

SANATAN QLD SANDESH

NEWSLETTER OF SHREE SANATAN DHARAM HINDU ASSOCIATION OF QLD INC

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Recent Events

Other News

Messages

General

**वक्रतुंड महाकाय सूर्यकोटि समप्रभः
निर्विघ्नं कुरु मे देवः सर्वकार्येषु सर्वदा**
Vakratunda Mahakaya: Surya Koti Samaprabha
NIrvinham Kurumedeva: Sarva Karyeshu Sarvada

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Radhe Radhe

The AGM of SSDHAQ took place on 2nd February 2020 where a new committee was elected. The incoming committee comprises Pt Anant Sharma as the President, Mr Annukar Mishra, Mr Seth Ram and Mr Narendra Singh as vice presidents, and Mr Rajendra Prasad as Secretary. The 5 committee members are Mr Brahma Deo, Mr Shailendra Kapoor, Mr Ashok Prasad, Mr Birendra Singh and Mr Thakur Deep Singh. Congratulations to the new committee.

SSDHAQ, in this quarter, celebrated the auspicious festival of Shiv Ratri on 21 February at the Sanatan Centre, followed by Holi where individual mandalis and chautaal groups participated in a grand faag Sammelan at the QVCC hall. Both celebrations were attended by record crowds, given the unfortunate circumstances and government restrictions placed on the organisation around the use of its property as per Logan City council's new zoning requirements.

The Ram Navmi celebrations were cancelled this year because of the COVID – 19 situation and the subsequent restrictions placed around social gatherings.

Let us all hope and pray that the current situation passes quickly so we are able to move freely and look forward to participating again in future events.

RECENT EVENTS

MAHA SHIV RATRI CELEBRATIONS 2020

Maha Shiv Ratri was celebrated on 21st February at the Sanatan Centre (550 Wembley Road) with a large number of devotees. Thank you to all who participated in the event. A special thank you to our volunteers for giving their valuable time in helping and the organising committee for delivering a successful community event. Thank you to the various sponsors and donors for your support and the youth groups for their participation.



Keep Chanting...Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

FESTIVAL OF COLOURS CELEBRATIONS 2020

[An activity funded by the State Government]

This year Holika Stapna took place at Sanatan Centre auspicated by the Faag Chautaal groups and mandalis. Chautaal singing programs were held at various locations including the South Side Chautaal group coordinating the program on the south side. Similar programs were held in the northern suburbs where various groups participated. The final Faag Samellan was celebrated at the QVCC Hall at 550 Learoyd Road, Willawong where a record number of members of the public participated, witnessing some 7 chautaal groups singing. The chief guest at this function was Mr Peter Duncan MP, Member for Stretton.

Holika Dahan took place at Sanatan Centre on 9th March. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time, not many people could attend. The celebration was witnessed by few members as captured on camera.



SSDHAQ sincerely acknowledges the financial support

RAM NAUVMI 2020

Ram Naumi, our most anticipated program of the year could not proceed as planned because of the restrictions in place due to the COVID - 19. Our EMC had to act accordingly and take the necessary steps to follow the protocols as set out by both the State and the Federal Governments. The program was cancelled and members, friends and families were advised via email and through Viber.

Message from the President on Ram Navumi

26 March 2020

Dear member, families and friends

नौमी तिथि मधुमास पुनीता, शुक्ला पक्ष अभिजित नव प्रीता;

मध्य दिवस आती शीत न घामा; पवन काल लोक विश्रामा .

बोलो सिया वर राम चन्द्र की जय ।

प्रिये Sanatanees.

दुनिया के प्रस्थिति कुछ ऐसी है की सनातन धरम अपनी राम नौवमी उस्तव नहीं मना रहे है. मैं आप सब से निवेदन करता हूँ कि आप अपने परिवार के साथ अपने घर पे इस पुनीत बेला में रामायण के कथा पड़े, सुने या फिर TV पर देखे. दुनिया के एक अरब (1,000,000,000) हिन्दू अगर मिलके राम जी के जनम मनाये और भक्ति करे तो ये Corona Virus को भी शांत कर देंगे. आप सब को सनातन धरम हिन्दू एसोसिएशन ऑफ़ कुईन्सलैंड के और से राम नौवमी शुब और मंगलमय हो ।

जय श्री राम

Message from the Editor

COVID -19

Dear members and friends

I am sure you are following quite intensively the news channels regarding the Coronavirus (Covid-19). Everyone in the community must play a role if we are to help slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes people considering organising, attending or supporting attendance at a public gathering.

