

NEWSLETTER



KONKANI ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

Dear Konkani Family,

Thanks to all the KASC members who joined the Mar, 13th 2021 annual Shivaratri bhajan virtually via Zoom. Members were able to listen to devotional songs from other members on this day and also able to observe a live darshan and Pooja of Lord Krishna, courtesy of Shree Krishna Temple, Thousand oaks, California. It was a great spiritual evening and we hope all the attendees got a sense of calmness and peace.

* For membership dues. please contact our Treasurers Latha and Bhrath Prabhu.

Om Namah Shivaya ||

Yours truly,

*Vani Baliga
Priya Gadiyar*

KASC Shivarathri Function 2021

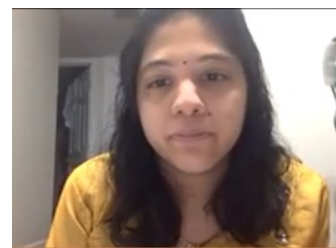
Article By: *Gautam Shenoy*



Mahashivarathri was observed on March 13th, 2021. This time a record number of members attended the celebrations virtually by connecting on Zoom. Although the program was meant to start at 5:00 PM, a lot of the members chose to join earlier in a hope to see their contemporaries and play catchup. The celebration started with a brief panchadik among members, mostly exchanging pleasantries and best wishes. All members were very pleased to see other's faces as it's been over a year since our in-person gatherings have transpired. There were a few new faces in the audience as well as a few legacy members who chose to join after a brief absence. This was a warmly welcomed surprise!



The festivities began with a brief introduction of committee members, a few house-keeping items for the virtual meeting as well as some guidelines for taking turns for singing Bhajans. Around 5:15 PM, the Bhajan program kicked off with great enthusiasm and joy. Varsha Baliga gave a brief speech on the significance of *Mahashivarathri*. Cultural secretary Pavitra Pai who was also the MC for the evening took over the proceedings from here on. Sia Prabhu and Daksh Prabhu sang the first Bhajan song on Lord Ganesh. The subsequent devotional songs were sung by young and old members alike with devoutness and melody.





This was followed by a live Darshan and Pooja at Shree Venkat Krishna Temple, Thousand Oaks, CA. The temple *Bhatmam* (priest) joined the Zoom call at 6:30 PM and using the temple camera provided a live Darshan of the Lord Shri Krishna as the prayers and rituals commenced.

The priest graciously took everybody through the various temple rituals leading up to the Pooja of Lord Krishna. The Darshan and Pooja lasted for about half an hour, staying highly interactive as the priest made everyone in virtual attendance recite the various stanzas of the Sankalp ritual.



Following the temple Darshan and Aarti, everyone gathered for another round of *Panchadik* which was informative, hilarious and very stirring. Members shared their thoughts and experiences going through the current pandemic crisis and how they have been handling these polarizing times.

At the conclusion of the festivities, everyone agreed that the entire event was well organized, joyous and a poignant opportunity to reconnect, catch up and enjoy each other's company. All in all, it was a fun-filled Saturday evening affair that left a lasting impression of joy with everyone in attendance. We want to thank everyone that attended and made this program not just a raving success, but an event that was a good segue into reconnecting as the nation opens up again with a sense of hope and positivity!

Editor's Note:

Thanks to all KASC Committee members for organizing the Shivarathri event on zoom and KASC members for participating in the event.

You may watch the recorded program on Youtube using these links:

[KASC Shivarathri Bhajan](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBH3TPFrNF4) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBH3TPFrNF4>)

[KASC Panchadik](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lkk0LEKsXM) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lkk0LEKsXM>)

Om Namah Shivaya ||

Konkani Sammelan :

Konkani Sammelan will now be held in 2022 in San Jose, California. It will be at the San Jose McEnergy Convention Center in San Jose, CA from July 2nd to July 4th. Further details are awaited.

For more information please follow this link:

konkanisammelan.org
