



## KENDRA'S NEW PRESIDENT

At the recent Biennial General Meeting of the Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra held last month, a new committee was elected for the next term of 2 years.

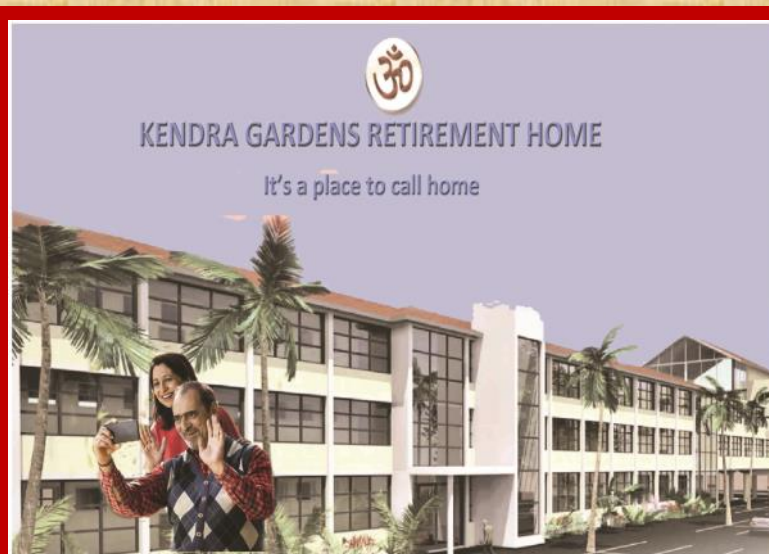
The new committee will be led by the new President Mahesh Gandecha, the youngest President of the Kendra in The 30 year history of the Kendra.

Mahesh Chandulal Gandecha, was born and completed his academic studies in Rajkot, Gujarat, India, graduating with a B.Com, LLB and a diploma in Business Management. In 1994 he went to India and married his life partner Ekta.

Mahesh is very passionate about sports, music, religion and culture. Both Mahesh and Ekta were very pleased to join the Kendra that was building a Mandir and a Cultural Centre as well as were organising numerous religious and cultural events from 1994.

Mahesh started as a volunteer assisting with parking at events, photography and videos and soon grew into assisting with all the events. He has been on committees for about 25 years. Mahesh also has been especially involved in all the larger events like the official opening of Ekta Mandir, Rangili Shaam, Bridal Fair and Navratri.

He has been a convenor of the Cultural Committee, and also served on the Executive and Management Committees for many years. He was a Vice President before his current election to President.



- Accommodation with en-suite
- Electricity and water
- Housekeeping & Laundry
- All meals
- Fully air-conditioned
- Smart TV with Wi-Fi connectivity
- Intercoms and incoming calls
- Limited Accommodation Available
- Parking (One Vehicle per room)

Contact Jolene to view

Tel No. 031 3261000

## Kendra Elected Official 2022–2024

<b>Position</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>
<b>President</b>	Mr	Mahesh	Gandecha
<b>Deputy-President</b>	Mr	Harishchandra	Narsi
<b>Past -President</b>	Mr	Jayendra Kanjee	Magjee
<b>Vice President</b>	Mr	Himetlal	Jamnadas
<b>Vice President</b>	Mr	Avnish	Ramjee
<b>Vice President</b>	Mrs	Ekta	Gandecha
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs	Dhanlila	Narsi
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs	Sunita	Ramjee
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr	Ajeeth Pravin	Desai
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr	Girish	Valjee
<b>Trustee</b>	Mr	Sudhir	Pragjee
<b>Trustee</b>	Mr	Jushwantrai	Mavjee
<b>Trustee</b>	Mrs	Saroj	Jamnadas
<b>Trustee</b>	Mr	Vinay	Daya
<b>Trustee</b>	Miss	Dhunluxmi	Desai
<b>Trustee</b>	Mr	Mukesh	Devjee
<b>Trustee</b>	Mr	Jayprakash Kantilal	Magan
<b>Trustee</b>	Mr	Karsandas	Manjee
<b>Trustee</b>	Dr	Suresh	Parbhoo
<b>Trustee</b>	Mr	Keshavlall	Soni
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mr	Rajesh	Koovarjee
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mr	Rishaal	Soni
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mrs	Saroj	Naran
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mrs	Premela	Gandhi
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mrs	Aarti	Dheda
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mr	Ajay	Jamnadas
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mr	Vikash	Naran
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mr	Mahesh Narendra	Ratanjee
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mr	Rajesh	Harie
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mr	Dhillan	Kalyan
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mr	Kamlesh	Ranchod
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mr	Hiteshkumar	Bhatt
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mrs	Priya	Govind
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mr	Dilip Laxman	Popat
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mrs	Jayshree	Thaker
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mrs	Chaya Pranlal	Lakhani
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mrs	Reema	Narandas
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mrs	Ekta	Harilall
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mr	Hitesh	Gangaram
<b>Manag-Mem</b>	Mr	Himandra	Soni
<b>Patron</b>	Mr	Suren	Kooverjee
<b>Patron</b>	Judge	Chiman	Patel
<b>Patron</b>	Mrs	Pushpa	Juta
<b>Patron</b>	Mr	Champak Nagin	Soni

