



Hindu Society
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

2020-2021
ANNUAL REPORT
Hindu Society of South Australia
3A, Dwyer Road, Oaklands Park – 5046



About Us

The Hindu Society of South Australia (HSSA) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to bringing together people of Hindu faith in the South Australian community. The HSSA supports all Hindus in South Australia. Our members consist of Hindus who have originated from 9 different countries. From humble beginnings in the 1980's, HSSA continues to grow each year in membership and activities. HSSA and its volunteers manage the Shri Ganesha Temple with its 84 festivals and observances each year, provide classes and activities in the Community Cultural Centre, and engage in outreach activities. We also support charities local to our location in Oaklands Park and many more widely in Adelaide.

When you join the HSSA you support our activities and help to maintain this important community, cultural and spiritual complex centred around the Shri Ganesha Temple.

Our Mission

To create a vibrant Temple Complex as a focus for the Hindu community, in which they can:

- Worship
- Celebrate festivals
- Practice traditions
- Learn and Educate

This is aimed at providing spiritual support and care at each stage of life of Hindus in South Australia, as well as supporting the Hindu Community locally and globally through service and outreach. We do this to keep the spirit of Hinduism alive for these generations and many more to come, and to be a vital and integrated part of the South Australian Community.

Our Vision

Our vision is succinctly captured in the statement:

"Uniting all Hindus equally under Ganesha's Umbrella - Many traditions, all Hindus."

Our members come from diverse backgrounds, bringing with them a huge tapestry of beliefs, festivals and traditions. Here, in South Australia, all Hindus can unite under the umbrella of Ganesha where they are all equal, and all can engage in their traditions without fear or favour.

Our Strategy

HSSA has a 3-fold strategy

1. Be proactive in service to our communities and in outreach

We support those in need including new immigrants, international students and our seniors community. We reach out to our Australian community to foster ties. We build community spirit amongst our own Hindu community through a range of targeted activities.

2. Maintain our Hindu Traditions

We provide and maintain a beautiful sacred space in which to worship, celebrate and conduct the traditional rituals for the range of Hindu traditions in our community. We

foster education through classes, cultural events, study circles, discourses and other key activities. We engage, educate and develop our youth to continue our traditions.

3. Develop leaders and leadership

We provide opportunities for our youth to be involved in Temple and HSSA activities, engage them in the work of our Committee, and provide leadership opportunities. We participate as members in key organisations and committees and grow awareness of Hinduism in our South Australian community, and foster strong inter-group relationships.

The History of HSSA & Shri Ganesha Temple

Like most public organisations, the Hindu Society of South Australia and the Shri Ganesha Temple started from humble beginnings. The Temple has strong cultural and spiritual associations for the community and is significant as South Australia's first traditional Hindu Temple.

The Temple Complex with function centres, kitchens and a library, has become the centre point of Hindu worship in Adelaide and provides devotees with a place for spiritual activities, festival celebrations and cultural studies. The Temple building is now Heritage listed. It has been a journey of nearly half a century and had been accomplished with the dedication, generosity and hard work of so many people.

Formation of the HSSA & Purchase of a Building (1985)

As early as the 1970's the small Hindu community in Adelaide had the vision of a permanent Temple in Adelaide. Devotees were worshipping in each other's homes. Volunteers such as Dr Ananth Rao (a Mathematics professor and scholar) and Mr Dilip Chirmuley (a university lecturer), both well versed in scriptures, took the role of Pujari on a rotational basis.

With the number of Hindu migrants increasing in Adelaide, the need for a common place of worship was increasingly felt. The Hindu Society of South Australia (HSSA) was formed, and just four months after its inception, a vacant Lutheran church hall in Marion, 15km south of the CBD, was purchased. It was a very basic single-storey cement brick building that would seat around 80, with a small office room. At one end the hall was a metre-high wooden platform that had a cross on it. The gravel car park outside had space for 10 vehicles. The Society opted for this austere building since it had no funds; any green field option was out of the question. Announcing its decision on the purchase at a meeting in November 1985, the Society received pledges for a third of the purchase price and the balance at the time of settlement two months later, with no



need for borrowing. It was a remarkable feat. The local Hindu population might have been small, but its enthusiasm was high enough to make Adelaide only the second city in Australia to have a temple.

Ganesha Arrives & Devotees Flock to the Temple (1986)

Initially a framed picture of Ganesha adorned the platform at one end of the building; it still hangs on one of the walls and is fondly revered. Within six months of buying the building, a metre-high granite statue of Lord Ganesha – chosen as the primary deity as He is universally worshiped by all sections of the Hindu community – was donated and brought from Mahabalipuram in South India. The deity was installed



on a concrete pedestal after a simple but authentic Prathishta ceremony in July 1986. It was witnessed by a full house. Lord Ganesha of the Shri Ganesha Temple is of the form of Siddhi Ganesha, the giver of success and an embodiment of masterly intellect. He is the epitome of achievement and self-mastery, and is also associated with bountiful harvests and general abundance in life.

In 1988 the first fulltime temple priest, Adchayamoorthy Kurukkal, was appointed.

Fifteen years later the building was extensively reconstructed, using drawings by the Indian architect Shri S. Nagarajan, under engineer Mr Rajalingam, the designer of the Sydney Murugan Temple. The Temple was opened by Premier John Olsen on 10 March 2001.

A New Community Cultural Centre added to the Temple Complex (2019)

More than a religious place, the Temple has also served as a cultural centre by holding classes in Hindi and Tamil, classical dance performances, vedic chanting, meditation, yoga, spiritual satsangs, and more. Volunteers explain Hinduism principles to visiting groups from schools and service clubs. It has functioned as a social hub too, for new migrants to establish their network with people from their regions.



A new Cultural Community Centre, seating 250, was built on the adjoining land acquired in 2012. The Centre was completed in 2019, with a grant from the government and more generous donations. It is allowing the important functions of the Temple Complex to expand and providing for the ever-growing numbers of devotees and members of the community.





THE HINDU SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

Vision

Uniting all Hindus equally under Ganesha's Umbrella – Many traditions, all Hindus

Mission

To create a vibrant Temple Complex as a focus for the Hindu community, in which they can

- Worship
- Celebrate festivals
- Practice traditions
- Learn and Educate

To provide spiritual support and care at each stage of life of Hindus in South Australia.

