



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Registered as a Society under the Societies Act 1966

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FOR THE PERIOD

01 JAN – 31 DEC 2024

Presented at the

47th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 08 JUNE 2025

Mission

Hindu Centre is dedicated to the advancement of Sanatana Dharma (eternal universal truths) through the pillars of Jnana (Vedic knowledge), Bhakti (devotion to Ishwara) and Seva (service to humanity). Through these, we can achieve individual happiness, community well-being and universal peace.



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1 Introduction

The Management Committee for 2024 is pleased to present its report to members and other stakeholders.

2024 has been one of the most active years that the Hindu Centre has ever seen, with an increase in both the number and variety of events designed to attract people from all walks of life. The Centre premises are a hive of activity not just during the weekend, but also during weekdays. In addition to the physical sessions, many online and hybrid activities were conducted.

More than 600 separate engagements took place during the year as follows:

1. Educom in-house classes (talks)- 26
2. Educom in-house classes - (Workshops) -27
3. Yoga - 55
4. Bhakti - 18
5. Online talks - 15
6. Online chanting - 108
7. Seva - Bandhu - 13
8. Seva - Mitra - 320
9. Book sales - 7
10. Taranga (dance) - 3
11. Balagurukulam - 22 classes plus 3 teacher-training sessions

2 Management Committee

At the Annual General Meeting held on 29th June 2024, the following were elected to the Management Committee for a two-year period and will continue for another year.

1. Mr R Devanand
2. Mr Srinivas Bobba
3. Mr Samar Sunil Wadia
4. Dr Medha Kudaisya
5. Mrs Shanti Rajaram
6. Dr Uma Natarajan

The following members continued to serve their 2-year term from the 2023 AGM and will retire in 2025. They are eligible for re-election.

7. Mr Ravi Seethepalli
8. Mrs Shanthi Ravindran
9. Mr Manogar Kannappan
10. Mr Karthik Tirupathi
11. Mr Rajesh Kumar
12. Dr N Varaprasad

The MC also co-opted the following into the MC, giving a bench strength of 16.

13. Ms S Anuradha
14. Mr Shankar Rajan (until March 2024)
Mrs N Vasandy (from March 2024)
15. Mr Manu Kohli
16. Dr Dinesh Nigam

At its first meeting, the following office-bearers were elected from among the MC members.

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| President: | Dr N Varaprasad |
| Vice-President: | Mr Srinivas Bobba |
| Vice-President: | Mr Manogar Kannappan |
| Hon Secretary: | Dr Uma Natarajan |
| Hon Treasurer: | Mr Samar Wadia |
| Hon Asst Secretary: | Mr Ravi Seethepalli |
| Hon Asst Treasurer: | Mr Karthik Tirupathi |

In addition, other functions were allocated as follows:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Jnana pillar: | Ms Shanthi Ravindran |
| Bhakti pillar: | Mr Shankar Rajan (until March 2024) Mrs N Vasandy (from March 2024) |
| Seva pillar: | Mr Manogar Kannappan |
| Volunteers: | Ms Shanti Rajaram |
| Balagurukulam: | Mr Ravi Seethepalli |
| Publications: | Dr Medha Kudaisya |
| Book Sales | Ms S Anuradha |
| Partnerships: | Mr Rajesh Kumar |
| IT and Data: | Mr Ravi Seethepalli |
| Yuvashakti | Mr R Devanand |

3 Membership

At the end of 2024, Hindu Centre had a total of 113 members, with 98 Life members (LM), an increase of 1 over 2023, and 15 Ordinary members (OM), a drop of 9.

Four senior Life members passed on during the year and two Ordinary members converted to LM. Four new Life members joined during the year.

Thirteen Ordinary members did not renew their memberships, and four joined as Ordinary members. Two converted their memberships to Life.

