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

एकं सद् विप्रा बहुधा वदन्ति - One Truth is variously spoken of by the Sages

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<http://www.htcc.org.au/>

(PO Box 331, Civic Square, Canberra City 2608)

## Annual Report 2009-10



## Preface

We have a great delight in presenting an account of the HTCC activities during the Financial Year 2009-10. 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.

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.

Educational activities include weekly Yoga classes, Hindi courses, weekly Sanskrit classes, meditation classes, and many special lectures and discourses.

In cultural activities we had Dandia, Manipur Dance, Holi & Deepavali Melas, Girit Day celebrations, food-fairs, Navarang and many other programs.

We have continued on celebrating every festival on the day of the festival itself due to significance of the day and not shifting it to the nearest weekend. At many of the festivals on weekdays there has been a presence of up to two hundred devotees. 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 both the Navratris, the month-long Rudrabhishekam(Shravan Maas) and the following 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 Navratri celebration at the Australian Parliament, Little Champs Concert, Shravan Maas Rudrabhishekam, 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.

Monthly food-fairs are getting 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. This is such a simple task and yet the returns are very high.

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.

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) ). We sincerely acknowledge Shri Mridul Pandey of Associate Hosting for providing hosting services for the website for last two years. The services have been provided free of cost to the HTCC.

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.

## Condolence

We regretfully note the sad passing away of three members. We commiserate with their families in this loss.

1. Mrs Prem Chaudhri
2. Dr Nanda Kishore
3. Mrs Kalyani Krishna
4. Mr Nitin Mahajan
5. Mr Balachandran, Sydney

## 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 Jigar Goasi and Smt Anjali Goasi for decorations on, Gayatri Yagnya, RamNavmi, Navgrah Sthapna & Janmastami festivals.
5. Shri Shiradi Sai Baba devotees for conducting regular Sai Baba pujas, and arranging Sai Singhasana. 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 Nikhil Saksena, Shri Jayesh Mehta, Shri Krish Gaunder, Shri Shashank Ramakrishna for making of the Navgrah Platform and the related paving and help in other maintenance works at the Temple.
7. Shri Munesh Sahadeo, Shri Ashok Kumar, Shri Shantu Jina, Shri Ramesh Bhalla, Shri Ravi Vaikyl, Shri Neeraj Mehta, Shri Prakash Mehta, for food-fairs every month.
8. Navgrah Sthaapna - All devotees who participated and donated in Navgrah Sthaapna Celebrations.

9. 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.
  10. Shri Vijay Arora for Yoga classes, Shri Nagaraja for Kriya Yoga meetings, Ms. Priyanka Sinha for Vihangam Yoga classes.
  11. Shri Ravi Vaikyl, Shri Vishnu Sharma, Smt Beena Vaikyl, Smt Meghna Joshi, Smt Anjali Gosai, Smt Tejal Patel for helping in various cultural programs.
  12. Shri Sanjay Sharma for electrical works.
  13. Shri Anil Gupta, Smt Abha Gupta, Smt Renu Sharma, Smt Anita Sharma, Smt Meenu Sharma for various Jhanki on the occasion of various festivals.
  14. Shri Bhushan Sardana for Temple security and Shri Akihlesh and Agnesh Kumar for kitchen upgrade.
  15. Shri Shantu Jina for maintaining garden and Temple's cleanliness.
  16. Shri Kanti Jinna for helping in Multicultural affairs and liaison with Govt Departments.
  17. Indian Senior Citizens' Association for coordinating activities with the HTCC.
  18. Gujarati Group for helping in organising Navarati functions. A special thanks Mrs. and Mr. Dixit Rajpara, Mrs. and Mr. Sanket Beri and Mrs. and Mr. Arvind Jain for offering to prepare bhojan prasad during Navratree celebrations when we did not have a sponsor.
  19. Shri Raj Satija for organising regular Amrit Vani path.
  20. Shri Tapan Biswas and Shri Tarun Agasati for helping Rathayatra festival.
  21. Marathi Mandal for Ganesh Puja.
  22. Indian High Commission for helping in various ways such as supporting festivals, cultural events, and Hindi Day.
  23. Shri Gurdev Singh & Shri Jayesh Mehta for developing initial plans for Shanti Niketan.
  24. Shir Udit Gera and Shri Vishnu Sharma for organising visit of Triveni Sewa Mission. All devotees who have helped in organising program for 11th anniversary of Pran Pratisha Mahotsav and Hanuman Jayanti.
  25. The ACT Government and the Office of Multicultural Affairs for their support both financially and in kind.
  26. Dr Shiva and Dr Anil Paramadhathil for talk on Healthy ageing.
  27. Shri Radhkishan Sharma for Stress Management workshop and for arranging the visit of Swami Nirliptanand ji.
  28. Seniors workshop - All seniors who participated in the workshop and helped prepare the report.
  29. Shri Muneshwar Sahadeo, Shri Ashok Kumar, , Pundit Anil Sharma and other devotees for the Girmit Day celebrations on 14 May 2010.
  30. The children who performed in various functions and their parents.
  31. Shri Sanjay Pandey for maintaining the web site and providing photographs for this report.
  32. All community members and devotees who sponsored pujas and assisted in anyway.
  33. All members of the community for their generous donations in cash and kind throughout the year We must give special tanks to Shri Basu Banka for his tireless work for looking after HTCC accounts.
  34. Special thanks to Shri Anand Deo and Shri Ramesh Bhalla for their help at food fairs and other functions until they moved to Brisbane and Melbourne
  35. Thanks to all devotees who have helped to manage daily araties during Punditji's paternity leave from 7th September 2010 until 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010.
  36. Special thanks to Smt Joyti Jinna, Smt Anil Gupta, Smt Indu Arora, Smt Malti Jain, Smt Sarita Nand and Smt Sudha Kumar for cleaning the temple kitchen and surrounding areas
- 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, Navgrah Sthaapna, Maha Rudrabhishekam and Sri Janamastami 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.