To support the Hindu Community locally and globally through service and outreach.

To keep the spirit of Hinduism alive for these generations and many more to come.

To be a vital and integrated part of the South Australian Community.

Our Hindu Traditions

- Shri Ganesha Temple is a sacred space in which all Hindus equally can worship, participate, celebrate and learn.
- Maintain a Library and Education Centre that will depict Hindu philosophy and religion
- Preserve and enhance Hindu traditions and culture through cultural events & classes
- Encourage participation of youth in the daily activities in the Temple
- Teach young members the history and philosophy of Hinduism and a pride in their heritage
- Encourage classes, study circles, discourses, vedic chanting, bhajans, yoga, meditation and other key Hindu practices

Service and Outreach

- Support the disadvantaged including new migrants, international students, and seniors
- Foster close relationships and community amongst Hindus and with the Australian Community
- Conduct spiritual, charitable, educational, social and cultural activities for the benefit of the Hindu Community

Develop Leaders and Leadership

- Involve Youth in Society activities
- Provide skill development opportunities
- Promote assimilation of Hindu values into daily lives
- Participate as Hindus in key organisations and committees
- Grow awareness of Hinduism in the South Australian Community
- Foster strong inter-group relationships

Shri Ganesha Temple Complex, Adelaide

A Place of Worship | A Place of Gathering | A Place of Learning



Meet the Executive Committee

Meet the 2021 – 2022 Executive Committee of the Hindu Society of South Australia. The Committee, under the guidance of its President and together with its Volunteer community, manage the Shri Ganesha Temple and Community Cultural Centre. They also plan, organise and deliver a huge range of activities and events.

One of their chief tasks is to ensure the viability and sustainability of HSSA into the future. Committee members serve for terms of 2 years or more, and are elected at the AGM.



Mr Madhava Bhat President

0429 698 198

president@hindusocietysa.com.au

"It is such a privilege and pleasure for me to work for an organisation that is so committed to preserve and foster the Hindu way of life, philosophy, and practices. Promoting and understanding of Hinduism is truly at the heart of everything we do every day."

Since he migrated to Adelaide 26 years ago with his family, Madhava has been associated with the Hindu Society of SA and the Shri Ganesha Temple. He has served on the HSSA Executive Committee for over 7 years since 2013. During this period, he has been a member of the Executive team and the Secretary. He was elected to the position of President in 2020. In 2016 he oversaw the amendment of HSSA constitution. He is passionate about making changes in HSSA's governance and practices that results in improved transparency and accountability. He has assisted in organising several functions and charity events.

Currently Madhava holds the position of Chief Physicist at GenesisCare. Madhava is responsible for the management, development, and scientific direction of the radiation oncology medical physics services. He has trained several physicists to achieve certification in Radiation Oncology Medical Physics.

He held the position of Chairman of the Radiation Oncology Accreditation Panel of the Australasian College of Physical Scientists & Engineers in Medicine (ACPSEM) from 2011 to 2015. His research interests across several areas of radiation physics have led to the publication of several research papers in national and international journals.



Ms Ganga Sivanathan
Vice-President

0421 474 685

vp@hindusociety.com.au

"It is a privilege to serve Ganesha and the Hindu community in Adelaide through the Hindu Society SA Executive Committee. Each day we bring the past, present and future together to create and maintain a vibrant Temple environment, meet the needs of our community, and set the Society up to operate sustainably into the future. We incorporate the firm basis set by our Committee predecessors and strive to continue their great work."

Ganga has served on the HSSA Executive Committee for over a decade after first becoming associated with the Temple in 2004. In her time on the Committee she has been the librarian, manager of HSSA social media and web presences, editor of Turiya Marga for over 7 years, and acted as Assistant Secretary. At present she holds the position of Vice-President. She has given talks, run Meditation sessions for HSSA, and assisted in cementing our relationships with various key people including local, state and federal politicians.

Ganga runs her own business, Indra Consulting, established in 2004, which assists organisations with their performance, leadership, change management and people management. Prior to establishing Indra Consulting, she held Senior Leadership positions in a global organisation where she was responsible for operational and strategic excellence. In that role she was an accredited internal Performance Excellence assessor, working across the region and into Europe.



Mr Shasith Janarthan
Secretary

0403 405 740

secretary@hindusociety.com.au

"I feel privileged to find an opportunity to serve, learn, address the challenges and resolve them for the fast-growing communities in our Society, in the best possible way."

Shasith is the Secretary of the HSSA and serves on its Executive Committee. Prior being nominated and appointed as secretary, Shasith had been on the Committee for 5 years. During that time, he dedicated himself to serving the Society and Shri Ganesha Temple on most occasions in any way that he could. Many would have seen him capturing memories with his photographic skills on those occasions.

He is a Fellow Member of Engineers Australia since 2012. His professional passion is to develop new products for the mining industry, and he holds a degree in Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering.



Mr Rajah Thiyagarajah
Treasurer

0417 809 452

treasurer@hindusocietysa.com.au

"It gives me great joy and satisfaction to serve in the HSSA Executive Committee and to help meet the spiritual, social and emotional needs of our devotees. I am passionate about ensuring that our community-funded Temple is financially well-managed. This would support the upkeep of the Temple and implementation of new initiatives to benefit the community."

Rajah has been a member of the HSSA Committee since 2015. He started a youth group soon after joining the Committee and has been instrumental in developing various financial improvement measures. In December 2020 he was elected as Treasurer and hopes to further contribute his expertise to benefit the Temple and the community.

Rajah is an international financial consultant and advises the Asian Development Bank, private sector companies and governments in over 20 countries. He regularly plays tennis and bridge and tutors maths to needy children.



Mr Dilip Thakur
Public Officer & Volunteer Coordinator

0407 976 900

volunteers@hindusocietysa.com.au

"I feel fortunate to be associated with the Hindu Society of South Australia from its inception some 35 years ago. From its humble beginnings I have been closely connected with its progressive milestones to-date. HSSA has been a conduit for my emotional and spiritual attachment to Shri Ganesha Temple. The Temple has offered me opportunities to meet Hindu Devotees from across the world and develop symbiotic relationships socially and spiritually."

As a founding life member of HSSA, Dilip has been associated with organising religious events such as Celebration of Maha Ganesha Chaturthi, participated in fund-raising activities and in spiritual journeys through group recitals & Bhajans.

