

ANNUAL REPORT AT GENERAL BODY MEETING 1994
Bharatiya Temple of Lansing
December 4, 1994

Manohar D. Naga, Chair, Board of Trustees

My Dear Friends,

I am very happy to extend a very warm welcome to all of you at this the first general body meeting of Bharatiya Temple of Lansing. I would like to express my deep sense of appreciation to every one of the volunteers, the members of the current Board of Trustees, the members of the past Boards of Trustees, and various well-wishers in and outside of Lansing for having made our Temple a reality for our community.

Let me now introduce the other members of the current Board: Gondy Rao, Vice Chairman; Kanwal Mohan, Treasurer; Meena Sharma, Secretary; Kusum Patel, Assistant Secretary; and Executive Board Members Champa Bhatia, Padmani Karna, Sudhakar Kulkarni, Sudhakar Chapalkar (who stepped down for personal reasons mid-way through the year), and C. Adinarayana Reddy (who was appointed to take Mr. Chaphalkar's place).

1994 has been a great year for our Temple and our vibrant Indian-American community. Our temple facility became operational on March 12 with Mahashivaratri celebration, which included a Bharatanatyam dance program by Ms. Manasi Kaushik of Windsor, Canada. Since then we have had various religious and community programs. First Sunday Satsang has been increasingly popular. Havans on Third Sundays are being well attended. Puja on second and fourth Sundays are being supported as well. On April 16 we sponsored Krishna Leela, a dance drama by Mrs. Sangeeta Kar and 35 children from Midland, and were successful in bringing out a souvenir book. We celebrated various festivals – Ramanavami, Krishna Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Navaratri, and Diwali – with great participation. Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated under the leadership of Maharashtrian members for 9 days. Navaratri was celebrated for 10 days and included Garba on several of those days under the leadership of Gujarati members. Religious discourses were conducted by Swami Paramananda, Swami Brahmaroopananda, and Swami Anantacharya (7 days of Bhagavat Katha), and were enjoyed by our community. Our Temple hosted an Open House on October 9 for the local community. We are participating in supporting the local community through soup kitchen and donation programs. Various educational programs like Bhagavad Gita classes are also sponsored: Brahmachari Saswath Chaitanya of Chinmaya Seva Samithi in Flint conducted Gita classes from June through August, and the classes have continued under Dr. K.S. Sripada Raju since then.. Under the leadership of Dr. Anantaraman and others, an excellent library is set up. This is being expanded with a video library of Bhagavad Gita, Mahabharata, Ramayana, and other programs.

All the Murtis were successfully procured and set up in the Sanctum.

Above all, we were successful with your help in introducing a new constitution to ensure a democratic process in the management of the Temple while still keeping with the fundamental objectives.

Now, I invite our Treasurer to present the financial report.