

The Hindu Jain Temple

MONROEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Our Child Heroes



615 Illini Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146 U.S.A.,
Phone: (Priest) 724-325-2073, (Office Secretary) 724-325-2054
Fax: 724-733-7475 • Web: www.hindujaintemple.org

2025

Andala

Andala, also known as Godadevi, Kothai and Nachiyar. She was the only female Alvar among twelve Hindu poets of South India. She was affiliated with the Shri Vaishnav tradition of Hindu tradition. She was posthumously considered an avatar of the Bhudevi.

It is believed that she lived in the middle of the Seventh or Eighth century CE. One of the Alvar, Periyalvar is said to have found her as a baby in the Tulsi garden at the Srivilliputhur Temple, and adopted her. She was called Kodai – a garland/given by the Bhagwan. She later became known as Andal - one who rules.

Andal had intense love for Bhagwan. She grew with a constant determination to marry Bhagwan Ranganatha. She used to adorn herself daily with flower garland prepared for the Bhagwan at the Temple. After admiring her reflection and thinking of herself as his wife, she would put the garland back for her father to take to the temple and offer to the Bhagwan. One day he noticed a hair on the garland. He realized what was happening. He scolded her and prepared a new garland to offer to the Bhagwan. That night, the Bhagwan appeared in his dream and told him that He missed the scent of Goda's body hair smell. Her father realized his daughter's love of Bhagwan. From that day onward she became known as Andal, the girl who 'ruled' over the Bhagwan. It is believed that Andal was married to the Bhagwan.

Andal was a great poet. As a teenage girl she composed the poems, which are regarded as unique in the literary, philosophical, religious and artistic content. Tiruppavai and Nacciyar Tirumoli are most famous work Tiruppavai, a poem with thirty verses, expresses purest love of Bhagwan, equivalent to love of Gopis. She imagines herself a cowherd girl during the incarnation of Bhagwan Krishna. She yearns to serve him and achieve happiness for eternity.

Nacciyar Tirumoli, is a poem of 143 verses. Tirumoli means sacred sayings in Tamil poetic style and Nacciya means Goddess, so the title means - sacred saying of Goddess. This poem fully reveals intense longing for Vishnu. Utilizing classical Tamil poetic conventions and intermixing stories from Vedas and Puranas, she created imagery that is quite possibly unparalleled in Indian religious literature. Andala is one of the most extraordinary personalities in the religious history of Bharat.



JANUARY 2025

Vikrama Samvata: 2081 • Vir Samvata: 2551 • Yugabdh: 5126 • Pausha-Magha

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year Day Havan	2	3 Vinayak Chaturthi	4
5	6	7 Sunderkand	8	9 Pausha Putrada Ekadashi	10	11 Pradosha
12	13 Pausha Purnima Vrat Makar Sankranti Uttarayana Pongal, Lohri	14 Sunderkand	15	16 Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat	17	18
19 Jain Bhavna	20	21 Sunderkand	22	23	24	25 Shattila Ekadashi
26 Republic Day India Pradosha	27	28 Sunderkand Mouni Amavasya	29	30	31	

Ahilyabai



Ahilyabai Holkar was a vibrant young Hindu girl from a middle-class family who rose to become the ruling queen of Indore within the Maratha kingdom. She established Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh, as the seat of the Holkar dynasty. Born in 1725 in Chondi, Maharashtra, to Marathi Hindu shepherd parents, Ahilyabai's early life reflected her innate compassion and leadership.

From a young age, she was dedicated to serving the poor and hungry in her community and took great care of plants and animals. Her qualities caught the attention of Malhar Rao Holkar, a prominent Maratha army commander, during a local event. Impressed by her intelligence and valor, he proposed her marriage to his son, Khanderao Holkar, marking the beginning of her journey as a future queen.

Although educating girls was uncommon in her time, Ahilyabai received a comprehensive education at home. She became well-versed in Hindu spiritual texts, administration, accounting, and politics. By the age of 19, her father-in-law involved her in matters of diplomacy, finance, and the ongoing conflicts with Mughal rulers, recognizing her exceptional abilities.

Ahilyabai and Khanderao had two children: a son, Malerao, and a daughter, Muktabai. Tragically, Khanderao was killed in battle, and following his death, Ahilyabai assumed the role of ruler and Rajmata (queen mother) of the Indore-Malwa region.

As a visionary leader and proficient politician, Ahilyabai promoted social harmony and religious tolerance during her reign. She championed women's empowerment, encouraged female education, supported widow remarriage, and opposed oppressive practices such as Sati.

Under her administration, Indore flourished as a progressive city, with the establishment of industries and educational institutions. Ahilyabai also undertook the construction and renovation of Hindu temples across India, ensuring a steady supply of Ganga water for various shrines. Notably, she spearheaded the renovation of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, the Gauri Somnath Temple in Chola, and the Dashashwamedha Ghat in Banaras.

Revered as "Devi Ahilyabai," she earned immense respect during her lifetime and was venerated as a saint by her people after her death. Her legacy as a compassionate ruler, devout leader, and reformer endures in Indian history.

