

# Bharatiya Temple of Lansing

## Navagraha Prāṇa Pratiṣṭhāpana Committee Structure

### Introduction

Nine heavenly bodies – the Navagrahas – are recognized as having a significant influence on the lives of individuals. Worshipping them is a way to bring peace and harmony in one's life and avert mishaps. Each of them confers a particular benefit upon the worshipper, like good health (Sūrya - Sun), Victory (Candra - Moon), family prosperity (Mangala - Mars), wisdom (Budha -Mercury), honor (Guru - Jupiter), vocal skills (Śukra - Venus), joy and happiness (Śani - Saturn), strength (Rāhu – northern node of the Moon), and personal opulence (Ketu – southern node of the Moon).

### SLOKA/PRAYER

*ādityāya ca somāya mangalāya budhāya ca  
guru śukra śanibhyaśca rāhave ketave namaḥ*

### MEANING

Salutations to the Sun, the Moon, Mangala (Mars), Budha (Mercury), Guru (Jupiter), Śukra (Venus), Śani (Saturn), Rāhu (northern nodal point of the moon), and Ketu (southern nodal point of the moon).

Navagraha Prāṇa Pratiṣṭhāpana Mahotsav (i.e., consecration of the Navagraha *mūrtis*) at the Bharatiya Temple of Lansing is planned as a three-day event and will be celebrated over the Independence Day weekend (June 30, July 1, and July 2, 2006). The purpose of Prāṇa Pratiṣṭhāpana is to invoke *prāṇa* – vital life energy – into the *mūrtis*. It is a very auspicious, elaborate, and complex ceremony, as well as a great festive event. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most of us to witness and participate in this very special event. It will obviously take tremendous amount of planning, preparation, and execution to successfully complete the project. To accomplish the numerous tasks associated with the Prāṇa Pratiṣṭhāpana, the Board of Trustees of the Temple have approved the formation of a Coordinating Group (see below) and charged them with the responsibility to coordinate all the activities associated with Prāṇa Pratiṣṭhāpana. The Coordinating Group has designated nine different Pratiṣṭhāpana Committees and the membership of these committees, which was approved by the Board of Trustees. Given below is information on the committees and a partial list of their responsibilities.

### Pratiṣṭhāpana Coordinating Group

Manohar Naga (Chairperson)  
Sudhakar Kulkarni  
Smruti Shah

This group is charged with the assignment of responsibilities, supervision, coordination and approval of the activities of the nine Pratiṣṭhāpana committees and day-to-day decisions regarding all aspects of Pratiṣṭhāpana. However, final decisions rest with the Board of Trustees of the Temple. One of the three members of the Pratiṣṭhāpana

Coordinating Group will act as a liaison to each of the nine Pratiṣṭhāpana committees listed below.

## Pratiṣṭhāpana Committees

### **1. Fund Raising**

(Liaison:)

Manohar Naga – Chair  
Rajiv Das  
Sanjeev Deshpande  
Prajakta Gore  
Smruti Shah  
Pratin Trivedi

#### Responsibilities

- Individual Solicitations
- Solicitations from private and public organizations
- Various Pratiṣṭhāpana sponsorships
- Sponsorship of special pūjās and āratīs
- Other ideas

### **2. Registration, Reception, and Guest Relations**

(Liaison:)

Rajiv Das – Chair  
Lakshmi Gopal  
Prakash Kapoor  
Bindu Kota

#### Responsibilities

- Registration of guests
- Reception
- Information display
- Hospitality of swāmijis, artists, and dignitaries
- Public Relations
- Other ideas

### **3. Pūjā Committee**

(Liaison: Sudhakar Kulkarni)

Leela Mohan – Chair  
Lakshmi Amarnath  
Sivaswami Amarnath  
Lakshmi Gopal  
Pardeep Kumar  
Loki Naga  
Sharmaji

#### Responsibilities

- Coordinating purchase of all Pratiṣṭhāpana materials
- Ārati preparations
- Decoration of deities, sanctum, Temple premises
- Floral arrangement for mūrtis, pūjā, etc.
- Coordinate various pūjā events

- Special Abhiṣekams and Pūjās
- Various Kalyāṇams
- Satyanārāyaṇa Pūjā

**4. Priest Committee** (Liaison: Sudhakar Kulkarni)

Prakash Kapoor – Chair  
Bindu Kota  
Sudhakar Kulkarni  
Sripada Raju  
Sharmaji  
Shivkumar Singh

**Responsibilities**

- Prepare an agenda of activities for each day of the ceremonies
- Selection of priests
- Reception, accommodation, and transportation of priests
- Assignment of responsibilities to the priests-
- Coordination of homam, vedic chanting, and other activities
- Strict time management of all the activities including the final Pratiṣṭhāpana
- Coordinating Kalaśa worship
- Training local devotees in doing some vedic chanting (via Dr. Raju)
- All other activities related to installation of deities

**5. Cultural and Social Activities Committee** (Liaison: )

Nagraj Kota – Chair  
Ajay Bhargava  
Srinivas Kandula  
Manasi Mishra  
Jairam Rajan

**Responsibilities**

- Pravacans
- Bhajans
- Music and dances
- Audio system
- Other activities

**6. Food and Prasād Coordination Committee** (Liaison: )

Rampal Agrawal – Chair  
Bindu Kota  
Minesh Mody  
Samip Patel

**Responsibilities**

- Preparation of food and naivedyam
- Serving food and prasād
- Coordination of serving of snacks, coffee and drinks
- Others

## **7. Brochure and Publicity**

(Liaison: )

Pratin Trivedi – Chair  
Sanjiv Dagli  
Prajakta Gore  
K. Padmanabhan  
Aditya Sharma

### **Responsibilities**

- Planning and publication of the main brochure
- Seeking paid advertisements for inclusion in brochure
- National, regional, and local publicity
  - Newspapers (local, India Abroad, Hinduism Today, etc.)
  - Radio
  - Television (local and state; public access)
  - Internet
  - Pamphlets

## **8. Facilities Management**

(Liaison: Sudhakar Kulkarni)

Tirlok Kakar – Chair  
Sudhakar Kulkarni  
Pardeep Kumar  
Anupam Shah  
Gian Taneja

### **Responsibilities**

- Navagraha Room preparation
- Tents, chairs, and tables
- Water, electricity, and other utilities throughout the premises for Havan, dining, and other needs
- Sound and lighting
- Closed-circuit TV
- Traffic management through local public safety
- Police protection for the duration of celebration
- Sanitary services
- Parking and shuttle transportation

## **9. Souvenir and Sales Committee**

(Liaison:)

Shivkumar Singh – Chair  
Aditya Sharma  
Gian Taneja

### **Responsibilities**

- Tea shirts, key chains, etc.
- Pratiṣṭhāpana commemorative coins
- Brass Pratimas etc.
- Bhasma containers
- Audios and videos
- Other ideas