do we celebrate Holi?

There are two main reasons why we celebrate Holi.

- Victory of Virtue over Sin: Bhagwan Vishnu saved the life of his devotee Prahalad.
- Celebration symbolizes the happiness of the arrival of Spring season.

How do we celebrate?

- Many bonfires are lit to banish the cold dark nights of winter and usher in warmer spring.
- The day after Holi is the actual festival of colors. Shri Krishna in his childhood days used to play color with his friends.
- On that day, everything in sight is covered in colors. People take powdered color and throw it on each other.
- In Punjab it is celebrated as Hola Mohalla: Demonstration of physical agility through martial arts.

North American Context

- In North America, it may be difficult to celebrate Holi on the actual calendar day. In that case, it is celebrated on the closest weekend. If there is a Mandir close by to join the celebration, we make a small bonfire and pray for the safety and goodwill of all. If you can't hold a fire, light diyas. We can also celebrate safely at home (outdoors!), with water balloons and water blasters (pichkari) with safe herbal colored powders.



What is the learning?

- Fourth of Dashavatar of Bhagwan Vishnu: NaraSimha avatar.
- Victory of Truth (child-hero Prahalad) over Evil power (Hiranyakashipu)
- Bhakti (Devotion): Sri Krishna pleasing his devotees by playing colors and blessing with his divine company.
- All the members of society come together for celebrations. All ages have fun together. When we rejoice by sharing colors, and happiness with others, we bring true joy to everyone around us. Gives everyone a feeling of belonging to such an old and lively culture.
- Exchanging greetings and sweets: Strengthen social ties.

APRIL 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Kamada Ekadashi
2	3 Chaitra Pradosha	4 Mahavir Janma Kalyanak	5 Hanuman Jayanti Chaitra Purnima	6 Jain Ayambil Oli Ends	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Varuthini Ekadashi
16 Bhavana	17 Vaishakha Pradosha	18	19	20	21	22 Akshaya Tritiya
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Baisakhi, Cheti Chand

This festival falls on the first day of Chaitra which is the first month of Lunar Hindu calendar. It is celebrated as Gudi Padwa in Maharashtra, as Ugadi in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, as Baisakhi in Punjab, as Navresh in Kashmir, as Puthandu in Tamilnadu and as Cheti Chand by the Sindhi community. It usually falls in March or early part of April.

Why do we celebrate?

- Brahma ji created the cosmic universe on this day, the beginning of our universe. The word Padwa comes from the Sanskrit word pratipada meaning the first day of a lunar fortnight and ascendance towards the growth. Ugadi means beginning of New Age (Yug = new age and Adi = beginning of).
- We celebrate the beginning of Spring. Sun's position is at the point of intersection of equator and meridians. Ugadi marks the start of the earth's energizing period.

How do we celebrate?

Gudi Padwa, Ugadi

People raise Gudi (a sign of victory or freedom) on the outer right side of the house. Gudi is the Flag made with copper pot, cloth, flowers, and long bamboo.

- Kalash signifies completeness and holy water.
- Cloth colors – yellow signifies purity, green signifies life and saffron signifies sacrifice.
- Red flowers signify passion against negative elements.
- Neem leaves signify unpleasant events of life.
- Sugar crystals signify sweetness of life, humanity, goodness.
- Temples and Puja places are decorated with rangoli (in white chalk powder), flowers and mango leaves.



Baisakhi

- Sikhs celebrate this day also as New Year. Commemorate formation of Khalsa panth by Guru Govind Singh in 1699.
- Devotees take holy dips in ponds or lakes and spiritual processions are carried out.
- People dress in spring colors.

Cheti Chand

- Sindhi community celebrates Cheti chand to mark the birthday of patriot and Saint Jhulelal.
- Worship of water, the boon of life, is conducted on this day.
- Charitable activities, such as giving food and clothes to the needy are carried out.

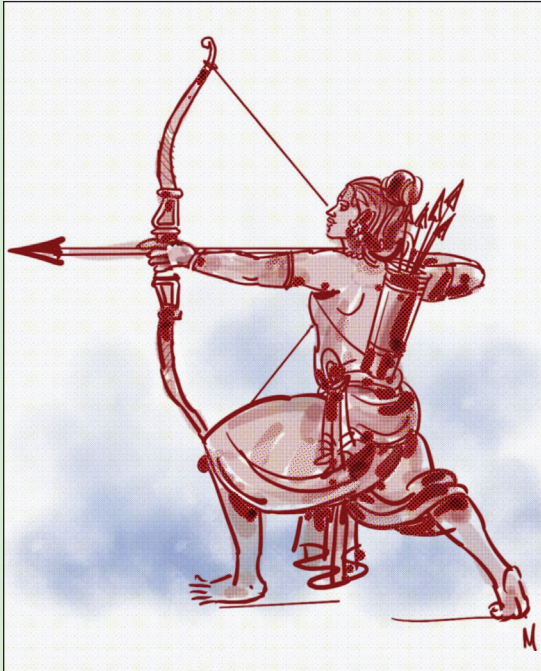
What is the learning?

Let go of the past and have a fresh start in life (new year) with positivity and determination for service and sacrifice for society, whenever required.