FEBRUARY 2025

Vikrama Samvata: 2081 • Vir Samvata: 2551 • Yugabdh: 5126 • Magha-Phalguna

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Varad Til Chaturthi
2 Havan Vasant Panchami	3 Skand Sasthi	4 Sunderkand	5	6	7	8 Jaya Ekadashi
9 Pradosha	10	11 Sunderkand Satyanarayan Purnima Vrat	12 Phalgun Sankranti Purnima	13	14	15 Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat
16 Jain Bhavna	17	18 Sunderkand	19	20	21	22
23 Vijaya Ekadashi	24	25 Maha Shivratri Sunderkand Pradosh	26	27 Phalgun Amavasya	28	

Ashtavakra



Ashtavakra was born with eight deformities in his body. He was born, in a town called Videha, present day Janakpur, Nepal. He was named Ashtavakra--Ashta means Eight and Vakra means a curve or a deformity.

While Ashtavakra's mother Sujata was pregnant, his father Kahoda would recite Vedas to her. The unborn genius Ashtavakra, even in her mother's womb, learnt the holy texts.

His father, Kahoda, once pressed by poverty, went to King Janaka's court to beg for money.

He was asked to take part in a debate and win the money, but he lost the debate and was asked to serve as the court's philosopher. He was not allowed to return to his home, and nobody knew about his whereabouts. Even Ashtavakra's mother kept this secret from him.

Ashtavakra grew up to be a brilliant student, but in the school, he was teased by fellow students by saying "you have no father." One day he came home and asked his mother about his father. She told him that his father had gone to Janak's court and had never returned.

Curious Ashtavakra approached Janak's palace where the court was in progress. As he was entering the court, all the elite pundits laughed at his deformed body. Ashtavakra also laughed. Perplexed, Janaka asked Ashtavakra, "They are laughing at your abnormal body, but what are you laughing at?" Ashtavakra said, "I am laughing at the thought that the honorable pundits and scholars in this court, are no better than cobblers since they are looking at me as the skin/body (of course deformed), whereas I see myself (and them) as one Atma. They are paying attention to only the body. He pointed out that the crookedness of the physical body has no effect on Atma." The king was impressed and allowed him to debate Vandin, the head courtier, even though he was only a ten-year-old child. Ashtavakra defeated Vandin in the debate and got the release of

his father. His father was incredibly pleased with his son.

The impressed King Janak became a disciple of Ashtavakra. He requested Ashtavakra to impart him the wisdom. The dialogue between Ashtavakra and King Janaka is known as Ashtavakra Gita, also called Ashtavakra Samhita. It is compatible with the dialogue of Bhagvad Gita.

Ashtavakra Gita is a short treatise of Advaita darshan. Some of the valuable lessons from Ashtavakra Gita are:

- Self-Realization transcends the physical body.
- Detachment leads to Moksh.
- Mind is both friend and enemy.
- Live in the present moment, be happy.
- Seek knowledge not rituals.

MARCH 2025

Vikrama Samvata: 2081 • Vir Samvata: 2551 • Yugabdh: 5126 • Phalguna-Chaitra

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Havan	3	4 Sunderkand	5	6 Holastak Begins	7	8
9 Amalki Ekadashi	10	11 Sunderkand Pradosha	12	13 Phalguna Purnima Vrat Holika Dahan Holastak Ends Jain Chaumasi Chaudas	14 Holi	15 Temple Holi Celebration
16 Jain Bhavna	17 Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat	18 Sunderkand	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Sunderkand Paapmochani Ekadashi	26 Pradosha	27	28 Chaitra Amavasya	29 Chaitra Navratri Navratri Day 1
30	31 Navratri Day 3					

Prahlad



Prahlad was born to King Hiranyakashipu, a powerful asura (demon) king, who desired immortality and sought to be worshipped as a Bhagwan. After performing bhakti and severe penance, Hiranyakashipu was granted a boon by Brahmaji that he could not be killed by a man or a beast, neither indoors nor outdoors, neither during the day nor night, nor by any weapon. Empowered by this boon, Hiranyakashipu became arrogant and cruel, demanding that everyone in his kingdom worship him instead of the Bhagwan.

Hiranyakashipu and his wife Kayadhu had four sons named Samhlada, Halada, Anuhlada and Prahlad. From the early childhood days Prahlad was an embodiment of spiritual virtues. He was a bhakta (devotees) of Bhagwan Vishnu. Realizing that his son Prahlad is a devotee of Bhagwan Vishnu, Hiranyakashipu started punishing him. He ordered his servants to take Prahlad to Gurukul (school) and instructed the teachers to make sure Prahlad does not remain a bhakta of Vishnu. In the Gurukul, one day the teacher questioned Prahlad, "Dear Prahlad, how did you acquire this Adhyatmic Gyan (spiritual knowledge) at this early age?" Prahlad replied, "When Bhagwan is pleased, one gets purified intellect needed for spiritual will and is attracted by Bhagwan Vishnu. This is how spirituality flows through me."

