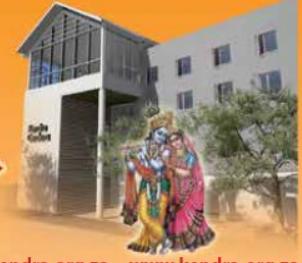




APRIL - MAY 2022



E-mail: info@kendra.org.za www.kendra.org.za

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We experienced global turmoil with the advent of the Covid pandemic and this had a direct impact on human life and their livelihood. The impact of the shutdown resulted in huge loss of business and loss of jobs. During this period, as an organization, we faced many challenges in various spheres of our activities and through our resilience we managed to overcome most of it. We lost many members of our community and were unable to share such loss with the bereaved families. Fortunately, technology allowed us to continue with our lives to work from home, attend meetings and funerals virtually. This enabled us to continue to host all our religious events virtually. We had done our best in finding creative ways of celebrating each religious event virtually and bringing the best of artists for bhajans etc. We were also able to showcase our youth in the annual Rangeli Shaam event.

In the meantime, we continue to work on enhancing services to the community in the following areas:

- Establishing alternate channels that are more flexible and cost effective to communicate broadcasted messages instead of SMS.
- Looking at digital platforms to facilitate an easier payment process for members to contribute for any fund-raising drive and membership database management.
- Re-opening of the Mandir to the public. Provided the Covid 19 infection remains under control we will be hosting all our religious events at the community centre as we did pre-covid period.

- Discussions being held on a balance between virtual and personal classroom teachings of the gujarati language, music and culture.
- Renewed youth development programmes which include interactive sessions with the residents of the Retirement Home.

The loss of income both from the hire of our venue for functions and the letting of rooms at the Retirement Home had set us back enormously and significantly reduced our reserves.

This placed a lot of strain on the funding of the expansion of the Retirement Home and we continue to appeal to members of our community to support this initiative in providing affordable accommodation and a better-quality life for the aged.

We are aware that most people face financial strain but as a country we cannot grow unless we share our resources to improve the lives of the underprivileged. We live in an unequal society and unless that gap is closed, the future for the oncoming generation will remain bleak. It is imperative for each of us to contribute to grow and uplift our society.

We pray that normality will be restored as soon as possible so that we can share the platform personally to maintain our traditions, culture and religion and engage in activities that would contribute to the greater South African society.

## Gujarati and Hinduism Classes

Friday 15h00 to 17h00

Venue: Kendra ,5 Sydenham Road  
Durban

For further Information Contact  
Dhanlila Narsi on 076 100 1326

## Annual Rangili Shaam

Our Annual Rangili Shaam will be held on 17th July at Kendra Hall. Approximately 100 participants take part in Rangili Shaam annually and the ages vary from 2yrs-70yr. An average of 1000 people attend this programme which concludes with an Aarti and Dinner.

Participants are assisted, guided and rehearsed.

New ideas, concepts and suggestions are most welcome.  
Your participation and support is most appreciated.

Please also encourage the children to participate.

Many have skills and talent and what better platform to start with them than with our own, "Rangili Shaam".

Should you wish to participate or for further information please contact  
Ekta Gandecha on 031-3261000 or Mahesh Gandecha on 0837783645



## GUJARATI HINDU SANSKRUTI KENDRA KENDRA GARDENS RETIREMENT HOME



### KENDRA GARDENS RETIREMENT HOME PHASE 1-COMPLETED 2011

After great introspection Kendra embarked on its next major project in 2007, the building of a much needed Retirement Home for the community.

The Home was completed in 2011 with 75 rooms accommodating 90 senior citizens and was inaugurated by the Honourable Minister Pravin Gordhan. Due to the high demand for these facilities, Kendra has subsequently completed another 21 rooms, over the past 3 years. The complex currently has 96 rooms accommodating 125 persons and is fully occupied.

A further addition to the services offered was the installation of a fully integrated WiFi service over the entire complex at a cost of R1 million. Residents are not charged separately for this service.