4 Treasurer's Report

(i) Centre's Financial Health

2024 was a positive year overall for Hindu Centre. Hindu Centre's Balance Sheet grew marginally from \$1,673,592 in 2023 to \$1,710,001 by end-2024. This was mainly due to our financial investments* growing from \$804,284 at end-2023 to SGD \$835,941 in Dec 2024 - an increase of almost 4% in a volatile year for the markets.

We also accumulated 20% more cash in the bank through the year 2024, starting at \$74,080 and ending with \$90,559. Our total comprehensive net surplus for the year 2024 declined slightly to \$27,886 compared to \$34,371 in 2023. Given our social & charitable mission, this is acceptable.

Our total comprehensive revenue was \$162,541 through 2024. Biggest sources of revenue were donations / contributions, and gains from our investments. Our heartfelt thanks and deepest gratitude to all those who support us financially to enable us to continue serving our community through Jnana, Bhakti, and Seva. And to our Investment Committee for helping guide our allocations through unpredictable times wisely, safely, and astutely.

Our biggest expenses were staff salaries (including bonuses and CPF), and operating expenses. Total expenses incurred in 2024 were \$134,655. We run a lean operation, considering every dollar that we spend carefully.

Hindu Centre has no long-term liabilities, nor contingencies. And we have only a negligible amount of receivables in our assets. We are thus a low-risk organisation.

It is our focus going forward to take steps towards great financial sustainability and security through our operating activities and outreach initiatives.

** Financial investments include current & non-current investments.*

(ii) Investments and Investment Committee

During 2021, the MC established and approved the Centre's Investment and Reserves Policy and the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Investment Committee (IC) and its composition. The IC comprises the incumbent President as Chairman, the incumbent Treasurer as Secretary, two appointed Life members and one other member from the MC. The members of the Investment Committee are:

1. Dr N Varaprasad (Chairman)
2. Mr Samar Wadia (Treasurer)
3. Mr Keyur Dave (Life Member) from November 2024
4. Mr Mahesh Menon (Life member)
5. Mr Srinivas Bobba (nominee of MC)

We profusely thank Dr Ram K Gupta who served from inception to October 2024

The Centre's reserves are currently invested prudently as follows at end December 2024:

- Singapore Government Bonds: \$349,718.80 or about 42% of portfolio
- STI ETF: \$216,755.00 or about 26% of the portfolio
- Singapore Bond Unit Trust: \$264,362.58 or about 32% of portfolio
(This is a CPF-approved, dividend-yielding SGD Bond Fund)

This is in line with our mandate of a long-term, diversified, fixed-income-heavy portfolio allocated in Singapore investments only.

5 Jnana Pillar

Educom in 2024

EC Objective - The knowledge that we share from Hindu Centre should enable our students to go through life contented and happy, firmly ensconced in the Hindu worldview, with a clear understanding of their goals and purpose in life, whatever good or bad happens in their lives. All our classes in 2024 were planned and executed with this goal in mind.

We built on the foundation that we established in 2023, when we ran more than 100 sessions and tested the system, our volunteers and staff capabilities to the limits. Based on our experience in 2023, we obtained an understanding of what our students liked in our classes, because we had many students who came to our classes continuously and repeatedly and engaged in our social media outputs.

Educom programming was based on 7 streams.

(a) Hinduism for Life and Living - 14 sessions

- Knowledge - Samskaras - Karma - our flagship class - Theory & Practice
- Practice - Saraswati Puja, Tarpanam repeat classes
- Chanting - Aditya Hrudayam, Tamil - Lalitha Navaratnamala, Vel Maaral

(b) Hinduism Alive - Contemporary topics - 6 sessions

- Brahmotsavam
- Bhakthi in Bharathiyar Poetry
- Bhaktas - Women saints - Sakkubai
- Panduranga Vittala
- Stories from Ramayana - Hanuman's devotion
- Lessons from Bhagavad Gita - Chapter 4

(c) Pustaka (Book Club)