He believes passionately in building harmonious bonds between people of different cultures, backgrounds, religions and across all layers of the society. He cares deeply about advocating for a multi-cultural Australia and multi-faith communities. He has been a member of the HSSA Executive Committee since 2021 and manages the Volunteers portfolio. He has also been appointed as HSSA's Public Officer.

Dilip is a retired Occupational Therapist and Rehabilitation Consultant. Adelaide has been his home since 1978. Professionally, he was passionately focused on improving the health outcomes for individuals who have suffered physical and mental injuries. He has served as President of the Indian Australian Association of SA, and as Chairman and Trustee of the Indian Education and Cultural Trust Fund. He is a Justice of the Peace, and provides volunteering services to the University of Adelaide and Burnside City Council.



Mr Raghuram Ramachandran
Editor

0406 022 404

editor@hindusociety.com.au

"It is my privilege to be associated with HSSA, an organisation that upholds the values of Sanathana Dharma and the ancient Vedic Culture. I look forward to serving the community through Seva as enshrined in Hindu Dharma Shastras."

Raghu joined the HSSA Executive Committee in April, 2021. He has been conducting Veda classes under the banner of Vedic and Cultural Centre of Australia for the HSSA, and is assisting with maintaining the books of account. He has also recently taken up editorship of the HSSA Newsletter, Turiya Marga.

Raghu is a CA & CPA, is the CFO of a Pharmacy group and runs his own accounting practice. He has been trained in Veda chanting from a young age by his father and several Gurus. He is on the Governing council of his daughter's school and volunteers for his local footy club and Blind Cricket SA.



Dr Swapna Kamal Sengupta
Executive Committee Member
08 8379 5945

"After settling in Adelaide in 1998 we visited the Shri Ganesha Temple and were amazed to find nice groups of devotees fully committed to the welfare of the Temple. Their selfless devotion and sincerity were of a very high order. This stimulated me to join the Hindu Society SA Committee after my retirement as a specialist Histopathologist. Through this forum I promote the essence of our beautiful, most flexible and tolerant religion of the world, HINDUISM, in its right spirit."

Swapna has helped in the decision-making process of the Committee and volunteered for the smooth running of all major Temple festivals since 2018. He has been instrumental in making our newsletter, Turiya Marga, more attractive with valuable suggestions. He has compiled a document on Brief Facets of Hinduism as an ongoing publication. He plans to progress Siva Selva's wish for a smaller Gopuram on the west gate in memory of him and for further beautification of the Temple.

Swapna was born and brought up in an orthodox Hindu family of Kolkata. His tertiary education in a noble profession helped him to view life from a different perspective. He would visit places of worship and attend spiritual discourses, mostly of the Vedanta Society. Gradually he fully embraced Hinduism as the path of spiritual realization.



Mr Subrahmanyam Kuppa
Executive Committee Member
0403 582 253

"Thanks to that primordial Lord and the blessings of my Gurus that gave me an opportunity to serve the community through Hindu Society of South Australia. I get great satisfaction by dedicating my time to a cause that I feel passionate about. Community service in particular is in my blood and offers numerous opportunities for me to learn and utilise my talents to aid those in need of guidance and extra help."

Subra has been a member of the Executive Committee since 2019. He has assisted the Society's mission to foster Hindu culture, traditions and religion by bringing talented individuals from the community to teach Veda and Sloka learning classes. He helped to establish a monthly Vedic Chanting session at Shri Ganesha Temple. He coordinated 15 weeks of Sanathana Dharma Scriptural Study classes, and then Srimad Bhagavad Gita Classes. He has also been instrumental in organising cricket training for young individuals through SACA and will continue this annually (as restrictions allow).

Subra is an astute leader with more than 30 years of career experience. He has a can do attitude and is skilled in Strategic Planning, Stakeholder Management, Program Management, Project Management, Customer Service, and Developing and Mentoring teams within national and international companies. He has been involved in community service from his childhood when he was part of NCC. He has been particularly active in assisting new migrants, supporting the needy, being involved in Neighbourhood Watch Community, and as a SAPOL volunteer. He has received multiple volunteer service awards.



Mr Sanjay Madhukar Rajee
Executive Committee Member
0434 157 459

"I became a Committee member of the HSSA Executive Committee in 2021. It is a great pleasure to serve our community on the HSSA Executive Committee. It is nice to help and assist community people in Shri Ganesha Temple."

Sanjay looks forward to adding value to the work of the Committee. He has worked with different organisations for the last 15 years in Adelaide. He is one of the founder members of Adelaide Sarvajanic Ganeshotsav Samiti, and was the first Secretary of the ASGS from 2012 to 2015. Now he adds value to ASGS as a Senior Advisor. He was also a Secretary of Adelaide Marathi Mandal and actively involved in the Marathi Community.

Sanjay is a Mechanical Engineer and worked for Larsen & Toubro for 25yrs at Powai Plant, Mumbai. Now he works part time with an engineering company in Adelaide.



Ms Rubi Prakash
Executive Committee Member
0430 980 145

"It is a great privilege to serve our community in the HSSA Executive Committee. We ensure that our culture and religion is sustained into the future of South Australia and help to build a better community environment. Being a part of the Committee allows me to meet lots of new people within our community, while taking part in Temple functions and supporting our culture."

Rubi became a member of the Committee in 2021 and is eager to add her thoughts and to move forward in order to make an impact. She manages the day-to-day operation of HSSA Facebook accounts, adding beautifully constructed photos and videos of Temple and cultural activities.

She is looking forward to being involved in community services and being a reliable member. Overall, she is keen to support the rest of the Committee members as well the community as a whole.

Rubi works in the admin department with E- Link Group, a telecom and construction company. She has done a lot of volunteer work at Shri Ganesh Temple and is always looking for an opportunity to help others.



Our Priests

Sri Skandarajah Kurukkal
Chief Priest



Sri Ashohan Sharma
Assistant Priest



Past Presidents

Name	Years
Mrs Usha Rajgopalan	2018-2020
Mr S Selvakulalingam	2001-2018
Dr J C Saraf	1999 - 2001
Mr M Somers	1998 - 1999
Dr J Mazumdar	1996 - 1998
Mr Dilip Chirmuley	1994 - 1996
Mr S Selvakulalingam	1992 - 1994
Mr Dilip Chirmuley	1989 - 1992
Dr S J Iswaran	1988 - 1989
Dr R Ravindran	1985 - 1988



President's Report 2021 - 2022

Madhava Bhat

It has been a great honour to serve the Hindu Society of SA (HSSA) as the President. Our Committee has been very busy this year celebrating many festivals, mapping out strategic plans and organising community programs.

