



United Hindu Temple



<https://unitedhindutemple.com/>

(Non-Profit 501© Organization), Tax I.D. EIN 93-3828321

13619 Ramona Parkway, Baldwin Park, CA 91706

Zelle 626-756-6758 or 626-746-7881, check payable to "United Hindu Temple, Inc."



Namaste and Warm Greetings!

"Welcome to this month's edition of the United Hindu Temple Newsletter. We are delighted to connect with you as we continue our shared journey of devotion, learning, and community. At United Hindu Temple, we remain committed to celebrating the rich traditions of Sanatana Dharma, fostering togetherness, and nurturing spiritual growth for devotees of all ages. Through this newsletter, we aim to keep you informed about upcoming festivals, temple activities, cultural events, volunteer opportunities, and community initiatives. We warmly invite you and your family to participate in our temple's events and experience the joy of worship, service, and community bonding. May the blessings of the divine guide and uplift you always."



With heartfelt regards,
United Hindu Temple



PRAYER CORNER – Sri Seeta Rama Prarthana



Mangal Bhavan Amangal Haari Dravahu Sudasrath Ajir Bihari

Meaning: He who is the abode of happiness and prosperity and who removes all misery and unhappiness, he who used to dwell in Dasrath's (Lord Ram's father) front yard (ajir), Please let your heart melt for me and show me mercy!

FEBRUARY 2026 FESTIVALS and EVENTS

Mar 2, Monday 5 PM	Samuhik Satyanarayan Pooja
Mar 7, Saturday	Rang Panchami/Holi
Mar 19, Thursday	Ugadi
Mar 26, Thursday	Sri Ram Navami

Monthly Standard Events

Every Poornima 6:30 PM	Satyanarayan Katha & Pooja
Every Chaturthi 6:30 PM	Sankatahara Chaturthi Pooja & Aarti
Every 1st Saturday 8:30 AM	Balaji Abhishekam
Every 2nd & 4th Saturday 6:00 PM	Navagraha Santi Havan & Pooja

Weekly Standard Events

Every Monday 6:30 PM	Rudrabhishekam & Aarti
Every Tuesday 6:30 PM	Hanuman Abhishekam
Every Thursday 7:00 PM	Shirdi Sai Abhishekam & Aarti
Every Friday 7:00 PM	Ganesh Abhishekam & Aarti

Daily Aarti – Morning 11:00 AM - Evening 7:00 PM

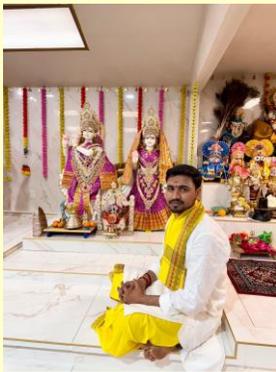
ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we conclude the month of February with festive gatherings filled with joy, splendor, devotion and spiritual awakening, we move into March welcoming spring arrivals and new beginnings.

🌸 Highlights & Community Notes 🌸

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our devotees and volunteers for their continued support, commitment, and seva. Maha Shivratri would not have been the same without your 1,000+ handmade Shiv Lingas.

- ❖ Thank you to all the families who joined us in celebrating Samuhika Satyanarayana Pooja, Maha Shivratri, and Mata Ki Chowki. These celebrations included Sahasra Lingarchana, Mahanayasa Rudrabhishekam, five prahar Linga Abhishekam, and bhajans by Mr. Shabari Giresh and his group.
- ❖ We warmly welcome the newest member of our Mandir community, our new full-time priest, Pandit Shubham Shukla Ji, who will be serving devotees alongside our longtime priest, Pandit Santhosh Ji. Please take a moment to meet and greet him during your next temple visit.



Shukla Ji comes from the sacred city of Kashi (Varanasi), Uttar Pradesh, India, where he was born into a traditional family with a long lineage of Vedic learning and priestly service. From an early age, he was deeply immersed in the study and practice of Sanatan Dharma. He received formal training at Shri Rawatpura Ashram, where he completed his studies in Yajurveda, Karmakand, and Vedic astrology, learning to perform rituals according to authentic scriptural traditions.

