



# TURIYA MARGA

## The Path to Consciousness

The Newsletter of the Hindu Society of South Australia Inc.  
Shri Ganesha Temple, 3A Dwyer Road, Oaklands Park, SA 5046  
Volume 36, No 2

<https://hindusocietysa.com.au/>

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### Executive Committee

President: Shri Madhava Bhat (0429 698 198)  
Vice President: Smt Ganga Sivanathan (0421 474 685)  
Secretary: Shri Shasith Janarthan (0403 405 740)  
Treasurer: Shri Rajah Thiyagarajah (0417 809 452)

### Members

Shri Swapna Kamal Sengupta (0403 309 176)  
Shri Dilip Thakur (0407 976 900)  
Shri Subrahmanyam Kuppa (0403 582 253)  
Shri Sanjay Madhukar Raje (0434 157 459)  
Smt Amarasurubini Prakash (0402 986 009)  
Shri Raghuram Ramachandran (0406 022 404)

### Priests

Shri Skandarajah Kurukkal (08 82981278 0408 893 075)  
Shri Asohan Sharma (08 8358 3615)

### Timings

#### Monday to Friday

7 AM to 8:30 AM (Haarathi 7:30 AM)  
6 PM to 8:30 PM (Haarathi 7:30 PM)

#### Saturday

7 AM to 9 AM (Haarathi 7:30 AM)  
6 PM to 8:30 PM (Haarathi 7:30 PM)

#### Sunday

8 AM to 1 PM (Haarathi 12 PM)  
6 PM to 8:30 PM (Haarathi 7:30 PM)

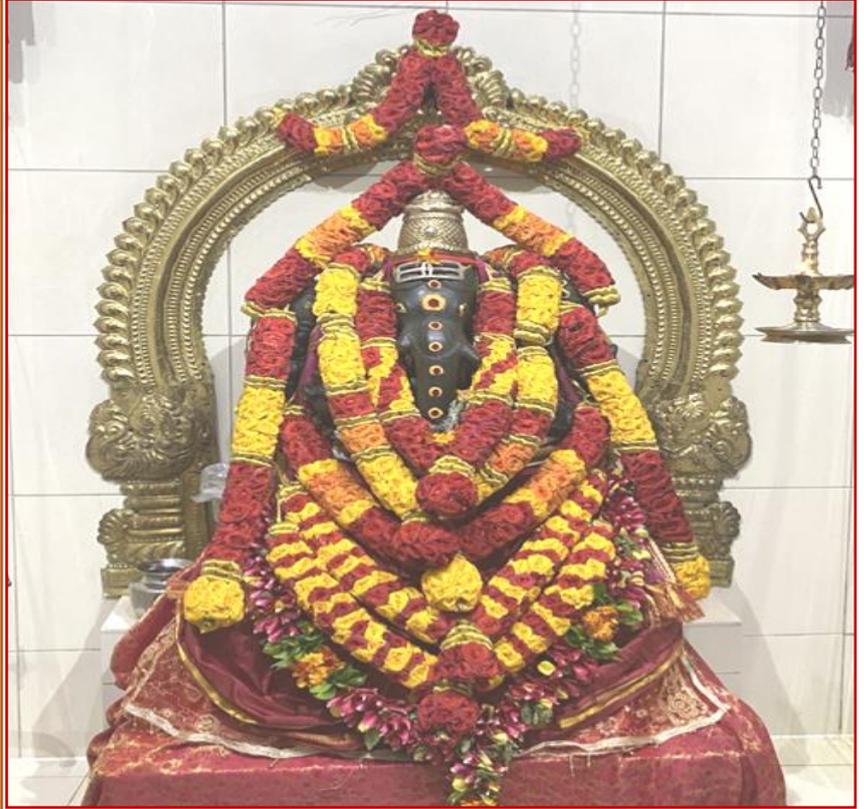
### Temple Dress Code

Traditional Hindu Dress or Smart casuals with  
button shirts for men and Long skirts, modest  
tops for women

*Edited and published by*

*Raghuram Ramachandran for HSSA*

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### President's report

Dear members, devotees, friends,

It is a great honour to serve the Hindu Society of SA (HSSA) as President. Time has passed quickly since I wrote my last report in April 2021. Our committee has been very busy this year, celebrating many festivals, mapping out strategic plans and organising several community programs. Here is a glimpse of the tremendous work done by the committee.

Volunteers are our backbone for running day-to-day Temple activities. They serve at the Archana counter, maintain the Temple garden, clean the Temple yard, floors, domes, lamps, cook prasadam during festivals....the list is endless. Our volunteers serve an average of 120 workhours per week. HSSA is indeed very fortunate to have them and I am very grateful for their energy, commitment, enthusiasm, and selfless service.