MAY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Mohini Ekadashi	2 Vaishakha Pradosha	3	4 Buddha Purnima	5	6
7 Temple Sthapna Day	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Sunday School Sthapna Day Jain 18 Abhishek - Sthapana Anniversary Celebration	15 Apara Ekadashi	16 Jyeshtha Pradosha	17	18	19	20
21 Bhavana	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Nirjala Ekadashi	31			

Sri Ram Navami



Ram Navami is observed as birth anniversary of Sri Ram who is an eternal icon of Hindu history and heritage. He is the 7th incarnation of Bhagwan Vishnu. Ram Navami falls on Shukla Paksha Navami, the 9th day of Chaitra Month.

Why do we celebrate?

Ran Navami is observed to celebrate the birth of Sri Ram in Treta Yug. We also celebrate this day (Navami) with the puja of Devi Durga as the conclusion of Chaitra Navratri which starts on Gudi Padwa.

How is it celebrated?

- Devotees observe the day long fast on Navami day and listen to or read epic Rāmāyan. Reading of Rāmāyan reminds us of the characteristics of Ram, Sita, Laxman, Hanuman and other dharmic characters of the epic.
- At home or at the Mandir devotees decorate the murti of baby Ram and put in a cradle to celebrate the joy of Ram's birth.
- Devotees observe nine days (Navratri) of fasting and perform elaborated puja of Devi on eighth or ninth day for strength.
- Chant bhajans and perform Havan.

Sri Ram Navami celebration at the Hindu Jain Temple

For more than two decades Hindu Jain Temple devotees have been performing Akhand Rāmāyan Paath (twenty four hours non-stop reading of Rāmāyan). Celebration concludes with puja, bhajans, havan, and cultural program by children followed by a maha-prasad.

What is the learning?

Sri Ram is a model of the values of life upheld by our Hindu culture.

- Humility is an ornament of the Strong. (During Sita's swayamvar Sri Ram waited silently till asked by Sage Vishwamitra to go and lift the bow.)
- Value and follow the advice of our elders and teachers. (Sri Ram's fond relations with father Dashrath, Guru Vasishta and Vishwamitra.)
- A difficult task made easy by teamwork. Every little contribution counts. (Sri Rama made sure that each and every creature contributed towards building the bridge to Sri Lanka over the ocean.)
- Be a true friend. (Once made friends with anyone, Sri Ram did everything he could to help and protect them...like Sugriv and Vibhishan.)
- Determination and commitment (Sri Ram never did anything half-heartedly, be it punishing the demons in the forest or helping Sugriva kill Vali or completing the 14 years in exile.)
- Love and respect for all (Sri Ram savored fruits offered to him by Shabri, a poor tribal woman.)

JUNE 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Jyeshtha Pradosha	2	3 Vat Savitri Purnima
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Ekadashi
11	12	13 Yogini Ekadashi	14	15 Ashadha Pradosha	16	17
18 Bhavana	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Devshayani Ekadashi	30 Ashadha Pradosha	

Mahavir Jayanti

Mahavir Jayanti is celebrated on 13th day of the rising half of Hindu Month Chaitra. This day is observed as the birth anniversary of Mahavir Swami. It is also called Mahavir Janma Kalyanak.

Why do we celebrate Mahavir Jayanti?

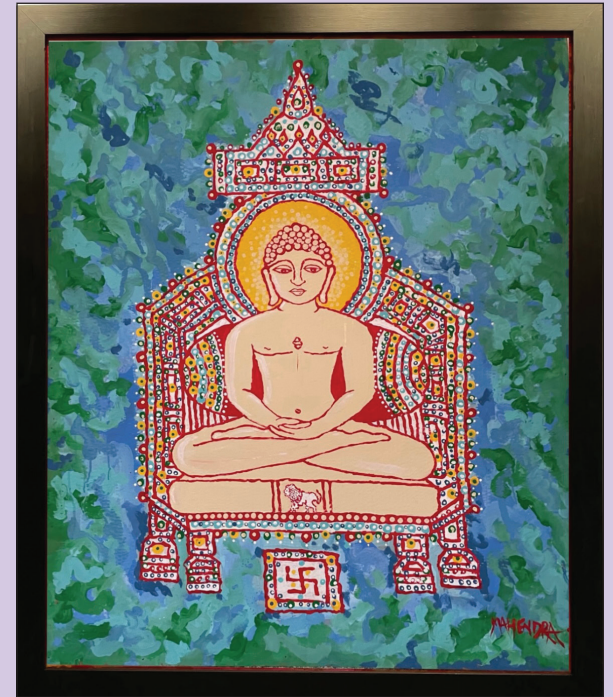
- Mahavir Jayanti is one of the most auspicious festivals of the Jain community and marks the birth anniversary of Mahavir Swami.
- Mahavir Jayanti is celebrated to observe and spread the teachings of Mahavira Swami.
- Mahavir Swami also known as Vardhaman established core tenets of Jainism.
- He was the 24th and last Tirthankara (those who have attained enlightenment).
- At the age of 30 he left his earthly pursuits and began the path of enlightenment.
- He travelled across India and shared teachings focused on morals, ethical values and honesty.
- His principles were based on non-violence, and he encouraged meditation and self-realization.