One day Hiranyakashipu called Prahlad and demanded that Prahlad show him where Vishnu was, asking if he was present in a pillar. When Prahlad responded that Bhagwan Vishnu was omnipresent and is in the pillar too, Hiranyakashipu struck the pillar hard with his mace. To his surprise, Bhagwan Vishnu appeared in his Narasimha avatar – a form that was half-man, half-lion. Narasimha, neither man nor beast, killed Hiranyakashipu at twilight (neither day nor night), at the threshold of his palace (neither indoors nor outdoors), using his claws (neither a weapon nor bare hands), thus not violating the conditions of Brahma's boon that Hiranyakashipu earned earlier in his life.

Pleased with Prahlad's devotion, Bhagwan said, "You can ask for anything you desire". Prahlad choked in emotion said, "1. No material desires shall grow in my mind and 2. May my deceased father be purified of jealousy and anger."

Later, Prahlad was installed on the throne and ruled for a long time as a benevolent king.

“कामानां हृद्यसंरोहं भवतस्तु वृणे वरम्” - SB 7.10.7

No material desires shall grow in my mind.

APRIL 2025

Vikrama Samvata:2082 • Vir Samvata: 2551 • Yugabdh: 5127 • Chaitra-Vaisakha

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Navratri Day 4 Sunderkand Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat	2 Navratri Day 5	3 Navratri Day 6	4 Navratri Day 7 Jain Ayambil Oli Begins	5 Navratri Day 8 Ram Navami Durga Ashtami
6 Havan Navratri Day 9 Mata Ki Chowki	7	8 Kamada Ekadashi Sunderkand	9 Pradosh	10 Mahavir Janma Kalyanak	11 Chaitra Purnima Vrat	12 Hanuman Jayanti Chaitra Purnima Jain Ayambil Oli Ends
13 Baisakh Sankranti	14	15 Sunderkand	16 Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat	17	18	19
20 Jain Bhavna	21	22 Sunderkand	23 Varuthini Ekadashi	24	25 Pradosh	26
27 Baisakh Amavasya	28	29 Sunderkand Akshay Tritiya ParashuRam Jayanti	30 Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat			

Pundalika

The city of Pandharpur in southern Maharashtra, in peninsular India, has the famous temple of Vithoba, a form of Krishna.

The shrine's origin is related to one Pundalika who lived with his wife and old parents. He was very devoted to his parents. Far away in the city of Dwaraka, Krishna heard about the beautiful transformation of Pundalika and He decided to visit him. His wife Rukmini asked Krishna, "Why do you want to visit Pundalik?" Krishna replied, "Because by serving his parents, he has been worshipping Me all the time."

When Krishna reached Pundalika's home, the latter was absorbed in massaging his father's feet and therefore did not pay attention to the visitor. But when he noticed the divine light emitting from the body of Krishna, he turned around and said, "Bhagwan! I am serving my parents right now and cannot leave the feet of my father unattended. But I am throwing this brick to you, kindly use this as a stool, till I am finished with my father, and then I will come and attend to you. Krishna humbly stood on the brick, waiting patiently for Pundalika, with His hands on his waist, his arms akimbo.

When Pundalika's father went to sleep, Pundalika went to the door to welcome Krishna. The Bhagwan was so pleased with Pundalika's bhakti for his parents, that he asked Pundalika to request a boon from Him. Pundalika said that he had just one request, "Bhagwan, please stay with me forever on this brick." Krishna complied and transformed Himself into the Mūrti of 'Vitthala' ('Vit' = brick; 'sthala' = location, station). Pundalika himself was declared a saint after some time.

Over his samādhi in a temple on the Bhima River, a Shivalinga was erected. Even today, pilgrims first visit the Shiva temple before offering worship at the Vitthala temple in Pandharpur. This story shows how Pundalika earned the blessings of Bhagwan by doing his duty towards his parents.



MAY 2025

Vikrama Samvata: 2082 • Vir Samvata: 2551 • Yugabdh: 5127 • Vaisakha-Jyeshtha

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Havan Temple Sthapna Day	5	6 Sunderkand	7 Mohini Ekadashi	8	9 Pradosh	10
11 Vaishakha Purnima Vrat Mother's Day	12 Buddh Purnima	13 Sunderkand	14 Jyesth Sankranti	15 Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat	16	17
18 Jain 18 Abhishek - Sthapana Anniversary Celebration Jain Bhavna	19	20 Sunderkand	21	22	23 Apara Ekadashi	24 Pradosh
25	26 Vat Savitri Vrat Amavasya Memorial Day	27 Sunderkand	28	29 Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat	30	31

Dhruva

Dhruva literally means unshakable, immovable, or fixed. Dhruva was born to a king named Uttanapada and his wife Suniti. The king had another wife named Suruchi and a son Uttama.

Once when Dhruva was five years old, he saw Uttama sitting on his father's lap at the King's throne. Dhruva also wanted to sit on his father's lap, but his stepmother scolded him and said that if you want to sit in the lap, go and pray to the Bhagwan to be born as my son.

After being rebuked by his step-mother, Dhruv proceeded to leave the kingdom and started his journey through the forest. On his way, he met Narad Muni and asked him for spiritual guidance. Narad Muni, looking at the boy's age, first advised him to return home. However, Dhruv insisted on spiritual guidance. Seeing the determination in Dhruva's response, he advised him on how to do the penance and tapas. He gave him a mantra - Om Namoh Bhagwati Vasudevay! to chant.

