

India Association of Tallahassee's India Festival & Glimpses 07 information featured on page 2.

KHAASBAAT

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SIGNIFICANT DATES

- NOV. 8: HANUMAN JAYANTI**
- NOV. 9: DIWALI BEGINS**
- NOV. 24: GURU NANAK DEV SAHIB'S BIRTHDAY**



By NITISH S. RELE - editor@khaasbaat.com

Here's a roundup of the Festival of Lights celebrations by Indian American communities throughout Florida.

TAMPA/ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER

NOV. 9: The New Tampa Gujarati Diwali dinner will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9 at Cilantro Indian restaurant, 11009 N. 56th St., Temple Terrace. Admission is \$25 per couple, \$10 per child over 5 years of age. RSVP required by Nov. 3 due to limited space. For information, call Nila Patel at (813) 971-8081 or Shital Gandhi at (813) 991-4250.

NOV. 10: The Florida Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (FAPI) will hold its Diwali/Thanksgiving CME and Cultural Gala on Nov. 10 at India Cultural Center in Tampa. Lunch will be at 11:30 to 12:15, followed by CME. The cultural program will be at about 6:30 p.m. with dinner and DJ/dance. Admission is free for CME attendees. Otherwise, admission is \$15 for FAPI members and \$20 for non-FAPI members. For more information, call FAPI President N.S. Rattehalli at (727) 861-2822 or email nrattehalli@gmail.com

NOV. 10: The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Tampa will celebrate Diwali-Annakut on Saturday, Nov. 10. Annakut/aarti darshan will be every hour from noon to 7 p.m. Diwali will be celebrated at 8 p.m. and children's Diwali will be 2 to 7 p.m. with fun and games for kids of all ages. The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir is at 9556 E. Fowler Ave. in Tampa or call (813) 431-0038.

NOV. 10: The Hindu Temple of Florida will hold Diwali celebrations on Nov. 10 at its community hall, 5509 Lynn Road, Tampa. The grand cultural program will be from 3 to 7 p.m. with fireworks, followed by dinner. Admission is free. To participate in the cultural program, call Kalyani Derasari at (813) 977-6695 or email kaly@shs.usf.edu. Also, call Lavanya Dinesh at (813) 855-6166 or e-mail lavanya@lavanyadinesh.com

NOV. 17: The Telugu Association of Florida will celebrate Diwali with singer Karunya and live orchestra Saturday, Nov. 17 at India Cultural Center, 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa. The 6 to 10 p.m. musical extravaganza with dinner at 8:30 p.m. will include Telugu, classical and a few Hindi songs. The association requests a donation, which includes dinner, of \$200 for VIP up to four; general admission is \$25 per person; children ages 5-18 are \$10; children under 5 are free. For information, call Madhavi Sekharam at (813) 792-2646 or K. Veera Reddy at (813) 620-1760 or click on www.taftampa.com to buy tickets online.

NOV. 17: The Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay will hold its Diwali/Happy New



Amit Kumar



Year Dinner with live entertainment Nov. 17 at the Florida State Fairgrounds. Singer Amit Kumar will present a tribute "Kal Aaj Aur Kal" to father Kishore Kumar. The 8:30 p.m. concert and dinner is free for Samaj members. Cost for non-members is \$40 per person (adults over 18 years of age) and \$20 for seniors over 60 years of age and students (with ID). For tickets and information, call Samaj president Dinesh Gandhi at (727) 868-4286 or e-mail dineshgandhi5@hotmail.com or e-mail kanti_bakarania@yahoo.com



Karunya

NOV. 17: Maayboli Melawa Tampa Bay (MMTB) will celebrate Diwali on Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Hindu Temple of Florida community hall, 5509 Lynn Road. For more information, write to mmtb_moderator@yahoo.com or join MMTB mailing list at groups.yahoo.com/group/mmtb

ORLANDO

NOV. 4: The Hindu Society of Central Florida New Age (Seniors) group will celebrate Diwali from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Nov. 4 in a healthy way at the community hall, 1994 Lake Drive, Casselberry. Dr. Vikram Mehta will present a seminar on carpal tunnel syndrome (hand pains). Also on the agenda at the celebration is entertainment, study circle, games such as chess, carrom board and playing cards. Also available will be Indian sweets, snacks, tea and coffee. Cost is \$5 per person. Everyone 50 years+ (or even nearing 50) is invited. For information, e-mail hscfnewagegroup@yahoo.com or call Madan Arora at (407) 971-9259.

NOV. 10: The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Orlando will celebrate Diwali-Annakut on Saturday, Nov. 10. Annakut/aarti darshan will be every two hours from noon to 7:30 p.m. Diwali will be celebrated at 7:45 p.m. The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir is at 1325 W. Oakridge Road, Orlando or call (407) 857-0091.

NOV. 10: The Hindu Society of Central Florida, 1994 Lake Drive, Casselberry will hold Annakut Utsav on Saturday, Nov. 10 followed with pujas, mahaprasad and fireworks. For more information, call the temple at (407) 699-5277 or click on www.hindutempleorlando.org

NOV. 17: The Orlando Marathi Mandal will hold Diwali celebrations at 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Hindu Society of Central Florida, 1994 Lake Drive, Casselberry. The mandal is looking for participants in the cultural program. Certificates of achievement also will be presented to grade school students during 2006-07. Deadline to send entries is Nov. 8. Entries can be e-mailed to orlandomarathi@yahoo.com or call Sanjana Deshmukh at (407) 207-2101.

JACKSONVILLE

NOV. 9 AND 11: The Hindu Society of NE Florida in Jacksonville will celebrate Diwali with Lakshmi Pooja and Chopda Vasan Pooja from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 9. On Sunday, Nov. 11, the temple will hold a Govardhan Pooja and Annakut Maha Prasad from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The temple is at 4968 Greenland Road, Jacksonville or call (904)-269-1155 or click on www.jaxhindutemple.org

FORT MYERS

NOV. 4: The Hindu Temple of Southwest Florida will hold a Lakshmi Pooja on Sunday, Nov. 4 from 6 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 13411 Shire Lane, Fort Myers; pooja samagri is available and free for all; pooja conducted by Mukesh Vyas; event sponsored by Ramiah and Lakshmi Krishnan and Vidya and Tara Kini; for information, call temple Secretary Janavi Sundaresan at (239) 561-5866 or click on www.hindutempleswfl.com

MELBOURNE (SPACE COAST AREA)

NOV. 10: The Indian Association of the Space Coast (IASC) will celebrate Diwali on Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. at Clemente Center, 150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne. For information, call Kumkum Pandit at (321) 761-0284 or check out www.iascbrevard.com

TALLAHASSEE

NOV. 17: The India Association of Tallahassee will be celebrating Cultural Glimpses of India 2007 on Nov. 17 at 4 p.m. at Chiles High School auditorium, 7200 Lawton Chiles Lane. Dances, songs and skits will be presented. This year also marks the 10th anniversary for the association and to mark this occasion it is celebrating IndiaFest2007 with Art & Photo Exhibition, Rangoli/Diya Exhibition and Holiday Dinner at 2 p.m. The IndiaFest 2007 will precede the Glimpses and dinner will follow the Glimpses. For details, click on www.iath.org/events/events.html or contact Manju Kundra at (850) 893-3581, Subhasis Das at (850) 894-4377 or Soma Sundaram at (850) 219-9799.

GAINESVILLE