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

Some examples of the quality improvement initiatives undertaken are:

- \* Governance training for the Executive Committee
- \* Induction program for the new Executive Committee with code of conduct
- \* Quarterly strategic planning workshops
- \* Volunteering program

Key focus areas for the Hindu Society of SA governance are:

- \* Risk Management



**President's message contd....**

- \* Arts, culture and Education
- \* Sustainability and Growth
- \* Seniors program
- \* Festivals and Celebrations
- \* Outreach program
- \* Food program

Some of our achievements in the last six months are:

- \* Volunteers day organised in June, attended by about 30 volunteers
- \* Volunteers' Induction package has been created and distributed
- \* Monthly Prasadam bhojan service introduced from June 2021
- \* Successful commissioning and operation of the Point of Sale system
- \* Donated \$12,000 to various charities in India and Srilanka for COVID-19 support
- \* Installed shutters to the outdoor kitchen
- \* The iron gate to the community centre has been automated
- \* Successful 2-day Maha Ganesha Chaturthi celebrations
- \* New website launched <https://hindusocietysa.com.au/> funded by a grant from the South Australian Government
- \* Successful grant application of \$4,875 for concrete flooring of our outdoor dining area
- \* Designed and implemented a new HSSA logo with Om symbol
- \* Grant applications have been submitted to the Marion Council for:
  - \* verge garden development
  - \* youth development project

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 to South Australia. The demography of these new migrants includes young professionals and students. To meet the needs and expectations of large number of Hindus living in Adelaide we developed an organisation structure consisting of 11 portfolios. Each portfolio is headed by an Executive Committee member who is responsible for their area of work.

I will write more about the portfolio structure in this year's annual report which will be released at the AGM to be held on 27th November 2021.

I thank you for your support and encouragement.

I hope to catch up with you all at the AGM.

Namo Ganeshaaya,  
Madhava Bhat, President

## Secretary's Report

Dear devotees, members, friends,

When work gets too much and begins to get overwhelming, I have reminded myself that everything that we do is an offering to Bhagavan, as Srimad Bhagavad Geetha says. This simple thought has helped me in my professional life as well as my role as secretary of the HSSA—a role that I am privileged to hold. We as a committee have achieved a lot and I loved playing my part. Here below is the list of actions and motions passed by the committee in the meetings in the last 6 months



Whilst it was all about identifying legacy issues, resolving them to put new measures into practice, the committee also managed to breathe life into cultural events to rejoice with members and devotees. The credits absolutely go to all in the Executive Committee and especially to the tirelessly serving volunteers who managed the Maha Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

**Important motions passed and accepted during the meetings are as below:**

### April 2021

- \* Smt. Ganga Sivanathan was nominated for the role of Vice President, and the Committee had unanimously endorsed the appointment of VP.
- \* Shri Raghuram Ramachandran was nominated member and the Committee had unanimously endorsed the appointment of the Committee member.
- \* All accounts information have been migrated to Xero software from QuickBooks and the administration and management of the books of account rests with the Treasurer.

### May 2021 - Workshop II

- \* HSSA Strategy discussion and Vision Planning was initiated by the President.
- \* POS system had gone live in the month of May and categorized fund collection process was put to review for improve-

Secretary's message contd....

### June 2021

- \* Subcommittee formed to review the constitution.
- \* 32 Volunteers were enrolled to serve HSSA, Volunteers were inducted on Volunteers Day 12<sup>TH</sup> June.
- \* Expenditure authority limit for committee members was introduced and was subjected to discussions prior seeking implementation approval.
- \* Distribution of Covid Funds to India, Sri Lanka and Nepal was planned and the decision was unanimously endorsed by the committee.

### July 2021

- \* Motion was moved for endorsing the Expenditure Approval Authority limit document. The motion was unanimously endorsed by the committee.
- \* Subcommittee to Revamp AV system to suit the cultural needs was proposed by the President and endorsed by the Executive Committee.

Namo Ganeshaaya  
Shasith Janarthan, Secretary

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dear Members and Devotees,

I am pleased to report that the financial systems and control measures the Executive Committee has implemented since taking office in December 2020, have resulted in substantial improvement in the Temple's income.

Archana and pooja collections increased by over 80% while other incomes from donations, hundi collections, hall hire and membership fees have also shown increases. More details will be reported at the upcoming AGM scheduled on 27th November 2021.

I am grateful to the Archana Counter Team (ACT) of volunteers and the Chief and Assistant Priests who have done an outstanding service in helping to implement the new collection system. The kind contributions of our members and Temple devotees is also much appreciated.

The improved financial strength of the Temple will help to cover the operating costs and capital upgrades of the Temple facilities and reduce the need to borrow funds or seek additional donations. In the longer term, this would enable us to provide wider community services such as disaster assistance, scholarships and assisting the needy.