How do we celebrate Mahavir Jayanti?

- On this day temples are decorated.
- Mahavir Swami's murty is adorned and carried in chariot, in a big procession with band music and dancing. Some traditions and rituals followed are:
 - Maintaining austerity and fast throughout the day
 - Cleansed murty of Mahavir Swami by doing Abhishek
 - Remember teachings and life story of Mahavir Swami
 - Serve clothes, money, food and basic needs to the needy

How does Hindu Jain Temple Celebrate Mahavir Jayanti?

Perform Snatra Puja in celebration of two of the five auspicious events (kalyanakas) occurring in last life of Tirthankar Bhagwan. The two kalyanakas are Chyavan (conception), and Janma (birth). Perform Abhishek commemorating event of Lord Indra taking every Tirthankar to Mount Meru – the cosmic axis of Jain universe, shortly after their birth. There, he is bathed and anointed with precious oils, aushadhis etc., Indra and other Devas celebrate his birth. Sadharmic Vatsalya and Samuhik Bhojan conclude the celebration.



What is the learning?

In observance of Mahavir Swami Jayanti, focus on his teachings:

- Ahimsa (Non-violence) - follow the path of non-violence.
- Satya (Truth) - Speak the truth, be truthful.
- Asteya (Non-stealing) – Be honest, should not steal
- Aparigraha (Non-Possessiveness, non-attachment) – Do not be possessive, do not be greedy, do not be attached to material things.

JULY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Guru Purnima Jain Chaumasi Chaudas	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Shravan Somwar Vrat	11	12	13 Kamika Ekadashi	14 Shravana Pradosha	15
16 Bhavana	17 Shravan Somwar Vrat	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Shravan Somwar Vrat	25	26	27	28 Shravana Padmini Ekadashi	29
30 Shravana Pradosha	31 Shravan Somwar Vrat					

Hanuman Janma Utsav



Hanuman Janma Utsav is celebrated on full moon day of Chaitra month. Hanuman was the son of Anjana and the leader of Vanara tribe, Kesari. That is why he is popularly known as Anjaney or Kesari-nandan.

Why do we celebrate?

Hanuman was born by the grace of Vayu, the wind devata, therefore he is also known as Pavan-Suta (Vayu's son). He is also accepted as an avatar of Bhagwan Shiva. According to scholars and shastras he was born to serve Shri Ram. To commemorate his birthday people across India and in many countries around the world celebrate this day with joy, devotion and dedication.

How is it celebrated?

Devotees observe fast, visit Hanuman temple, chant Hanuman Chalisa, chant mantras and prayers. Perform puja of Hanumanji by offering sindoor, red cloth, with flowers like marigold and focus on the qualities of Hanumanji. Due to his versatile character he is known by many names like Anjaneya, Ram-Doot, Bajrang Bali, Kepeesh, Pavan-Sut, Sankat Mochan, Mahaveer, Maruti, Kesari Nandan and Shankara Suvan.

At the Hindu Jain Temple devotees love to chant Hanuman Chalisa at the conclusion of every gathering, regardless of the occasion.

What is the learning?

- Hanuman Chalisa, composed by 16th century poet and bhakta Tulsidas ji, describes the glories of Hanuman ji. It is one of the most popular chants among all ages of Hindus across the world and even few non-Hindus. Devotees have experienced that regular chanting of Hanuman Chalisa is very uplifting.
- Consistent chanting of Hanuman Chalisa and meditation on Hanuman ji purifies and strengthen the mind. It helps eliminate fear and negative thoughts from the mind. Elevates or spiritual energy and inner strength.
- Hanuman ji is known as someone with unwavering courage, strength, determination, energy, and devotion.
- For devotion to any noble cause or act one needs Bal (strength – physical and mental), Buddhi (intellect to distinguish good from bad) and Vidya (learning to help build character)

AUGUST 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Shravana Adhika Purnima	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Shravana Parama Ekadashi	12
13 Shravana Pradosha	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Bhavana	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Shravana Putrada Ekadashi	28 Shravana Pradosha	29	30 Shravana Purnima	31		

Mandir Sthapana Diwas



The Hindu Jain Temple celebrates its establishment day or Sthapana day on first Sunday of the month of May. Traditionally, the event is celebrated in three different parts – Abhishek of all deities on the first Sunday, Children's program on following Saturday and Jain deities' Abhishek on third Sunday.

Why do we celebrate Sthapana Diwas?

On May 5th 1984, official inauguration of Sthapana Celebration of Hindu Jain Temple was initiated. On May 12 and 13th actual Pran Pratishtha ceremony – bringing Divine breath into the beautiful stone figures (murtis) to transform them into divine deities. To commemorate this event, we celebrate Sthapana diwas every year generally on the first Sunday of May. This day reminds us of the realization of a dream of the founding members to have a temple for the Hindu-Jain community at that time and for future generations. This day reminds us of the sacrifices, struggles, persistence, and enthusiasm under the guidance of Swami Chidananda Saraswati Ji – whom we fondly know as Muni Ji.