Dhruva did penance and tapas for six months. As the months passed by, first he lived on fruits, then on water and then just on air. Eventually, he even gave up breathing and just stood on one foot while chanting. His concentration created such powerful vibrations in the universe that the inhabitants on earth and heaven were unable to breathe. Bhagwan Narayan was incredibly pleased and appeared in front of his devotee. Dhruva beheld the divine vision. He wanted to praise the Bhagwan; however, he had lost his speech. Narayan touched his cheek with the holy conch and blessed him with divine knowledge. Dhruva delivered a prayer to the Bhagwan. Narayan asked him to return to his father. His father greeted him and made him the king. Dhruva ruled for many years and later got a permanent place in heaven as a Pole Star-Dhruva Tara, as Bhagwan Narayana had promised him, because he had remained firm and stood for six months during the austerities.

Dhruva represents a child with determination and resolve and devotion to the Bhagwan. Upon seeing Him, instead of asking for material wealth, he had asked for the Love of Bhagwan. He knew the real treasure in life is remembering Bhagwan all the time.



JUNE 2025

Vikrama Samvata: 2082 • Vir Samvata: 2551 • Yugabdh: 5127 • Jyeshtha-Ashadha

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Havan	2	3 Sunderkand	4	5	6 Nirjala Ekadashi	7
8 Pradosh	9	10 Sunderkand Vat Savitri Vrat Jyeshtha Purnima Vrat	11	12	13	14 Ashad Sankranti Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat
15 Father's Day Jain Bhavna	16	17 Sunderkand	18	19	20	21 Yogani Ekadashi
22 Pradosh	23	24 Sunderkand	25 Ashadhi Amavasya	26 Jagannath Rathayatra	27	28
29	30 Skand Sasthi					

Abhimanyu

Abhimanyu was a matchless warrior, whose bravery and extraordinary valor at the young age of sixteen became legendary in the great Mahabharata. As the son of the great Kuru warrior Arjun and Subhadra, the sister of Shri Krishna and Balaram, he inherited both the valor of Indraprastha and the wisdom of Dwaraka.

While still in his mother's womb, he overheard his father Arjun explaining the intricate battle formation known as the Chakravyuh—a complex maze of seven concentric circular formations. However, before Arjun could describe the method of exiting the formation, Subhadra fell asleep, leaving the unborn Abhimanyu with only partial knowledge of this powerful strategy. This incomplete knowledge would later play a pivotal role in his fate on the battlefield.

On the tenth day of the Mahabharat war the great Bheeshma was completely disabled and Dronacharya became the commander-in-chief. On the thirteenth day, Kaurava army was organized in a Chakravyuh formation. Duryodhana was placed at the center. Drona placed formidable warriors at the entrance of each circle. When Yudhisthir saw the formation, he was in a total despair. Nobody among them knew how to break the Chakravyuh except Arjun and Abhimanyu. Since Arjun was preoccupied in another battle far away, Yudhisthir reluctantly asked his sixteen-year-old nephew to help. The plan was to follow him once he had penetrated the opening. Abhimanyu hastily started his battle of life. He reached the center, however Jayadratha at the first entrance only allowed him and no one else to enter. Abhimanyu was all alone in front of Kaurava warriors. A terrible battle resulted. Abhimanyu, fighting all alone valiantly, smashed and destroyed hundreds of arrows shot at him.

However, Abhimanyu left without arms, was killed unfairly and mercilessly by a group of Kaurava warriors. At one point, they destroyed his chariot and he had to fight with a broken wheel.

When Arjun heard of Abhimanyu's death, he was proud of his young son who had fearlessly fought in the righteous war and sacrificed his life at the altar of duty. He was a supreme hero.

Later Arjun took the revenge of Abhimanyu's unfair death by killing Jayadratha.

Abhimanyu was married to Uttara. Later, his son Parikshit succeeded him to be the ruler of Hastinapur.

So well admired was Abhimanyu that in 1974, government of India established a NAVAL base in the name of Abhimanyu.



JULY 2025

Vikrama Samvata: 2082 • Vir Samvata: 2551 • Yugabdh: 5127 • Ashadha-Shravana

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Sunderkand	2	3	4 Independence Day USA	5
6 Havan Gauri Vrat Begins Devshayani Ekadashi	7 Pradosha	8 Sunderkand	9 Ashadha Purnima Vrat Jain Chaumasi Chaudas	10 Garu Purnima Gauri Vrat Ends	11	12
13 Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat	14 Shravan Som Begins	15 Sunderkand	16 Shravan Sankranti	17	18	19
20 Kamika Ekadashi Jain Bhavna	21 Pradosha	22 Sunderkand Shravan Shivratri	23	24 Hariyali Amavasya	25	26
27 Hariyali Teej	28	29 Sunderkand	30	31		

Shravan Kumar

Long ago, there was a boy named Shravan Kumar. He loved his parents, who were blind, as a devoted son. He took great care of them by providing for their every need and fulfilling every wish.

