

Adults Contests:

Contest Name	Co-Lead	Co-Lead
Adult - Taste-Testing challenge	Urjita Dani Urjita@gmail.com	Archana Patel apate16@gmail.com
Adult - Paani Puri Eating	Sheela Shah d2shah@aol.com	
Adult - Oil Paint Rangoli	Raji Kaloji Kidsdoc_3@yahoo.com	Dona Roy Basu roy.donaa@gmail.com
Adult – Art of Bloom {Flower Arrangement}	Reenu Agarwal reenuagarwal@gmail.com	Meetali Chhaya Meetalichhaya@gmail.com
Adult – Musical Plate	Sireesha Aleti SireeshaAleti@gmail.com	Sejal Patel Sejal516@gmail.com
Adult – Badminton	Mahesh Patel Mahesh7827@yahoo.com	Sanjay Kumar bhonji@gmail.com
Adult - Carroms	RamBabu Surapaneni rbsurapneni@gmail.com	Madhu Kaloji madhu_kaloji@yahoo.com
Pickleball	Prathi Trivadi Peter Peter_2356@yahoo.com	Ponniah Manikandan oneidwekd@gmail.com
Table Tennis	Umang Aggarwal umang_a@hotmail.com	
Tennis	Veeram Shetty Guttula vshettyg@hotmail.com	Satish Chekuri chekurizr@gmail.com
8-Ball Pool	Deep Patel DeepPatel1385@gmail.com	Satish Chekuri chekurizr@gmail.com

Adult – Badminton Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Saturday, March 28th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple Of Hampton Roads**

All players MUST sign a waiver form before the participant is permitted to take part in the Badminton Competition.

- o **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per participant.**
- o No mixed teams are allowed – same gender teams will play.
- o Limit Men 18 teams And Women 8 Teams

▄ **Equipment:**

- Players are to bring their own badminton rackets.
- TOI will provide shuttles for play.
- Players can't bring their own shuttles and can only play with shuttles provided.

▄ **Toss:**

- Before play commences, a toss shall be conducted and the side winning the toss shall exercise the choice to serve or receive first; to start play at one end of the court or the other.

▄ **Scoring System:**

- Every time there is a serve – there is a point scored.
- The side winning a rally adds a point to its score.
- Each match is a knock out match of 21 points.
- A match shall be won by the side which first scores 21 points.
- If the score becomes 20-all, the side which gains a two point lead first, shall win that match.
- If the score becomes 29-all, the side scoring the 30th point shall win that match.

▄ **Service:**

- At the beginning of the game (0-0) and when the server's score is even, the server serves from the right service court. When the server's score is odd, the server serves from the left service court.
- If the server wins a rally, the server scores a point and then serves again from the alternate service court.
- If the receiver wins a rally, the receiver scores a point and becomes the new server. They serve from the appropriate service court – left if their score is odd, and right if it is even.

- Whenever the serving side wins a rally, the same person serves again (but from the other service court).
- The players do not change their respective service courts until they win a point when their side is serving.
- The serve must be hit in an upwards direction, with an underarm hitting action. You are not allowed to play a tennis style serve.
- The server and the receiver shall stand within diagonally opposite service courts without touching the boundary lines of these service courts.

▣ **Faults:**

It shall be a “fault”:

if, in service, the shuttle:

- Lands outside the boundaries of the court.
- Is caught on the net and remains suspended on its top.
- The server miss the shuttle.
- Fails to pass over the net.

If, in play, the shuttle:

- Lands outside the boundaries of the court.
- Fails to pass over the net.
- Touches the ceiling.
- Touches the person or dress of a player.
- Is hit twice in succession by the same player.

if, in play, a player:

- Touches the net or its supports with racket.
- Invades an opponent’s court over the net with racket.
- Deliberately distracts an opponent by any action such as shouting or making gestures

▣ **Lets:**

“Let” shall be called by the Referee ONLY to halt play.

It shall be a “let” if:

- The server serves before the receiver is ready.
- Shuttle is suspended on top during play.
- During play, the shuttle disintegrates and the base completely separates from the rest of the shuttle.
- The referee is unable to make a decision.
- Any unforeseen or accidental situation has occurred.

When a let occurs, the rally stops and is replayed, without changing score or serving positions.

🏠 **Referee:**

- Organizers/coordinators can't play match in Badminton competition
- All decisions made by referee are final.