How do we celebrate?

Celebration is usually in three stages:

- Leading to the Sthapana day celebration Abhishek of all deities is performed. Dresses and ornaments are renewed. Temple premises are decorated. Pujas are performed and a procession – shobha-, to the community hall with music, dancing, and chanting prayer occurs. At the community hall, the event is celebrated as various occasions such as Satyanarayan Puja, Havan, Sunderkand recitation, Navagrahpuja etc. it is followed by Aarati and Mahaprasad.
- Usually on the following Saturday, Sthapana diwas is celebrated with performance of cultural dances and music by Vidya Mandir and other community Vidya Mandirs of South Hills, North Hills as well as other cultural schools. The event is, once again, followed by Maha-Prasad.
- On the following Sunday, the Jain community performs eighteen Abhisheks with different aushadhis to remove and purify any wrong doings of last year. The event is followed by Sadharmik Vatsalya.

What is the learning?

- Sthapana diwas reminds us of our founders and committed volunteers who have found and sustained this beautiful temple. It has been a dharmic, cultural and social center for the community of tri-state area for several decades.
- It reminds us of our continuous commitment to our Temple and our community as well as the community and country we live in.

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Krishna Janmashtami	7	8	9 Janmashtami Celebration
10 Aja Ekadashi	11 Bhadrapada Pradosha	12 Paryushan Begins	13	14	15	16
17 Hartalika Teej Bhavana	18 Ganesha Chaturthi	19 Paryushan Ends Samvatsari	20 Das Laxana Begins	21	22	23 Ganesh Chaturthi Celebration
24	25 Parsva Ekadashi	26 Bhadrapada Pradosha	27	28 Purnima Shraddha Anant Chaturdashi	29 Pratipada Shraddha Das Laxana Ends	30 Dwitiya Shraddha

Guru Purnima:

An occasion to adore the Guru tradition



Guru Purnima falls on the Purnima (full-moon day) of Ashadha month (occurs in July). Hindu tradition has the distinction of contributing various thoughts to the world's culture for centuries. Apart from many philosophical thoughts and practical ideas like Yoga and Ayurveda, Hindu culture has given to the world the principle and tradition

of Guru". "The cornerstone of any great civilization is its respect for knowledge and the maturity of its educational system. The foundation of Hindu civilization is the Guru-Shishya Parampara, i.e., the Guru-Disciple tradition.

Guru is a Sanskrit word which means the one who removes darkness. It refers to a person who turns ignorance of the disciple (shishya) into enlightenment. Guru can also be called an Acharya, the one whose conduct (acharan) is worth imbibing. Upanishad says, "The one who teaches should be amazing and the one who learns should be equally skillful. It is only then that the connection of Guru and Shishya becomes meaningful." The mere presence of the guru in life removes all darkness, all anger, all pain, and all confusion.

Why do we celebrate?

Devotional worship of the Guru, the preceptor, is one of the most touching and elevating features of the Hindu cultural tradition. This is the day on which we offer our thanks, love, adoration, and devotion

to the Guru. We honor our Gurus who represent the great tradition and lineage of our thousands of years-old ancient heritage. This day reminds us of Gurus' teachings and life stories.

This day is also called Vyas Purnima. Vyas Ji is worshipped as the Guru for his enormous contribution in compiling spiritual texts which are full of learning. Guru Purnima is a day of renewing our shraddha in Guru tradition.

How is it celebrated?

- Observe fast for the whole or part of the day.
- Perform puja of Guru or his image or picture with flowers, fruits, incense, and camphor.
- Observe silence and study the books or writings of Guru, or mentally reflect upon Guru's teachings. Take fresh resolves on this day, to tread the spiritual path in accordance with the precepts of your Guru.
- Offer Gurudakshina, an offering in any form. The true Gurudakshina is to become able to practice the knowledge received from Guru and propagate to others.

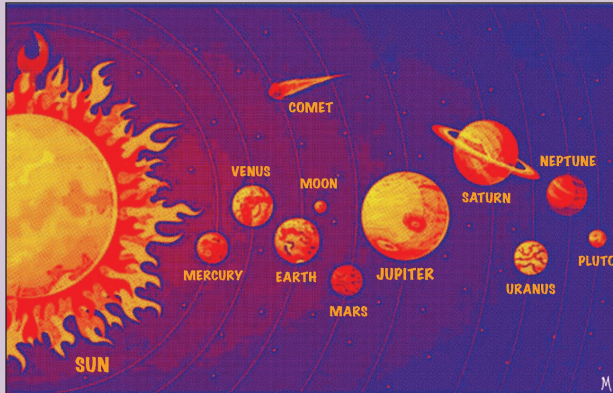
What is the learning?

- We must prepare ourselves, through practice and self-control (abhyas and vairagya), to receive the knowledge from Gurus and their teachings for the peace of mind. (Bhagavad Gita - 6/35)
- Guru is a street sign pointing the way to the Truth or Freedom. Our job is to keep walking and keep striving.
- Buddha's final message was "Appa Deepo Bhav." i.e., You be your own lamplight.