- Unmasking the spiritual self - Abstract Expressionism - Ms Parul Mehra

(d) Culture - 29 sessions

- Sanskrit Sambashana Shibiram - Speaking in Sanskrit (10)
- Hindi speaking for Yatra goers (4)
- Singing the common Arathis (2)
- Singing the Nottuswarams with Nilooferji (3)
- Dancing the Garba (2)
- Paper Quilling - making the Ganesa, Garland making (2)
- Naivedyam making - modhakam (2)
- Taranga - our very own dance troupe - first public performance
- Taranga - Hasta Sloka - seated choreo bhajan (2) - at Bhakti events
- Warli Art - (1)

(e) Vedic Yoga - 55 sessions

- Tuesday Yoga classes - run with mostly our own teachers (48)
- Workshops - Belly fat reduction, Chair Yoga, International Yoga day (3)
- Suryanamaskar, Yoga Nidra, Yoga therapy introduction in 2024 (3)
- Dance Flow Yoga - as part of Navaratri (1)

(f) Vedanta in Daily Life covering our main philosophies - 9 sessions

Advaita - Nillooferji (3) (online)

- Nidhidhyansana - Vedantic meditation
- The composed mind - Bhagavad Gita
- The power of Devi - Saundaryalahari

Saiva Siddhanta (5)

- Thiruvagasam
- Thiruvempavai
- Sivapuranam
- Pottri Thiru Agaval
- Kantharalangaram

Dwaita Vaishnava (1)

- Geethartha Sangraha

(f) Online programs - Book Clubs and Satsanga - 13 sessions

Grantha - our internal book reading club, opened to public (10)

- The Vedas - Swami Chandrasekharendra Saraswati
- The Value of Values - Swami Dayananda Saraswati
- Prayer Guide - Swami Dayananda Saraswathi
- Mindfulness in 8 days - K Kathirasan
- Teachings of Bhagavad Gita - Swami Dayananda Saraswati
- Keep contact with God - Swami Sivananda
- Lord Shanmukha and his worship - Swami Sivananda
- In praise of the Goddess - Devi Mahatmyam - Devadatta Kali

Shaiva Satsanga (5)

- Thiruvempavai
- Ganesa and Nayanmars
- Poompavai Pathigam

- Thiruppugazh
- Thirumanthiram (as part of Online Chanting group)

The flagship class of the year was “Take control of your Karma”. Styled in a different manner, with both Learning and Practice modules, it attracted 25 students, juniors and seniors. The teachers Anu and Shanthy handled this class with great aplomb.

Taranga Public dance performance - We did the first public performance at the Rakshabandhan event in 2024, dancing to a beautiful Mangalam song with a grace that was greatly appreciated by one and all. The Taranga public performance brought about a sense of camaraderie among the volunteers and also brought HC into the limelight.

Popular classes - Some of our classes were very popular like our Take control of your karma, 16 step puja, Tarpanam and Modak making classes. Our new Warli art and Garba dancing class attracted many students, so we will run more classes like kolam and Bhangra class in 2025.

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We had 15 external Hinduism teachers teaching 1 to 5 classes each, along with 5 guest speakers, online and offline, and our own 5 senior HC trained teachers. For yoga, we have 4 HC trained teachers who have been steadily teaching 2 months per year for the last 10 years, 5 externally trained teachers willing to teach at HC and an ongoing partnership with Vyasa Yoga to share teachers. To date, we have more than 60 teachers on our list, who can be activated at any time.

We had great interest in our Shaiva classes - which could mean that this is the interest of the majority in Singapore, as opposed to Vaishnava classes (we had to cancel one due to lack of interest), which could also mean that Vaishnava interested people go to their own private groups or to temples. We ran the Shaiva classes online & offline with 2 teachers, each running 5 classes, these teachers also gave talks at our Bhakti events.