Together, Santhosh Ji and Shukla Ji will be performing daily poojas, abhishekams, temple rituals, the sixteen Sanskars, and other special ceremonies as required.

- ❖ We are pleased to share that our first Temple Newsletter has been successfully launched and is now being circulated through our WhatsApp group and the temple website.
- ❖ Our Mobile Temple App has also been launched and is actively being used by our community.
- ❖ The Kamadhenu Project has been introduced to the temple community and is receiving a very positive response. We encourage everyone to use this platform to share your challenges and seek support from our temple community. You can access the form from this newsletter.

🌸 Looking Ahead 🌸

In March, we look forward to upcoming festivals and special celebrations, including:

- ❖ Weekly and monthly poojas
- ❖ **Holi and Holika Dahan** - details to follow

🔔 Gentle Reminders 🔔

- ❖ Please confirm pooja and seva sponsorships in advance.
- ❖ Devotees are kindly requested to follow temple guidelines and adhere to temple timings.

PAST MONTH CELEBRATIONS







SIGNIFICANCE OF HOLI



“OM HOLIKAAYAI NAMAH”

Holi is most vibrant festivals which is celebrated with colors, music, dance, sweets, and a beautiful sense of togetherness. It marks the arrival of spring, the victory of good over evil, and the celebration of love, unity, and renewal.

- Prahlad & Holika: Holi marks the triumph of devotion and righteousness when Prahlad is saved and Holika is destroyed.
- Krishna & Radha: Holi celebrates Krishna playfully coloring Radha, symbolizing love beyond differences.
- Arrival of Spring: Holi welcomes spring's renewal as nature bursts back into color and life.
- Unity & Togetherness: Holi breaks social barriers, encouraging forgiveness, friendship, and joyful community bonding.

LEARN A SLOKA

Saraswati namastubhyam Varade kāmārūpinim

Vidyārambham karishyāmi Siddhirbhavatu me sadā

Meaning: "O Saraswati, I bow to you, the giver of boons and the fulfiller of wishes.

As I begin my studies, may I always attain success."

*** It's often taught to children and recited before beginning studies, music, or any learning activity. ***

VEDIC VIGNETTES – “Who is Adi Sankaracharya?”

Adi Shankaracharya was a revered Indian philosopher, theologian, and saint who was believed to be an avatar of Lord Shiva. He was born to Shivaguru(father) and Aryamba(mother) during 509 BCE at his ancestral maternal home in Veliyanad, near Ernakulam, Kerala. This house is presently maintained by “Chinmaya International Foundation” (CIF), often called Adi Sankara Nilayam. He spent his childhood at his paternal home in Kalady, Kerala where he also performed his mother's last rites.



He was a child prodigy who mastered the Vedas at a very young age and took sannyasa (renunciation) at around 8 years of his life. He revived Hinduism by propagating the Advaita Vedanta (non-dualist) school of philosophy, emphasizing that the individual soul (Atman) is not separate from the absolute and is identical to the supreme reality (Brahman). Advaita is the destruction of false identity. He lived a short, highly impactful life of 32 years.

Kalady is situated on the banks of the Poorna River and there is an interesting story associated with it. As a young boy, Sri Adi Sankara found his aging mother struggling to go to the river to take bath. Not bearing to see her plight, the young Sri Adi Sankara requested the River Poorna to divert her course of flow towards his house and then join back to the mainstream. The river diverted course, came to his house and then re-diverted back to attach itself to the mainstream.

As per the records from the Advaita Mathas (monasteries) he established, Kanchi Matha Sankaracharya asked an Indian government recognized senior geologist who visited the Kanchi at that time, to take river sand samples at two places to do scientific carbon dating.

