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# Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre of the ACT (Incorp.)

एकंसद्विप्राबहुधावदन्ति- One Truth is variously spoken of by the Sages

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## Annual Report 2010-11



We have a great delight in presenting an account of the HTCC activities during the Financial Year 2010-11.

This report contains an account of activities during the year. The activities are listed under a few different headings and the three main areas, namely Devotional, Educational, and Cultural activities. The range of activities through out the year demonstrates an appropriate balance between HTCC's Objectives and its accomplishments.

You will appreciate that HTCC provides a unique platform where people from diverse backgrounds work together for common interest. The atmosphere at the HTCC fosters a culture of appreciation and encouragement. Unrealised by many, the mere presence of positive thinking, appreciative, and encouraging devotees is enough to drive out the unfortunate culture of denigration and intimidation.

We would like to extend our warmest welcome to all new devotees who have recently arrived in Canberra. HTCC endeavours to meet the spiritual, devotional, cultural and educational needs of its members and the community in general. Our events have been well received by the community. The number of life and annual members has grown, but we still have fair way to go in increasing these numbers.

We have continued on celebrating every festival on the day of the festival itself due to significance of the day. More and more new community members are coming to the temple to celebrate these festivals on the day.

Almost all religious festivals, bhojan-prasad has been prepared by devotees, sponsors and volunteers. This humble service has been provided during Navratree celebrations and the week leading to Janmashtami. We appreciate and encourage devotees, members of HTCC and sponsors of major events at the temple to continue this practice.

Devotees have been generous with their donations and assistance. Fund raising/cultural activities, such as Navratree celebrations, Shravan Maas Rudrabhisehkam, and the generosity of the devotees, helped us cross the hundred thousand mark in revenue. Details of all the revenue are provided separately in the Financial Statements.

Most of the devotees and visitors to our website might have noticed the qualitative improvements and variety of information on the HTCC website. For convenience of devotees and members of HTCC, we have introduced online booking tool to book Punditji's services and the temple hall for religious and cultural activities. Devotees and community members have shown great interest in the Online membership Form, subscription for e-Newsletter and online transfer of donations. Many members of public are also following us on our Twitter account ([www.twitter.com/hindutemple](http://www.twitter.com/hindutemple)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/htcc.canberra](http://www.facebook.com/htcc.canberra)).

Monthly food-fairs are popular and are being received very well. We request your support and help to keep this activity going. We would like to thank Shri Muneshwar Sahadeo and his team of volunteers who have been doing this all the time. Shri Muneshwarji has served the community in various roles over the past many years and has decided to take a break from the food fair duties; however his services would be available for mentoring food fair and other temple activities.

We request devotees to come forward with offer of help and assistance in managing regular food-fair at the temple.

We hope our members will be generous - not only with their financial contributions but also with volunteer work for the Temple.

We thank the community for providing us with an opportunity to serve. We seek forgiveness for the mistakes committed during the course of service.

## Acknowledgements

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the great help provided by the following devotees during the year. We ask for forgiveness from the devotees whose names have been inadvertently omitted from this list.