Namo Ganeshaaya  
Rajah Thiyagarajah, Treasurer



### **Education and Cultural programs— ongoing**

Details	When and Where	Contact
Advaitha Makaranda—Lectures by Shri Lakshmi Murthy	Saturdays 2-3 PM Zoom	Shri Subrahmanyam Kuppa —0403 582 253 Kuppa.subrahmanyam@gmail.com
Thiruppavai & Thiruvempavai lessons in traditional ragas by Shri Venkatesan N	Fridays 8-9 PM Zoom	Shri Srirama Srinivasan 0450 375 631 sriramking@yahoo.com
Vedic Chanting—Classes by Shri Raghuram Ramachandran	Saturdays 9-10 AM Zoom	Shri Subrahmanyam Kuppa —0403 582 253 Kuppa.subrahmanyam@gmail.com
Srimad Bhagavad Geetha chanting classes by Shri Manjunath Rudrapatna	Thursdays 6-6:45PM Zoom	Shri Subrahmanyam Kuppa —0403 582 253 Kuppa.subrahmanyam@gmail.com
Vedic Chanting by HSSA Veda class group	2nd Monday of every month at Shri Ganesha Temple	Shri Subrahmanyam Kuppa —0403 582 253 Kuppa.subrahmanyam@gmail.com
Bhajans by the BHIMA community group	2nd Saturday of every month at 6:30 PM at the Temple	
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 6-7 PM	To be announced via email and our Facebook page

## BRIEF FACETS OF SANATHANA DHARMA (HINDUISM)

Compiled by Shri Swapna Kamal Sengupta

### OM - Pranava—the Primeval sound of the Universe

Hinduism's most sacred sound, syllable and symbol is "OM" (a-u-m). It is not a word exactly, rather an intonation. There is harmony, peace and bliss in this simple but deeply philosophical sound. The word had first been used in the Upanishads, one of Vedanta's most important texts. Its rhythmic pronunciation that has calming effects on the body and symbolize purity. 'OM' mystically embodies the essence of the entire universe. It is uttered at the beginning and end of Hindu prayers, chants, and meditation.

In Hindu culture chanting of OM around 108 times is considered to be a holy practice. The number 108 signifies one, emptiness and infinite. The Maalas or chain made of prayer beads have 108 beads, used for chanting mantras repeatedly to gain peace and ultimate 'Shanti'. As per the yogic tradition, India has 108 Pithas (sacred and religious places). In Hinduism there are 108 mantras and 108 Upanishads.

### VEDAS – The Sacred Knowledge

The word 'Veda' is derived from the root 'vid' ('to know') and indicates a vast body of sacred knowledge. The Hindu religious tradition has accorded the Vedas its highest place in its literature. It is the basic primary scripture of Hinduism with a collection of verses and hymns written in Sanskrit. The texts were received by scholars direct from God and passed on the next generations by word of mouth, hence the name 'shruti' (what is heard).

It is difficult to fix the date of Vedas, however most of the scholars consider the Harrappa and Mohenjo Daro civilisations (circa 4000 years Before the Common Era) to be a later phase of Vedic culture. This places the date of Rig-Veda, the earliest of the Vedas, several tens of thousands of years before the Common Era.

The Vedas are said to have manifested as one massive body of knowledge. Maharishi Krishna Dvaipayana arranged / divided these into 4 parts— Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda and Atharvaveda. Hence he is also known to us more popularly as Maharishi Veda Vyasa (Vyasa meaning to divide, segregate).

Each Veda is again divided into four sections as follows i) the Samhitas - collections of mantras containing invocations to Vedic deities such as Agni, Indra and Mitra ii) the Brahmanas— texts that explain the rituals and meanings iii) the Aranyakas - discussions and interpretations from ritualistic and meta-ritualistic points of view and iv) the Upanishads - philosophical teachings some in dialogue form.

For the soul, there is never birth nor death. Nor having once been, does he ever cease to be. He is unborn, eternal, ever existing, undying and primeval. He is not slain when the body is slain.

*Srimad Bhagavad Geetha*

Feel nothing, know nothing, do nothing, have nothing, give up all to God and say 'Thy will be done'. We only dream this bondage. Wake up and let it go.

*Swami Vivekananda*

When meditation is mastered, the mind is unwavering like the flame of a lamp in a windless place.

*Srimad Bhagavad Geetha*

If I were asked under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered on the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions, I should point to India.

*Max Mueller, German Scholar*

India is the mother of religion. In her are combined science and religion in perfect harmony, and that is the Hindu religion, and it is India that shall be again the spiritual mother of the world.

*Annie Besant*

The Present is the womb of the future. A greater future happiness can be had only by investing in the present correctly. Look after the present and the future will look after itself.

*Swami Chinmayananda*

## MADURAI MEENAKSHI TEMPLE, TAMIZHNAAD , BHAARATHA

Meenakshi temple is a historic shrine located on the southern bank of Vaigai river in the more than 2500 year old temple city of Madurai in Tamizhnaad. The holy site is dedicated to Goddess Parvati (Meenakshi) and her consort Lord Shiva (Sundareswarar). Devi Meenakshi was a powerful warrior born to King Malayadhwaja Pandyan and Kanchanmalai. It is believed that at this temple site Lord Shiva in the form of Sundareswarar (the handsome one ) married Parvati ( Meenakshi ).

Since Meenakshi is the primary god of the temple, the temple connotes the significance of lady in a Tamil Hindu family. The temple likewise depicts the warm connection between Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Shaktism.



The Sundareswarar

hallowed place is known as one fifth of 'Pancha Sabhai' (five courts) where Master Shiva is accepted to have played out the infinite dance.