One day his parents expressed their wish to go on a pilgrimage to holy places. Young Shavan Kumar pondered as to how he could accomplish this. The parents were blind and too old to walk. They did not have any money to arrange a bullock cart. Intelligent Shravan Kumar thought of a great scheme. He made a device like a large weighing balance with two baskets on either end of a sturdy bar. His parents could sit in the baskets, and he could carry the bar in the middle balancing them. His parents were incredibly pleased. He started the journey towards Kashi. He was able to feed himself and his parents with fruits and vegetables and quench the thirst with water from streams and rivers.

One day, they were going through a forest near Ayodhya. It had been a long and grueling day. His parents asked him for water. He placed them under the tree and went to the nearby Saryu River, to fetch water in a pot. Coincidentally, Dasharath the king of Ayodhya was in the area hunting for deer. He was sitting on a tree spotting his prey.

While Shravan Kumar was filling water in the pot, the king heard a gurgling sound. The king, thinking that there was a deer, shot the arrow which hit Shravan Kumar in the heart. Dashrath realized his mistake and ran towards Shravan Kumar. Shravan Kumar was dying. He quickly told the king that his blind, thirsty parents were sitting under the tree, and they needed water and that the king should take water to them.

Even though Shravan Kumar was in great pain, he only thought of his blind parents who were thirsty for water. He said to King Dasharath – “I had come to fetch some water for my blind parents, but I have not been able to fulfill their wish. I am not angry with you for killing me, because it was just my bad luck, but please do take this pot of water to them because they are thirsty and are waiting for me to bring



them some water.” Immediately after speaking these words, Shravan Kumar breathed his last.

Shravan was just a little boy, who was extremely devoted to his parents. He was also brilliant in planning a way to take his parents on a pilgrimage and was ready to sacrifice his life for them at any moment. Even when he was dying, he thought of nothing else but getting water for his thirsty parents. Since then, Hindus remember and revere Shravan Kumar, even today, as an ideal son and hope that their children are also as devoted to their parents as Shravan Kumar was to his.

AUGUST 2025

Vikrama Samvata: 2082 • Vir Samvata: 2551 • Yugabdh: 5127 • Shravana-Bhadrapada

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Havan	4 Pavitra Ekadashi Shravan Som Ends	5 Sunderkand	6 Pradosha	7	8 Shravana Purnima Vrat Raksha Bandhan	9
10	11	12 Sunderkand Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat	13	14 Chandan Sasthi	15 Shri Krishna Janmashtami Independence Day India	16 Bhadrapad Sankranti
17 Jain Bhavna	18 Aja Ekadashi	19 Sunderkand	20 Pradosha Paryushan Begins	21	22 Amavasya	23
24	25 Haritalika Teej	26 Sunderkand Ganesh Chaturthi	27 Paryushan Ends, Samvatsari	28 Das Laxana Begins	29	30 Ganesh Chaturthi Celebration
31						

Nachiketa the Child Rishi



Nachiketa was a very inquisitive little boy. One day, his father performed a grand yajna, in which he invited several priests and gifted cows and bulls to them. Nachiketa was not happy to note that the animals being donated by his father, were old and useless. He thought, "My father will gift me to one of these priests. At least, the priest who receives me will not criticize my father for giving a useless gift." He went to his father and said, "Father, who will you give me as a gift to?" The father got terribly angry and said, "I will gift you to Yama, the Devata of Death." And the words came true. Nachiketa died immediately and his ātman arrived at the doorstep of the palace of Yama.

Unfortunately, Yama was away then. Nachiketa waited for three days, till Yama finally arrived. Seeing the little boy, hungry and thirsty, Yama felt sorry and offered three wishes to Nachiketa.

As a first boon, Nachiketa asked for the well-being of his father - free of anger and anxiety and with a calm mind, peacefulness, happiness, and his return to the mortal world alive.

As a second boon, he asked about the truth about yagna that leads one to live free from fear of death or old age, bondage of hunger and sorrow.

As the third boon, Nachiketa asked Yama about what happens to ātman after the death, and the knowledge that can lead one to a great life.

Yama explained to Nachiketa the following in response to third boon.

- Essence of all sentient beings is Brahman or pure consciousness.
- We are not body, mind, or intellect.
- Om is the symbol of both sagun, sakar as well as nirgun nirakar Brahman.
- We are wired to look outward for happiness, even though happiness is within, and therefore we should become introverted.
- The human body is like a chariot, roads are the sense objects, horses are senses, reins are mind, and intellect is the charioteer. We need to learn to control our senses through our intellect to live a meaningful life.

