



❖ Jai Shri Ram | Jai Shri Krishna ❖

We are pleased to present the **Eleventh** edition of our monthly newsletter. The **first day of 2026** began with extended Mandir opening hours, during which hundreds of devotees visited the Mandir, making it a truly auspicious and heartening start to the year.

We wish you all a happy, successful, and spiritually uplifting year ahead.

The year 2025 has truly been a year of seva, with hundreds of devotees coming forward to participate in various seva activities at the Mandir. Now that most of the planned renovation work has been completed and the Mandir kitchen is fully operational again, we would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for everyone's extraordinary selfless service. This stands as a true example of seva performed with dedication and devotion. We humbly request all devotees to join us in thanking and blessing these volunteers for their unwavering commitment to the Mandir. May Bhagwan bless them and their families with good health, happiness, and continued devotion.

This month's newsletter covers:

- * Festivals and cultural activities
- * Renovation/Operational updates
- * Mandir updates



Festivals, Cultural Activities & Events

First day of 2026

The Mandir observed extended hours on 1st January 2026 and was delighted to welcome a large number of devotees. It was a beautiful beginning to the year, filled with devotion, prayers, and positive energy. Total number of devotees on 1st day of the year reflects our community's deep faith and enthusiasm to start the New Year in prayer and togetherness

Seva Day on 6-Jan

Continuing the spirit of selfless service, many devotees enthusiastically participated in **shram daan**, contributing their time and effort towards Mandir-related seva.

Lohri

On January 13, the Mandir joyfully celebrated Lohri, marking the harvest season and expressing gratitude for abundance and prosperity. A large number of devotees gathered to participate in the puja and celebrated the festival in a traditional manner, reflecting its rich cultural heritage. The celebration fostered a vibrant atmosphere of devotion, unity, and gratitude, making it a memorable occasion for the entire community.

Makar Sankranti

The Mandir observed **Makar Sankranti**, a festival symbolizing new beginnings, positivity, and gratitude as the Sun begins its northward journey.

This sacred festival is celebrated across India under different names- Pongal, Uttarayan, Magh Bihu, Khichdi, Makara Sankramana, Suggi, Pedda Panduga, Magha Saaji, Poush Sankranti. Though known by many names, the essence remains the same- the Sun's northward journey, gratitude for the harvest, and new beginnings.



Festivals, Cultural Activities & Events

Mata Ki Chauki on Basant Panchami

On the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami, a sacred day dedicated to Maa Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, wisdom, and arts, the Mandir organized Mata Ki Chauki, which was graced by soulful bhajans presented by the **Sweden Bhajan Mandali**. A large number of devotees attended and participated in the devotional evening, which was filled with prayer, faith, and spiritual energy.

Gupt Navratri

Gupt Navratri, observed from **January 19 to 27**, was marked with devotion at the Mandir. On this *paavan avsar*, **Ghat Sthapna** was performed by *Pandit ji*, and the observance concluded with a **havan** on the final day, creating a serene and spiritual atmosphere.

School visits

The Mandir welcomed students and teachers from couple of schools in January, where they got the opportunity to foster cultural awareness, understanding of Hindu traditions, and inter-cultural learning.

Bala Vihar

This month Bala Vihar was full of joy and learning as kids made snow Shivlings and celebrated Saraswati Puja and Republic Day. Bala Vihar, in collaboration with Chinmaya Mission, offers free spiritual and cultural learning for children aged 5–15 years. Every Sunday from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM,. Contact: **+46 762924154 (WhatsApp only)** for more details

Astrology Services

Astrology Services, in collaboration with AstroDeva, are available, providing **free** Vedic birth chart readings for all mandir members. Please contact **+46 738741273 (WhatsApp Only)** for more details.



Upcoming Festivals, Cultural Activities & Events

15th Feb 2026 Maha Shivratri



Maha Shivratri is one of the most sacred nights dedicated to **Bhagwaan Shivji**, symbolizing the union of consciousness and divine energy. It is a powerful occasion for spiritual reflection, inner purification, and devotion. Devotees observe the day with prayers, fasting, meditation, and the chanting of Lord Shiva's name, seeking peace, strength, and spiritual growth.

On the occasion of Maha Shivratri, devotees are requested and should visit the Mandir to seek the blessings of Bhagwaan Shivji and spend time in prayer and contemplation.

Observing this auspicious night is believed to bring divine grace and inner upliftment.

Program schedule and further details will be shared soon on Mandir's WhatsApp and via email.





Mandir Updates

Mandir kitchen is operational now

Bhandara preparations have once again started in the Mandir kitchen. The kitchen, which had remained closed for several months due to renovation work, has now reopened.