## **KENDRA GARDENS EXPANSION NEARS COMPLETION**

As most of you are aware that Kendra has embarked on the building project of converting the vacant original Gandhi-Desai School into additional rooms as a further extension of the Kendra Gardens Retirement Home.

This project commenced in early 2021 and includes an additional 19 single rooms and 7 large suites/double rooms, accommodating 33 more residents. This brings the Retirement Home facility to 122 rooms accommodating 159 residents. This expansion project is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The new building has a connecting bridge with the original building. It is equipped with solar panels, heat pumps and a new elevator. It has a new roof and will also have a new generator. The building has been completely revamped into a luxurious new building with a new dining room and a new lounge/tv room.

The services will also include private en-suite accommodation, air conditioning, electricity, water, all meals, laundry and cleaning, free wi-fi and Netflix. The cost of accommodation in the home is subsidised.

The budget of this project is R13 million and we have raised an amount of R10 million from donations due to our fundraising efforts, from well-wishers and the community. We will appreciate the support from the community with donations, to assist to make this project fully funded.

All donations are most welcome and will be recorded on the main donor board. Some room naming rights are also available. The Kendra is a registered Public Benefit Organisation (Registration No. 004-387 NPO) in terms of Section 30 of the Income Tax Act.

Donations towards the Kendra Gardens Retirement Home qualify as a tax deduction of up to 45% in terms of S18A of the Income Tax Act, No. 58 of 1962. The actual amount of the donation in a tax year will qualify for a tax deduction of up to 10% against Taxable Income. Any excess amount over 10% of Taxable Income can be carried forward to the subsequent tax year for a tax deduction. Kendra will issue a S18A tax receipt to each donor.

Please contact your financial adviser for advice pertaining to your deduction in terms of tax.

Members of the community are most welcome to tour the Home facilities, by appointment with the management.

Or click below to take a virtual tour of the Kendra Gardens

<https://youtu.be/5HxKHvvn8pQ>

We thank you for your consideration and support.

For accommodation enquiries please contact Jolene on 031-326 1000.

# Randal Maa Na Lota

9th April 2022

A family tradition where the ceremony is performed when a new daughter-in-law is welcomed into the new home. The ceremony will bring happiness and blessings upon the couple.

In other family traditions the ceremony is associated with the first pregnancy, they will do this on the seventh month to call blessings upon the baby inside the mother to be.

Some parents like to perform the ceremony for an infant boy some time after he has his head shaved at his balmuvara (Normally between 13-15 months of birth or 24-27 months of birth). They ask for Randal Mataji's blessings for the new boy's life. Also this is for when a boy attains the janoi, Randal Mataji will give blessings to the boy and make him safe and be successful in his studies.

Other people do the ceremony for the joy and love for Randal Mataji.

The ceremony is usually performed at home, to also give blessings onto the home. The ceremony should be performed on auspicious days most commonly Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The priest should always be consulted over the best days for the ceremony.