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Tritiya Shraddha	2 Chaturthi Shraddha	3 Panchami Shraddha	4 Shashthi Shraddha	5 Saptami Shraddha	6 Ashtami Shraddha	7 Navami Shraddha
8 Dashami Shraddha	9 Indira Ekadashi Ekadashi Shraddha	10 Dwadashi Shraddha	11 Ashwina Pradosha Trayodashi Shraddha	12 Chaturdashi Shraddha	13 SarvaPitru Amavasya	14
15 Shardiya Navratri Day 1 Bhavana	16 Navratri Day 2	17 Navratri Day 3	18 Navratri Day 4	19 Navratri Day 5	20 Navratri Day 6 Temple Garba	21 Navratri Day 7
22 Navratri Day 8 Mata Ki Chowki Jain Ayambil Oli Begins	23 Navratri Day 9 Vijayadashami	24 Papankusha Ekadashi	25	26 Ashwina Pradosha	27 Sharad Purnima	28 Jain Ayambil Oli Ends
29	30	31 Karwa Chauth				

Hindu Calendar



Hindus follow the lunar calendar; hence festivals may fall on different days and at different times of the year, when compared to the solar calendar which is used in the Western world. Dates are known as Tithi in Sanskrit. A Tithi is calculated considering the day of the month, and the phase of the moon on that particular day. Given below are Sanskrit names of days and months.

Names for days of the week

Each day is associated with a planet or a star.

Vaar = Day

Ravi Vaar	Ravi = Sun,
Soma Vaar	Som = Moon
Mangal Vaar	Mangal = Mars
Budh Vaar	Budh = Mercury
Brahmaspat Vaar	Brahmaspati = Jupiter
Shukra Vaar	Shukra = Venus
Shani Vaar	Shani = Saturn

Names for the seasons - Ritu

There are six seasons in our tradition.
The Sanskrit word for season is Ritu.

Vasant Ritu	Chaitra, Vaishakh
Grishma Ritu	Jyeth, Ashad
Varsha Ritu	Shravan, Bhadrapad
Sharad Ritu	Ashwin, Kartik
Hemant Ritu	Margshirsh, Paush
Shishir Ritu	Magh, Phalgun

Names for the months of the year

Chaitra	(March)
Baishakh	(April)
Jyeshth	(May)
Ashadh	(June)
Shravan	(July)
Bhadrapad	(Aug)
Ashwin	(Sept)
Kartik	(Oct)
Margshirsh	(Nov)
Paush	(Dec)
Magh	(Jan)
Phalgun	(Feb)

Paksha (Halves of the Lunar Month)

Shukla Paksha – Bright half of the month (waxing moon). Ends with Purnima

Krishna Paksha – Dark half of the month (waning moon). Ends with Amavasya

Tithis (Days of the Lunar Month)

Shukla Paksha		Krishna Paksha	
Shukla-Pratipada	1	Krishna-Pratipada	1 (16 th day)
Shukla-Dwij	2	Krishna-Dwij	2 (17 th day))
Shukla-Tratiya	3	Krishna-Tratiya	3 (18 th day))
Shukla-Chaturthi	4	Krishna-Chaturthi	4 (19 th day))
Shukla-Panchami	5	Krishna-Panchami	5 (20 th day))
Shukla-Shashthi	6	Krishna-Shashthi	6 (21 st day)
Shukla-Saptami	7	Krishna-Saptami	7 (22 nd day)
Shukla-Ashtami	8	Krishna-Ashtami	8 (23 rd day)
Shukla-Navami	9	Krishna-Navami	9 (24 th day))
Shukla-Dashami	10	Krishna-Dashami	10(25 th day)
Shukla-Eka-dashi	11	Krishna-Eka-dashi	11(26 th day)
Shukla-Dwa-dashi	12	Krishna-Dwa-dashi	12(27 th day)
Shukla-Trayo-dashi	13	Krishna-Trayo-dashi	13(28 th day)
Shukla-Chatur-dashi	14	Krishna-Chatur-dashi	14(29 th day)
Purnima (Full Moon)	15	Amavasya (New Moon)	15(30th day)

Credit: Hindu Vrat and Upavas book

The Essence – Sārānsh – सारांश

Once, a young girl asked her grandfather: “Dadaji, you have always said that all of our festivals have a special significance and provide teachings and wisdom. How can I learn about the significance of each festival just from its celebration?” Dadaji responded: “Celebrate them every year in the proper way with passion, reverence, and dedication (shraddha and vivek). Ask questions, stay curious, and expand your knowledge. It’s just like yoga/exercise - if you do it daily with the proper commitment and understanding, good health will follow. It is a simple principle of learning by doing.”

Compilation: Navin Kadakia, Sanjay Mehta, Mahendra Shah, Vishal Agarwal, Bhakti Modi

NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 Ahoi Ashtami
5	6	7	8 Rama Ekadashi	9	10 Kartika Pradosha Dhanteras	11 Narak Chaturdashi
12 Diwali Lakshmi Puja Mahavir Nirvana Kalyanak	13 Annakut Puja	14 Bhai Dooj	15	16	17	18 Temple Diwali Dinner Jain Gyan Pancham Vir Samvat 2551
19 Bhavana	20	21	22	23 Devutthana Ekadashi	24 Kartika Pradosha	25
26 Kartik Purnima Jain Chaumasi Chaudas	27	28	29	30		

The Hindu Jain Temple

Dear Temple Devotees,

Namaste and Happy New Year.