- ❖ At the point - where the River Poorna Enters Kerala State
- ❖ At Kalady - where the river got diverted (as per the traditional story)

The Geologist conducted river bed sampling at both the places and got the scientific test results. At the point where the River Poorna enters Kerala State, the age of the river sand was found to be several lakhs of years old, whereas the river sand age at Kalady where the diverted river flowed was found to be about 2,500 years old. These results proved that such a miracle of the River Poorna getting diverted was true and that this happened 2,500 years back.

Adi Shankaracharya famously traveled across Indian subcontinent three times on foot, from Kerala to Kashmir, and during which he established four primary Amnaya Peethams (monasteries) in the four corners of India to uphold Sanatana Dharma and to unify the faith. Those 4 main peethams subsequently associated with numerous sub-mathas and branches across the country. The four main Peethams established are:

- ❖ **Sringeri Sharada Peetham (South): Chikmagalur, Karnataka.**
- ❖ **Dwarka Kalika Matha (West): Dwarka, Gujarat.**
- ❖ **Govardhana Matha (East): Puri, Odisha.**
- ❖ **Jyotir Matha (North): Badrikashrama, Uttarakhand.**

Though the majority of his works concentrate on Advaita, he equally pitches on bhakti since he believed that bhakti was a very essential step for Chitta Shuddhi (purity) without which self-realisation is not possible. Hence he composed verses and hymns as many as close to 63 in praise of every lord. While over 300 texts are often attributed to him, modern scholarship primarily accepts his commentaries and specific prakaranas as authentic such as 23 Prakarana Granthas and 18 Brahma Sutras/Upanishads.

Even today many scholars wonder how was it possible for Acharya to write so much in a very short lifespan of 32 years. It depicts that he was the greatest scholar and a man on a mission to teach & establish the philosophy of Advaita.

MEMBERSHIP

Temple membership can offer significant mutual benefits, fostering a strong bridge between the devotee and the institution. Devotees often find valuable spiritual connection, guidance, and community support through their involvement.

Simultaneously, the temple gains the essential strength and resources required to sustain its sacred work and service to society, creating a symbiotic relationship that strengthens the spiritual journey for individuals and the community as a whole.

Click on the link below if you would like to become a UHT member today.

[UHT MEMBERSHIP LINK](#)

❁ Member Testimony ❁

"Becoming a member of UHT has been a blessing in my life. The warmth and kindness of the fellow members made me feel truly welcomed. This temple is more than a place of worship, it is a spiritual home, that has given me lasting friendships and countless opportunities to serve. I'm deeply grateful to God for guiding me to this temple and blessing me with the opportunity to become a member. I look forward to continuing to grow in faith and service in the years to come along with fellow devotees."

DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIP

Temple donations and sponsorships are sacred acts of seva (selfless service) and daan (charity). By contributing, devotees help preserve our spiritual traditions, support daily poojas and festivals, and maintain the temple as a space of peace, learning, and divine connection for all.

Sponsoring a pooja or ritual allows devotees to participate directly in sacred offerings made to the Divine, seeking blessings for health, prosperity, harmony, and spiritual growth. Such offerings are performed not only for individual families but for the well-being of the entire community.

When we give with devotion, the Divine gives back in countless ways—strengthening faith, purifying the heart, and sustaining dharma for future generations.

“Seva is the highest form of worship.” 🙏

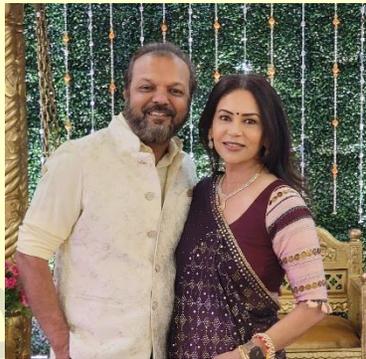
United Hindu Temple provides various opportunities of Seva and we welcome your kind donations.

Zelle - can be done on 626-756-6758 OR 626-746-7881

Check - Payable to - "United Hindu Temple, Inc."

