

HAPPY HOLI**CHITTARANJAN PARK KALI MANDIR SOCIETY (KMS)****NEWS LETTER**website : www.kalimandircrpk.org

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VOL. XXVII No. 3 AN UPDATE ON SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES**From The Secretary's Desk****Respected Members / Devotees / Readers,**

The highlights of the month of February, 2017 was performance of Bani Bandana - Sri Sri Saraswati Puja with Hatey-Khari with joy and holiness on auspicious Basant Panchami Day (1/2/2017). People's participation particularly of the student community was overwhelming. In fact, Sri Sri Saraswati Puja with Hatey-Khari started by the KMS in 1995, has become so popular that a large congregation of men, women, boys and girls thronged the Puja Mandap. Puspanjali to the Goddess of Learning started at 10.45 A.M. and continued till afternoon. About sixty kids accompanied by their parents / guardians administered Hatey-Khari, in consonance with the traditional belief that performance of Hatey-Khari on the auspicious day of Sri Panchami enables a child to make good progress in his / her studies. Besides Pushpanjali and Hatey-Khari, on this day KMS made elaborate arrangements for Prasad and Bhog, thereby making the devotees happy. The puja mandap was also tastefully and imaginatively well decorated that it resembled Maha-Ashtami Day. Even though Sri Sri Saraswati Puja takes place in different areas, puja in Mandir has a magnetic attraction so much so that people do make it a point to visit Mandir and pay obeisance to Debi Saraswati. The KMS by dint of unleashing of youthful energy, invoking Sri Sakti and above all, with your unstinted support, made it a well-managed event.

In the month of February, besides, Saraswati Puja three other special pujas like Radha-Krishna Pratistha Divas (8/2/2017), Mahashivaratri (24/2/2017) and Kali Mandir Pratistha Divas (28/2/2017) were also held. To commemorate the installation of the Diety of Sri Sri Radhakrishna and also Matri Pratistha Tithi Divas KMS performed Abhishek and Special Pujas with Yagnas on 8th & 28th February, 2017 respectively in accordance with Shastric injunctions The Deities attired in ceremonial costumes looked magnificent attracting obeisance of devotees. Distribution of Bhog on these days delighted the devotees. In addition to these Pujas, on

Mahashivaratri devotees observing day-long fast thronged the Shiva Temple right from the morning with offerings of panchamrita and bathed the Sureyshwar Mahadev and offered Pushpanjali. The Mandir complex was tastefully illuminated resembling it as Kashi Vishwanathdham.

I would like to emphasise that backbone of our Society are the Life Members - their whole-hearted patronage, advice, suggestions make the KMS glory. The motto of the MC remains the sincere services to the devotees in all spheres - performance of rituals of the Deities in the Temples, maintenance of ambience, running of Jatriniwas / Library and Charitable Dispensaries, Cultural and Welfare Activities throughout the year. The MC is always on its toes to uphold the confidence reposed by the benevolent members. This was amply demonstrated in the *Members' Day* functions held on Sunday morning of 12th February, 2017 in the lush green lawn of Mandir Complex. Spontaneous response of Members (Both Ordinary & Life) alongwith their spouses and guests galvanized a get together of festivity. Elaborate arrangements were made for tea, snacks, sumptuous lunch with sweet dish. A short hilarious drama written, produced, directed and acted by the KMS Members enchanted the audience for an hour or so on this memorable day for Members.

In the month of February, as usual Satyanarayan Puja (10/2/2017), Shoni Puja (11/2/2017), Sri Sri Amabasya Kalika Puja (25/2/2017) were also held in Kali Mandir. The participation of devotees in these pujas were note-worthy. Arrangements for pushpanjali and distribution of Bhog were orderly.

The popular events during March, 2017 are Sri Sri Satyanarayan Puja (11/3/2017), Holi (12/3/2017), Sri Sri Shoni Puja (18/3/2017) and Sri Sri Amabasya Kalika Puja (27/3/2017). On behalf of the KMS, I invite you all to participate in the activities mentioned above.

The KMS wishes you all a happy, gay and joyous Holi.

With regards,

Dr. Pradip Majumdar

SRI SRI SARASWATI PUJA

ভদ্রকালৈ নমো নিত্যং সরস্বতৈ নমো নমঃ
বেদবেদাঙ্গবেদান্তবিদ্যাশ্রানোভ্য এব চ ॥

Saraswati Puja, which is popularly known as the Puja for students to empower them for their knowledge and studies and they seek the blessings of MAA SARASWATI. Students community start the preparation for 'Basant Panchami' Goddess of Learning and Music months ahead to celebrate in a befitting manner. Most of the Pujas are celebrated in schools, colleges, educational institutions and music centres. In Kali Mandir, Saraswati Puja was



Magnificent Saraswati Idol

celebrated as community Puja on 1st February, 2017 at Mandir Complex with usual Sankalpa. Amongst the

dozens of Pujas celebrated in Chittaranjan Park, Saraswati Puja in Mandir Complex has a separate identity. The congregation of large number of students and their parents and guardians amply



'Hatey Khari'

demonstrates that initiation of learning of alphabets popularly known as '*Hatey Khari*' was the most sought after ritual that the parents looked for, on this auspicious day. It was fascinating to see the little kids carrying, slate, chalk and a fancy bag on their back, adorned in traditional 'Dhoti Kurta' visiting the temple, holding the fingers of their parents and waiting for their turn to perform initiation of '*Hatey Khari*' by our respected Priests, with a deep rooted belief that performance of '*Hatey Khari*' on this auspicious day of Sri Sri Saraswati Puja, enables a child to make good progress in his / her studies.