After becoming enlightened, Nachiketa returned to the mortal world with his father and his family.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Vikrama Samvata: 2082 • Vir Samvata 2551: • Yugabdh: 5127 • Bhadrapada-Ashwin

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day	2 Sunderkand	3 Padma Ekadashi	4 Pradosha	5	6 Ganesh Visarjan Anant Chaturdash Bhadrapada Purnima Vrat Das Laxana Ends
7 Bhadrapada Purnima Shraddha	8 Pratipada Shraddha Begins	9 Sunderkand	10 Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat	11	12	13
14	15	16 Sunderkand Indira Ekadashi Ashvin Sankranti	17	18 Pradosha	19	20
21 Last Shraddha Sarva Pitru Amavasya Jain Bhavna Samuhik Tarpan	22 Sharad Navratri Begins Navratri Day 1	23 Sunderkand Navratri Day 2	24 Navratri Day 3	25 Navratri Day 4	26 Navratri Day 5 Temple Garba	27 Navratri Day 6
28 Navratri Day 7 Mata Ki Chowki Pradosha	29 Navratri Day 8 Shri Durga Ashtami Jain Ayambil Oli Begins	30 Navratri Day 9 Shri Mahanavami Sunderkand				

Adi Shankaracharya



Shankaracharya was a prodigious child and is believed to be a partial avatar of Bhagwan Shiva, who descended to spread the teachings of ancient Hindu spiritual texts across Bharat Varsha. He was born in 788 CE in the small town of Kalady in Kerala, to his pious and devout parents, Shivaguru and Aryamba. They named him Shankara, meaning "Giver of Prosperity."

From an early age, Shankara was drawn to *sannyasa* (monkhood), but his mother initially did not approve. One day, at the age of eight, while at the river with his mother, a crocodile suddenly caught his

foot. Shankara told his mother, "If you allow me to take *sannyasa*, the crocodile will release me." Reluctantly, she consented, and as he had said, his foot was freed. Shankara formally became a *sannyasi* at the age of twelve.

Remarkably gifted, Shankara was fluent in Sanskrit by the age of two, could recite the Vedas by four, and had mastered all major spiritual texts by age sixteen. His life was brief yet impactful; he passed away at thirty-two, in 820 CE, in Kedarnath, now in Uttarakhand.

In a short span of thirty-two years Shankara accomplished enormously for Bharat Varsha and Sanatan Dharma. He studied Vedas, Upanishads, and Brahma sutra and Gaudapada Karika from his guru Govind Bhagvadpada. Later he wrote commentaries on Brahma sutras, ten Upanishads and Bhagvad Gita. He composed Dakshinamurti Stotra, Vivek Chudamani, Aporax Anubhuti, Atmabodh, Tattvabodh, Nirvana Shatakam, Bahjgovindam and many more. He is known as Adiguru. He traveled throughout India to establish four major monastic centers, or matha (also called mutts), in different regions of India to promote and preserve the teachings of Veda/Vedanta. These matha are as follows: Kalika Mutt at Dwaraka, Gujarat (west); Sharada Mutt at Sringeri, Karnataka (south); Govardhan Mutt at Puri, Odisha (east); Jyotir Mutt near Badrinath, Himalaya (north). Even today these centers stand as symbols of Hindu identity and Hindu unity. The heads of Mathas are our primary Dharma gurus.

When he learned that his mother was taking her last breath, Shankaracharya walked thousands of miles back to be with her at the dying bed.

In a short span of his life, he re-established the Vedic Dharma and advocated Advaita Vedanta and restored it to its pristine glory.

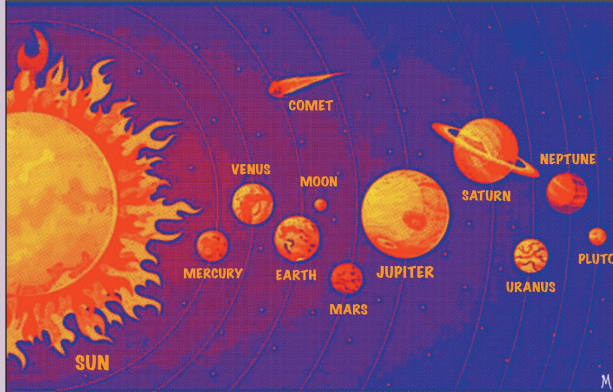
In the words of Swami Vivekanand, "In Shankaracharya, we saw tremendous intellectual power throwing the scorching light of reason in everything."

OCTOBER 2025

Vikrama Samvata: 2082 • Vir Samvata: 2551 • Yugabdh: 5127 • Ashwin-Kartika

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Vijayadashami	2	3 Papankusha Ekadashi	4 Pradosha
5 Havan Ravan Dahan Celebration	6 Ashwina Purnima Vrat Sharad Purnima	7 Sunderkand Jain Ayambil Oli Ends	8	9 Karwa Chauth	10	11
12	13 Ahoi Ashatami	14 Sunderkand	15	16 Kartik Sankranti Rama Ekadashi	17	18 Pradosha Dhan Teras
19 Narak Chaudas Jain Bhavna	20 Diwali Maha Lakshmi Pooja Kartika Amavasya	21 Sunderkand Gowardhan Pooja Annakut Mahavir Nirvana Kalyanak	22 Bhai Dooj Gujarati New Year Begins	23	24	25 Temple Diwali Dinner
26 Laabh Panchami Jain Gyan Pancham	27 Chhath Puja	28 Sunderkand	29	30 Akshay Navami	31	

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
Brahaspatis Vaar	Brahaspatis = 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-Chaturchi	4	Krishna-Chaturchi	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-Chaturch-dashi	14	Krishna-Chaturch-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

Child heroes of Sanatana Dharma have left an indelible mark on Bharat's history through their courage, devotion, and determination. Despite their young age, they displayed extraordinary resilience and selflessness, often standing unwaveringly for Dharma even in the face of immense challenges. Many played pivotal roles in social, spiritual, and cultural movements, inspiring others with their valor and contributions. Their stories remind us that age is no barrier; every child has the potential to uphold Sanatan values and contribute meaningfully to society.