During the past several months, while our Mandir kitchen was closed due to renovation work, we were faced with the difficult decision of discontinuing our weekly Sunday Bhandara. At that time, Mandir's devoted volunteers **Shalini and Ruhul ji (Mom's Kitchen)** selflessly took on the responsibility of preparing the entire Satvik Bhandara at home and bringing it to the Mandir every Sunday. Despite personal commitments and busy schedules, they ensured that devotees continued to receive prasad without interruption. They even set aside their own travel and family plans so that devotees could continue to receive prasad every Sunday. Their dedication and spirit of seva are deeply appreciated.

At the same time, we would also like to warmly highlight **Prasad bhai** for his many years of dedicated seva in preparing **Sunday Bhandara**. With sincerity, consistency, and a truly selfless spirit, he has been a pillar of the Mandir kitchen, ensuring that Bhandara is prepared every Sunday. We are grateful that he has now resumed preparing Bhandara, continuing his invaluable service to the Mandir and its devotees.

The dedication shown by **Prasad and Shalini/Rahul** reflects the highest spirit of seva. Their commitment motivates and inspires all of us to do more for the Mandir. Mandir's Bhandara preparation seva is not a small task. Week after week, regardless of personal commitments, busy schedules, or vacation periods, they ensured that Bhandara continue without interruption.



Renovation updates: Done in January

New Carpet in Mandir

The Mandir carpet has recently been replaced through the generous donation of **Mr. Dheeraj from ISF**. This seva has enhanced the cleanliness, comfort, and overall ambience of the Mandir, helping create a more welcoming and serene environment for all devotees. The Mandir sincerely appreciates this thoughtful contribution.

Thermostat Replacement:

Through the dedicated efforts of our devotees, thermostats were replaced throughout the Mandir. This upgrade will help improve energy efficiency, reduce heating energy consumption, and lower monthly utility costs. We sincerely appreciate the time, service, and commitment of all volunteers who continue to support and care for the Mandir.

Items donation drive in January:

The Mandir had shared a list of required items with devotees as part of a donation initiative, and we are pleased to share that **most the items on the list were generously donated by different devotees**. The Mandir sincerely thanks each donor for their selfless contributions and seva, reflecting the strong spirit of devotion and unity within our community.

We have since received many enquiries from devotees regarding further donation needs. The Mandir will **update and share a new list of required items whenever there is a need** through the **Mandir WhatsApp group**, allowing devotees who wish to contribute the opportunity to do so. We deeply appreciate the continued support and generosity of our devotees.

Please find the updated list: [List of Items](#)

“सेवा परमो धर्मः”

Service is the highest form of Dharma.

“धर्मो रक्षति रक्षितः”

Dharma protects those who protect it.



Operational updates

Renovation status:

With Ram ji's blessings, many selfless devotees continue to actively contribute their time and skills in service of the Mandir.

- **Ground Floor Bathroom Renovation:** One bathroom/WC and two additional WCs on the ground floor are now fully functional.
- **Relining:** Relining of underground pipes and replacing damaged pipes.
- **Ventilation:** Ventilation System repaired
- **Painting Work:** Painting in the Main Bhavan, Shivalya & the adjacent room, Bhandara Halls, Entrance Hall is completed.
- **Thermostat Replacement:** Thermostats replaced throughout the Mandir.
- **Roof Work:** All roof-related work has been completed. Replacement of the skylight window, rotten roof wood and Repair of broken tiles and realignment of misplaced tiles
- **Anticimex Treatment:** Pest control and hygiene is completed
- **Carpet:** Carpet is replaced in Main Bhavan
 - Window and Wall Repairs: **Ongoing**
 - Replacement of Lighting with LED fixtures: **Ongoing**
 - Instruments and Equipment for Mandir Bhajans and Aarti: **Planning**
 - Essential Tools for Repair/Renovation Work: **Buying as needed**
 - New Utensils for the Kitchen: **Getting Donations from Devotees**



Spread the word!

Please encourage others around you to **Become a Member** to support your Mandir.

Benefits of Membership

- ❖ You become a part of building a stronger, united Hindu community in Sweden
- ❖ You get timely updates of all activities in Mandir
- ❖ You can use certain services of the Mandir/Poojari

Why the Mandir needs You

- ❖ Certain threshold of no. of members needed for getting grants from Swedish Govt.
- ❖ Mandir is in major need of support and your membership will help

Why the Mandir matters

- ❖ Keep our kids connected to their roots through festivals, language, and values
- ❖ Celebrate together – from Diwali to Holi, Navratri to Janmashtami
- ❖ Spread awareness of our rich traditions and spiritual wisdom

Membership options

Annual Individual Membership: **500 SEK/Year**

Annual Family Membership: **1000 SEK/Year**

Contribute via Swish: **123 218 0255**

Share payment proof at: helenalundhindumandir@gmail.com



If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to reach out to us.

A Heartfelt Thank You !

Namaste 🙏
Hindu Mandir Samiti

Amit, Nishant, Sunil,
Maneesh, Sanjiv,
Vani, Meenal, Neelu,
Tarunesh, Vaibhav,
Karan





HINDU MANDIR SOCIETY, Stockholm (Sweden)

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