We had great success with our Online classes as well - Saiva Satsanga and Grantha, with many repeat attendees. Grantha started as our internal book reading club to upgrade our knowledge, which we opened to the public, and we read books covering

- Core books like The Vedas, Swami Dayananda’s works etc
- Contemporary books like Mindfulness etc
- Older Hinduism texts that are easily available online

External engagement - We have curated many classes from the community, and continued our community partnerships with Vyasa Yoga, Sanskrit Bharathi as our trusted partners. Some teachers like Ravi Thirumalai (Yoga), Krishna (2 classes), Ms Harini (3 classes) and Ms Vijayalakshmi (6 classes) are exceptionally committed and willing to teach and join our other programs like Bhakti events as well. Ms Vijayalakshmi will also continue to teach classes online from India.

Teachers from India - We were able to host many teachers from India onsite and online

- Nilooferji, respected guruji from India, who learned with Swami Dayananda Saraswati to run our Vedanta classes.
- V Prabhakara Rao - We also brought back our beloved VPJi, contributor to our R&P group, to conduct two very interesting sessions on Ramayana and Bhagavad Gita, which are his special areas of interest.
- Latha Balakrishnan - who taught us Saiva Siddhanta online classes. Trained as a teacher at HC, passionate about Shiva
- MC Vaijyanthi who has taught one class every year in the last 3 years online on Vaishnava topics, excellent researcher.

In conclusion, Educom had an eventful year in 2024, running more than 50 high quality classes (total of about 72 sessions), running about 6 sessions per month (vs 8 sessions per month in 2023), and 60 Yoga sessions (about 4 to 5 per month), experimenting with new classes where we taught a life skill in the class, classes based on new sampradayas like Saivism, singing, dancing, cooking and art classes for adults. We also ran an online book club, online Saiva Satsanga (Tamil and English) and established a higher level of activity on social media, with fresh Canva fliers, making short videos internally, intended for use in various types of social media. We were even able to get some training to speak for videos. We continued our popular chanting classes, and added Tamil sloka class.





6 Balagurukulam (BG)

Goal

Balagurukulam classes are held as part of the Jnana pillar, primarily for children between the ages of 5 to 15 years. The main focus is to help them learn the basics of Sanatana Dharma. The goal is to capture the imagination of young minds and help them feel part of a community that is rich in culture and tradition.

Teacher Training

An essential part of the program is to recruit and train volunteer teachers. They come with some knowledge of Sanatana Dharma and stories which they would have heard and told to their own children. As part of the training, they further hone their skills in

engaging kids of different age groups, understand the basics of how children learn, how to prepare simple stories and activities and practise in a safe environment, and finally shadow existing teachers to observe and learn. In due course of time, new volunteer teachers will integrate and start taking classes along with other teachers, thus ensuring continuity which is important for many of our repeat students.

In 2024, we had 2 Volunteer teacher workshops , each having 6 teachers. This also gave us an opportunity to connect with new participants and inform them about Hindu Centre and its activities.

Classes

Like every year in 2024 also we had 2 semesters of 11 classes each, they are held on Sundays, from 10 to 11:30 am. 33 students have enrolled per semester (70% of them enrolled for both semesters). The children are grouped by age into 3 classes.

In 2024, the main theme was Mahabharat. Stories from the epic were chosen and narrated to kids and activities were organised around the theme, the key morals were explained in a funny and engaging way, for which teachers had to practice as part of their training.

Parents and teachers are very enthusiastic and happy with BG classes. It was evident with the work they do post class and share during subsequent classes. Many have expressed their desire to continue semester after semester and parents have shared that their wards were asking questions related to Sanatana Dharma and often prompting them to learn/search for answers.

Most parents also expressed their preference for online mode as it is easy now as most of them have necessary technology at home and can save time and effort to be physically present.

In 2024 we also had 3 in-person classes organised at Hindu Centre. The children were very happy to see their fellow students and teachers in person. This also gave an opportunity for parents to know more about Hindu Centre and its activities and donate for its causes. The bonus benefit was that a couple of parents have come forward and registered for next volunteer teacher training.

