

## **Annual Report of the Hindu Association for the years 2019 and 2020**

The Managing Committee of the Hindu Association is pleased to submit its combined Annual Report for the years 2019 and 2020.

Due to unprecedented and unfortunate pandemic developments, the meetings of the Managing Committee and the AGM in the year 2020 could not be held.

During the years 2019 and 2020, the Managing Committee met 5 and 2 times respectively. The Committee considered various issues concerning the administration of the Temple, festivals and events organized at the Temple, renovation of the Temple including the installation of a lift or escalator and explored options to further improve the services to the 100,000 strong Hindu community in Hong Kong.

During the year 2019 the Temple maintained its routine religious activities celebrating various Hindu festivals, but in 2020 due to the Covid19 restrictions, the activities were curtailed to observe strictly the directions of the Government.

The Temple continued to conduct its daily pujas in 2019 and in 2020 the pujas were conducted complying strictly with the Covid19-related restrictions.

The Association took steps to make convenient to devotees to contribute through Octopus by installing an Octopus Card machine.

The Rules and Regulations of the Hindu Association were revised and approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened on 22 November 2020.

With the help of The Chellaram Foundation and assisted by Vishal Khurana, a feasibility study and a quantity surveyor report were made to explore the renovation of the Temple, including the installation of a lift, subject to obtaining the necessary approvals from the concerned authorities of the HKSAR Government. In this connection, M/s Purcell was engaged to conduct the study. The project is estimated to cost between HK\$35 and HK\$40 million, if the entire Temple is renovated.

I would like to put on record the efforts of Mr. Anil Gupta our Committee Member and Mr. Azan Marwah who along with about 50 volunteers from all walk of Hong Kong Life (Indian, Nepalese, Chinese, Caucasians, African and Filipinos), worked on cleaning, cut the vegetation, removed bushes and weed and paved cement on ground of graves followed by Marking numbers on each headstone of the graves above Hindu Temple.

The Association celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi organizing a “Tree Planting Ceremony” in the Temple premises on 2 October 2019, graced by His Excellency Vikram Misri, Indian Ambassador to PRC and Mrs Priyanka Chauhan, Consul General of India.

The Association has engaged M/s Skybest CPA to audit the Association accounts, who have kindly agreed to conduct the Audit pro-bono.

Before the restrictions due to Covid19 came into force, the Temple had received a steady stream of students from schools and universities in Hong Kong to know about the Hindu religion. The students were briefed by Messrs. Ravi Shroff and Ravi Singhal.

During the year 2019 & 2020, all the major festivals such as Maha Shivratri, Holi, Cheti Chand, Janmashtami, Navratri, Dushera, Diwali and Shashti Puja were celebrated

I would like to put on record my appreciation to Dada Tolaram Babani, Bharati Manek, Bob Kripalani, Gopal Gupta, Venkat Subramanian, Ravindra Shroff, Srinivasan Rajendran, Priest Deepak Sharma and temple staff for all their support and hard work. I would also wish to thank all the outgoing Committee Members for their support and contribution over the past few years.

It has been a great honor and pleasure for me to serve as a President of The Hindu Association.

In Conclusion, I would like to thank you all, members both present and absent for your support.

**LAL HARDASANI  
PRESIDENT**