Thirugnanasambandar, the famous Hindu saint mentions this temple as early as the 7th century. The current temple complex was built by King Kulasekara Pandya ( 1190 – 1216 CE ) and dedicated to Devi Meenakshi and Shiva. The temple also includes Lakshmi, flute playing Krishna, Rukmini, Brahma, Saraswathi , other Vedic and Puranic deities, artworks with narratives from major Hindu texts. The temple has gopurams (towers) ranging from 45 to 52 meters (147 to 170 feet) in height, paintings and huge Mandapams. There are an estimated 33,000 sculptures in the temple. A massive Nataraja sculpture is enclosed in a huge silver altar and hence called Velli Ambalam. The Aayiram Kaal Mandapam is a hall that contains 985 unique pillars.

The Islamic invasion in the 14<sup>th</sup> century partly destroyed the temple. It was rebuilt in 1560 by Viswanatha Nayakar and substantially expanded during the reign of Tirumala Nayakar (1623-55). After the end of the Nayakars, start of the Madras Presidency and withdrawal of colonial British from support, the temple condition again degraded. In 1959 Tamil Hindus initiated restoration work and celebrated the completed restoration work with a Kumbhabhisekam. The temple complex is spread over about 14 acres. It has two large parallel shrines , one for Meenakshi and other for Sundareswarar. The idol of the goddess is sculpted from a single emerald stone. The complex has a lotus filled pool, a thousand-pillar hall, the kalyana mandapa or wedding hall, shrines for Hindu deities and the 64 nayanmaars and scholars from the Sangam era. There are 14 colorful Gopurams (gateways) to various shrines and mandapas. The four tallest ones depict nearly 4000 mythological stories. Both the Meenakshi and Sundareswarar



shrines have gold-plated vimanams (tower over sanctum ).



The biggest festival at the temple is the 'Meenakshi Thirukalyanam ', that falls in April. It marks the divine marriage of Meenakshi with Sundareswarar. The festival includes a procession , where Meenakshi and Sundareswarar travel in a chariot pulled by volunteer devotees, and Bhagavan Vishnu gives away his sister in marriage to Shiva.

The temple also celebrates the 'Navarathri' festival with the complex lit up with garlands of lights. Over the centuries the temple has been a centre of education, of culture, literature, art, music and dance .



## PRAYER

By Shri Sadanand Limaye

A Prayer is an earnest attempt to seek spiritual communion with God. One is trying to seek God's attention as it were. Prayer is ordained in all religions. A prayer ,may be offered by chanting the Lord's name or by chanting a laudatory collection of words— A Mantra. It may be a short verse or sentence or a long hymn. It is not the words in a prayer that have the power to connect to the divine but the sentiment with which it is uttered. Silent meditation

on the form of the deity being prayed is also a prayer. In prayer, one acknowledges the power of the Supreme. There is complete self surrender. Prayer is effective in relieving stress and can give one strength to cope with adverse situations. Some have claimed that it can cure diseases such as cancer. Others claim it increases longevity. One can set aside time each day to pray. Such practice inculcates discipline and may change ones attitude to other activities in our day to day life. There are number of activities in our daily life that do not need concentration and one can pray during these. One may pray for a personal gain or for welfare of somebody else. Praying for the sake of it without expecting personal gain is of course the best. One may also pray to thank God for success achieved in a venture and this makes one humble. Loving everything gives one a mindset to see the Divine everywhere and this helps pray earnestly and with selfless adoration. An English poet( Coleridge) said "he prayeth well who loveth well, man bird and beast". From my own experience, If I prayed while driving to work, I found my thought processes at work were clearer and I made decisions quickly and with confidence.

## Life is Colourful !

By Dhawala Ananda

Life is completely unpredictable. It gives you bright colourful days, also dull dark days. The times around the dark days made me lose hope on making my life better. But in the process, I have learnt that nothing is permanent. It is just a phase which will eventually pass. So, here is my story from the early days of the pandemic.

It was the summer of 2019 in the 3rd most liveable city in the world, Adelaide, and everything was going smoothly for me. I was at University and earning my living here in Adelaide and BANG—the shocking news of the Pandemic developing in various parts of the world hit us. Like everyone else, this changed a lot of things in my life. My part time job was the first to be hit by the lockdowns. My shifts got reduced at the start, then gradually I was left without any shifts by the end of March as the job keeper program started in April.

I managed to pay my rent for a couple weeks with my savings, however, it did not last long. It was one of the most difficult phases between end of March till mid May, when I received the hardship funds from the university. I was also able to get assistance in the form of food and friendships from the Hindu Youth Association (HYA) in Adelaide. I am so grateful to all the people who joined hands to help those struggling, especially students like me. It brings tears to my eyes just thinking of the situation I was in just five months ago. I have slept several nights on an empty stomach. All I could think of, was to save on the money to pay rent.

But I never quit praying to Bhagavan to make this world a better place for everyone. I finally relaxed a bit when the hardship funds were distributed by the University which lasted for two months. I was in my last semester of a masters degree and had very little hope of finding a job in my chosen field of study. I worked hard on my assignments, and it paid off as I got a pretty good score in all my subjects.