Everything should be planned in advance so stress is taken away. The priest will make a list of items that they need to get e.g. food artifacts and offerings that are required. The success depends how many goyni's there are. Any woman caste or faith can be a goyni. The goyni must be fit to eat well but not be expecting. On this day the goyni represent the form of Randal Mataji.

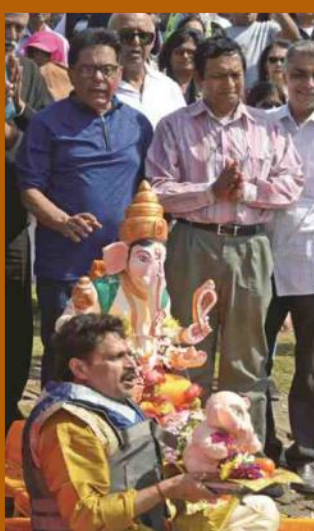
The minimum number of goyni's is determined by the number of lota used in the ceremony. Lotas are always counted in pairs. With 14 goyni's for each pair of lotas.



# ક્રોડેના જાનમાસતાનો ૧૭મો અણ્ણુદ ૨૦૨૨



## ઘ્ણાનદેશે રોડવાજાન ૨૪ ડેપ્ટ ૨૦૨૨



# Rangili Shaam

The Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra recently hosted the Rangili Shaam evening on 17<sup>th</sup> July. After a 2 year absence due to the Covid 19 pandemic the community was eager to meet again and celebrate life in a colorful manner that represents Hinduism in its purest form. With the removal of the pandemic restrictions, the stage was set to wow the public and revive a successful event that people always looked forward to.

The turnout on the day was larger than predicted. It was clear that people were eager to get out of their homes and feel free again. The program commenced with a ceremonial prayer to secure the Blessings of Parmathma. Thereafter a tribute was paid to departed community members who passed on during the Pandemic.

By the end of the marathon long show the audience retired downstairs to a hot dinner that was well received. During the show, the Kendra President Mr. Jerry Magjee gave his vote of thanks and outlined the medium term plans of the organization and giving his commitment to ensuring that culture and spirituality remain at the forefront of all decisions going forward. Event organizer Mr. Mahesh Gandecha paid tribute to the planning and efforts that took place behind the scenes from individuals from all walks of life. All these elements put together produced an unforgettable evening of celebration that will serve as the benchmark for future events of this magnitude.



# दीवाली डिनर

## 14 OCTOBER 2022

The formalities commenced with a ceremonial prayer. A special tribute was paid to departed members of The GHSK who played various roles within the organization. Newly elected GHSK President Mahesh Gandecha thank the public for their unwavering support over the years. He also outlined some of the projects that were running concurrently as well as what can expect in the future. Thereafter former President Sudhir Pragjee delivered his own vote of thanks and reiterated that The Best is yet to come.

Pritesh Singh kicked off the evening's entertainment with some classical songs that got everyone in the mood. Brendad Nagan and his pianist were up next. Combing English and Hindu tunes, his performance was unique and catered for all generations. The most touching moment was when he rendered his version of the song "Kesariya." Local comedian Mo Vawda came on stage much to the delight of the audience who were looking forward to laughing and falling off their seats. His jokes were catchy and filled with South African humor. Kendra songbird Umitha Kalyan mesmerized the audience with her melodious voice. She paid tribute to The Late Lata Mangeshkar and this was a touching moment. Her renditions swept the audience off their feet and reminded them that in the end Love Conquers All.

The highlight of any Indian Function is always the food. As usual, Bhagwans Caterers knew how high the expectations were. And in the end they delivered. With Eresh and Radeep Bhagwan taking a hands-on approach from the beginning, each course was delicious. The service was 2<sup>nd</sup> to none and it was obvious that the audience was left feeling happy.

The GHSK expresses its sincere gratitude too all individuals who contributed to the success of this event. From service providers to entertainers, hall staff and volunteers alike everyone played their role. The culmination of all these efforts served as the foundation for success. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2023 Diwali Gala Dinner.