1. Navratri Celebrations - Garba & Dandia - Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sept Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Sept
2. Dushehara Celebrations - Mon 28 Sept
3. Sharad Purnima - 4th Oct from 7.30pm
4. Karva Chauth - Wed 7 Oct 5.00pm
5. Monthly Havan – Third Sunday of every month
6. Kartik mass havans Mon 5 Oct - Mon 2 Nov - 7.00-7:30am.
7. Ramacharitamans Recitations
8. Lakshmi Puja Sat 17 Oct 7.30-8.30pm
9. Diwali Mela, Govardhan puja, Annakut Sun 18 Oct 10:30 – 4.00 pm - Chappan (56) Bhog



10. Abhishekam - Wed 21 Oct - 7.15pm
11. Vihangam Yoga - Meditation Lecture & Workshop - Sun 8 Nov 11am
12. Ram Vivah Celebration - Sat 21 Nov

13. Geeta Jayanti Sat 28 Nov from 7-8pm
14. Shirdi Sai Sthapana Divas Sat 5 Dec 2008
15. Saraswati Puja – Wed 20 Jan
16. Sri Swaraswati Puja Sat 23 Jan 2010 - The Bangladesh Puja Celebration Committee
17. Lohadi Celebrations 7.30pm Wed 13 Jan
18. Makar Sankranti Puja 7.30am Thur 14 Jan
19. Satsang Sabha – Tue 9th Feb 7 to 10pm for the auspicious padhramani of H.D.H Hariprasad Swamiji, founder of Yogi Divine Society(YDS)
20. Maha Shivratri – Fri 12 Feb 2010 - 6 pm
21. Bhoomipujan Day Mon 9 March 7.30pm
22. Holi Mela and Holika Dahan Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Feb
23. Navratri - 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March Ramayan Recital every night
24. Ram Navami celebrations - Wed 24<sup>th</sup> March
25. Hanuman Jayanti – Tue 30<sup>th</sup> March
26. Triveni Sewa Mission Group 7 - 20 April
27. Navratri Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March - Fri 3 April - Bhojan Prasad every night at 9pm
28. Ram Navami - Fri 3 April 7pm - Celebration & Bhojan Prasad
29. Mahavir Jayanti - Sun 5 April 9-11am
30. Sundar Kaand Paath by Poojya Shri Ashvin Kumar Pathak - 9<sup>th</sup> April 7pm
31. Devi Mata Ki Chowki - by Triveni Sewa Mission 16<sup>th</sup> April Friday 7 to 9:30pm
32. Eleventh Anniversary – Sun 18 April 2010 Akhanda Ramayan Path 10am Sat 1 May - 10am Sun 2 May
33. Invitation from Punditji - Bhajan Sandhya Sat 19 June 6.00 pm
34. Lord Jagannatha Rath Yatra at the Temple – Tue 13 July 7-9pm - Bhojan
35. Talk on "Hinduism in 21 Century" 5pm Sat 17 July
36. Guru Purnima Tue 7 July 7.00pm
37. Navagrah Sthaapana - Fri 23 July - Sun 25 July 2010
38. Rudrabhishek Maha Yagya during the Shrawan Maas 26 July to 24 Aug