Before I knew it, it was Aug 2020 and I began frantically searching for jobs. I was running out of money and wouldn't be able to afford even rent. But, I never forgot that Bhagavan is always there for the hard workers. He might push you off the cliff, but he has a plan to save you from the fall. The company where I interned gave me work as a part-time town planner (my passion). There you go, I landed! God has a plan for everything he does! I managed to earn enough to cover my rent and basic groceries.

While this circus was being played out, I managed to land an interview with a Victoria based water supply company. The process of recruitment was lengthy and stressful. But, "Stressed Spelled backwards is Desserts!" Yes, I made it through. I received the job offer letter at the end of September. How the wheels turn. This is not how I thought I would be when I was in that struggling phase of life.

My dear friends, here are my lessons—please don't be disappointed when adversity hits you as it is just a phase which will pass. The tunnel is not forever and there is always light at the end of it. Keep your hopes high! Australia is a country filled with opportunities for everyone. Hope this little snippet of my life lifts your spirits.

*(After being through this, Dhawala visited our Temple where she witnessed HSSA's relief efforts for international students. She contributed a substantial amount towards this effort. We pray Bhagavan Ganesha shower his Grace on Dhawala and take her to greater heights)*



16-Oct-21	Sat	Ekadashi	13-Jan-22	Thu	Ekadashi , Bogi Pandigai , Vaikuntha Ekadashi
17-Oct-21	Sun	Tula Sankranti , Sabarimala Nada Thurappu	14-Jan-22	Fri	Pongal , Makara Sankranti
18-Oct-21	Mon	Pradosham	15-Jan-22	Sat	Pradosham , Mattu Pongal
20-Oct-21	Wed	Aippasi Pournami , Pournami , Pournami Viratam	16-Jan-22	Sun	Kaanum Pongal , Temple Anniversary
23-Oct-21	Sat	Karthikai Vratham	17-Jan-22	Mon	Pournami , Pournami Viratam
24-Oct-21	Sun	Karaka Chaturthi , Sankatahara Chaturthi	18-Jan-22	Tue	Thaipusam
<b>November 2021</b>			21-Jan-22	Fri	Sankatahara Chaturthi
1-Nov-21	Mon	Ekadashi	28-Jan-22	Fri	Ekadashi
2-Nov-21	Tue	Pradosham , Dhana Trayodashi	30-Jan-22	Sun	Gandhi Samaadhi , Masa Shivaratri , Pradosham
3-Nov-21	Wed	Masa Shivaratri	<b>February 2022</b>		
4-Nov-21	Thu	Amavasai , Deepavali , Kedaara Gowri Vratham ends	1-Feb-22	Tue	Thai Amavasai , Shula Vratam , Thiruvona Vratham
5-Nov-21	Fri	Govardhan Puja , Skandha Shashti Vratham start	4-Feb-22	Fri	Chaturthi
8-Nov-21	Mon	Sri Somavara Vratam , Chaturthi Vratham	5-Feb-22	Sat	Vasantha Panchami
9-Nov-21	Tue	Shoora samharam	6-Feb-22	Sun	Shashti Vratham
10-Nov-21	Wed	Shashti Vratham	9-Feb-22	Wed	Karthikai Vratham
11-Nov-21	Thu	Thirukkalyaanam , Gopashtami , Thiruvona Vratham	12-Feb-22	Sat	Ekadashi
12-Nov-21	Fri	Akshaya Navami	14-Feb-22	Mon	Pradosham
15-Nov-21	Mon	Ekadashi	16-Feb-22	Wed	Pournami Viratam , Pournami
16-Nov-21	Tue	Pradosham , Vrishchikam 1-Ayyappa Puja	17-Feb-22	Thu	Masi Magam
18-Nov-21	Thu	Pournami Viratam	20-Feb-22	Sun	Sankatahara Chaturthi
19-Nov-21	Fri	Karthigai Deepam	27-Feb-22	Sun	Ekadashi
20-Nov-21	Sat	Vinayakar Vratham start	28-Feb-22	Mon	Pradosham
23-Nov-21	Tue	Sankatahara Chaturthi	<b>March 2022</b>		
30-Nov-21	Tue	Ekadashi , Vaitarani Vrata	1-Mar-22	Tue	Maha Shivaratri , Masa Shivaratri
<b>December 2021</b>			2-Mar-22	Wed	Amavasai
2-Dec-21	Thu	Masa Shivaratri , Pradosham	6-Mar-22	Sun	Chaturthi Vratham
4-Dec-21	Sat	Amavasai	7-Mar-22	Mon	Sri Somavara Vratam
6-Dec-21	Mon	Sri Somavara Vratam	8-Mar-22	Tue	Shashti Vratham , Karthikai Vratham
7-Dec-21	Tue	Chaturthi Vratham	14-Mar-22	Mon	Karadaiyan Nombu , Ekadashi
8-Dec-21	Wed	Thiruvona Vratham	15-Mar-22	Tue	Pradosham
9-Dec-21	Thu	Subrahmanya Shashti , Vinayakar Shashti	17-Mar-22	Thu	Pournami
11-Dec-21	Sat	Thivembavai start	18-Mar-22	Fri	Holi , Panguni Uthiram
14-Dec-21	Tue	Ekadashi	21-Mar-22	Mon	Sankatahara Chaturthi
16-Dec-21	Thu	Pradosham , Karthigai	22-Mar-22	Tue	Ranga Panchami
18-Dec-21	Sat	Pournami Vratham , Thiruppavai start	28-Mar-22	Mon	Ekadashi , Thiruvona Vratham
20-Dec-21	Mon	Arudra Darshan	29-Mar-22	Tue	Pradosham
22-Dec-21	Wed	Sankatahara Chaturthi	30-Mar-22	Wed	Masa Shivaratri
26-Dec-21	Sun	Mandala Pooja	31-Mar-22	Thu	Amavasai
30-Dec-21	Thu	Ekadashi	<b>April 2022</b>		
31-Dec-21	Fri	Pradosham	1-Apr-22	Fri	Amavasai
<b>January 2022</b>			2-Apr-22	Sat	Ugadi , Vasant Ritu , Rama Navami start
1-Jan-22	Sat	New Year Pooja	4-Apr-22	Mon	Karthikai Vratham
2-Jan-22	Sun	Hanuman Jayanthi , Amavasai	5-Apr-22	Tue	Chaturthi Vratham
6-Jan-22	Thu	Chaturthi Vratham	7-Apr-22	Thu	Shashti Vratham
7-Jan-22	Fri	Shashti Vratham	10-Apr-22	Sun	Sree Rama Navami
			12-Apr-22	Tue	Ekadashi
			14-Apr-22	Thu	Tamil New Year , Vishu , Pradosham , Mesha Sankranti