1. Pundit Anil Sharma and the ACT Ramayan Mandali for Ramayan Paths at the Temple
2. Shri Ravi Sood and Shri Pratap Khanna for conducting havans
3. Smt Agnesh Kumar and Shri Akileshji for Temple decorations for various festivals, and flyers for all major functions,
4. Shri Shiradi Sai Baba devotees for conducting regular Sai Baba pujas, and arranging Sai Singhasana and organising Seventh Anniversary on 27 November 2010
5. Shri Bhagawati Khanna, Smt Jyoti Jalota and Pdt Rama Sharma for regular Hanuman Pooja on every Tuesday and Lord Murgan devotees for regular Murguan Pooja.
6. Shri Raju Khiani, Shri Shantubhai Jina, Dr Ramesh Patel, Shri Sripati, Shri Jayesh Mehta, Shri Prakash Mehta for deveopling the of the extra Car Park, Rath Yatra and help in other maintenance works at the Temple.
7. Shri MuneshSahadeo, Shri Ashok Kumar, Shri Shanti Jina, Shri Ravi Vaikyl, Shri Niraj Mehta, Shri Prakash Mehta, Shri Vishnu Shrama , Shri Shubhash Dang, Shri Pathik Patel , Shri Nikhil Patel, Shri Mehul Dhanesha, Shri Jigar Gosai, Shri Ritesh Patel , Shri Jayesh Mehta , Shri Saurabha Champavat, Shri Samir Patel, Shri Dhrashan Thakkar, Shri Palak Gandhi, Smt Kiran Patel, Shri Atul Patel, Smt Kiran Patel, Shri Samir Patel, Smt Toral Modi, Shri Jaymin Bhatt, Shri Rahul Tejani, Smt VashnathiViswanthan, Shri Krishna Kumar, Shri Rahul Desai, Shri Ankur Vaidya, Shri Basu Banka, Smt Jyoti Patel, Smt Pragna Mehta, Smt Tejal Patel, Smt Meghna Joshi, Shri HimanshuPota, Shri Narendra Vermula, Shri Dinkar Sharma, Ms Alka Soni, Shri Yogesh Sharma, Shri Raju Khiani and Saurabh, for various food-fairs.
8. Sincere thanks to both the Bangladesh Puja Celebration Committee and the Bengali Cultural Association for giving us the delight of participating in Durga puja and sharing lovely prasad.
9. Shri Vijay Arora for conducting voluntary Yoga classes for the last ten years with great conviction. We hope he will continue to provide his time for these classes.
10. Shri Nagaraja for Kriya Yoga meetings.
11. Shri Ravi Vaikyl, Shri Vishnu Sharma, Smt BeenaVaikyl, Smt Anjali Gosai, SmtTejal Patel, Smt Meghna Joshi for helping in various cultural programs.
12. Shri Sanjay Sharma for electrical works.
13. Shri Bhushan Sardana for Temple security.
14. All the volunteers for maintaining garden and Temple's cleanliness.
15. Shri Kanti Jinna for helping in Multicultural affairs and liaison with Govt Departments.
16. Indian Senior Citizens' Association for coordinating activities with the HTCC.

17. Shri Raj Satija for organising regular AmritVani path.
18. Shri Tapan Biswas and Shri Tarun Agasati and many volunteers for organising the Rathayatra festival.
19. Marathi Mandal for Ganesh Puja.
20. Canberra Jain Mandal for organising Jain Satasang on Saturday 18 June
21. Indian High Commission and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for helping in various ways such as supporting festivals, cultural events like the Rajasthani Fold Dance group, and Hindi Divas.
22. Shri Udit Gera and Shri Vishnu Sharma for organising visit of Triveni Sewa Mission. All devotees who have helped in organising program for Hanuman Jayanti.
23. The ACT Government and the Office of Multicultural Affairs for their support both financially and in kind.
24. Seniors workshop - All seniors who participated in the workshop and helped prepare the report.
25. Shri Muneshwar Sahadeo, Shri Ashok Kumar, Pundit Anil Sharma and other devotees for the Girmit Day celebrations on Sat 14 May.
26. The children who performed in various functions and their parents.
27. Shri Vishnu Sharma for contributing towards domain registration for HTCC online services for last several years.
28. Shri Sanjay Pandey for maintaining the web site and providing photographs for this report.
29. All community members and devotees who sponsored pujas and assisted in anyway.
30. All members of the community for their generous donations in cash and kind throughout the year we must give special thanks to Shri Basu Banka for his tireless work for looking after HTCC accounts.
31. Thanks to all devotees who have helped to manage daily araties during Punditji's annual leave in Feb and March 2011
32. Shri Santosh Gupta for arranging the HTCC Building Asbestos Clearance Report.
33. We sincerely acknowledge Shri Mridul Pandey of Associate Hosting for providing hosting services for the website for last three years. The services have been provided free of cost to the HTCC.
34. We sincerely acknowledge Shri Krish Gounder for auditing HTCC accounts on a volunteer basis over the last couple of years.