## New Project

### KENDRA GARDENS RETIREMENT HOME

#### Expansion 2021 - 2022

Kendra has decided to renovate and convert this building into 28 additional rooms to extend its existing facilities. This expansion will accommodate 35 more residents, taking the total capacity up to 161 residents. The estimated cost of these renovations is expected to be in the region of R12 million and this will include 28 new rooms as well as an additional dining room, lounge, elevator and offices/ store-rooms. A bridge will connect the two buildings.

Fundraising has commenced and we expect to complete the project in 2022. There is still a great demand for residency at the Home due to its Hindu ethos as well as the excellent facilities and the modest pricing of R8,900 per month for a single room (R296 per person per day) and R11,300 per month for a double room (R188 per person per day). The fully furnished facility has proven to be extremely popular. The price includes VAT, private en-suite accommodation, air conditioning, electricity, water, all meals, laundry, cleaning, free WiFi and Netflix.



DESIGN OF PROPOSED CONNECTING BRIDGE

	EKTA MANDIR KENDRA HALL	KGRH PHASE 1	KGRH PHASE 2	PROPOSED KGRH - PHASE 3
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED	2001	2011	2020	2021/2022
COST OF PROJECT	R12 million	R33 million	R7 million	R12 million
CONTINUED SERVICES OFFERED	EKTA MANDIR Cultural, religious, educational, social responsibility Projects +/- 140 weddings annually	60 SINGLE ROOMS 15 Double Rooms 90 Residents Full service retirement home fully occupied	6 SINGLE 15 Double Rooms 36 Residents Additional Dining Room Full Wi-Fi provision	21 SINGLE ROOMS 7 Double Rooms 35 Residents Additional :- Dining Room Lounge Connecting Bridge

## Appeal For Donations

### PROJECT FUNDING REQUIRED – R12 MILLION

NAMING RIGHTS OF ONE OF 6 ENTIRE WINGS / FLOORS OF THE RETIREMENT HOME	R 500,000
NAMING RIGHTS FOR ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR SPECIAL AREAS NEW DINING ROOM, NEW LOUNGE, CONNECTING BRIDGE AND NEW ELEVATOR	R 350,000
INDIVIDUAL ROOM NAMING RIGHTS PAYABLE R 5,000 PER MONTH	R 125,000 PER ROOM

**ALL DONATIONS ARE MOST WELCOME  
ANY AMOUNTS OF R500 OR MORE WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED ON THE  
MAIN DONOR BOARD**

### DONATIONS: TAX DEDUCTION

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.

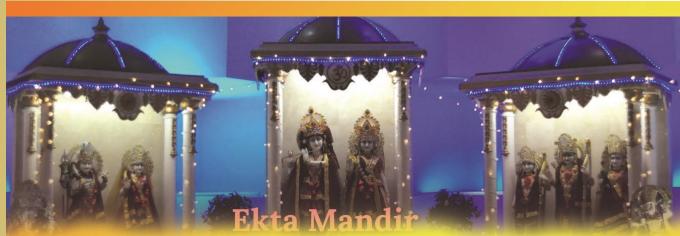
Please contact your financial adviser for advice pertaining to your deduction in terms of tax.

### BANKING DETAILS

Account Name	Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra
Bank	Nedbank
Account No.	1305 898 907
Branch Code	130526

### For further information kindly contact :-

JAY MAVJEE	083 287 2220	HARISH NARSI	082 445 6692
JERRY MAGJEE	082 900 4228	SUDHIR PRAGJEE	083 781 4000
RAMNIK JUTA	082 551 4138	KENDRA - KAMANI NAICKER	031 326 1000



## Weekly Bhajans at Ekta Mandir

Every Sunday at 5:30pm to 6:30 pm  
Aarti @6:30pm

For family Bhajans and Prasad arrangements Contact  
Kendra On 031 3261000

Daily Aarti at 6:30 pm  
All Welcome

**Kendra Annual Medical Day**  
Sunday 31st July 2022 From 10am to 3pm

**FREE MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS**

- \* Blood, Sugar, Pressure, Cholesterol
- \* Eyes, Ears, General Medical
- "Give blood and save a life"  
(Light Refreshments will be served)

