

# **GITA JAYANTHI CELEBRATION**

**Place: Bharatiya Temple of Lansing, 955 Haslett Road, Haslett, MI**

**Date: Saturday November 28, 2008 (6:30 AM to 1:00 PM)**

## ***What is Gītā Jayanthi?***

**Gītā** Jayanthi is a very special day in Hindu calendar commemorating the birth anniversary of Bhagavad Gītā (often abbreviated as Gītā), the most popular of the Hindu scriptural texts of India. Gītā is described as the essence of all the Upanishads. It is also described as the crest jewel of world philosophical literature.

## ***Why celebrate Gītā Jayanthi?***

**Gītā** Jayanthi is celebrated as a mark of our respect to Gītā, which is called “Sarva sāstra mayi” meaning that it embodies in it all the major Hindu scriptures. Gītā is reverentially referred to as “Bhagavati” and “Amba” meaning that this great text has the same exalted state as a mother.

Bhagavad Gītā literally means “Lord’s song”. Great Hindu scholars show no distinction between the word of God and God Himself. Hence, offering puja to Gītā is like offering puja to “Gītācharya”, the Lord Krishna himself.

The great Ādi Śankarācārya declared in his ‘Bhaja Govindam’ composition that of all those that deserve chanting, Gītā and Vishnusahasranama are the most worthy of being chanted. A person who truly understands and implements the teachings of Gītā will be liberated from the cycle of birth and death.

For all the above reasons and many more, Gītā Jayanthi deserves celebration by all true followers of Sanātana Dharma. Bhāratiya Temple of Lansing has celebrated Gītā Jayanthi every year since its inception. All interested community members in the Greater Lansing area and elsewhere are invited to participate in this very fulfilling and auspicious celebration.

## **PROGRAM**

<b>6:30 AM</b>	<b>Puja (Priest- Sri Hari)</b>
<b>7:00 AM</b>	<b>Gītā Pārāyan begins (Devotees)</b>
<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>End of Gītā Pārāyan</b>
<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>Comments on Gita by Priest Sri Hari</b>
<b>11:25 AM</b>	<b>Selection from Jnaneswar (reading by Kishre and Smitha; comments by Dr. Sriada Raju</b>
<b>11:35 AM</b>	<b>Gita Experience – Devotees</b>
<b>11:45 AM</b>	<b>Ārati followed by Prasad Lunch</b>

**Please bring with you a copy of Gītā if you have one. For those who do not have their own copy of Gītā, do come any way because extra copies of Gītā would be available with us. Please call Dr. C. A. Reddy (455-7866), Dr. Sripada Raju (337-7888), or Temple Priest (339-6337) for further information.**