I feel blessed and fortunate to get an opportunity to serve our beautiful Hindu Jain Temple as President once again. I thank you for your continued love and support you have given me in the last many years. This has given me encouragement and energy to work hard even more each day for our Temple and community. Our Executive Committee started its term of office on July 1, 2022, with the presence and blessings of Pujya Swami Shri Chidanand Saraswati ji (our beloved Muniji) and Pujya Sadhvi Bhagvati ji. We feel grateful for this auspicious beginning.

I wish all the very best of good health and happiness to the outgoing BOT Chairman Dr Surendra Sethi and extend my warm welcome and best wishes to the incoming new BOT officers - Shubha Mullick, Chairperson along with Vice Chairman Nick Patel, and Secretary Dr Parminder Sharma. I also welcome Suneel Maheshwari who shall assume his responsibilities as Treasurer of the EC. They all begin their terms beginning January 1, 2023.

Since 2022, slowly and gradually, we are coming out of the scares of the pandemic, and thankfully, our devotees have started coming back to Temple. We witnessed a huge turnout when we celebrated live in the Temple, Krishna Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Mahavir Jayanti, Paryushan Purva, and Navratri – Mata Ki Chauki. Temple Garba, Dussera and Ravan Dahan, Diwali Lakshmi Pooja and Annakut were also attended by hundreds of devotees and made them hugely successful. The Grand Diwali Dinner was very well planned and executed by the Executive Committee. Everyone enjoyed the melodious singing of Garima Khiste and her musical group, and the delicious food. My special thanks to all my EC officers and members for their dedicated hard work for the successful events of 2022. Congratulations to all the recipients of the Temple 2022 awards. Our beloved priest Shri Vinod Kumar Pandey ji who had completed more than 30 years of service to the Temple was honored with prestigious **“Temple Ratna”** award. In addition to the major celebrations, all daily services Aartis / Poojas and small-scale events are continuing as per plan, including Satyanarayan Pooja, Sundarkand, 12/24-hour chanting, etc. We continue to showcase our Temple events on Facebook and social media so that more devotees, and especially the seniors, will be able to connect with the Temple and be part of the celebrations.

We have clear vision for our Temple development for 2023. We are working on to unite our community on the platform of Hindu Jain Temple and boost the temple membership. Our mantra is - **“One Temple, Best Temple”**. We are restoring all the murties in the Temple in coming days. We are planning to have big celebration for the successful completion of the New Shikhar installation. Priests and devotees’ security is our top priority. We are enhancing Temple safety and security by upgrading and adding more surveillance cameras and upgrading internet connectivity. We are committed to providing the best priest services to our devotees at your home as well as at the Temple. We are going to make few changes to streamline our Temple operations to run the Temple more smoothly and efficiently. Accountability and transparency is our top priority.

We look forward to your continued support and encouragement. All your positive and constructive suggestions are always welcome.

Yours truly,
Chetan Patel
President, Hindu Jain Temple

DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Utpanna Ekadashi	9
10 Margashirsha Pradosha	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Bhavana	18	19	20	21	22 Mokshada Ekadashi	23 Jain Maun Ekadashi (Agiyaras)
24 Margashirsha Pradosha	25	26 Margashirsha Purnima	27	28	29	30
31						

PANCHANG 2023 - PITTSBURGH TIME

Ekadashi

January	2	Monday
January	17	Tuesday
January	31	Tuesday
February	16	Thursday
March	2	Thursday
March	17	Friday
April	1	Saturday
April	16	Sunday
May	1	Monday
May	15	Monday
May	30	Tuesday
June	13	Tuesday
June	29	Thursday
July	13	Thursday
July	28	Friday
August	11	Friday
August	27	Sunday
September	10	Sunday
September	25	Monday
October	9	Monday
October	24	Tuesday
November	8	Wednesday
November	23	Thursday
December	8	Friday
December	22	Friday



Poornima

January	6	Friday
February	5	Sunday
March	7	Tuesday
April	5	Wednesday
May	5	Friday
June	3	Saturday
July	2	Monday
August	1	Tuesday
August	30	Wednesday
September	28	Thursday
October	27	Friday
November	26	Sunday
December	26	Tuesday

Ganesh Chaturthi

January	10	Tuesday
February	9	Thursday
March	10	Friday
April	9	Sunday
May	8	Monday
June	6	Tuesday
July	5	Wednesday
August	4	Friday
September	2	Saturday
October	2	Monday
October	31	Tuesday
November	30	Thursday
December	30	Saturday

Chaitra Navratri

Pratipada	22-Mar	Wednesday
Dwitiya	23-Mar	Thursday
Tritiya	24-Mar	Friday
Chaturthi	25-Mar	Saturday
Panchami	26-Mar	Sunday
Shashthi	27-Mar	Monday
Saptami	28-Mar	Tuesday
Ashtami	29-Mar	Wednesday
Navami	30-Mar	Thursday
Ram Navami	30-Mar	Thursday