### 39. Janmashtami Celebrations - Thur 02 Sept



4. Little Champs Concert Sun 30 May
5. Girit Diwas Commemoration - Thur 14 May 2009 7pm
6. Akhanda Ramayan Path 10am Saturday 1 May and ending on Sun 2 May
7. Gujarati Comedian program - 7:30pm Sun 25 July
8. Navrang Sat 4 Sept 2009, 6.00 - 9.00pm



## Educational Activities

1. Hindi Lessons - Wednesdays 6-7.30pm
2. Vihangam Yoga - Meditation Lecture & Workshop - Sun 8 Nov 11am
3. Hindi Classes Start Wed 25 Feb
4. Discourse 12 April Sunday 11.30am - Param Pujya Kanu Dadaji
5. Coaching for students Science & Maths
6. Learning languages - Sundays 3-5pm
7. Swami Nirliptanandaji Maharaj - Tue 14 to Sat 18 April 2009
8. Vihangam Yoga at the Temple - Saturdays 9 -10am

## Cultural Activities

1. Garba Dandia at the Parliament House on 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 12:30 - 04:30 pm
2. Holi Mela Sat 14 March, starting 10am
3. Manipuri Dance Show - Sun 11 Oct



## 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.

## Shram Daan - Volunteer Service

1. Sanskaar Shivar
2. Food Fair
3. ACT Multicultural Show

# Projects

## Navgrah

The Navagraha Pran-pratishtha ceremony was held at the Temple over three days, culminating on Sunday 25th July . The program was a grand success, undoubtedly supported by devotees' piety, dedication, affection, the utmost devotion, donations, hard work and the commitment to meet the deadline for its completion.



The ceremony started with Jalaadivash (Immersing the deities in water) on Friday morning. On Friday evening, the Annayaadivash (Immersing the deities in grains) ceremony was performed. The Pushpaadivash (resting the deities in flowers, fruits and sweets) for performed on Saturday morning, followed by Homam. the Shayyandivash (resting the deities in new garments on a special bed) was performed in the evening.

The final ceremony was performed on Sunday amid the Navgrah Strotra chanting followed by the Pran Pratishtha of the deities. We had many people from the community who had sponsored this event in many ways. We thank everyone involved in making this event a success and hope your support to the HTCC events will grow further.

## Shikhar

There is no progress to report for the Shikhar project.

## Overflow Carpark

The long running efforts to acquire land adjacent to the temple for overflow carpark finally came to fruition this year when the Department of Parks, Conservation and Lands and the ACT Planning and Land Authority agreed to HTCC using approximately 2400 sq meters of land for an 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.

## Shanti Niketan

The progress with the Shantiniketan project has been slow because of certain unforeseen circumstances. To date we have a draft plan which has been circulated to past presidents and committee members for comments. Consultation meeting held with all past presidents and current committee members. Based on the feedback received regarding the draft plan Shri Prakash Mehta has discussed the draft plan with ACTPLA for initial comments. Prakashji is in process of getting budget quotes for two design options which will be discussed at this meeting with the aim of reaching an agreement on one of the options. The next phase will be to have the detailed construction drawings done for approval by ACTPLA and for this meeting to grant the incoming committee the approval to progress the

development of the Shantiniketan by securing a bank loan.

### **Other - Scientific Yoga Therapy Camp**

HTCC organised a Scientific Yoga Therapy Camp from 6th to 14th March 2010, conducted by Dr. Deepak Sachdeva. A lot of devotees and community members attended the yoga sessions. We had received a positive feedback from the devotees.



Yoga sessions included specialised yoga asanas and meditation. Some Asanas were performed with the help of specially designed Yoga-Props like ropes, belts, chairs, pillows and bolster. Everyone was pleased with the way the workshop was conducted. Many devotees had a one-on-one consultation with him. A lot of devotees have expressed their wish to schedule another visit by Dr. Sachdeva and a group of people from the local community have organised another camp starting on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010. We thank the community for supporting us by attending this workshop.

### **Executive Committee Activities**

1. Committee meetings were held regularly, agenda items were requested from each member, minutes of the meeting were recorded, draft minutes circulated, and the minutes were accepted at the next meeting.

2. Financial statements were presented in meetings.
3. A yahoo newsgroup was used by the committee to discuss urgent issues and take decisions .
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 \$1320.00
6. Website updated with all event details regularly.
7. Filing system established to keep all records systematically.

Lakhan Sharma  
The Secretary  
16 Sept 2010

### **Donations for FY 2009-10**

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 430 donation receipts were issued for \$31,134.00 received from devotees and community members.

#### **Navagraha**

A total of 12 donation receipts were issued for \$3,614.00 received towards the Navgrah Sthapana.

#### **Shantiniketan Fund**

A total of 2 donation receipts were issued for \$2,650.00 towards building the Shanti Niketan.