Grateful to all the volunteer teachers for attending the training sessions and following the process and helping teacher kids. Without their persistent efforts, it is not possible

to run this volunteer-led program consistently; their ideas and enthusiasm can be seen in the way students keep coming back regularly.



7 Bhakti Pillar

A Year of Devotion and Community Service

In the past year (2024), the Hindu Centre continued its tradition of organising *Bhakti* events that celebrate major Hindu festivals with deep spiritual significance and strong community involvement. These events remain a cornerstone of the Centre's mission

to promote devotional practices, foster community spirit, and preserve cultural traditions through active participation.

Across key festivals including **Kanda Shashti Parayanam, Maha Shivaratri, Rama Navami, Navaratri, Vaikunda Ekadashi, Guru Purnima, Ganesha Chaturthi, Hanuman Chalisa and Prayers for the sick and healing**, the Centre hosted a range of religious and cultural activities. These included **special poojas, bhajans, and cultural performances**, all aimed at deepening the spiritual experience for devotees.

A defining feature of these events is the integral role of **volunteers**. More than just logistical support, their participation is an expression of *seva*—selfless service rooted in devotion. Volunteers contributed significantly to event planning, **decoration, food preparation and distribution (prasadam), altar arrangements, and ushering services**. All puja items were sponsored by our volunteers, which aided in organising the events with minimum cost from the centre. Their unwavering commitment ensured that each event was conducted smoothly, safely, and with heartfelt devotion.

In total, the Centre hosted about 10 **Bhakti events** this year, drawing participation from more than a hundred devotees. Participants shared their experience of getting the anugraha when participating in the events. Each event strengthened community ties and reaffirmed the values of compassion, discipline, and unity that are central to Hindu teachings.

Shivarathri drew in some 50 participants, visiting the Hindu Centre throughout the night to join in for the abhishegam and puja. Navaratri, celebrated over ten days, featured the highest number of cultural performances, with various organisations showcasing their talents through singing, instrumental music, and classical dance. For the other celebrations, our dedicated volunteers contributed heartfelt bhajans, as well as vibrant Tarangam and Garba dance performances.

Another ongoing Bhakthi initiative is the online chanting sessions held on auspicious days each month, including Amavasya, Shivarathri, Ekadasi, Pournami, Shasti, and Chaturthi. Additionally, Devi Mahatmyam and Mooka Pancha Sathi are recited once a month on designated days. Special chanting sessions are also conducted during Navarathri, and during the months of Aadi and Margazhi. Specific intentions—such as prayers for employment, conception, safe childbirth, finding a life partner, and recovery from illness—are included in the chants to invoke positive outcomes. Many participants have shared that their prayers have been answered.

These chanting sessions are conducted online, enabling devotees from India and beyond to participate. Each session lasts approximately one to one and a half hours

and typically involves 8 to 15 participants. The chanting is led by our volunteer, Aruna, with support from Anuradha.

The *Bhakti* group would like to draw more youth engagement and offer a valuable platform for **youths** to volunteer to be involved in coordinating programmes, supporting rituals, and performing in cultural segments. This not only nurtures leadership but also ensures that devotional practices are passed on meaningfully to the next generation.

The Bhakti group has embarked on forming its own bhajan ensemble to enrich in-house events and represent the Hindu Centre at programmes organised by other institutions. A key challenge remains in recruiting committed participants and finding an inspiring teacher to lead and train the group

Looking ahead, the Hindu Centre remains committed to enhancing the quality and inclusivity of these devotional gatherings, and to continuing its efforts to make Bhakti a lived, shared experience for all.