Shardiya Navratri

Pratipada	15-Oct	Sunday
Dwitiya	16 -Oct	Monday
Tritiya	17 -Oct	Tuesday
Chaturthi	18 -Oct	Wednesday
Panchami	19 -Oct	Thursday
Shashthi	20 -Oct	Friday
Saptami	21 -Oct	Saturday
Ashtami	22 -Oct	Sunday
Navami	23 -Oct	Monday

Satyanarayan Vrat

January	6	Friday
February	4	Saturday
March	6	Tuesday
April	5	Wednesday
May	4	Thursday
June	3	Saturday
July	2	Monday
July	31	Monday
August	30	Wednesday
September	28	Thursday
October	27	Friday
November	26	Sunday
December	26	Tuesday

Amavas

January	21	Saturday
February	19	Sunday
March	21	Tuesday
April	19	Wednesday
May	19	Friday
June	17	Saturday
July	17	Monday
August	15	Tuesday
September	14	Thursday
October	14	Saturday
November	12	Sunday
December	12	Tuesday

Shraadh

Purnima	28-Sep	Thursday
Pratipada	29-Sep	Friday
Dwitiya	30-Sep	Saturday
Tritiya	1-Oct	Sunday
Chaturthi	2 -Oct	Monday
Panchami	3 -Oct	Tuesday
Shashthi	4 -Oct	Wednesday
Saptami	5 -Oct	Thursday
Ashtami	6 -Oct	Friday
Navami	7 -Oct	Saturday
Dashami	8 -Oct	Sunday
Ekadashi	9 -Oct	Monday
Dwadashi	10 -Oct	Tuesday
Tryodashi	11 -Oct	Wednesday
Chaturdashi	12 -Oct	Thursday
Amavas	13 -Oct	Friday

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: Shubha Mullick

Vice Chairperson: Nick Patel

Secretary: Parminder Sharma

Past Chairperson: Surendra Sethi

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Chetan Patel

Vice President: Madhu Verma

Secretary: Sumedha Nagpal

Treasurer: Suneel Maheshwari

Past President: Rajeev Agarwal

EC Members

Gauttam Patel	Gopal Patel
Ashtosh Ganjoo	Alka Jhaveri
Amit Ghosh	Sushil Shinde
Sunil Deoras	Shailendra Varshney
Lakshmi Gopi	Santosh Prasad
Neelam Brahmhatt	Alkesh Patel
Neeta Maheshwari	Jatin Patel
Bimal Patel	

Swamiji

Swami Chidanand Saraswati (Muniji)

Priests

Shri Suresh Chandra Joshi

Shri Vinod Kumar Pandey

Shri Jagdish Chandra Joshi

Temple Administrator: Bharathi Ravada

Calendar Committee: Navin Kadakia,
Mahendra Shah, Madhu Verma,
Sanjay Mehta, Chetan Patel

—कभी न भूलेगा कोरोना काल —

कभी न भूलेगा कोरोना काल,
रहेगा याद ये समय विकराल।
कहेगा जग ऐसा आया था साल,
कि दुनियाँ हो गयी थी बड़ी बेहाल॥

काल ने भर लिए थे अपने गाल।
कभी न भूलेगा कोरोना काल॥१॥

आने की इसकी मिलते ही आहट,
जमाने की बढ़ गयी थी घबराहट।
जब इसने गले नाक से दी दस्तक,
देखते ही बनी बस्ती कब्जाये फेफड़े मस्तक॥

फेफड़ों से शरीर में फैलाया जाल।
कभी न भूलेगा ये कोरोना काल॥२॥

तब इसने डर का साम्राज्य रचा,
चौतरफ़ा भयंकर हाहाकार मचा।
मौत का तांडव दिया दुनियाँ को नचा,
जगह कोई जग में न जन इससे बचा॥

इसके खौफ़ से खड़े हो जाते थे बाल।
कभी न भूलेगा कोरोना काल॥३॥

महा शक्तियाँ हिल गयी थीं,
साम्राज्यों की हवा निकल गयी थी।
सरकारें सारी विकल हुई थी,
व्याकुल किंकर्तव्य विमूढ़ अकल हुई थी॥

जब देखी इसकी बढ़ाती चाल।
कभी न भूलेगा कोरोना काल॥४॥

घर पर ही सबको कैद किया,
बाहर निकलना अवैध किया।
ऑगन तक न देखा चैत गया,
फिर चैत से माघ फागुन बीत गया॥

पाबन्दियाँ थी बड़ी कराल।
कभी न भूलेगा कोरोना काल॥५॥

शत्रु था बहुत बलवान,
नज़र से ओझल अंतर्धान।
बहुमुख मायावी विषधर हरे प्रान,
रक्तबीज वायुबीज सर्वत्र फैला हैवान॥

संसार जानो था मरघट विशाल।
कभी न भूलेगा कोरोना काल॥६॥

वीरान धरा दुनिया हुई सुनसान,
धरा रहा सौंदर्य जग जैसे श्मशान।
हर ली गली सड़कों शहरों की शान,
गाँवघरनगर वीरों थी कठिन इनकी पहचान॥