Compilation: Navin Kadakia, Sanjay Mehta, Mahendra Shah, Ram Bajaj

NOVEMBER 2025

Vikrama Samvata: 2082 • Vir Samvata: 2552 • Yugabdh: 5127 • Kartika-Margshirsh

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Devuthni Ekadashi
2 Havan Tulsi Vivah Pradosh	3 Vaikunth Chaudas	4 Sunderkand Kartika Purnima Vrat Dev Deepavali Jain Chaumasi Chaudas	5 Kartika Purnima Guru Nanak Jayanti	6	7 Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat	8
9	10	11 Sunderkand	12	13	14	15 Margshirsh Sankranti Utpanna Ekadashi
16 Jain Bhavna	17 Pradosha	18 Sunderkand	19 Margashirsha Amavasya	20	21	22
23	24	25 Sunderkand	26 Champa Sasthi	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30 Mokshada Ekadashi Gita Jayanti						

The Hindu Jain Temple

Dear Temple Devotees,

Namaste and Happy New Year.

My family and I migrated to the warm and welcoming city of Pittsburgh in 1997 and since called it home. We fell in love with the close knit community and endless opportunities for community service. Whether with Gujarati Samaj, Ahinsa, Hindu Jain Temple, or other organizations, my family and I have always found joy in working for the betterment of the community. In the past, my family and I have been volunteering and helping out at the Hindu Jain Temple, regardless of position. I feel blessed and fortunate to get this opportunity to serve our beautiful Hindu Jain Temple as President. This has given me encouragement and energy to work even harder each day for our Temple and community. My goal is to foster a sense of selfless community service in our coming generations and ensure they uphold the rich legacy of our beloved temple.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year. I pray to God that the year 2025 will continue to bring good health, peace, and prosperity to our lives. The year 2024 was very special for all of us as it was **the 40th Anniversary year of our Temple**. We had a memorable celebration in the presence of Muni Ji and Sadhavi Ji with your support as always.

I am very thankful to our Temple devotees for their never-ending support to make 2024 another successful year. We celebrated various festivals and events this past year with an exceptional turnout. All celebrations whether in person or online were greatly attended and appreciated by all the devotees. Hindu Jain Temple is a one-of-a-kind temple that celebrates many festivals including Krishna Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Mahavir Jayanti, Paryushan Purva, Mata Ki Chowki, Navratri Raas-Garba, and Ravan Dahan. Our Sthapana Day event, Diwali Laxmi Pooja, ad Annakut were also attended by hundreds of devotees. Along with all the spiritual events, our Grand Diwali Dinner was very planned and thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees.

Under the various circumstances, the Executive Committee worked tirelessly to ensure that each and every event was best celebrated through their impeccable planing and hard work. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all my EC officers and members for their dedicated

hard work. The success of all the events in 2024 would not be possible without their contributions.

I also want to congratulate all the recipients of the 2024 Temple awards. A special mention to Shri Hiroobhai Patel and Dr. Subhash Ahuja who were honored with **"Lifetime Achievement Award"** for their outstanding leadership, contribution, and dedicated services to the Temple. Their selfless work over the past many years is an inspiration to all those who follow.

For 2025, we have a clear vision for our Temple development. In 2024, the interior remodeling project was completed. This project has enhanced the beauty of our long-standing, beloved temple while upholding our traditions. The Temple management is fully committed to complete some pending tasks while keeping the Temple's best interests at heart. This year we ensure to unite our community and pledge to work together to ensure the Hindu Jain Temple stands true to its rich culture, heritage, and legacy.

We are committed to providing the best priest services to our devotees at their homes as well as at the Temple. Some changes have been made for priest services to ensure the best possible services, and we appreciate your acceptance of those changes. The online request submission for priest services and community hall booking was started in 2024. Please continue to use this submission method as we work to streamline all the temple operations. Accountability and transparency are our top priority.

While 2024 was a year of growth and learning for all, we hope 2025 is filled with positivity and we hold true to the mission of bringing the entire community together as one. We look forward to your continued support and encouragement. Your positive and constructive suggestions are always welcome.