Elaborate arrangements were made by the Puja Division for smooth conduct of morning Puja, Pushpanjali, havan yagya, prasada and holy bhog distribution. Special arrangements were made for Sr. Citizens to partake holy bhog prasada under a sit-in shamiana.

In the evening, after the sandhya-arti, the attention was towards the stage where the budding artists

of 'SPONDON' were getting prepared. Welcoming the audience, Dr. Ananda Mukherjee, President and Dr. Pradip Majumdar, Secretary talked about the mythological significance of performing Saraswati Puja by the student community.

20 little kids of 'SPONDON' group presented an hour long mesmerizing dance programme on 'RITU RANGA'. Although the artists were all students, they were no less than professional ones. Choreography, costume, make-up, concept, light, music and presentation of the show, as directed by Ms. Anuradha Krishnan were aptly handled. They deserved high appreciation and loud applause.

RADHA KRISHNA PRATISHTA DIWAS

KMS religiously observe the Pratishta Diwas ceremonies of all the deities adorning the three Temples in the Mandir complex. Sri Sri Radha Krishna Pratishta Diwas was thus celebrated on Wednesday 8th February, 2017. Large number of devotees wedded to Vaishnabha cult attended the morning puja and abhishek. Members of Hari Sabha rendered melodious 'NAMKIRTAN' at the Radha Krishna Mandir transforming the entire complex into 'Brindaban Dham'. Holy Bhog was distributed amongst a large number of devotees.

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

The birth anniversary of Holy Trinity – Bhagwan Sri Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Sri Maa Sarada and Swami Vivekananda was organised by Sri Sarada Sangha at Netaji Subhash Hall on Sunday, 19th February, 2017. Puja and Bhajan commenced from early morning and gradually the usual rituals followed with the meticulous planning of Sri Sarada Sangha. Swami Sarvatmananda Maharaj of Rudra Prayag, Ramakrishna Mission presided over the morning session and delivered discourses on the life and teachings of TRINITY. In the afternoon, all the devotees present partook holy bhog prasada.

ANNUAL MEMBER'S DAY

Come February, and all the Life Members of KMS look forward for the second Sunday of the month to have a relaxed day basking in the bright Sun shine, sipping hot coffee with mouth watering pakoras followed by a sumptuous lunch.

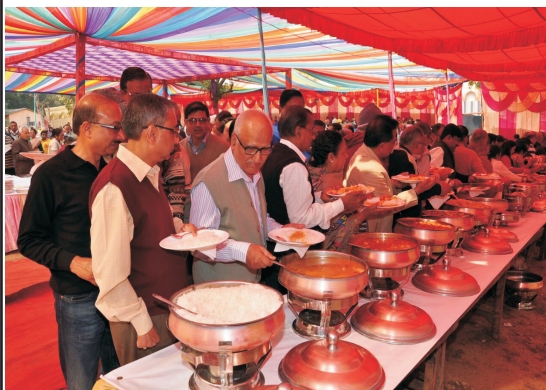


This year, it was *Felicitating the Self Made Entrepreneurs* 12th February, 2017 Sunday. Members started dropping at 10.30 a.m. at the lush green spruced lawn of Mandir Prangan,



Group Photograph of Artists of 'UTSAV'

the rendezvous of the Annual Member's Day. The Annual Member's Day turned into an in-house get-together of the Members is an important event of the Mandir Calendar. It was a D-Day President, Secretary and other Office Bearers were all present at the decorated entry point to receive the guests with a warm welcome 'NAMASKAR'. The rendezvous was aesthetically and tastefully decorated with spotless white covered chairs and sofas, small round tables for family homily and the guests were affectionately directed to tea / coffee counters where mouth watering hot, delicious and spicy pakoras were laid out on clean tables.



Lunch Items on Display

The guests did not wish to waste any time to gulp the plates of tasty potato, cauliflower, spinach and paneer pakoras, which were laid in ample quantities to enable guests to go even for repeat servings. The rainbow sheet spread overhead along with tasty snacks amply demonstrated their likings of the entire friendly ambience.

The occasion was also utilised to honour three young energetic entrepreneurs who have established themselves in the society from a humble beginning - S/Shri Shankar Bhandari, Madan Bhanja and Swapan Majumdar. They were presented with a Memento, Citation plaque, Warm Shawl and flower bouquet and wished that they continue to serve the community in the same way as they have been serving during the last two decades. The recipients also acknowledged the gesture of KMS for honouring them.