**ALL WELCOME**




*The Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra  
request the company of you and your family  
to attend the*

### Satya Narayan Vrat Katha



Date : Sunday 19 June 2022  
Time : 10:30 am  
Venue: Ekta Mandir Kendra

*Mahaprasaad (Lunch) will be served  
after the Katha*

*Bookings have commenced and it is  
absolutely necessary to get in touch  
with Sunita Ramjee on 0828880244  
for sitting in the Katha*

### Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra

Invites you and your family  
to the  
**DURBAN'S UNITED RECITAL OF  
108 SHREE HANUMAN CHALISA**  
By various groups from  
Durban



Date : Wednesday 27 April 2022

Venue: Ekta Mandir, Kendra  
Programme

04h30 to 05h00	Samuh Pooja
05h00 to 17h00	108 Shree Hanuman Chalisa Recitals

Aarti, Thaer and Maha Prasaeed will follow  
after the Chalisa Recitals

**ALL  
WELCOME**



### Diarise These Dates

108 - Hanuman Chalisa	Wed	27th Apr
Sataya Narayn Katha	Sun	19th Jun
International Yoga day	Tues	21st Jun
Medical Day	Sun	31st Jul
Rangili Shaam	Sun	17th Jul
Shravaan Month	29th Jul -	27th Aug
Naag Pancham	Tues	2nd Aug
Randhan Cheth	Wed	3rd Aug
Shitala Saatem	Thurs	4th Aug
Nori Nam	Fri	5th Aug
Raksha Bandhan	Thurs	11th Aug
Rudri Pooja	Sun	14th Aug
Shree Krishna Janmastami	Fri	19th Aug
Bridal Fair	26 - 27 - 28 Aug	



**STERNS**  
1896

# eastern BRIDAL FAIR & LIFESTYLE EXPO

**WELCOME TO  
THE 21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL  
EASTERN BRIDAL  
FAIR 2022  
26, 27, 28 AUG 2022  
KENDRA HALL**

#### Contact Details

Tel: 031 309 6844/031 326 1000

Email: [admin@easternbride.co.za](mailto:admin@easternbride.co.za)

Address: Kendra Hall,  
5 John Zikhali Rd (Sydenham Rd),  
Durban, 4001

[www.easternbride.co.za](http://www.easternbride.co.za)



## STERNS Eastern Bridal Fair & Lifestyle Expo

The Eastern Bridal Fair is a fashion, trade & lifestyle fair held annually since 2000. An average of 10 000 patrons attends the fair. The 21st Annual Eastern Bridal Fair will take place from 26 to 28 August 2022 at The Kendra Hall.

The organisers of Eastern Bridal Fair are proud to announce that STERNS JEWELLERS will again sponsor the "STERNS Eastern Bridal Fair & Lifestyle Expo"

Together with Wedding service providers, travel agencies & other wedding related services, The Eastern Bridal Fair has introduced the lifestyle element which deals with health, beauty, healing & other related services. The fair features an hour-long fashion show & entertainment musical that is produced especially for the fair that is performed 8 times during the fair.

Leading exhibitors are given the opportunity to be part of the fashion show & dance extravaganza featuring a cast & crew of 100 local dancers .

A beautifully choreographed 60-minute fashion show & entertainment extravaganza is produced especially for the fair, which is performed 9 times over the weekend of the fair.

Leading exhibitors are given an opportunity to be part of the fashion show& dance extravaganza featuring a talented cast & crew of models and dances.

A glossy magazine is published and handed out free to patrons attending. The magazine features a directory of stores and service providers .

## Winter Warmth

As the chill of the winter air approaches we are once again reminded that while we all wrapped up , there will be many less fortunate who will be exposed to the rain and cold. Fortunately the Kendra has taken on the mighty task of catering for those who the winter too is much to bear. By providing blankets and other essential the Kendra will ensure that the needy are protected from the bitter cold this winter.

please contribute generously to the Kendra social responsibility programme and allow us to be your extended hand of warmth this winter.

**For this campaign we are appealing to you to bring us a blanket. Cash donations of R150 per blanket will be most welcome.  
Deadline 1st June 2022**

## Use of Yagna Pith for Private Havan and Shraad Prayer at Kendra

The Yagna Pith situated at rear of the main hall may be used for family and personal purpose

#### Tariff:

Shraad Havan 12th, 13th or 16th day prayer - FREE  
Private Havan R 250.00

Use of downstairs hall for 12th, 13th or 16th day for Shraad Prayer R500.00

Dependent on availability. Not available on days when the Main Auditorium is booked.

**All enquiries to Jolene at Kendra : 031-3091824 for availability.  
Terms and Conditions apply.**

# Tribute to our Pass Presidents

## Ratilal Dwakadass Gordhan 1937-2020

## Dr Prabakant Lalloo Patel 1937-2020



Rathibhai (as we knew him) was born in Clairwood which boasted a colourful and vibrant society with a wonderful multicultural and multilingual ethos and this environment shaped and influenced the choices he made in life. He learned elementary gujarati in a mosque and his deep understanding of religion was obtained from the storytelling of his late grandfather and late father. Their influences no doubt guided him in his understanding and interaction with the wider community we live in and taught him the respect for one another's traditions and religion. Rathibhai was survived by his wife Kanthalaben, three children and seven grandchildren.

Despite the financial hardships his family faced, his family endured whatever sacrifice it took but ensured that he and his siblings received a good education. He and his three brothers had obtained university degrees and Rathibhai acquired a BA degree, the professional qualification of UED, Bachelor of Education and a Diploma in Remedial Education. He had great success as a teacher and succeeded to the rank of principal of a new technically advanced school and thereafter as Superintendent of Education.

In the 1980's Rathibhai was brought to the forefront of the community at the time the Department of Education threatened the closure of Gandhi Desai and Manilall Valjee schools. Following this unsuccessful battle, he was lured to become the President of the Kathiawad Hindu Seva Samaj. There was a serious need in breaking down divisive barriers within the Gujarati community and Rathibhai was part of a group of visionaries who saw the need to unite the community. This led to the talks between the Kathiawad Hindu Seva Samaj, The Surat Hindoo Association and the Surat Arya Sangeet Bhajan Mandal (Saptah Mandir). The successful talks led to the formation of the Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra and Rathibhai was appointed as the first President.

As a leader, he was a true and gentle giant and a great leader. Through his team, they built the institution through very generous community contributions. The huge milestones the organization achieved was because of the values both he and his team entrenched at the outset. He tackled challenges with dignity and mapped out the direction the Kendra should take. He was a great mentor and a go to person for wisdom and advice.

Rathibhai will always be remembered for his contribution to the course towards Gujarati unity and all endeavors thereafter are followed upon the foundation he and his team laid.

One of the first Indian doctors to qualify in South Africa, Dr Prabakant Patel received the Welcome Prize for the best all-round final-year medical student. Breaking down the barriers of apartheid, he went on to become a full-time lecturer in pharmacology at the Medical School of the then University of Natal, from 1964 to 1969.

Dr Patel had also been a part-time senior physician and lecturer in the department of cardiology at the Medical School, and had used his skills to help the indigent and marginalised.

He was an examiner for the Fellowship of the College of Physicians of South Africa; a former president of the Medical Graduates Association of the University of Natal; a member of the board of governors of the Natal University Development Foundation; and a member of the board of management and honorary senior physician at St Aidan's Hospital.

Dr Patel had his own private practice – as specialist physician – from 1970 until failing health forced him to cease ministering to those in need, and move with his wife to Pretoria so they could be with their children.

He had been a president of the Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra, playing an integral role in realising its dream to achieve Gujarati unity. He had been president of the Natal Gujarati Parishad, and a member of the Indian Institute of Languages in Durban. As education superintendent of the Gujarati School of the Surat Hindu Education Society, he had ensured the promo-