



Philadelphia Ganesh Festival

Established Since 2005



America's the Largest and First, 10-Day Public Ganesh Festival
Organized by Bharatiya Temple and Philadelphia's Indian Organizations

1612 County Line Road, Montgomeryville, PA 18936
www.PhiladelphiaGaneshFestival.org, Email: pgfcoreteam@gmail.com

September 15, 2024

LETTER OF HONOR (CERTIFICATE)

MR. HARIDAS JI SHINDE (SHAHEER, FOLK ARTIST), A 17th generation descendant of Adyashahir Agyandas, from the court of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and a talented Musician of folk music of Maharashtra.

Philadelphia Ganesh Festival (PGF) is the largest and first public 10-Day Festival in North America. It is celebrated at Bhartiya Temple in Montgomeryville, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia. We organize the Ganesh Festival at Bhartiya Temple with worships and several cultural programs. PGF invites prestigious artists from US and Overseas to perform at the cultural activities during festival at the temple.

This year, HARIDAS JI SHINDE, along with his accompanying artists Pandurag Shinde and Ramaji Pandhare, presented outstanding programs of *Devicha Gondhal* and Maharashtrian Folk Songs, at a *Harirang* Concert demonstrating Shivaji-time *Gondhal* tradition, *Powade* and *Shakta Panthiya Kirtan* etc. at our Festival. Their mastery over sambal playing and ballad singing brought glory to our festival. HARIDAS JI SHINDE, has been instrumental in propagating folk music thru establishment of Folk Culture Kala Seva Sangh for the development of folk music and folk culture of Maharashtra. His band "*Rana-Dhumali Sambal Team*" performed more than 3000 folk music programs and musical experiments in India. We are very proud to honor him and the accompanying artists of his band, on behalf of our festival.

We would highly recommend HARIDAS JI SHINDE and his band for state honors and recognition. Please contact us, should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Mukund M Kute

Founder and Chairperson of the festival
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