

HINDU TEMPLE &
CULTURAL CENTRE (HTCC)
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FY 2020

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

HTCC continues to serve the religious and spiritual needs of the Hindu community in and around Canberra. We celebrated various religious and cultural functions this year. To accommodate the increasing devotees inside the hall is becoming challenging particularly for bigger functions. The under-construction SHANTI NIKETAN will help us to manage the growing need of space once that is completed. I am please to inform that the Shanti Niketan Project is almost complete and we are very hopeful to officially declare is open by April 2021.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

I am very proud to inform the members that we have been able to achieve the best ever financial performance in the history of the HTCC. The key highlights are:

- The total revenue is \$311,164, an all-time high in the history of HTCC, which is an increase of \$118,085 (61%) compared to FY 2018-19.
- The net assets are \$1,027,484, an increase of \$193,316 (23%) compared to FY 2017-18.
- The total expenses had a modest decrease of \$1,256 (1%) compared to last financial year.

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

I am proud to inform that the much-awaited SHANTI NIKETAN project is well under-way in its final stages of completion. The project got delayed by few months due to funding constraints and COVID related limitations. The project needs another \$300,000 to be completed as per the original plan.

Together we all can make this happen which is long cherished dream for many of you. I encourage and request your support financially and offering volunteering in various tasks for this great initiative.

We are pleased to inform that the labour agreement with the Department of Home Affairs which is the pathway for obtaining the PR status for our honourbale punditji and his family has been approved.

The temple went through a major upgrade and renovation this year. I am please to inform that the temple has reopened for regular business since mid-September 2020. We are taking every possible step to obey the COVID related Government guidelines. The temple was closed for regular business from mid-March until mid-September for temple renovation and COVID lock-down.

In addition to regular daily Pooja, we celebrated all major Hindu festivals. We have been running Sanskrit, Bhagwat Geeta and Bal Gokulam classes regularly to teach and cultivate Hindu Values to our younger generation.

Various cultural activities were carried out through the year like Holi Mela, Bhajan Sandhyas etc.

APPRECIATION

We would not have achieved such great outcome without the support of a great team. They have worked hard this year. There are several members/devotees who have helped us for various functions/events/other work through the year. We sincerely thank all of them with deep gratitude.

CHALLENGES

I am sure you all will appreciate, running an organization like HTCC comes with its own challenges. The biggest challenge ahead of us, is to ensure the SHANTI NIKETAN project is completed at the earliest, which requires your whole-hearted financial support. I am requesting all of you consider being a part of this journey which has been a dream of the community for many years.

The second biggest challenge in running so many events through the year smoothly requires many hours of selfless volunteering. I am requesting you to consider spending few hours every month to help conducting various events and maintaining the cleanliness of the temple premises.

LOOKING AHEAD

HTCC is working hard to accomplish the completion of the SHANTI NIKETAN at the earliest. That will greatly help the growing number of devotees who visit the temple to participate in various religious and cultural activities.

Despite the temple closure for a major part of the year, we organized various events such as Shiv Ratri, Navratri, Chariot Festival, Holi, Diwali, and many others. I am pleased to inform for the first time we conducted the Chariot Festival in collaboration with the Vishnu Siva Mandir, Mawson. I am very hopeful this collaboration and many other new collaborations will be continued to promote the basic Hindu philosophy “वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्”.

Basu Banka

President – HTCC