Please note that social distancing is a key element of the containment strategy for COVID-19.

The latest advice by Australian Government is on non-essential gatherings, and these include:

- non-essential indoor gatherings of greater than 2 people will no longer be permitted.
- non-essential outdoor gatherings is not permitted at all.

Therefore I advise you all once again that we have to review all SSDHAQ's future activities which may involve larger gatherings. Such activities will not happen until government gives the green light.

For additional information on the Coronavirus (COVID-19), advice is available on the [Queensland Health website](#) including a [fact sheet](#) and [frequently asked questions](#).

For your general hygiene practising good hand and respiratory hygiene may help protect against infections. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing with a tissue, or cough into your elbow, dispose of the tissue into a bin and then wash your hands afterwards. Wash your hands regularly, after using the toilet, and before eating. Social distancing is very important to keep this nasty virus away from us.

Let's all pray that this calamity passes soon..

Keep chanting... *Om Bhur Bhuvah Swah, Tat-savitur Vareṇyam, Bhargo Devasya Dheemahi, Dhiyo Yonah Prachodayāt*

Message from the President Pt Anant Ram Sharma

Dear Members and fellow Sanatanis
Jai Shree Sita Ram



Firstly I thank each and every one who has supported me to become the President of SSDHAQ. I assure each and every one that I will endeavour to carry out the role diligently and to the best of my ability. As you all know we are going through turbulent times. COVID-19 has stopped us from worshipping openly. But we must not despair. We will get there. Keep the faith in the almighty and we shall come out of it. My EMC team is new. We have only been in business for two months. We celebrated Maha Shiv Ratri at the Sanatan Centre with many devotees. Our Faag Sammelan was held at the QVCC hall where Mr Peter Duncan MP was our chief guest. Likewise we celebrated Holi where Mr Jon Raven was our chief guest. COVID -19 impacted negatively on both our celebrations. We could not celebrate Budwa Mangar in a grand style either. My priority as President is to forge ahead with the DA application. We have engaged a team of consultants (ANG Building Design & Drafting engineers and Somerville Consultants as Town Planners). We are hopeful that we will be able to lodge the DA application with the Logan City Council by the end of April or mid-May at the latest. I will keep each one of you informed as we progress. My dear members, families and friends as I have said, we will be keeping a low profile until the COVID-19 situation improves and the current restrictions are lifted by the government. Until then I request each one of you to stay home, do as much prayer as possible, and spend precious time with your family. Radhe Radhe

Pt Anant Ram Sharma

Your 2020 Executive Management Committee (EMC) members

President	Pt Anant Ram Sharma
Vice Presidents	Annukar Mishra Set Ram Narendra Singh
Secretary	Rajendra Prasad
Treasurer	Birendra Singh
Committee Members	Ashok Prasad Brahma Deo Shailendra Kapoor Thakur Deep Singh
Delegates	Divendra Prasad Pt Dhurv Sharma Pt Surendra Sharma Rajesh Gopal

Note: Birendra Singh was nominated for the position of Treasurer by the EMC on 16th March thus creating a vacancy for the 5th Committee member. An expression of Interest to fill the position has been called. However, due to the crowd gathering restrictions this has been put on hold.



Important Information on 550 Wembley Road Property

As you are all aware the Development Application lodged for Place of Worship and Community Use has not been supported by the Logan City Council and the application has been withdrawn with a full refund. The property zoning is still a low impact light industrial. The current EMC has taken steps to forge ahead with the Development Application on the basis of Educational Establishment & Indoor Sports and Recreation Facility. Vice President Narendra Singh has been allocated this responsibility and as the Coordinator /Team Leader he is liaising with the Building Design consultants and the Town Planner. It is envisaged that the submission will be made to the Logan City Council very soon.

Once this process is complete we will have to look at financing the construction of the building for our Sanatan activities. We are also hopeful that the COVID-19 situation will be under control by end of June. We pray that this be the case.

As progress is made we will keep all of you informed of the developments.



