Malacca Gujarati Samaj president Nitin Kumar Gordhan said the committee was determined to highlight the important festivals held in the Shree Ambaji Temple in the state tourism calendar. With these, we hope to open our doors to the public to help them understand better the culture and traditions of the Gujarati community. The entire projects would cost about RM 1.2 million.



Venue for major Gujarati celebrations, festivals

→ *From Page 1*

To prevent further damage to the structure, we have to replace the damaged parts of the building," he said.

Bharti was speaking after the groundbreaking of the temple's restoration and renovation project in Ujong Pasir, here, recently.

The temple, Bharti said, was visited annually by about 2,000 devotees who are not only Gujarati, but also Chinese and South and North Indians.

"This temple is also the venue of unique Gujarati celebrations, such as Navarathri, a festival dedicated to the worship of the Hindu deity Durga.

"Navaratri" means nine nights in Sanskrit, is an important and major festival for the Gujarati.

Malacca Gujarati Samaj president Nitin Kumar Gordhan said the committee was determined to highlight the important festivals held in the Shree Ambaji Temple in the state tourism calendar.

"There are several Gujarati festivals every year, such as Makar Sangkranti, Maha Shivratri, Chaitra Navaratri, Ram Navami, Hanuman Jayanti, Shravan Month, Raksha Bhandan, Saatam, Janmasthami, Shree Ganesh Chaturthi and Sharad Poonam.

"With these, we hope to open our doors to the public to help them understand better the culture and traditions of the Gujarati community," he said.

Nitin said the temple hall was also often used by locals of all races to hold events such as wedding dinners and marriage ceremonies.

"Therefore, we see the need to enhance the hall, including the installation of air conditioners," he said.

The entire project would cost about RM1.2 million.

*A **crack** in the floor of the temple.*

"We have received a sum of RM50,000 for this purpose from the state government, and another RM20,000 was donated by the Malaysian Indian Congress.

"However, we still need more funds. We have applied for aid from the Federal Government and we are waiting for the approval of the Finance Ministry," he said.

The Gujerati community in Malaysia is small, with approximately 500 Gujarati in Malacca and 4,500 in Malaysia.

The temple committee will try to raise funds through events such as charity dinners.

Donations for the temple restoration works can be made to the Malacca Gujarati Samaj Building Fund, Maybank account number 504085146566.

For details, call Nithin at 012-601 4020.

***Termite infestation** and a leak in the roof are problems which need attention urgently.* Pix by Muhammad Hatim Ab Manan

[PLEDGE FORM CAN BE DOWNLOAD FROM HERE (click here) FOR CONTRIBUTION FOR MALACCA GUJARATI SAMAJ]

To,

The Building Chairman

Malacca Gujarati Samaj.

Contribution for the MALACCA GUJARATI SAMAJ BUILDING FUND

Project: Cadangan Menaiktaraf Dewan Badminton & Bangunan Malacca Gujarati Samaj di Lot No. 124, Kawasan Bandar XXXVII, Daerah Melaka Tengah, Negeri Melaka

Alamat: Shri Ambaji Temple, No. 186, Jalan Ujong Pasir, 75050 Melaka.

I /We, …….. (name / organization) wish

to contribute a donation of RM ……. for the above mentioned Building Project.

I / We shall make payments in the form of cheque in favour of

MALACCA GUJARATI SAMAJ BUILDING FUND A/C

[Malayan Banking Berhad (MBB) A/C No : 5040 851 46566]

Cheque No : …… Amount: ……..

---------- Address:

(Signature)

(Donor's Name / Organisation)

Tel. Home / Office: ----------

---------- Mobile:

Date : ----------

Received by:
