



HINDU MATIYA PATIDAR SAMAJ, INC.

of Southern California

A non-profit organization

E-NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I can't believe that 2011 is already coming to an end! It has been a great year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board members for their commitment, dedication and expertise for making this year a success.

As you all know, it takes time, effort and money to run the temple that comes through individual contribution by members like you. Your continued support is important for the future growth of the community. Our goal is to promote Hindu religion and cultural activities in the community.

For the coming year I am requesting you all to make special effort to set up autonomous youth organization with its own committee and budget to carry out activities. Hindu Matiya Patidar Samaj, Inc. will make funds available under its revenue and expense balance sheet. I propose that initial age group for the proposed youth organization is ages between 15 and 35. My appeal to members of these age group is to discuss this amongst you and come determined and make a difference by participating.

Let's focus 2012 by performing Seva with a smile – Seva is not an action; it is an attitude of love and compassion that we would like to serve our community. We request that our community members join various Seva tasks at our temple in whatever capacity they can to meet the needs.

Our goal is to educate the community and children about our core values. President Chunibhai N. Patel

Upcoming Scheduled Events at HMPS:

□ NAVRATRI 2011

Wednesday, September 28.....	8:00 PM to 11:00 PM
Thursday, September 29	8:00 PM to 11:00 PM
Friday, September 30	8:00 PM to 12:00 PM
Saturday, October 1	8:00 PM to 12:00 PM
Sunday, October 2.....	8:00 PM to 11:00 PM
Monday, October 3	8:00 PM to 11:00 PM
Tuesday, October 4	8:00 PM to 11:00 PM
Wednesday, October 5.....	8:00 PM to 11:00 PM
Thursday, October 6.....	8:00 PM to 11:00 PM

□ SHARAD PURNIMA – Tues, Oct 11 from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM

NAVRATRI is a festival of worship and dance. The word Navratri literally means nine nights in Sanskrit; the festival is celebrated for nine nights every year during September or October based on Hindu calendar.

There are many legends attached to the conception of Navratri like all Indian festivals but all of them are related to Goddess Shakti (Hindu Mother Goddess) and her various forms. Navratri is divided into three-day sets, each devoted to a different aspect of the supreme goddess. The first three days are devoted to Goddess Durga (Warrior Goddess to destroy all our vices, impurities, and defects) dresses in red and mounted on a lion. The next three day set is devoted to Goddess Lakshmi (the giver of spiritual and material wealth) dressed in gold and mounted on an owl, and the last set is devoted to Goddess Saraswati (the goddess of wisdom) dressed in milky

white and mounted on a pure white swan. In some communities people undergo rigorous fasts during this season that lasts for the nine days of the festival, only to be opened on the tenth day of Dussehra. Traditionally, Navratri was celebrated by Hindu women only, in the honor of goddess Amba/Durga. Amba/Durga is believed to be a Shakti, originating from Lord Shankara.

On the tenth day of Navratri, the holiday of Dussehra, an effigy of Ravana is burnt to celebrate the victory of good (Rama) over evil.

During this colorful event of Navratri, young men and women dance around an earthen lamp, representing Goddess Durga, kept in a decorated mud jar called Garba, singing songs accompanied by the rhythmic clapping of hands – an expression of gratitude towards goddess Durga for saving the world from the atrocities of the Mahishasur.

Though it is one of the most celebrated festivals of Hindu calendar, it holds special significance for Gujaratis and Bengalis and one can see it in the zeal and fervor of the people with which they indulge in the festive activities of the season.

□ **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND NEW YEAR 2011 – Thursday, October 27**

This will serve as a notice that an Annual General Meeting will be held at the Matiya Patidar Center located at 15311 Pioneer Blvd, Norwalk, CA 90650 on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at 5:00 PM. All members are requested to attend.

Agenda for the event is as follows:

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Social Hour

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Annual General Meeting (Mujhe Kuch Kehana Hai)

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM Formation of Youth Committee

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM Children under 15 -- Celebration of Light with Sparkles

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Dinner

Hindu New Year and Annakutotsav are on Thursday, October 27 – Devotees are welcome to bring variety of Prasad for Annakutotsav. Please bring the Prasad on the previous day or the day of by 9:30 AM.

QUOTATIONS OF THE MONTH

Drive of your life...

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor.

Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to hot coffee .

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: 'If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is but normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups and were eyeing each other's cups.

Now if life is coffee, then the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, but the quality of Life doesn't change. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee in it.' Don't let the cups drive you... Enjoy the coffee instead.