🏠 Waiver Form Needs to be Signed

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Mahesh Patel Mahesh7827@yahoo.com	Sanjay Kumar bhonji@gmail.com
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Adult-Carroms Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Saturday, March 28th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- o **Mandatory \$10 registration fee per team.**

- o Both Contestants in a team have to register as a team and fee has to be paid at the time of registration
- o Men 16 team Entries (32 individuals).
- o Women 8 team Entries (16 individuals).
- o All games are to be played in pairs (doubles). All games face off games.
- o A STRICT time limit of 15 minutes a game.
- o Teams will be divided into two groups with a draw of team names.
- o Games will be judged by independent referees. The referee's decision is final.
- o **Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.**
- o **Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.**

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

RamBabu Surapaneni	Madhu Kaloji
rbsurapneni@gmail.com	madhu_kaloji@yahoo.com

Adult- Taste-Testing challenge

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Saturday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- o **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per participant.**

- o Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.
- o Participants should be 18 yrs and above.

- o **Rules & Guidelines**

- o The contest will include:
 - o 5 spice mixes
 - o 3 food items
 - o 3 drinks
- o All participants will taste the same items under the same conditions.

- o **Provided Items**

- o All spice mixes, food items, and drinks will be supplied by the contest lead.
- o Items will be presented in numbered or labeled containers to ensure fairness and blind tasting.

- o **Tasting Rules**

- o Participants must taste each item in the order provided.
- o Only small tasting portions are provided.
- o Sharing opinions during tasting is not allowed until all scoring is complete.

- o **Judging & Scoring**

- o Participants will evaluate each item based on:
 - o Flavor
 - o Balance
 - o Texture (for foods)
 - o Aroma (for spices and drinks)
 - o Overall impression
- o Scoring sheets will be provided.
- o All scores must be submitted before discussion begins.

- o **Time Limits**

- o A time limit will be set for each tasting round.
- o Participants must complete their tasting and scoring within the allotted time.

- o **Conduct & Fair Play**

- o Respectful behavior is required at all times.
- o No discussion, signals, or reactions that may influence others' scores.
- o Any attempt to cheat or disrupt the contest may result in disqualification.

- o **Allergies & Safety**

- o Common allergens will be announced before tasting begins.
- o Participants are responsible for informing the contest lead of any allergies or dietary restrictions.
- o Participants may opt out of tasting any item if necessary but may receive a reduced score.

- o **8. Results & Awards**

- o Scores will be tallied by the contest lead.

- Winners will be announced after all evaluations are completed.
- Judges' and organizers' decisions are final.

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Urjita Dani Urjita@gmail.com	Archana Patel apate16@gmail.com
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Adult–Paani Puri Eating Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Saturday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple Of Hampton Roads**

- o 20 Entries for each category - men and women.
- o **Mandatory \$10 registration fee per contestant.**
- o **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest. (planning purposes)**
- o **Participants should be 18 yrs and above.**
- o It is a TIMED contest. First, two contestants to eat most puris and finish the water within the time will be declared winner and runner-up.
- o Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.
- o Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Sheela Shah	
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d2shah@aol.com	
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Adult – Pickleball Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **TBD**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- o **There will be a registration fee (\$10 per team)**
- o Both players in a team register and pay at the time of registration as a team.
- o Players will play in 2 categories
 - o Men's doubles
 - o Womens doubles
- o It will be a round robin (number of matches might vary based on the registrations)
- o Top 4 will play playoff and so on.
- o Referee's decision will be final.
- o Bring your own paddles.
- o You will be briefed on match specifications, guidelines and etiquette by the moderator before the game begins
- o **Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.**
- o **Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.**
- o Waiver Form Needs to be Signed

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Prathi Trivadi Peter

Peter_2356@yahoo.com

Ponniah Manikandan

oneidwekd@gmail.com

Adult–Oil Rangoli Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **TBD**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- o **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per participant.**
- o **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**
- o **Participants should be 18 yrs and above.**

Time and Size

- Time: 4 hours will be given to complete.
- Area: Within a **4×4 ft** to **5×5 ft** space

Materials

- Participants must **bring their own materials**, including colors, oil paints, brushes, or other tools.
- Some common colors materials will be provided by the TOI organizers.

Mediums

- **Allowed:** Oil paints, shiny glitter oil paint
- **Not Allowed:** Mixing traditional Rangoli powders with paints (may lead to disqualification).

Originality

- Designs must be **original and created on the spot**.
- **Pre-sketched, printed, or copied** images are strictly prohibited.

Restrictions

- **No use of electronic devices**, printed references, or handwritten notes.
- Only hand-drawn, live creations are accepted.

Judging Criteria

Entries are evaluated based on the following:

- **Creativity**
- **Color combination**
- **Relevance to the theme**
- **Neatness and overall appeal**

Themes

- Typically based on **traditional, cultural, or festival-related** topics.
- Participants should stay within the announced theme at the start of the competition.

Commonly Used Materials in Specialized Competitions

- **Paints:** oil paints (especially in on-the-spot poster-style events)
- **Flowers/Diyas:** For decorative elements

Note: Always review the **specific rules of your competition**, as regulations may vary slightly depending on the event or organizer.