Paypal / Credit Card – [Donate](#)

🙏 Thank you 🙏



Our heartfelt thanks to the sponsors of Sivaratri Mahaprasad Dolly and Jay



Our heartfelt thanks to the hosts of Mata ki Chowki Animesh, Mukti and Ishaan Choubey

MATA KI CHOWKI

Mata Ki Chowki is a sacred devotional gathering dedicated to Maa Durga, where devotees come together to sing bhajans, chant mantras, and immerse themselves in the Divine Mother’s grace. The word “Chowki” symbolizes the sacred seat prepared for Maa — inviting Her presence in our lives.

At United Hindu Temple, Mata Ki Chowki is not just a ritual — it is a collective expression of devotion, faith, and community bonding.

- 🕉 Invokes Divine Shakti (energy) – Maa Durga represents strength, protection, compassion, and prosperity.
- 🌸 Removes obstacles & negativity – Devotional singing purifies the environment and uplifts consciousness.
- 🙏 Strengthens family & community ties – Families gather in devotion, passing faith to the next generation.
- 🔊 Creates a powerful spiritual vibration within the Mandir that benefits all devotees.

When performed in the temple, the blessings multiply — as prayers offered in a

sacred space carries heightened spiritual energy. When you invite Maa into your life through a Chowki, she resides in your home and heart. Hosting a Chowki is considered highly auspicious because:

- ❖ It is an offering of bhakti (devotion) rather than material wealth.
- ❖ The host family receives Maa's blessings for health, harmony, protection, and prosperity.
- ❖ It is often performed to mark special milestones — birthdays, anniversaries, thanksgiving, new beginnings, or simply out of gratitude.
- ❖ It creates positive karma by sponsoring a devotional event for the larger community.

🌀 **How United Hindu Temple Provides This Opportunity**

United Hindu Temple is blessed to offer devotees the sacred opportunity to:

- 📅 Sponsor and host Mata Ki Chowki on chosen dates
- 🗣️ Arrange devotional singers and priestly guidance
- 🌸 Provide beautifully decorated altar setup
- 👐 Organize prasad and community participation
- 🤝 Make the event seamless and spiritually enriching



United Hindu Temple warmly invites devotees to host Mata Ki Chowki and experience the immense joy of seva.

When devotion is offered in a sacred space, it becomes a blessing not just for one family — but for the entire community. By hosting at the Mandir, families become part of a larger spiritual family, sharing their joy and gratitude.

Use the form link below to sign up or use the QR code

[**UHT MATA KI CHOWKI HOSTING REQUEST FORM**](#)



🌸 🙏 **Jai Mata Di** 🙏 🌸

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Temples offer diverse volunteer roles for all ages, from organizing cultural events and festivals to preparing/serving sacred food (prasad) and community outreach, fostering spiritual growth and community connection, with specific opportunities often requiring contact with a volunteer coordinator for involvement, even offering service hours for students.

Click on the link below if you would like to volunteer your services to help your community.

[**UHT VOLUNTEER FORM**](#)

TEMPLE SERVICES

Devotees interested for a puja or service at our temple are requested to kindly provide accurate details, including the type of puja, preferred date and time, and any specific intentions or offerings. Your responses will help us prepare and schedule the puja according to your preferences. Once submitted, our team will review your request and get back to you with confirmation.

Service Name	In Temple	At Home
Archana and Aarti (any deity)	\$11	NA
Sahasra Nama Archana – 1008 names (any deity)	\$21	NA
Abhishekam and Aarti (any deity)	\$51	\$201
Any Homam	\$101	\$201
Shanti Puja	\$101	\$151
Car Puja	\$51	\$101
Navagraha Abhishekam and Aarti	\$101	\$251
Satyanarayana Puja	\$151	\$251
Kalyanam (Srinivasan, Sitarama, Valli)	\$201	\$301
Chandi Homam	\$201	\$251
Navagraha Homam	\$151	\$251
Sudarsana Homam	\$201	\$251
Nakshatra Santi	\$151	\$251
Dhanvantari Homam	\$151	\$251
Engagement	\$1001	\$301
Wedding	\$1501	\$501
Srimantam	\$101	\$251
Barasala (Baby naming)	\$101	\$251
Annaprāsana	\$51	\$101
Aksharabhyasam	\$51	\$101
Kesha Kandan	\$51	\$101
Upanayanam	\$101	\$151
Special Birthdays	\$101	\$151
Chiralu/Panchulu	101	\$151
Mata ki Chowki (Temple provides food prasad)	\$750	\$251