It would be remiss if we did not record with deep gratitude our appreciation for the unwavering support and guidance of Punditji in our efforts to further strengthen the spiritual, cultural and ceremonial base of the HTCC. With his zealous and untiring devotion, beyond the call of duty at times, our spiritual, cultural and ceremonial undertakings have reached new levels as witnessed by Sri Hanuman Jayanti, Lord Ayyapa Sthaapna, Maha Rudrabhishekam and Sri Janamashtami to name a few. It is our earnest hope that Punditji will remain in our midst for many years yet and continue to guide and lead us in our endeavours.

## Devotional Activities

The following devotional activities were held during the year.

### **LORD AYYAPA CONCECRATION 13 – 15 Jan 2011**



The Lord Ayappa installed ceremony at HTCC temple was carried between 13 – 15 January 2011. The program included morning and evening Pooja on 13 and 14 January followed by GanapathiHomam, MahaKumbhabhishekham, PranPrathishta, Aarti and Mahaprasadam on the morning of 15 January 2011. The celebration concluded with Abhishekam, Katha, Bhajan, MahaAarti and Prasadam in the evening. Interstate devotees attended the event.

## RATH YATRA

HTCC, in association with the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Canberra, organized a successful Rath Yatra for the first time around the Florey suburb on 3 July 2011. We thank all the 250 devotees, including many young children, who pulled the chariot along the route. The follow-up cultural program attracted around 500 devotees to whom we extend our thanks.



We thank the sponsors who provided cooked meal as prasadam to all the devotees. We thank the ACT Police for providing traffic support and the ACT Roads for giving us a permission to hold the Yatra on the public roads. We give special thanks to members of Orissa Samaj for providing help, and devotees who decorated the Ratha. We thank ISKCON for supporting the event whole heartedly.

Besides the above, the following were also celebrated:

Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirwan Diwas on SAT November 6 2010

TulsiVivaha - Thurs 18 November 2010

Rama Vivaha - Sat 11 Dec 2010 in collaboration with Hare Krishna Devotees

GeetaJayanti Fri 17 December 2010

Guru Purnima on Fri 16 July 2011

Janmashtami Celebrations 22 August 2011

Ram NavamiUtsav 4 to 12 April 2011



Navaratri Kanya Poojan 2011



Maha Shivaratri 2011



## Educational Activities

1. Hindi Lessons - Wednesdays 6-7.30pm
2. Talk by Shri Angajan Vedanta for Practical Living Sun 19 Dec 2010
3. Discourse for our youth by Swami Vignyanandaji Sat 18 June 2011
4. Deepavali Mela & Open Day Sun 9 Nov 10am-2pm - Exhibition on Hindusim



- 5. Hindi Classes Wed
- 6. Learning languages - Sundays 3-5pm



Hindi Diwas

## Cultural Activities

Holi Mela and Open Day on 20 March 2011



Rajasthani Folk Dance Show - Sun 11 Oct 7-9pm



### Hashya Hangama

HTCC and Hindi Samaj of Canberra organized an evening of Hasya Hangama on 17 June 2011. Poets Sri Gajendra Solanki and Sri Arvind Samvedit from India presented Hindi Hasya Poems to a packed audience of the temple hall. This was their second performance in the HTCC. We thank Apna Indian Bazar who sponsored the event.



### **Blood Donation Camp**

A successful blood donation camp was organized at the HTCC premises on 30 April 2011 with the help of Australian Red Cross Blood Service. We thank all volunteers who worked hard to make it a success, and all the donors who came forward to donate the blood. The following associations to whom we extend our sincere thanks proudly supported the camp



Bihar Jharkhand Sabha of Australia & NZ; Gujarati Samaj of ACT; Radio Manpasand; Integrated Cultures ACT Inc; Murugan Group of Canberra; Sirdi Sai Group of Canberra;

Rajdhani Marathi Mandal Canberra; Bengali Cultural Association Canberra; Australia India Business Council; Rajasthan Sabha of Australia; Canberra Malayalees Association; Indian Senior Citizens Association; Canberra Hindi School; Canberra Telgu Vaani & Samiti; Fiji Australia Association of Canberra, Federation Of Indian Associations Of ACT. We also thank "King of Curries" who sponsored food fair on blood donation camp day.