In the cultural programme, an unique event was

presented this year. A hilarious drama 'UTSAV' was presented by the Members of KMS, especially the MC Members. Significant factor of the drama was that 60% of the Artists on stage were above 60 years of age and 80% were MC Members and quite a good number of Artists appeared in the stage for the first time. The skit was written by S/Shri Sujit Chattopadhyay and Suhan Basu. The drama was directed by Shri Suhan Basu.

At the end of drama, signal came that the food was ready and the guests were invited for final show. Manifest space was arranged for free movement of guests and tables were laid for those who liked to have seats in comfort. Deserts like, kulfi, hot gazar halwa and kamala bhog were special attraction.

While departing, the guests thanked the President, and other office bearers at the Gate for the excellent arrangements and novel drama.

MAHA SHIVA RATRI

Devotees predominantly ladies, worship Lord Shiva in a most pious and solemn manner on Mahashivratri day, which fell this year on 24th and 25th February, 2017. Ladies, married or unmarried keep day long fast and thronged the Shiva temple with milk, ghee, curd and honey and bathed Lord Shiva. Since this year, the celebration spread over two days, i.e. 24th and 25th February, elaborate arrangements had to be made by the Puja Division on both the days. Four prahar pujas were performed on the night of 24th February in the presence of large number of devotees. Arrangements were made for the devotees to offer Pushpanjali after every prahar puja. Devotees were treated with holy fruit - sweet prashad after pushpanjali. The great Lingaraj in His majestic dress with Trishul and Dumru looked gorgeous, as if he had come down from Mount Kailash to accept the offerings of the devotees. Shiv Mandir entry point was aesthetically decorated with coloured flowers and all the three Temples were illuminated and resembled as Kashi Bishwanathdham.

Mandir Calender : March, 2017

Pujas and Other Events in the Mandir

Pujas and Other Events

Date	Day	Timings	Event
11.03.2017	Saturday	Evening	Sri Sri Satyanarayan Puja / Holika Dahan
12.03.2017	Sunday	Morning	Holi Milan
18.03.2017	Saturday	Evening	Sri Sri Shoni Puja
26.03.2017	Sunday	12.30 P.M.	Daridra Narayan Sewa
27.03.2017	Monday	Night	Sri Sri Kalika Puja

Sankirtan on Ekadashi Days (After Evening Arati)

08.03.2017	Wednesday	Evening	Sankirtan by Hari Sabha
24.03.2017	Friday	Evening	Sankirtan by Hari Sabha

Ladies Kirtan

06.03.2017	Monday	Evening	Ladies Kirtan at Shiva Temple
		-	Every Evening Ladies Kirtan at the Three Temples

Religious Discourses at Netaji Subhash Hall (NSH) / Sri Sri Mohan Sant Kutir (SSMSK)

02.03.2017	Thursday	05.30 P.M.	Path and Discourse by Saccidananda Society at NSH
05.03.2017	Sunday	11.00 A.M.	Discourse by the Devotees of Sri Sri Sitaramdas Onkarnath Debji at SSMSK
11.03.2017	Saturday	06.00 P.M.	Discourse and Nam Kirtan by Mohanananda Devotees at SSMSK
12.03.2017	Sunday	06.00 P.M.	Discourse by Sri Sri Sharada Sangha at NSH
15.03.2017	Wednesday	06.30 P.M.	Pracya-Manisha-Gavesana-Mandiram-Lecture Series at NSH
16.03.2017	Thursday	05.30 P.M.	Path and Discourse by Saccidananda Society at NSH
18.03.2017	Saturday	06.00 P.M.	Discourse by Swami Shantatmananda Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, New Delhi
25.03.2017	Saturday	07.30 P.M.	Satsang by Satsangee Bhatri-Bhagini Brinda at NSH

Other Festivals / Puja Days (for information)

14.03.2017	Tuesday	-	Sharsiti Sankranti
28.03.2017	Tuesday	-	Commencement of Basantakalin Nabaratrik Brata

Puja / Festivals in April, 2017 (for Advance Information upto 15.04.2017)

02.04.2017	Sunday	-	Ashok Sasthi
03.04.2017	Monday	-	Commencement of Sri Sri Basanti Puja
04.04.2017	Tuesday	Whole Day	Sri Sri Annapurna Puja - Cultural Programme in the evening
05.04.2017	Wednesday	-	Sri Sri Ramnavami Brata
06.04.2017	Thursday	-	Bijoya Dashami
07.04.2017	Friday	-	Kirtan by Hari Sabha on Ekadashi Day
10.04.2017	Monday	Evening	Sri Sri Satyanarayan Puja
13.04.2017	Thursday	-	Neelpuja & Fasting
14.04.2017	Friday	-	Mahabishub Sankranti & Charak Puja
15.04.2017	Saturday	Wholeday	Suryaghya Daan, Surya Pranam and Special Puja On Nababarsha (1424) – Cultural Program

All are cordially invited to participate

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Musical Fountain : Daily after Sandhya Arati except Monday

N.B. Mandir Timings in March, 2017 : Morning 8.30 A.M. to 01.00 P.M. Evening 4.30 P.M. to 09.00 P.M.