There is a phenomenal growth of Hindus in South Australia. Hindus from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Singapore, Malaysia and many other countries have recently migrated (COVID exception) to South Australia. The demography of these new migrant is young professionals and students. The Hindu Society of SA plays an important role in supporting the Hindu community and in providing leadership and facilitation of activities and initiatives that support participation and strong relationships with the broader South Australian community.

The Key focus areas for the Hindu Society of SA during the past 12 months and into the new year are:

- Governance and Risk Management
- Fiscal management
- Sustainability and Growth
- Art, Culture and Education
- Seniors program
- Festivals and Celebrations
- Outreach programs
- Food program

Let me highlight our major activities this year.

Our Values and Code of Conduct

Our purpose is to preserve and foster the Hindu way of life, philosophy and practices. To that end we have developed a system of values for our Executive members, volunteers, and the members of HSSA. Based on these core values we also developed a code of conduct for the Executive members and volunteers. Acknowledging this code of conduct by a member is highly desirable before they could become a volunteer or member of the Executive team.

Building our Executive Committee

To deliver better services to our members, the HSSA has introduced several internal continuous quality improvement initiatives.

Some examples of the initiatives undertaken are:

- Governance training for the Executive team
- Induction program for the new Executive team with code of conduct
- Quarterly strategic planning workshops



A Vibrant Volunteers Group

Volunteers are our backbone in running day-to-day Temple activities. They support us in staffing the archana counter, maintaining the garden, cleaning the Temple yard, floors, domes and lamps, and cooking food for major festivals etc. On an average our volunteers provide **120 work hours per week**. I am very grateful for their energy, commitment, enthusiasm and selfless service.

Because they are such a vital part of our successful operation, this year we formalised the Volunteer community with an application process and induction event. We have provided training to them in COVID marshalling, food safety preparation and firefighting. They connect via a WhatsApp group and readily come forward when we ask for assistance.

Food Program

A very successful monthly Prasad Bhojan service was introduced in June 2021. The program is organised by a group of volunteers who wish to remain anonymous. Each month they have been shopping for, preparing, cooking and serving around 150 devotees at the Temple. As food is such an integral part of the Hindu culture, it was important to the Committee that we establish and support such a program.

COVID also presented us with challenges to the way that we manage the daily preparation and distribution of food. To help us with consistency we have developed standard processes for devotees who wish to provide food to Temple attendees. This way we ensure we remain COVID-compliant and ensure the safety of devotees.

Financial Processes

We have focused this year on reviewing and strengthening our financial processes. A major effort went into evaluating, purchasing and installing a Point of Sale system (POS). Again, this helped us to be COVID-compliant with minimising the use of cash, and made our accounts easier to manage. Also, this has helped to improve our revenue collection. A committed group of volunteers has been trained in its use and thus there is a person on the counter every morning and evening.

Charity Work

We continue to collect donations for the local charity, Marion Life, who assist the homeless and needy in our local community. We also donated \$15,000 to various charities for COVID-19 support in India. Our members generously donated towards our appeal, and HSSA also donated from its own funds.

Minor Works

Shutters have been installed to the outdoor kitchen at last. The iron gate to the Community Centre has been automated. We have also had a successful grant application of \$4,875 for concrete flooring for the outdoor dining area. In addition, we have applied for Grants from the Marion Council for verge garden development as well as a Youth development project.

Website and HSSA Logo

Through a COVID-19 Support Grant of \$6325 we have launched a new HSSA website <https://hindusocietysa.com.au>. Minor adjustments are being made to finalise the website but it is available for you to browse, book, donate and make payments. As part of this project we worked with a local designer to produce the beautiful and highly symbolic HSSA logo that you see on the front of this report.

Celebrations, including 2-day Maha Ganesha Chaturthi

This year there were over 160 festivals and observances on our Temple calendar. We also moved to a successful 2-day celebration of Maha Ganesha Chaturthi. This was to manage in a COVID-safe way, but hopefully it will become a new tradition for our Temple.

Classes, Cultural Events and Discourses

To preserve and foster the Hindu way of life, philosophy and practices, this year we have expanded our educational activities by organising classes on Vedic Chanting, Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai chanting, and on Srimad Bhagavad Geetha. Vedic and Skanda Shashti Kavacham chanting and Bhajans are held regularly at the Temple. We have also organised lecture series on various topics of interest from medicine to art and culture, from Physics to Vednata Philosophy.

Details of these classes, cultural events and discourses are as below.

Details	When and Where
Advaita Makaranda—Lectures by Shri Lakshmi Murthy	Saturdays 2-3 PM Zoom ¹
Thiruppavai & Thiruvempavai lessons in traditional ragas by Shri Venkatesan N	Fridays 8-9 PM Zoom ²
Vedic Chanting—Classes by Shri Raghuram Ramachandran	Saturdays 9-10 AM Zoom ¹
Srimad Bhagavad Geetha chanting classes by Shri Manjunath Rudrapatna	Thursdays 6-6:45PM Zoom ¹
Vedic Chanting by HSSA Veda class group	2nd Monday of every month at Shri Ganesha Temple ¹
Bhajans by the BHIMA community group	2nd Saturday of every month at 6:30 PM at the Temple ¹
Skanda Shashti Kavacham chanting by the Adelaide Tamil Association	Last Friday of every month at the Temple 6 PM
Lecture Series on various topics of interest	3rd Saturday of every month 6 PM ³

Contact details for any of the above are:

¹ Shri Subrahmanyam Kuppa —0403 582 253 Kuppa.subrahmanyam@gmail.com

² Shri Srirama Srinivasan 0450 375 631 sriramking@yahoo.com

³ Dr Swapna Kamal Sengupta 0403309176 gupta12@bigpond.com

Revision of the Constitution

The current constitution of the Hindu Society of SA Inc with the amendments was approved by the AGM held on the 20th of November 2016.

Among several other amendments, the Clause 5.1 of the constitution was amended by inserting three sentences. One of the inserted sentences states as below:

"The Executive Committee shall not increase membership in aggregate of all categories by more than 5% of total membership in any year". The Executive Committee shall consider applications for membership in the order in which they are received in a given year"

The Executive Committee discussed this clause in its monthly meetings. The Committee appreciated that this clause was introduced to stop any potential branch stacking efforts by any section of our community. The Committee also noted that branch stacking has occurred in other community organisations and HSSA is not immune from it. While this clause protects HSSA from branch stacking efforts, it also restricts HSSA's growth and constrains our ability to reach our objectives and deliver our services.

The Committee also recommended that our constitution should include several anti-branch stacking clauses.

The 5% growth limit in the total number of memberships imposed by the clause 5.1 is now identified as a risk for the organisation because of the following reasons:

- The current financial membership of HSSA largely consists of an older demographic that includes people of more than 60 years old. For maintenance and growth of our organisation we need to attract younger members of our community.
- The demography of Hindus in SA has changed dramatically in recent times. It largely consists of younger new migrants in their thirties or forties. HSSA needs to embrace the changing environment.
- Although more and more new migrants come to Ganesha temple, they hardly know about HSSA and its functions.
- There is an urgent need to expand the base of Financial membership for sustaining and growth of HSSA.

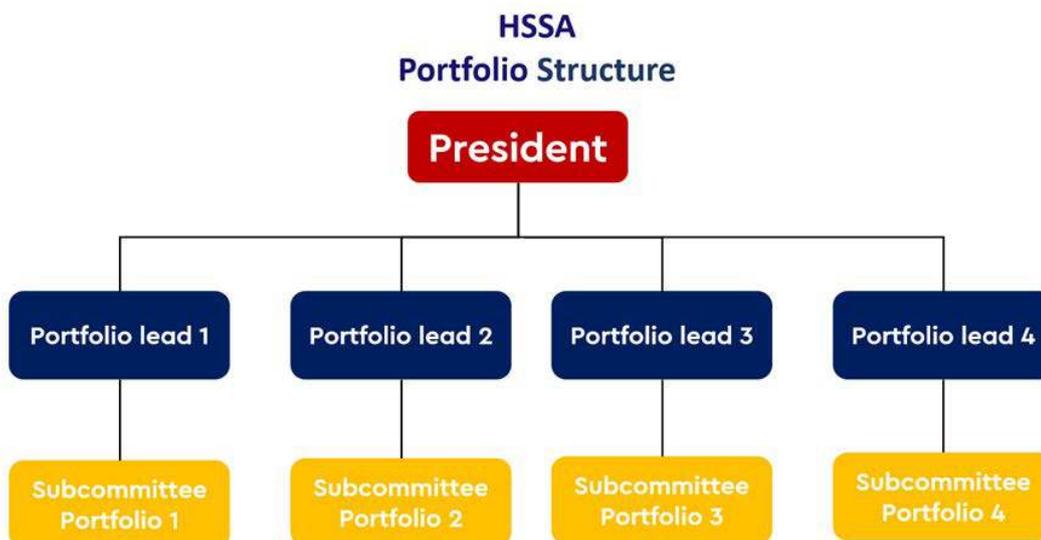
Considering these issues, the Committee consulted Mr Adi Rai, our Honorary Solicitor to provide us some options to overcome the problem.

Adi Rai has proposed several amendments to the HSSA Constitution that will effectively defend HSSA from branch stacking while allowing its healthy organic growth. The Executive Committee formed a Constitution Review Committee which has gone through the suggested amendments carefully and made further changes or refined the definitions.

The Executive Committee recommends to the General Body to endorse the proposed amendments to the HSSA constitution.

A New Structure for the Executive Committee

There are several focus areas of work for HSSA that require support from a well-structured organisation. To achieve this, we have developed an organisation structure consisting of several portfolios as shown below. Each portfolio is guided by a senior member Executive team.



Portfolio	EXEC COMMITTEE members responsible
Governance and Training	Lead: Ganga
	Support: Dilip, Rajah and Madhava
Financial	Lead: Rajah
	Support: Madhava Bhat, Raghu
Member coordinator	Lead – Sanjay
	Support - Raghu, Rubi, Subramanyam, Rajah
Religious affairs coordinator	Lead Raghu
	Support - Rubi, Subramanyam, Ganga
Environmental care and aesthetics	Lead Sash
	Support Madhava, Dr Sengupta
Booking facilities mgmt.	Lead – Dilip
	Support – Raghu, Rajah
Volunteering Coordinator	Lead – Dilip
	Support – Subrahmanyam, Sanjay
Arts, Culture, and education	Lead – Subrahmanyam
	Support – Shashith, Dr Sengupta
Newsletter coordinator	Lead – Raghu
	Support – Sash
Harmony and community Outreach	Lead – Dr Sengupta
	Support – Subrahmanyam, Sanjay
Publicity and communications	Lead – Rubi
	Support – Ganga, Raghu, Sash

Plans for 2022

For HSSA to run successfully we need to forecast activities and events in advance and that they are properly resourced for effective and efficient planning. Our revenue collection, and hence our financial, is in much better position due to improved financial controls and processes that we have implemented this year as outlined above. This healthy financial position enables us to allocate proper resources for various future activities and events in 2022. The activities and events planned for 2022 are:

- Increase outreach and charity work
- Seniors and Youth Programs
- Build a storeroom
- Upgrade outdoor dining area
- Verge garden development around the Temple complex
- Replace problematic audio system
- Improve security
- Begin Planning for Maha Kumbhabhishekam

Vice-President's Report

Ganga Sivanathan

It has been a pleasure to serve the Executive Committee in the role of Vice-President for this year. It has been a busy year and a year of transition. I have been responsible Governance, Website development and Oversight of our Social Media sites.

Governance

The major area this year has been the development of processes and procedures, codes of conduct, templates, SOPs and manuals to encode our operations in critical areas. This work is ongoing to ensure that our Committee Members, Volunteers and the Priests are provided with the necessary training in emergency procedures, fire safety, food safety, covid marshalling and so forth. Governance is also about ensuring that we are acting in accordance with our values, the Constitution, and the traditions that have been established over the decades of HSSA's existence.

[Hindu Society Website](#)

This year has seen the development of a website for the Hindu Society of South Australia. It has been a major undertaking to develop a site that automates many aspects including accepting donations and payments, booking facilities such as the Community Cultural Centre, and displaying our festivals, events, classes and cultural activities. It is the culmination of at least 4 years work to bring this together. The website has been built around a design using the colours of saffron, vermilion and the dark blue from the South Australian official colours. The website is accessible now and will be completed in the near future.

Social Media

Our social media accounts are the channels for sending immediate information to our members, devotees and followers. Foremost of these is our set of Facebook pages – Shri Ganesha Temple Adelaide, Hindu Society of South Australia, and the Community Cultural Centre. Our following has increased to over 3,300 for the Temple page and the following for the HSSA page grows daily. This year, Rubi Prakash has run the sites on a daily basis and has showcased our activities with beautiful photos and videos. I have maintained an oversight and administration role.

HSSA Logo

To celebrate the new website and brand HSSA we worked with a local designer to develop a logo for HSSA.



You would have already seen this logo in our website, letterhead, facebook, email correspondence and in the newsletter. This is to be our logo for the future.

Our brief to the professional designers was that we wanted the HSSA logo to be:

- modern yet reflecting our tradition
- something different and easily recognizable

- something simple that would work at large and small sizes
- universal for all Hindus

We are happy to present this new logo to the members. Like all good logos there is a lot of meaning embedded in the design.

Overall, there is simplicity, gentleness, movement and harmony in the logo, reflective of our approach to life. The Aum symbol and the colours of saffron and vermilion are predominant. Coincidentally, the state colours of South Australia are also there - red, yellow and blue.

The circles have deep meaning for us. If you look closely, they are circles without beginning or end. Always was, always will be. The existence of our Hindu faith, scriptures and Gods before time and after time. The circles also represent inclusivity and Community - which are embedded in our values. Furthermore, the circles are reminiscent of the circles of values that the HSSA Committee has incorporated in its code of conduct.

Finally

None of these projects could have been achieved without the grace of Ganesh, the guidance from the President, and the support of all Committee members who have been actively engaged in every initiative. It has been a privilege to work with such an inspired, experienced, and talented group.



Secretary's Report

Shasith Janarthan

As we come to the close of 2021, the overwhelming emotion I have is one of *gratitude*, Gratitude to the Universe, Gratitude to our Ancients and to our Sanathana Dharma and Gratitude to the Almighty who has put us in our individual situations to bring out the best in us. Unprecedented times called for unprecedented actions, and I am pleased to have played my part in the way we have conducted ourselves as a community organization.

This year has been extremely busy for all Executive Committee members with the introduction of new ways of collaborating and a model where Governance, inclusiveness, involvement in decision making and communication were given a fresh impetus. With the constant awareness of Ganesha's guiding hand in all my actions, here is my report.

Membership management

Improving the management of members and the implementation of Mailchimp for email communications are among the notable improvements for the year.

During the first and second quarter of this year I participated in assisting in developing, reviewing, and aligning various forms with workflow processes and procedures set by the Executive Committee lead by the President. I redeveloped the membership form, leave form and election nomination form for process and workflow alignment. The task of development of procedures and process flow was very dynamic for all Executive Committee members due to legacy practices that needed to be reviewed, re-designed and implemented to maintain accountability and transparency.

Festival Season

The third quarter of this year was dedicated to reviewing and amending our Constitution with the Sub-Committee, assisting our Committee members to organize festivals and see through a seamless flow during the major events Ganesh Chaturthi and Diwali respectively.

Monthly Executive Committee Meetings and Workshops

- General Monthly meetings - 8
- Governance training - 1
- Governance Workshops - 2

Total work hours: 200 Hrs.

The outcome of the above effort during the first and second quarter has yielded five-star reviews that are evident in our Google reviews from the public.

Increased devotee activity at the Temple and activity captured via Facebook and webpages by number of visits are also evident, reflecting the outcome of the enormous efforts of the Committee.



No. of visits in 2021 by Schools

The number of school visits has decreased this year, due to COVID restrictions but we were still able to host 3 schools:

- Wood Croft college
- Prescot College Southern
- St Aloysius College

Meeting and Greeting of Volunteers

Volunteers are our backbone to run the Temple flawlessly. On 7th Feb 2021, we celebrated Volunteers' day where our volunteers had an opportunity to interact with each other and the Committee, and receive appreciation for their past and ongoing services.

Maha Sivaratri

More than 1,200 devotees attended the Temple during the festival of Maha Sivaratri. The planning and execution to manage the flow of the devotees and manage COVID restrictions were done seamlessly; this event was also an opportunity to learn more about what to expect of devotees for next major festivals so we can serve them better.

HSSA Open day

Ganesha Temple Open Community Day as a partnership with the **City of Marion - Harmony Week 2021** was conducted on 10 April 2021. Swami Manyananda from Ramakrishna mission was invited to speak on the day about Hindu culture and the Hindu way of life.



Maha Ganesha Chaturthi Celebrations

This two-day event was planned by Mr. Dilip Thakur, and well executed by our Committee members. A special thanks to Shri Raghuram Ramachandran and Smt Rubi Prakash for organising the cultural events. We oversaw around 1,800 devotees. Our previous experience during Maha Shivaratri helped significantly to plan this event by overcoming the shortfalls we had.

Shri Sanjay Madhukar Raje took the lead to organise the preparation of 1,200 boxes of packed Maha Prasad. Thanks to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to mark this event an achievement.



Diwali festival

Deepavali, the Festival of Lights, marked another major event within our culture. This Diwali was an opportunity for us to get together and interact with new faces with a sit-down dinner at our Community Cultural Centre. Many political dignitaries attended our function.





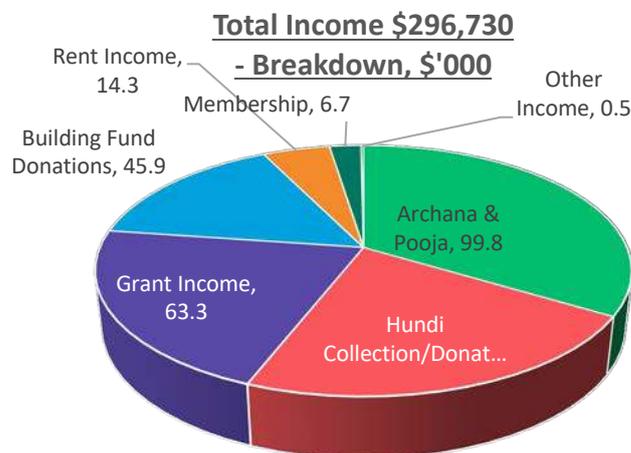
Treasurer's Report

Rajah Thiyagarajah

It has been a privilege to serve as the Treasurer and to be able to contribute to the Hindu Society and the Temple. This report discusses the financial performance and financial management of the Society.

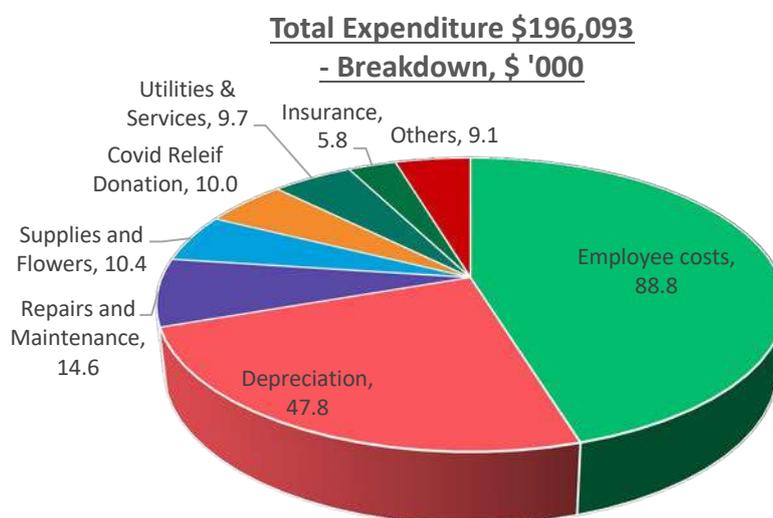
Overview of income and expenditure

HSSA total Income in Financial Year (FY) 2021¹ was \$296,730 comprising mainly of Archana and Puja collections, Hundi Collections and Donations, and Grant Income.



The total Income rose from \$225,325 in FY 2020 to \$296,730 in FY 2021. This was mainly due to increases in the archana and puja collections and other income streams, and partly offset by lower Building Fund donations and Grants income.

HSSA Total expenses in FY 2021 was \$196,093 mainly comprising of employee related costs (salaries and superannuation) and repairs and maintenance. We also contributed a total of \$10,000 for Covid relief donations to India and Sri Lanka from our own funds and donations from devotees. The breakdown of total expenses in FY 2021 is shown below.



¹ FY covers 1 July – 30 June, FY 2021 = 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

The total expenses rose by \$40,559 from \$155,534 in FY 2020, mainly due to revision in depreciation charges and increase in remuneration payments to the priests. We have also further increased the priests' remuneration package by 28% effective 1st October 2021 to recognize their significant contributions.

Year-end Cash balances rose from \$12,172 as at 30th June 2020 to \$99,619 as at 30th June 2021. In addition, outstanding loan balance of \$48,136 was fully repaid during the year. Currently there is no outstanding debt on the balance sheet.

The Financial Statements for Financial Year ended June 2021 are shown in the addendum to this report.

Improvements in Financial Control Measures

Following the last AGM in December 2020, many financial management initiatives to improve financial systems and controls were implemented. These initiatives have resulted in significant improvement of income, better record keeping, and the HSSA receiving a clean audit report from the auditor.

This past year has seen significant effort put into the implementation of a point-of-sale system to manage puja and archana fees, donations and other financial transactions.

A dedicated team of fully trained volunteers now staff the archana counter morning and evenings. Training workshops have been held for this Archana Counter Team to improve knowledge, obtain feedback and further improve the system.

The point-of-sale (POS) system has been integrated with the accounting software package Xero with POS transactions directly reflected in the accounting software.

Regular record keeping and reporting of cash collections has been improved.

Approval Authority Limits have been implemented for the Executive Committee to ensure all expenses are properly authorised and approved.

I am grateful for the invaluable support of the Executive Committee members, the Chief and Assistant priests and the Archana Counter Team of volunteers who have helped in implementing these financial management initiatives.

Increases in Income

Significant income growth has resulted from the financial systems and control measures that have been implemented since December, 2020.

In FY 2022, the largest income source, archana and puja income, increased by over 80% from \$52,809 in the prior year to \$99,814.

More significantly, in FY 2022 Archana and Puja collections are projected to reach \$155,000³, or about \$100,000 more than the annual collections during FY 2017-2020. See the chart below.

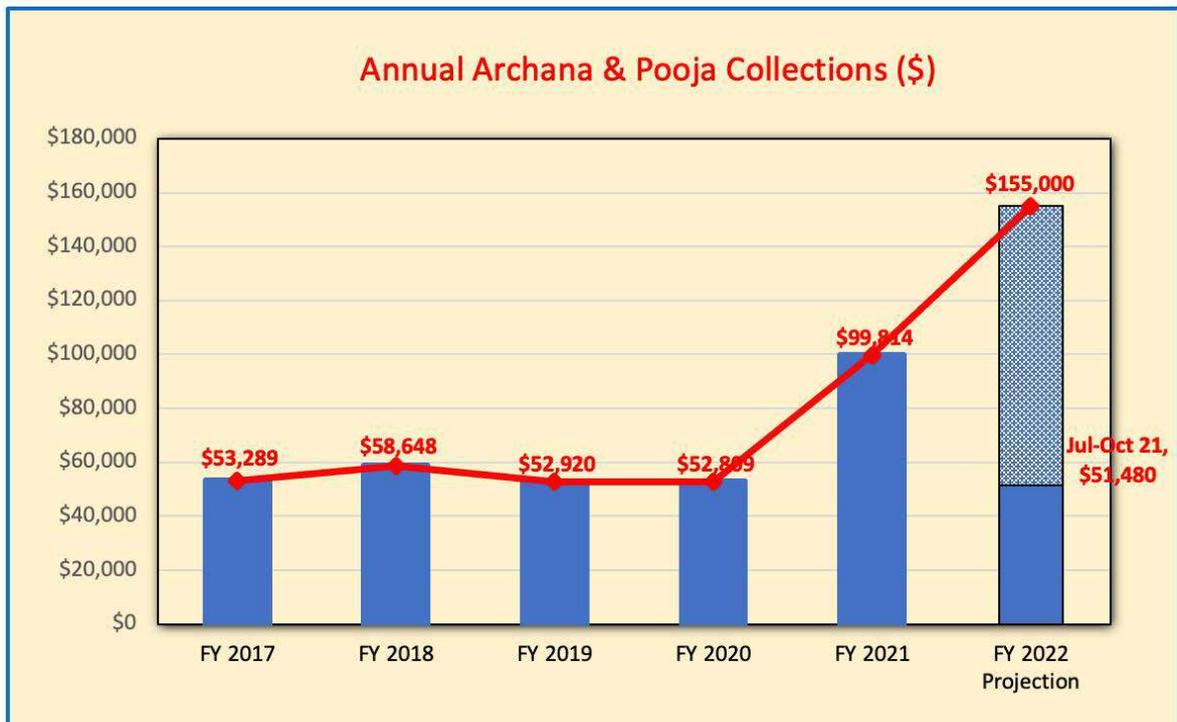
This phenomenal growth in the Temple's archana and puja income is attributable for the most part to the financial management measures that are now in place. Also to the archana counter being continuously staffed by the volunteer team.