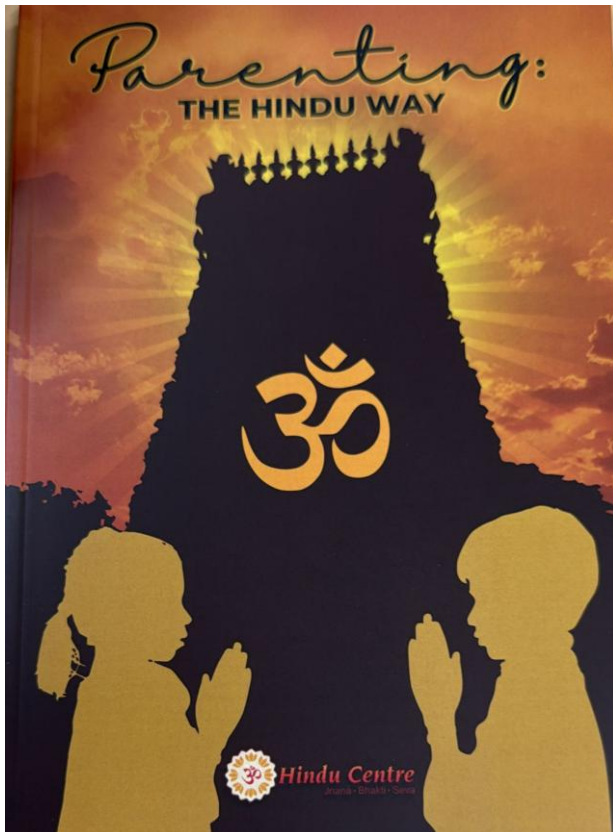
Some moments from the festive celebrations:





8 Publications

Parenting Book

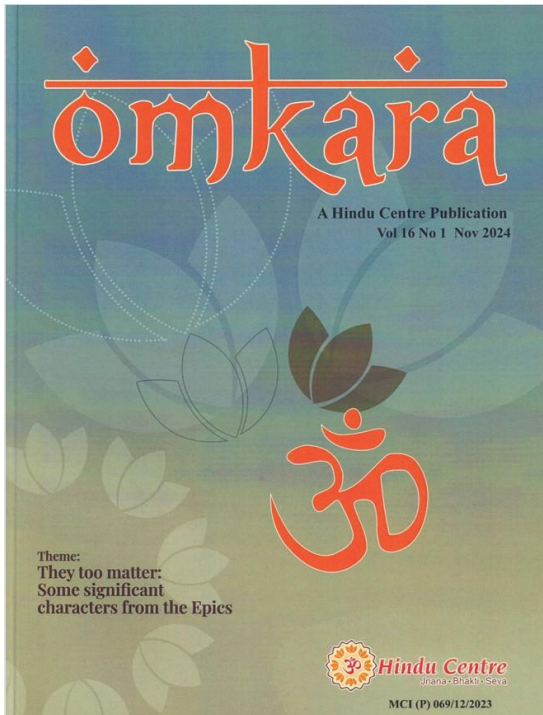


Research & Publications worked on two major publications in AY 2024-25. These were 'Parenting, the Hindu Way' and the annual Omkara

'Parenting, the Hindu Way', is the fourth book in the 108 series brought out by Hindu Centre. While the first three were more expository on the nature of Hinduism or Sanatana Dharma, this was more of a "how to" book. It was written in response to requests by parents who visit the Centre. It took two years of research and writing to publish this book.

The book addresses the concerns of parents bringing up their children in a multi-cultural and multi-religious environment, such as Singapore. It is, like previous publications, written in the question-and-answer format. It

offers simple and practical suggestions for parents to follow to help impart Hindu cultural heritage and the ideals of Sanatana Dharma to children in their formative years. It consists of 13 chapters; starting with four philosophical chapters and the rest look at aspects of parenting in a day-to-day practical sense.



Omkaara

Omkaara, 2024 was titled 'They too matter: Some significant characters from the Epics.' It took up stories from the two core epics of Hinduism, the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*. It looked at the lives of significant characters in the epics who were not the main protagonists in the stories, but were significant in the role they played in the narrative and in the valuable life-lessons they teach us. Moving away from the question and answer format, it offered a new reading experience. On the whole, it was a very busy year of research and writing for the Research and Publications team.