चकाचौंध गयी मानो अपने नैनिहाल।
कभी न भूलेगा कोरोना काल॥७॥

बदली जग की शकल,
गयी लाखों जान।
दुनियाँ को ही निगल,
जाने की इसने रखी थी ठान॥

बेमौत मर जाने का था सबको मलाल,
कभी न भूलेगा कोरोना काल॥८॥

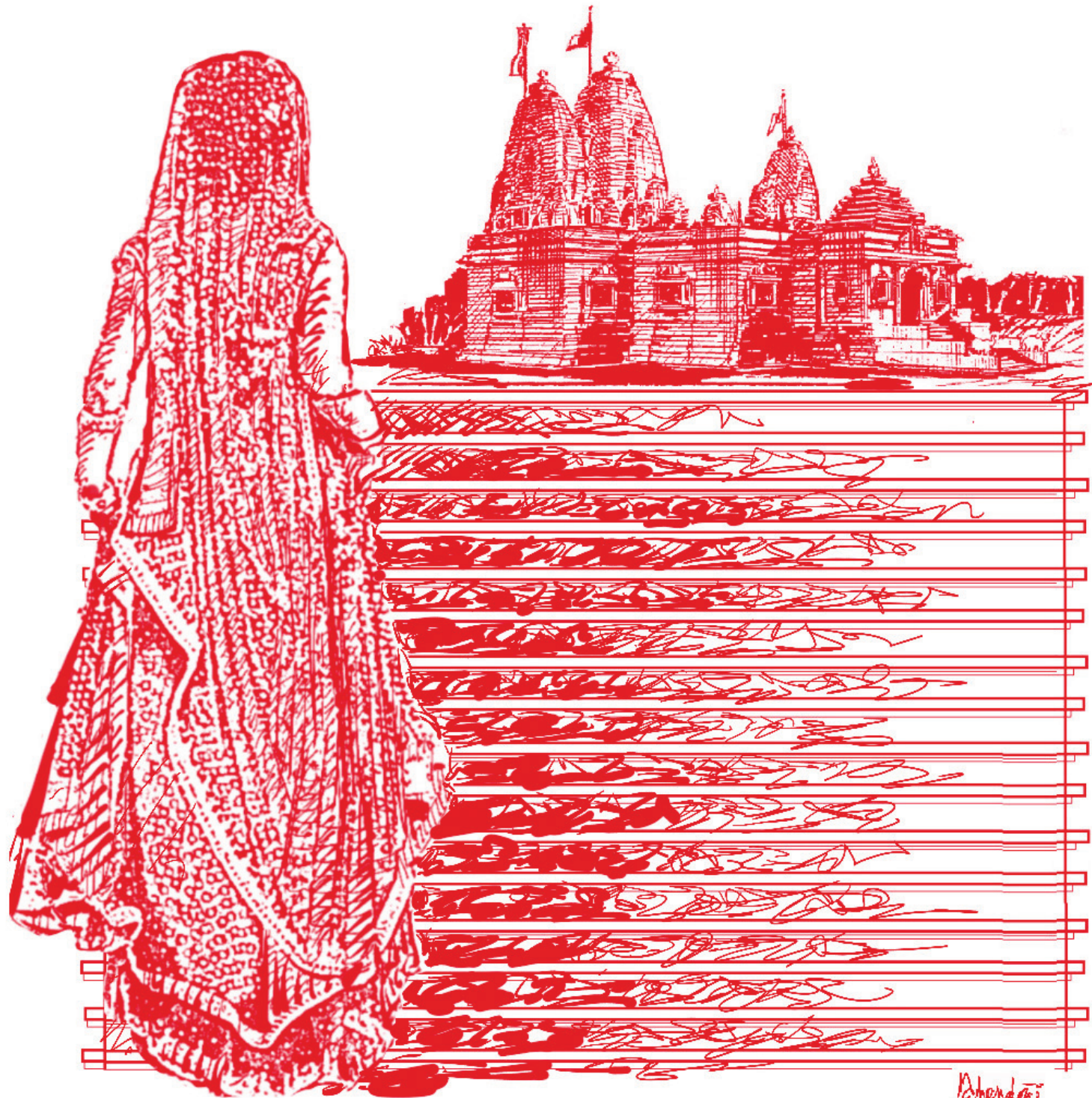
था उसका एक सहारा वो भी मंद रहा,
दरो दरबार प्रभू का बंद रहा।
मिलना उस सरकार का पाबंद रहा,
उर में देख पाता उसे वहाँ बैठा घना धुंद रहा॥

होते न देखा पहले ऐसा कमाल।
कभी न भूलेगा कोरोना काल॥९॥

किसी की न चली कोई क्या कहे,
भूखे जग ने न जाने कैसे जुल्म सहे।
नौकरी धंदे व्यतीत व्यापार जाते रहे,
मरते रहे सौ सौ दफ़ा जगदीश देखते रहे॥

धनवंतरि फिर आए बचाया जान माल।
कभी न भूलेगा कोरोना काल॥१०॥

स्वरचित,
आचार्य जगदीश जोशी।
हिन्दू जैन मंदिर।



Ashwini