



Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj

Established in 1932

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"Satyameva Jayate" - Truth Alone Prevails

Celebrating 85 Years of Selfless Service

New Year's Day Speech – Year 2074

Thank you Mrs MC, Can we all rise and observe a minutes silence for all those loved ones that have been lost to many families this year.

Prem Namaste, Sal Mubarak and Nutan Varsh Abhi Nandan- for year 2074

The officiating priest, Shree Pujya Sunilbhai Bhatt, Trustees, Exco members and to you our beloved community and children. It is my humble privilege and sincerest honour to deliver the New Year's address on behalf of the executive of the Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr & Mrs WhatsApp Sal Mubarak as well.....

The Seva Samaj enters its 86th Year of existence. It has been a tough and challenging year and yet also a rewarding one. Our visions and goals have not changed. What we did, we aim to do better. What we do better is what sets new benchmarks. This is an inherent challenge that we all go through within ourselves. The New Year adds more vigour and energy that is injected in all these servants of GOD and you the community. We had a first time Samaj Strategy Session early on this year. Our vision is simple; We collaborate and associate with all organisations to meet the communities' needs

Let me share and remind you of some of our successes this year:

1. Maha Shivratri - new structure, Shivling, Nandi is following. People from all over come and do worship in the mornings before work. We also collaborated with Shiv Yog to have an active participation this year.
2. Hanuman Chalisa - we join forces with the youth members and bring a glorious function to you. Youth are able to get involved and transfer their skills in all aspects of planning and hosting. We ended with a petal shower this year in memory of Navnitbhai Bhima
3. Woman's Indaba – Attended by about 240 ladies – it was a huge success. Speakers from different industries. New initiatives will arise from this. Perhaps we need to look at having our AGM with them as we just about only get 40 people at our own. Perhaps the new SPHSS president would be a woman. Just a hint, Meeshabhen and Janishtabhen
4. The constitution was reviewed after 5 years. Another collaboration A team was elected to take this to fruition in May. Thanks to Rameshbhai Chagan for playing a prominent role in that process. He possesses the skills that this Samaj cannot do without

5. Krishna Janmashthami. Another collaboration Edition 2. Better and bringing our celebrations to a new level. A great bond and team has been developed between Srivas Pandit Das and the entire Iskcon Hatfield Branch. We now have exposure to speakers, discourses, kirtans- we can only grow year by year.
6. Ganesh Chatourthi- another collaboration with essence of Hinduism, Neeleshbhai, Sunilbhai. This is a new initiative that had overwhelming support. I attended a few nights myself and was amazed.
7. Bharat Natyam Show- collaborative hosting with LTA and SATA
8. The success of Navaratri this year is a crowning glory to the role that SPHSS plays in the community.
9. Yoga Day- hosted the event on behalf of the Indian High Commission.
10. The Tshwane Diwali Festival-We formed a ORG COMMITTEE a collaborative event. CHS, LTA, SATA, ISCKON, Laudium Youth Brigade This is now a milestone in the calendar year. This been the most ambitious project to date and was delivered with the grace and professionalism. Smooth Operation With an estimate 10-12 000 people attending, a truly festive. It re-inforces the extremely respected and vital role the SPHSS plays in preserving Hindu culture and values.

These were just the highlights of some of the achievements or focusses that the exco and members have been delivering on over the last year

We have some focus areas that need attention. Let us be honest

1. Marabastad stands and personnel
2. Gujarati school and future mergers
3. PNM and youth Depth- same problem as Baps
4. Financial controls and policies are being dragged out. WE solicited outside expertise from auditing firms and independent auditors to lend extra professionalism and advice and guidance. Pro bono work.
5. Vacancies on exco in portfolios/ woman's gender/

New Year's Day is a day of contemplation. A day of vision. A day of dreaming. It is a time when we look inwards and acknowledge who we are. It a powerful time of consolidation and re-invention. Service to Man is worship to God – Shree Ramakrishna used to say. The Sphss is focussed on this – SEVA.

Seva is the selfless act of dedicating all your energy and resources to the betterment of others. It is the very foundation of Hindu values... YOU are the secret to its success. Your commitment, your time, your active participation, your feedback etc. are key to delivering the success of our Samaj.

On this profound occasion of contemplation and vision, I would like to challenge each and every one of you to stand up and become ACTIVE members of the SPHSS. It is only Together that we can achieve great things. We need to re-introduce the spirit of community into our society. The ethos of giving and contributing unconditionally is vital.

Why are you here today? You are here because you are part of our sacred community. Because you want to share your goodwill and love with all those around you. You are a Hindu – be a proud Hindu

ON behalf of the executive and members of the SPHSS staff and admin team, I would like to wish you all a blessed, exciting and successful New Year. May you outperform, may you always be relevant, may you always find your happiness in other's happiness!

Lastly

Farewell to MRS Singh.....

Today I make mention of Ms Premilaben Singh who has been the caretaker of the Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj for over 15years. During her time in this position, she has worked tirelessly to look after Samaj premises and assets often going beyond the call of duty. In her capacity as caretaker, she has worked long hours, sometimes as late as midnight to ensure that people who have booked Samaj Facilities for weddings, etc. are being catered for. She has also suffered abuse from family members who were stressed out about their function but always managed to sort out the issue in a polite and dignified manner.

Today I stand here to mention that the Samaj will miss such a dedicated member of staff, whom as of 22 December has chosen to Retire and spend time with her mum and family in Durban. To Ms Premilaben Singh we wish you well and salute you to job well done while serving the Samaj

Prem Namaste, Yours in Seva!

Hari Om Tat Sat

Saileshbhai Bhagattjee: Deputy President SPHSS