Excerpts from SSDHAQ President's Report 2019 - Mr Ashok Prasad



My EMC of 2019 worked tirelessly in 2019. Property updates have been continuously issued to the members throughout the year. Through numerous EMC meetings discussions were held to discuss changes to the plans. An update was issued on 11 March 2019 followed by an Information Pack distributed on 16 November 2019. In summary the Development Application lodged for Place of Worship and Community Use has not been supported by the Logan City Council and the application has been withdrawn with a full refund.

Property loan of \$590,000 is outstanding with interest only payments being met every quarter. There has been a progressive 0.75% reduction in interest rate over the last 9 months in line with market rate reductions and current Interest rate is 4.25%. The loan granted by the consortium of members through an investment company SQIL is a full interest-bearing loan and not an interest free or partial interest free by any of the members of the consortium. Just like any other financier SQIL holds a mortgage over the property for the loan. Initial three-year interest only repayment will end in June 2020 when SSDHAQ will need to renegotiate new terms. In the event SQIL does not agree to extend interest only period then from July 2020, monthly repayment of principal and interest will commence estimated at \$8,133 per months. In addition to this property outgoings are around \$600 per month.

DGR is work in progress co-ordinated by Birendra Singh. Further information requested by the Register of Cultural Organisations has been submitted. The matter is still pending. We are hopeful this will be achieved.

The total life membership as at 31 December 2019 was 369 excluding. Year 2019 saw admission of some 15 new life members. Due to the Show Cause Notice issued by Logan City Council all events and activities at the Centre was suspended other than the weekly Tuesday Ramayan and Music Class.

Some smaller programs were held at the Centre whilst large programs were held at the QVCC Hal such as Ram Navumi and Faag Samellan. Several Faag Mandalis participated in this event with total turnout exceeding 250.

In conclusion the 2019 EMC would like to acknowledge the support of all our Life Members, Devotees, Volunteers, Donors and Sponsors both in cash and kind, well-wishers, Mandalis and Affiliated organisations, Community Groups and organisations, Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Honorary Legal Counsel, Honorary Auditor and the Executive Management Committee (some elected EMC Members and nominated delegates contributed more while some did not) for their support in making 2019 yet another successful year for SSDHAQ. For all the things you did, both big and small throughout the 2019 Year, SSDHAQ and in particular the 2019 EMC appreciates. Thank you so much for helping the Committee. We could not have had a better success without you! Despite both internal and external challenges faced throughout the year creating unnecessary turbulence, majority of the Committee Members stood behind in solidarity and continued to manage the affairs of the Association resulting in surplus income recorded for the financial year.

The 2019 Executive Management Committee is leaving the SSDHAQ in a very healthy position both financial y as well as operationally.

I wish the incoming committee all the best in taking the Association to greater heights. We all need to remain united and support the incoming committee to ensure that the Association and Sanatan Dharam continue to be the pride for our Hindu community.

We wish you all a happy and prosperous 2020 and look forward to your continuing support to your organisation as we embark into another busy year and decade ahead.

The major challenge that the Association faces is the reluctance of members to serve in the Executive Management Committee for some unknown reason and hopefully this can be rectified.

May God continue to shower his blessings to you all.

Jai Sanatan

HINDU CALENDAR

APRIL – MAY 2020

Whats in April

2 nd	Final day Ram Navumi celebrations
8 th	Hanumaan Jayanti
9 th	Vaishaakh Krishn Ekaadashi
14 th	Mersh Sankranti
17 th	Panchak Starts at 04.48pm
18 th	Varuthini Ekaadashi
22 nd	Panchak Finishes at 05.48pm
22 nd	Darsha Amaawas
23 rd	Vaishaakh Amaawas
24 th	Vaishaakh Shukl Paksh Starts

Whats in May

4 th	Mohini Ekaadashi
7 th	Vaishaakh Purnima
8 th	Jyesth Krishn Paksh Starts
8 th	Naarad Jayanti
14 th	Vrish Sankranti
14 th	Panchak Starts at 11.52pm
18 th	Aparaa Ekaadashi
20 th	Panchak Finishes at 00.24am
22 nd	Jyesth Amaawas / Shani Jyanti
23 rd	Jyesth Shukl Paksh Starts

Information provided by Shree Sanatan Dharam Brahman Purohit Sabha of Qld Inc

We welcome written contributions articles and / or photos from our readers for the next issue. Any constructive feedback and / or suggestions can be emailed to ssdhaq@gmail.com