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Raji Kaloji Kidsdoc_3@yahoo.com	Dona Roy Basu roy.donaa@gmail.com
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Adult – Table Tennis Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Saturday, March 28th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple Of Hampton Roads**

- o **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per participant.**

- o No. of spots for each age category
 - o Adults - Men: 8 entries
 - o Adults - Women: 8 entries

(NOTE: Any age category not meeting 8 contestants will be cancelled)**

- o All games in Table tennis are singles.
- o All players are to bring their own rackets, balls will be provided.
- o The coin toss winner will decide the order of serving, receiving and the ends.
- o All matches in Round 1 are knockout rounds. The first player to score 21 points wins. If it is a tie at 20, the player gaining the lead of 2 points wins.
- o Round 2 will be played in the best of 3 matches' format. Each match will be a 11-point game.
- o Finals will be played in a best of 5 matches' format. Each match will be a 11-point game.
- o The first player to score 21 or 11 points wins. If it is a tie at 20 or 10, the player gaining the lead of 2 points wins.
- o Each player will serve for 5 points in a row, and then the serve is switched to the other player. If a game is at a score of 20-20/10-10, each player only serves 1 point at a time.
- o Games will be judged by independent referees. The referee's decision IS final.
- o **Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.**
- o **Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.**
- o Waiver Form Needs to be Signed

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Umang Aggarwal	
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umang_a@hotmail.com	
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Adult – Tennis Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Starting from February 22nd 2026 onwards**

Venue: **Details will be provided**

- o **Please contact Veeram Shetty Guttula (757) 753-7615 for questions.**
- o **Mandatory \$10 registration fee per contestant.**
- o Age categories
 - o Adults : Doubles. (18 yrs and above)
 - o Adults : Singles (18 yrs and above)
- o Both Contestants in a Doubles team have to register as a team and fee has to be paid at the time of registration.
- o **Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.**
- o **Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.**
- o Waiver Form Needs to be Signed

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Veeram Shetty Guttula (757) 753-7615	
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Adult – Art of Bloom {Flower Arrangement} Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Sunday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- o **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per contestant.**
- o **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**

Time Limit:

- o Participants will have 45 minutes to complete their arrangement on the spot.

Materials:

- o Participants must bring their own flowers, vase and all required materials.
- o No pre-made or partially prepared arrangements will be allowed.

Type of Flowers Allowed:

- o Both fresh (real) flowers and artificial flowers are permitted.
- o Mixing of fresh and artificial flowers in the same arrangement is NOT allowed. Participants must choose only one type.

Individual Participation:

- o The competition is open for individual participants only.
- o Group entries are not permitted.
- o

Size Limit:

- o The final arrangement must not exceed 12 inches in height or width.

No External Help:

- o Once the competition begins, participants must work independently.
- o No outside assistance or guidance will be allowed during the competition time.

Height Ratio Guidelines:

- o Participants must maintain proper proportion in their design.
- o The total height of the arrangement should be 1.5 to 2 times the height of the vase/container.

Final Decision

- The judges' decision will be **final and binding**.
- Organizer reserves the right to modify rules or timelines if necessary.

- Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Reenu Agarwal reenuagarwal@gmail.com	Meetali Meetalichhaya@gmail.com
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Adult – Musical Plate Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Sunday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per contestant.**
- **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**
- **Age: Participants should be 18 yrs and above who are fit to participate physically.**
 - Players must not push, shove, or physically touch other participants. Safety is a priority.
 - All participants will play under the supervision of the appointed Judges.
 - Players must abide by the Judges' decisions and follow all rules laid down for the event.
 - Any player physically touching or pushing another player during the game will be disqualified immediately.
 - Players must comply with all General Playing Rules during the event. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
 - The game will proceed as per the TOI Judges Rules and any additional instructions given by the judges during the event.

Final Decision

- The judges' decision will be **final and binding**.
- Organizer reserves the right to modify rules or timelines if necessary.
- **Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.**

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Sireesha Aleti

SireeshaAleti@gmail.com

Sajal Patel

Sejal516@gmail.com

Adult – 8-Ball Pool Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **TBD**

Venue: **Q-Master Billiards, Virginia Beach**

Adult: **18 yrs and above**

- o **Mandatory \$20 registration fee per participant.**
- o **Games will be overseen by independent referees. The referee's decision is final.**
- o **OBJECT OF THE GAME:**
 - o 8-Ball is a call shot game played with a cue ball and fifteen object balls, numbered 1 through 15.
 - o One player must pocket balls of the group numbered 1 through 7 (solid colors), while the other player has 9 thru 15 (stripes).
 - o The player pocketing his group first and then legally pocketing the 8-ball wins the game.
 - o Organizers will have detailed 8-Ball game rules that will be followed.
 - o Games will be overseen by independent referees. The referee's decision is final.
- o Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.
- o Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Deep Patel

DeepPatel1385@gmail.com

Satish Chekuri

chekurizr@gmail.com