The other income sources including donations, hall hire rentals and membership fees have also shown increases.

Building fund donations declined as the Committee decided not to actively solicit collections, following the completion of the Community Cultural Centre.

² FY covers 1 July – 30 June, FY 2021 = 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

³ FY 2022 projection based on Jul-Oct 2021 collection of \$51,480



Independent Audit

The independent auditor provided an unqualified opinion of the Society's financial statements and without the disclaimers expressed in previous audit reports. My sincere thanks to our Honorary Auditor, Mr. Laxman Mehra, for conducting the financial audit and for his invaluable comments and suggestions. The independent auditor's report is shown in the addendum to this report.

Into 2022 and Beyond

Looking ahead, the improved financial strength of the Temple will help to cover the operating costs and upgrades of the Temple facilities, and reduce the need to borrow funds or seek additional donations. In the longer term, this will enable us to provide wider community services such as disaster assistance, scholarships and assisting the needy, in line with our strategic direction.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Dilip Thakur

Establishment of HSSA Volunteers Group

Throughout the history of HSSA to-date, this organization has been fortunate to have many devotees from within our community who have quietly dedicated their time and efforts in providing SEVA, described, as Service to People is a Service to Almighty.

We are acutely aware that our volunteers are true "back-bones" of our society. So, this year, for the first time in the history of Hindu Society of SA, the Committee took new initiative to establish a Registered Volunteer Group. We developed a formal application form to register each volunteer's interest in providing voluntary services in various areas.

The Government of South Australia proclaimed a special day as Volunteers Day on the Monday of the Queen's Birthday long weekend in June every year. On Saturday 12 June 2021, HSSA held a special event to recognise and celebrate the contributions made by existing volunteers and to welcome new volunteers.

Volunteers Day event was attended by thirty-Eight (38) volunteers. Unsurprisingly what we observed was one common factor among all volunteers-a passion to do SEVA. We concluded the Volunteers Day Celebrations over sumptuous afternoon-tea.

As of October 2021 we now have 55 volunteers on our register. By now we have some volunteers who have completed Covid Marshall Certificate course, Hygiene and Food Handling course and in coming days and months we hope to support those who wish to do Fire Warden, First Aid training programs.

Monthly Prasad Bhojan

The Executive Committee is delighted to inform our members that in May 21 we were approached by a group of volunteers (Who wish to remain anonymous) offering to establish a Prasad Bhojan for the devotees attending the Temple on the fourth Saturday of each month. Their first Prasad Bhojan was held on Saturday 26 June 21 and they served 100+ devotees.

The Committee is impressed with the group's devotion and strong sense of providing SEVA. Since the commencement, the group has provided freshly cooked food to devotees on the fourth Saturday of each month except for July and August 21 due to Covid restrictions. Typically a simple anadhanam consists of 1x dal, Sambar or vegetable curry, 1x vegetable dish, Pickle and pappadam.

A team consisting of 10 volunteers includes a professional cook, food preparation team, food serving team and cleaning/tidy-up team.



Most noticeable feature of this program is the respect and dignity with which the group served the devotees seated at the tables and served by the volunteers to adhere to Covid restrictions. The group members worked together to source items to cook either via individual or family donations. The Committee acknowledges with thanks to this devoted group members for their work and dedication.



We have already received some interest from the families wanting to host the Prasad Bhojan and we have no doubt that as this program gains momentum, we will see more people coming forward to make generous donations in monetary and material forms.

Maha Ganesh Chaturthi 2021: Celebration with a difference

From the very first year of establishment of the Temple 35 years ago, Maha Ganesh Chaturthi celebration at the Temple has been organized and led by the Marathi community of Adelaide for the enjoyment of all devotees from diverse regional backgrounds.

This year (2021) the Executive Committee considered another ground breaking idea to plan the event over two consecutive days. Day-1 was devoted to traditional rituals we established 35 years ago and Day-2 was celebrated with the Classical Entertainment Program. Adding second day of celebration aimed at promoting social inclusion and diversity through performing arts (dance and music).

Considering the challenges presented by the Executive Committee extended the Temple opening hours on Friday and Saturday.

What's in a number?

- 1200 devotees came to worship Lord Ganesh on Friday evening
- 600 devotees came on Saturday evening
- 200 devotees came on both mornings
- 60 dance performers and teachers of performing arts, percussion & vocal artists gave top-class performances
- 27 ladies and 4 men made 1800+ Modakam at the Temple
- 25 volunteers and the Executive Committee members ensured the seamless running of the two-day program
- 3 Priests and 4 assistants conducted the services with utmost serenity and indeed provided spiritual experience to all devotees

We hope that the memories of this year's Maha Ganesh Chaturthi Festival celebrations at the Temple will remain firmly ingrained in the hearts of many devotees. And if continued each year, it will become a part of the tradition in many years to come.

Diwali Celebration Dinner

This year, on 6th November 2021 our Committee arranged a formal dinner evening to mark the celebration of Diwali 2021.



The event was attended by a number of dignitaries, namely Hon Jing Lee MLC, Assistant Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs, Mayor Kris Hanna and the representatives of SAMEAC. Our new Cultural Hall provided a perfect venue decorated with lighting to highlight the Festival of Lights. The high-class entertainment was provided by a group of dancers from Temple of Fine Arts, depicting a mythological story behind Diwali-Festival of Lights.





Hindu Society of South Australia

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