**Temple Events**



VaraLakshmi Vratha Puja was celebrated in Shravana month on Friday, 20th Aug 2021. Groups of ladies performed the Puja under the guidance of Gurukkal.



Vaikasi Vishakam, the birth day of Bhagavan Karthikeya (Muruga) was celebrated Tuesday, 25th May 2021 by performing Milk Abhishekam followed by a special Puja

**Temple Events**



Chithra Pournami special Abhishekam and Puja for Bhagavan Muruga was held on Monday 26 April 2021



New years day according to several Hindu calendars was celebrated on Wednesday, 14th April 2021 with a special Puja

Maha Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations — Day 1  
Ganapathi Atharva Sheersha Upanishad chanting by devotees followed by Bhajans during evening Abhishekam and Puja followed by Haarathi



Maha Ganesh Chaturthi celebration — Day 2  
An evening of Music and Dance dedicated to Ganেশ



Inauguration by lighting of lamp by Smt Sivanes Selvakulalingam followed by a short puja



Bhajans by Smt Priya Ghosal and group



MangalaVaadyam by Vidwan Sri Asohan Krishnaiyer and Vidwan Shri Umakaran Jeganathan. Appreciation certificates and trophies handed to the artistes by Smt Sivanes Selvakulalingam



Bharatanatyam by Mohana Smith and Janaki Pillai—students of Temple of Fine Arts, Adelaide, felicitated by Smt Ishwaran



Mridangam recital by students of Vidwan Shri Umakaran Jeganathan



Bhajans by Smt Sharmila Sharma and Group. Appreciation certificates and mementoes handed over by Smt Ganga Sivanathan



Bharatanatyam by Shri Prishay Sewrathan—student of Temple of Fine Arts, Adelaide, felicitated by Shri Sanjay Rajee



Bharatanatyam by Students of Uma Memorial Kalalayam, Adelaide



Bharatanatyam by Students of Uma Memorial Kalalayam, Adelaide



Bharatanatyam by Students of Souparnika School of dance



Kathak by Students of Nupur Jhankar Dance Academy



Bharatanatyam by students of Apsara Arts, Adelaide



*Hindu Society*  
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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

Our brief to the professional designers was that the HSSA logo should 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 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.

## Acharya Parampara

### Swami Vedanta Desikan

A poet, philosopher and logician, he took upon himself the task of upholding the concepts preached by Swami Ramanuja. Swami Vedanta Desikan was the brightest star in the firmament of Visishta Advaitha next only to Swami Ramanuja.

His composed his works in Tamizh, Sanskrit, Praakrit and Manipravala

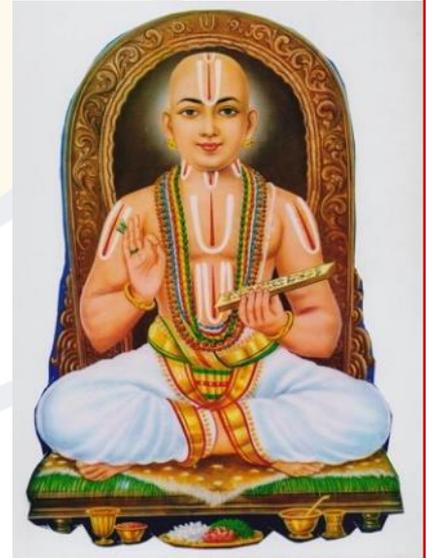
Swami Desikan was born on the Shukla Paksha Dashami (10th day of the lunar cycle) in the holy month of Purattaasi under the Shravana nakshatra in the year 1268 of the Common Era (about 131 years after Swami Ramanuja reached the lotus feet of Bhagavan) at Tooppul near Kanchipuram as Venkatanaatha. His Thiru naksHe is believed to be the incarnation of the bell of Lord Venkateswara of Tirumalai Tirupati and hence known as Ghantaavathaaram.