### **Navrang**

HTCC organized the Navarang 2011 festival of dance and music on 4 June 2011 at HawkerCollege where local talented artists presented classical and Bollywood dances and music. Ms Marry Porter represented the ACT Chief Minister and Mr Nic Mannikis represented the Ms Joy Burch, the minister for Multicultural Affairs. We thank all the volunteers who made such a function a great success. We thank all the artists who made the event a very enjoyable evening.



### **Multicultural Festival**

HTTC participated in the 2011 ACT Multicultural Festival on Saturday the 12 February 2011 by presenting a vegetarian food stall and taking part in the cultural stage performance. We thank all the volunteers who worked hard in making our participation in the festival a very enjoyable event. We thank the Department of Multicultural Affairs for giving us a grant to participate in the cultural aspect of the event.



## **Food-fairs & Stalls**

Food Fair – Every Third Saturday of the month. 11am-2pm. Lately we have had to cancel due to lack of volunteer support. We request devotees to come forward to help us continue.

## **ShramDaan - Volunteer Service**

1. Purnavidya Classes



2. Food Fair
3. ACT Multicultural Show

# Projects

## Overflow Carpark

An agreement between ACTPLA and HTCC was signed on 2 August 2010 which allows HTCC temporary use of the land originally reserved for road development for overflow carpark for approximately 70 cars. Under this agreement HTCC will be responsible for developing and maintaining the overflow carpark for the next three years after which ACTPLA will review its decision.

The overflow car park is ready and was used the first time on Rath Yatra day. We thank all the volunteers who worked hard in completing the car park.

## Shanti Niketan

During the last AGM, the proposed Shanti Niketan layout was presented and it was agreed to develop drawings and proceed for Development Application. Structural engineer John Skurr has been asked to work on this project. He was structural engineer when original Temple hall was built. Drafting company Knight Time Drafting was contracted to develop drawing for DA. Drafting company has agreed to do the work free of cost since ours is a community organisation. Building Certifier Glen Chamberlin was contracted to advice on various requirements for building approvals, e.g., number of toilets, disable parking, fire escape including door widths, hose reels, fire compartmentalization, etc.

Based on various comments received on concept plans, drawings have been developed considering the following key criteria:

- As community is growing, hall size should be maximum feasible
- Height should be same as the current building
- It should match with existing building, i.e., wall, roof, etc., should match with the existing building
- A separate room for Library
- Maintain current space for Havan
- Storage for all chairs
- Layout should be such that in case of over flow, existing hall can be used as additional space for any program.
- Plan should be such that the existing toilets and kitchen should be utilised by people using the hall without compromising temple sanctity, to avoid building new toilets.

## **Executive Committee Activities**

1. Committee meetings were held on a regular basis, agenda items were requested from members, minutes of the meeting were recorded, draft minutes circulated, and the minutes were accepted at the next meeting. Financial matters were discussed in meetings.
2. When decisions had to be taken urgently on important issues, a yahoo newsgroup was used by the committee to discuss issues and make decisions.
3. Dandia for Queensland Flood Appeal - Sat 26 Feb
4. E-mail broadcast were sent every week announcing the forthcoming activities
5. Committee has tried all available Govt grants and could manage to get \$5412.00 as language support and Multi-cultural grants.
6. Website updated with all event details regularly.
7. HTCC Building Asbestos Clearance Report
8. Charges of Priest's services inside and outside the temple finalised as this was pending for a long time and a few Devotees raised this in our last AGM

## **Donations for FY 2010-11**

Following donations are gratefully acknowledged. As there are too many to list here we have only put a summary of donations here. If you want your name published, please let us know and we can print the list on the website or include in our broadcast.

### **Building Fund**

A total of \$44,856 was received.

### **Shantiniketan Fund**

A total of \$972 towards building the Shanti Niketan funds was received. Total fund for this project till date is approx \$ 72,815.00. This amount includes funds raised in previous years.

Rahul Tejani  
The Secretary  
26 August 2011