Patrika

The Centre's e-newsletter Patrika was circulated during the year by email and posted on Facebook. It contained articles of events and happenings at Hindu Centre as well as topical issues.

9 Seva Pillar

Led by Mr Manogar Kannappan, the Seva Pillar comprises Mitra (Prisons counselling), Bandhu (old folks homes), Chakra (youth on probation) and Mantranam (marriage counselling service).

(a) MITRA

The two main objectives of the Mitra programme continue to be:

- To change the thinking and behaviour of ex-offenders through the teachings of Hinduism, its life values and spiritual practices and thereby support rehabilitation and address reoffending, and
- To promote the strengthening of family ties and bonds between ex-offenders and their loved ones during incarceration.

The Mitra programme volunteers continued in their weekly seva to about 200 Mitras in the following institutions:

- Changi Prison Complex, Institution A (Clusters A1 and CMC) and Institution B (Cluster B3 and B4);
- Singapore Prison School (Tanah Merah Prison 1);
- Selarang Prison 1;
- Singapore Boys Home;
- Singapore Girls Home;
- The Ashram-drug halfway house run by Hindu Endowments Board

SPS Long service awards

Every year, the Singapore Prison Service recognises the dedication and contribution of volunteers in offenders', and ex-offenders' rehabilitation and reintegration journeys with a Long Service Award. In August 2024, the following Mitra volunteers received the 5-year and 15-year awards:

- Mr Mahesh Saratchandran (5 years)
- Mr Manu Kohli (5 years)
- Ms Chitrakala D/O G Arumugam (15 years)
- Ms Kamala Krishnan (15 years)
- Mr Pathmaletchmi Chinniah (15 years)
- Ms Ramakant Misra (15 years)
- Ms Sivasubramaniam Shakthi (15 years)

The Mitra programme would like to record its grateful thanks to the award recipients and all serving Mitra volunteers for their dedicated seva.

Indian Community Rehabilitation Group (ICRG)

The Singapore Prison Service together with SINDA, initiated the formation of the Indian Community Rehabilitation Group (ICRG) in 2024 to synergize support for vulnerable Indian inmates, ex-offenders, and their families. The ICRG aims to enhance the rehabilitation and reintegration process by providing comprehensive support through various initiatives. This includes the deployment of Hindu counsellors, recruitment of volunteers, and collaboration with different Indian organizations to offer faith-based and other forms of support. The organizations that are part of the ICRG are the Hindu Centre, SANA Hindu RGV, Muneeswaran Community Services, HEB Ashram, and the Sikh Welfare Council.

(b) Bandhu

Under this Seva, Bandhu volunteers visit and befriend Hindu aged home residents and conduct devotional activities.

- Ren Ci Ang Mo Kio Home
- Ren Ci Bukit Batok Home

Ang Mo Kio (AMK) Ren Ci Nursing Home

Programme Activities

- **Volunteers:** 3 dedicated volunteers
- **Residents:** 10 to 13 Hindu residents
- **Frequency:** Monthly sessions (2 hours each session)

Activities Included :

- Conducted a 5-step puja
- Chanted prayers with explanations of key verses
- Sang bhajans
- Shared short Puranic stories
- Facilitated interactive engagement through simple games such as “passing the parcel” with music
- Led recap discussions with residents to reinforce learning and memory through games and questions – for example, asking residents about the names or forms of deities discussed during the session
- Engaged residents in one-on-one conversations to ensure emotional connection and active listening
- Assisted in wheeling residents to and from the hall



Additional Support and Future Plans:

In 2024, AMK volunteers participated in outdoor events organised by non-Hindu organisations for residents of Ang Mo Kio (AMK) Ren Ci Nursing Home. We collaborated with Twinkle Hearts, a non-profit organisation seeking Tamil-speaking Hindu volunteers, to support outings to Hindu temples and assist with meal arrangements for the residents.