Yours truly,
Priyesh Shah
President, Hindu Jain Temple

DECEMBER 2025

Vikrama Samvata: 2082 • Vir Samvata: 2552 • Yugabdh: 5127 • Margshirsh-Pausha

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Jain Maun Ekadashi (Agiyaras)	2 Sunderkand Pradosha	3	4 Margashirsha Purnima Vrat	5	6
7 Havan Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat	8	9 Sunderkand	10	11	12	13
14	15 Safala Ekadashi Paush Sankranti	16 Sunderkand Pradosha	17	18	19 Pausha Amavasya	20
21 Jain Bhavna	22	23 Sunderkand	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Sunderkand Putrada (Vaikunth) Ekadashi	31 Pradosha			



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: Nick Patel

Vice Chairperson: Sarita Singh

Secretary: Sunil Deoras

Past Chairperson: Shubha Mullick

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Priyesh Shah

Vice President: Narendra Lad

Secretary: Chetan Patel

Treasurer: Amit Ghosh

Past Presidents: Sumedha Nagpal,
Madhu Verma, Chetan Patel

EC Members

Bimal Patel

Mukesh Italia

Alkesh Patel

Pranav Patel

Bharati Shah

Shailendra Varshney

Jatin Patel

Satish Shukla

Manoj Kumar Patel

Sushil Shinde

Rakesh Dhaka

Ramaben Patel

Swamiji

Swami Chidanand Saraswati (Muniji)

Priests

Shri Suresh Chandra Joshi

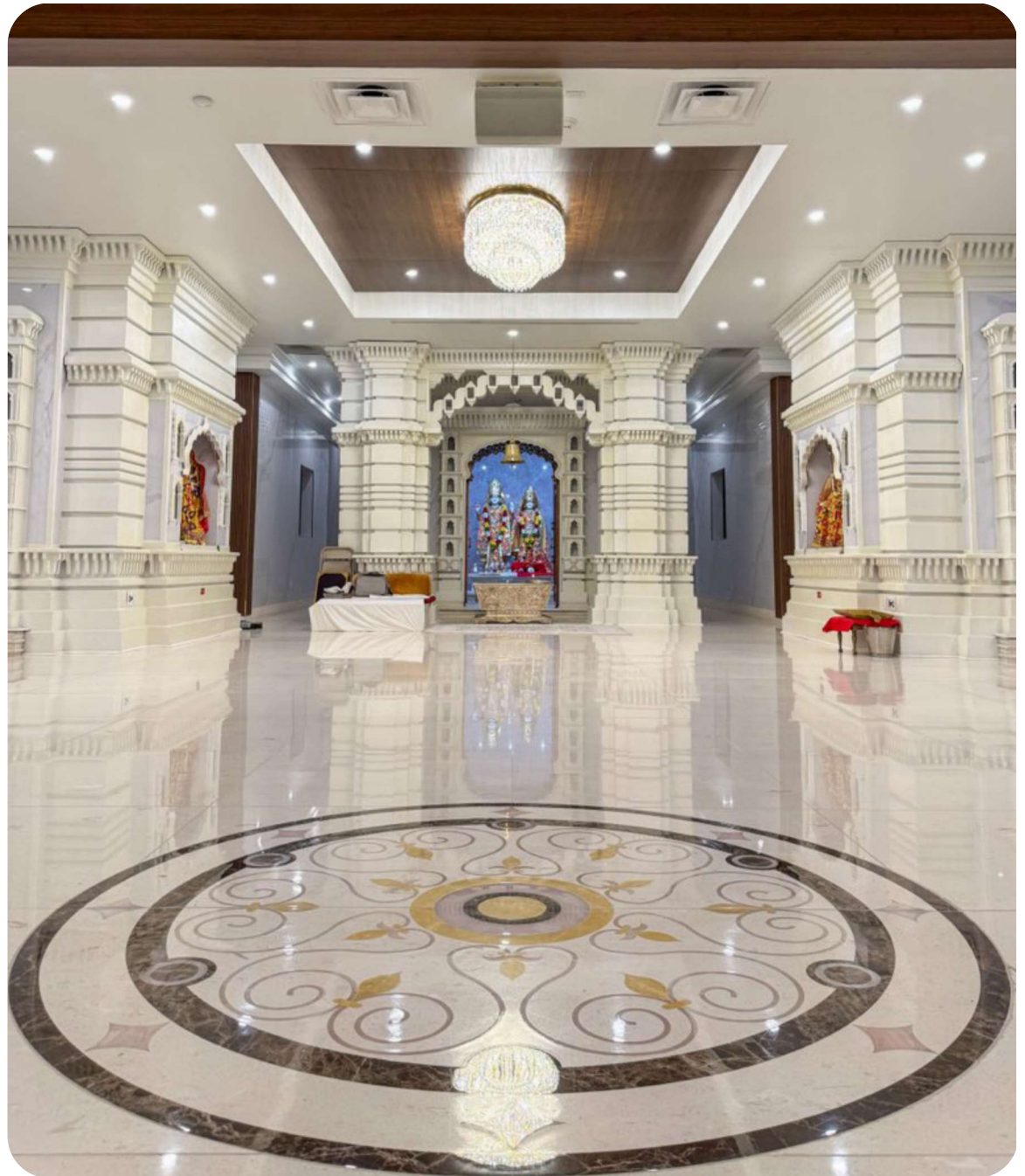
Shri Vinod Kumar Pandey

Shri Jagdish Chandra Joshi

Temple Administrator: Bharathi Ravada

Temple Accountant: Ramani Yedla

Calendar Committee: Navin Kadakia,
Mahendra Shah, Sanjay Mehta, Chetan Patel,
Priyesh Shah, Himanshu Doshi,
Sureshchandra Joshi





Mahendra