During his childhood, he attended discourses of various saints along with his maternal uncle, Appullaar who was also his Acharya. Before the age of 20, he excelled in all that a person ought to learn. His exposure to Vedas, Divya Prabandhas and Sastras at a very early age provided him with an encyclopaedic knowledge and this treasure house of knowledge was matched only by his exemplary modesty and humility.

Duly performing the Upanayanam (thread ceremony) at the age of 7, his maternal uncle Appullaar initiated the boy into the study of the Vedas, Sastras, Sri Bhashya and other scriptures. He was surprised to notice that the boy was precociously so smart as to grasp all that he was taught almost instantly. By age 20, Desikan became an unparalleled Vidwaan (scholar) and a prodigy.

He married at the age 21 to Tirumangai also known as Kanakavalli . Desikan lived by "Uncha Vritti" (begging for grains) true to the norms prescribed for a SriVaishnava Grihastha. By age 27, he had already become an Acharya delivering discourses on Granthas and Mantras to his followers.

On the demise of Appullaar, Desikan proceeded to Tiru Vaheendrapuram where he climbed the Oushaadri hillock, sat under an Aswatha tree and meditated on the Veda Maya Swaroopa Garuda, the divine bird vehicle of Lord Vishnu reciting the Garuda Mantra taught to him by his Guru.



Garuda appeared before him and taught him the Hayagreeva Mantra. As he recited it, Lord Hayagriva appeared before him, fed him with the nectar flowing from His mouth and presented an icon of Himself to Desika. Lord Hayagriva, took His seat on the tip of the tongue of Swami as prayed by him. Feeling grateful, Swami composed Hayagreeva Stotram, Garuda Panchasath, Devanaayaka Panchasath, Achyuta Sathakam etc in Sanskrit and Mummanikkaovai, Navamani Maalai etc., in Tamil.

There was no branch of knowledge. literary or scientific in which he was not proficient. Of the many deities he sang about, Devanatha of Tiruvaheendrapuram is the ONLY ONE who has been praised in 3 languages viz Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Tamil.

During his stay in Kanchipuram, Swami took the opportunity to visit several shrines in and near Kanchi and composed lyrics of incomparable beauty on the Lords in the various shrines.

Swami Desikan was blessed with an illustrious son Varadarya in 1317 of the Common Era. He followed the footsteps of his illustrious father and shone like a lamp lit from another lamp

Later, Swami Desikan undertook a pilgrimage to the North. The first halt was Tirumalai where he composed the famous Dayaa Sathakam and the Lord conferred on him the honorific of "Vedaantha Aachaarya".

Swami went on a pilgrimage to several Kshetras such as Ayodhya, Kaasi, Mathura, Avanti, Badarikasramam, Puri, Brindavan, Dwaraka, Triveni, Gaya, Salagramam, Purushothamam, Srikoormam etc., as can be seen from his description of these places in Act VI of his seminal work, Sankalpa Suryodayam.

Swami Vidyaranya, the 12th Jagadguru Shankaracharya of Sringeri Sharada Peetham and the force behind the Vijayanagara Empire was a boyhood friend of Swami Desikan.

A bachelor, instigated by some jealous people with the intention of embarrassing Swami Desikan, came to Swami for financial help for his wedding. Swami Desikan took him to the Sanctum Sanctorum of the divine mother and sang the famous 'Sri Sthuthi'. Immediately, it rained gold coins. Swami asked the bachelor to take them away. Some scholars and historians place the incident at the Sannidhi of Sri Ranga Nachiyar and some others place it at the Sannidhi of Perundevi Thayar at Kanchipuram.

When some of the orthodox people objected to the recital of Divya Prabandam in the temple on the grounds that they included the works written in Dravida Baasha and Tiruvaimozhi in particular dealt with Kaama that was taboo for them. Swami convinced them that the holy collects were equal to the Vedas since they contained all that was in the Vedas and that the Kaama spoken of was nothing but absolute devotion to the Lord.

Our Swami felt that the Divya Mani Paadukaas (divine sandals) of Lord Ranganatha were equally captivating and offered to compose a Stotram on the Sandals of the Lord before daybreak the next day. But, he had slept almost till the small hours of the morning of the appointed day. When there was hardly a couple of hours to go before sunrise, the agitated disciples woke him up to remind him of his promise. Instantly, he commenced pouring out with bewildering rapidity an epic 'Paaduka Sahasram' and completed it well before daybreak. The 1,000 verses of this epic is an example of literary excellence and lofty thoughts- a wonderful masterpiece of how a single subject like the sandals could be expressed in so many different ways and yet hold up the imagination and interest of the audience!