Click on the link below to submit the Temple Service Request form.

[UHT SERVICE REQUEST FORM](#)

KAMDHENU PROGRAM

Dear Devotees, we are delighted to introduce Kamdhenu, a new initiative designed to support our community by helping devotees resolve their challenges.

What is Kamdhenu?

Kamdhenu is a program that allows devotees to share any issues or problems they are facing. Once an issue is submitted, the temple will identify individuals within the community who have the expertise or resource to help. We will then connect the person in need with the person who can provide assistance.

Submit your issue by using the QR code or Form link below

UHT KAMDHENU FORM



Your information is safe, only the issue will be shared.

By participating in Kamdhenu, you are not only seeking help but also contributing to a stronger, more connected community where everyone supports each other.

Thank you for being part of this initiative. Together, we can make a difference!

Contact - Archana Garg 909-438-3429

We are happy to share that we were able to connect with some devotees who requested for guidance and support in the following areas.

1. Educational consultation
2. Job consultation and requirement
3. Volunteer hours needed
4. Monterey/ loan requirement

Disclaimer: This nonprofit, serving through the Temple community, provides charitable support in financial, emotional, health awareness, educational, and senior matters. We understand that life may present challenges, and individuals may seek guidance or resources. When possible, we will make reasonable efforts to connect you with helpful community resources. We are not licensed medical, legal, or financial professionals. All services are voluntary, informational in nature, and provided without guarantees.

HEALTH IS WEALTH (Health tip of the month)

Ayurvedic Note: "With each breath, I release heaviness and welcome fresh, vibrant energy. What I nurture now will bloom in the months ahead."

Nutrition

- Eat fresh, seasonal produce: March often brings early spring vegetables .
- Boost immunity: Include vitamin C-rich foods (oranges, kiwi, bell peppers) and zinc (pumpkin seeds, beans).
- Hydrate: Even as temperatures rise, your body still needs plenty of water.
- Take advantage of the weather: Go for walks, jogs, or bike rides as days get longer.

- Strength & flexibility: Incorporate bodyweight exercises, yoga.

Mental Health

- Sunlight exposure: Longer days improve mood and can reduce seasonal affective symptoms.
- Mindfulness practices: Try meditation or deep-breathing exercises to manage stress.

“I will hold myself to a standard of grace, not perfection ”

BHAGAVAD-GITA – Chapter 2; Sloka 14

***mātrā-sparśās tu kaunteya śitoṣṇa-sukha-duḥkha-dāḥ |
āgamāpāyino nityā stām stitiḥsasva bhārata ||***

Meaning: "O Arjuna, pleasure and pain arise from the contact of the senses with their objects. They come and go and are impermanent. Therefore, endure them with calmness."

“Life brings joy and sorrow—accept it, trust the Divine, act steadily.”

DEVOTEES CORNER

Devotees are welcome to express their heartfelt feelings, spiritual experiences and promote small business interests. Please reach out to 323-897-0383 or 626-488-4126 (**Whatsapp only**) if you would like to share content that you would be interested to published in Devotees Corner section of the Newsletter.

Content Contribution: With gratitude, we acknowledge the following volunteers for their generous contribution towards this Newsletter – Akhil, Archana, Maheja, Megha, Santosh Pundit ji, Sarala ji, Shama ji, Sukanya, Suneetha, Swapna

THANK YOU!