## Bridal Fair Celebrates 21 years of Excellence

On 26, 27 and 28 August 2022 we celebrated the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Sterns Eastern Bridal Fair at the Kendra Hall.

People took advantage of over 100 stalls and the delicious meals provided by Maharajas Caterers. The amazing extravaganza was choreographed by Javed Sanadi from India. The fashion show and dance extravaganza was produced by Epic Entertainment in collaboration with the Nateshwar Dance Academy.

The fair scored a major coup, securing Shruti Rane, India's top young singer and star of the popular music show "Indian Idols" who performed

at all the shows.

All proceeds of the Sterns Eastern Bridal Fair are applied towards the non-profit Kendra Gardens Retirement Home which accommodates over 120 senior citizens.





# hanuman tehoiwa 27 aprai 2022



# Navaratri – 9 Days of Celebration

Navaratri literally means nine nights.

During Navaratri, we worship the power or the energy aspect of God in the form of the Universal Mother commonly referred to as Durga, which means the remover of the miseries of life. She is also referred to as Devi or Shakti.

Daily Pooja was conducted at the Kendra by Pujiya Shree Ashwinbhai Trikamjee at 7am and 6pm. The Chandi Path Recital took place daily from 9am to 11am. Daily Aarti at 8pm with Garbas and Dandia Raas thereafter.



The Atham Havan was conducted in the downstairs hall from 11am to 6pm on Monday, 03<sup>rd</sup> October 2022. On the Atham Day, 301 Maha Aartis took place in the Main Hall.

This years Navaratri was a huge success and Mataji will bestow on all of you wealth, auspiciousness, prosperity, knowledge and other potent powers to cross every hurdle of life.

Jai Ambe



# Diwali Get together and Fireworks

24th October 2022



# New Year Get-together & Havan



## DIWALI HAMPERS FOR KENDRA STAFF



# Kendra Golf Day 4th December 2022

## Royal Durban Golf Club

Sunday, 04 December 2022 marked the return of the Annual Kendra Golf Day. With COVID disrupting the annually held tournament for the past 2 years, the newly formed committee went all out to revive this special day on the Kendra calendar.

The golf day was held at Royal Durban Golf course and was supported extremely well by community members and avid golfers from the greater Durban area. Hole in one's are a rarity in golf and we had two golfers, who had lady luck on their side, Ashok Jivan and Bob Bahadur. Well done to Bob Bahadur who also finished as our highest points scorer in the individual section of the competition. For the first time we had an individual prize for the ladies section and a massive congratulations to Anji Valjee. There was a great battle to be named Pairs Champions for 2022, with 3 pairs tied on 46 points. Congratulations to our 2022 winners, Naveen Rajdev and Nischal Rampersad who won on a count out.

On behalf of the Kendra MANCO we would like to thank all the committee members, sponsors and all those that played a pivotal role in making this day a success. We look forward to another successful tournament next year.



## *Kendra Vidyalay Awards Day*

December 2022 was a very successful Awards Evening of the Kendra Vidyalay which has been going strong at the Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra for more than 20 years.

It was a Special Awards evening because since 2019, the Covid Pandemic prevented the school and the institution from having physical events. However the virus did not prevent the school from doing virtual events. Learners' items were recorded from home and presented on Youtube.

The evening of the awards day was very well attended and the educators and learners managed to produce an excellent show in spite of having had virtual lessons.

The highlight of the evening was the getting together of learners educators parents and relatives who mingled and chatted over a sumptuous meals before the function.

The Children had absolute fun getting together, socializing, hugging and meeting their colleagues and friends. Their enthusiasm had no bounds since they met physically after such a long period. It was also very special for the educators to meet with their learners, whom they taught on line since the pandemic.

The show commenced with a Havan performed by the learners, who chanted the mantras with much dedication and divinity. This was followed by sketches, plays and talks in Gujarati and Hinduism by learners who were excellent.

Senior students and a parent wrote the Hinduism Veda Niketan Exams set by the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha. A 100% pass rate was achieved with almost every candidate achieving a distinction. All students were awarded for their excellent performance.

It was indeed a lovely evening of entertainment for all, who attended, the Awards Day of Dec 2022