Once, a Vidwan by name, Krishna Misra challenged Swami whether he could write a drama to match his own drama, 'Prabhoda Suryodayam'. Swami wrote within just ONE night 'Sankalpa Suryodaya'- a marvelous allegorical drama in 10 Acts in which qualities like Viveka and evil tendencies like jealousy, greed etc., were personified as the dramatis personae. In appreciation of this, Krishna Misra and others honored Swami with the title of " Kavi Taarkika Simham"

Similarly, a poet by name Dindima - a junior contemporary of Swami challenged him to write an epic poem to match his work " Rama abhyudhayam". He wrote 'Yadhava abhyudhayam'- a poem of exquisite beauty which was praised by one and all

A prolific writer, he wrote more than 100 works. His magnum opus is his 'Rahasya Traya Saram' in Manipravala style (a mixture of Sanskrit and Tamil) explaining in inimitable manner Tattva, Hita And Purushartha as well as the significance of the three great Mantras of Ashtakshara, Dvaya and Charama Sloka. This Rahasya Traya Sara is reckoned as one of the four works that any Srivaishnava should study the other three being Sri Bashya, Gita Bashya and the Nalayira (4000) Divya Prabandams.

Having lived a full and rich life for 101 years and satisfied with his work on earth, Swami Desikan cast his mortal body, praying to Udaiyavar and Appullaar by placing their Paadukas (holy sandals) on his head, while his Sishyas chanted Tiruvoimozhi and Upanishads. He attained the lotus feet of the Lord in the month of Kartigai in the asterism of Kruttikaa in the year 1369 of the common era.

His son Varadacharya implores "the great lion of poetics and dialectics and the great preceptor of Vedanta (that Swami Venkatanatha was ) should reside in his heart always."

"Sriman Venkata Natharyah Kavitarika Kesari | Vedantacharya Varyo Mey Sannidhattam Sadaa Hridhi | |"

"Sri Ramanuja Daya Patram Gnana Vairaghya Bushanam | Srimad Venkata Natharyam Vande Vedanta Desikam | |"

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Attendance in person**

**Date:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021, at 10:30 am

**Venue:** Community Cultural Centre, 3A Dwyer Road Oaklands Park SA 5046

### **OR**

### **Join Remotely Via Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88159554981?pwd=U0YrbHVPdTZBdG14UTdkME9WU01lQT09>

Meeting ID: 881 5955 4981

Passcode: 272727

One tap mobile

+61871501149,88159554981#, \*272727# Australia

+61280156011,88159554981#, \*272727# Australia

### **AGENDA**

1. Invocation and Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 13th December 2020
4. Matters Arising
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Secretary's Report
8.
  - a. Amendments to HSSA constitution
  - b. Endorsement of Expenditure Authority limit
  - c. Endorsement of draft guidelines for conducting elections and role of the Returning officer
9. Election of the Office Bearers for 2021-2022
10. Appointments of Returning Officer, Auditor and Solicitor
11. Any other Business (for which at least fourteen days' notice has been given to the Secretary (Rule 10.3 (viii)))
12. Views of members on general issues

Lunch will be provided at the end of the meeting. Estimated time 12:00PM - 1:00PM

**Please register your attendance via Eventbrite (link below)**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hssa-annual-general-meeting-tickets-182524986147>

OR via email to [secretary@hindusocietysa.com.au](mailto:secretary@hindusocietysa.com.au)

## Nomination Form for the Executive Committee

Nominations for the following positions in the Executive Committee of the Hindu Society are called for in the prescribed form given below. The nominations to be duly completed and signed by financial members should reach the Returning Officer no later than close of business Saturday, 13th November 2021.

Election will be held on Saturday, 27th November 2021 from 10:30AM to 12:00PM

**Venue:** HSSA, Community Cultural Centre, 5 Dwyer Road Oaklands Park SA 2046

### POSITIONS CALLED FOR THE YEAR 2021 -2022

1. Vice President
2. Asst. Secretary

3. Committee Members

### No. of Positions

2

Position	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> Mobile No.
Nominee	<input type="text"/>	Nominee's Signature	<input type="text"/> Date
I declare that I have been a HSSA <input type="text"/> member since year <input type="text"/>			
	<small>(membership type)</small>		
<input type="text"/> Proposer's Name	<input type="text"/> Proposer's Signature	<input type="text"/> Date	<input type="text"/> Mobile No.
<input type="text"/> Seconder's Name	<input type="text"/> Seconder's Signature	<input type="text"/> Date	<input type="text"/> Mobile No.

Rule 10.5 states: Nominations for the offices must be called for at least 28 days before the Annual General Meeting and such nominations must be lodged with the Returning Officer on a prescribed form signed by two financial members, a proposer and a seconder, qualified to vote and assented to in writing by the nominee 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Notwithstanding the above, the Annual General Meeting shall have the power by a simple majority to accept any further nominations in respect of any office.

All valid nominations should be forwarded to the Returning Officer

Returning Officer  Mr. Kailash Nath Sriram  
via email  kailash.n.sriram@gmail.com  
Postal Address  64, The Promenade Northgate SA 5085

or by post to

to reach him by close of business Saturday, 13th November 2021.