Bukit Batok Ren Ci Home

The Bukit Batok Ren Ci Home currently has two Hindu residents. Two volunteers from Hindu Centre visited the home monthly to conduct spiritual sessions similar in nature to those in AMK, tailored to suit the smaller group size.

(c) Mantranam

In 2024, no one was counselled on marital issues by our volunteer professional counsellors.

10 Yuvashakti (Youth Wing)

Yuvaśakti, the youth wing of The Hindu Centre, is dedicated to engage Hindu youths in Singapore to lead a positive lifestyle rooted in the principles of Sanātana Dharma. Yuvaśakti aims to create awareness of Hindu teachings and cultivate emotional maturity among Hindu youth. Our key objectives include encouraging youth to engage with the śāstras, educating them on the practical applications of Sanātana Dharma, delivering programs that instill emotional resilience, and promoting inclusivity through the principle of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*—the belief that the world is one family.

In 2024, Yuvaśakti organized two key activities aimed at empowering Hindu youth: Sanātana Dharma for Exam Success (DES) and Shaktify – The Strength Within. These programs were designed to address the specific challenges faced by young individuals and provide them with tools from Sanātana Dharma to navigate their personal and academic journeys effectively.

Sanātana Dharma for Exam Success (DES)

On 16 March 2024, Yuvaśakti conducted the *Sanātana Dharma for Exam Success* (DES) workshop, designed specifically for upper secondary and tertiary students. This

initiative aimed to equip youth with practical techniques from Hindu philosophy to help them manage exam-related stress and enhance their concentration.

The workshop featured sessions on yoga, *prāṇāyāma* (breath control), *japa* (mantra repetition), and *dhyāna* (meditation) and *Mitāhara*—mindful eating for heightened concentration. The interactive nature of the sessions ensured that participants could immediately apply these techniques in their daily lives.

A total of 12 students attended the workshop, engaging in discussions and activities that emphasized the importance of self-discipline and mental well-being.

Shaktify – The Strength Within

Yuvaśakti introduced *Shaktify* series, a program designed to educate youth on Hindu teachings and practices and create a safe space to address any doubts on Hinduism. Held every fortnightly between June to September 2024. The series focused on cultivating confidence, and self-awareness through the lens of Hindu philosophy.

The program incorporated modules on principles of Hinduism, games, coffee-chat sessions, quizzes and discussions. Participants engaged in practical exercises to help them channel their inner strength during challenging times.

Shaktify saw participation from 10 young individuals who actively engaged in discussions and hands-on activities. The session reinforced the idea that true strength lies within and that Sanātana Dharma offers timeless wisdom to help youth navigate life's obstacles.



11 Book Sales

Book sales is an important revenue-generator for Hindu Centre.

The book sales in 2024 was a record S\$11,995. Our children's and adult's t-shirts were very popular and boosted the overall sales. The main book sale venues were Srinivasa Perumal Temple (Purattasi Saturdays), Geylang Sivan Temple (Shivaratri) and Layan Sithi Vinayagar Temple (Ganesha Chaturthi). We thank the temples profusely for their generous offer of space to us.

Book sales team launched a Festive Mela at Hindu Centre ahead of Deepavali. It also launched gift hampers. We are now considering some online sales once the new website is launched.



12 Volunteer Management and Engagement

Since 2023, the Hindu Centre has focused on enhancing volunteer management by optimizing volunteer engagement, streamlining processes, and fostering a sense of community. This report highlights the initiatives undertaken in 2024, the challenges faced, and strategic recommendations for 2025 aimed at increasing, retaining, and empowering volunteers. Below are some key initiatives undertaken in 2024.

(a) Maitreya Connections – A Volunteer Network

To create a stronger sense of community, the Hindu Centre introduced **Maitreya Connections**, a WhatsApp group bringing together volunteers from various groups. A launch event on **August 3, 2024**, featured food, fun activities, and interaction, attracting **15 volunteers** (excluding the management team). There was some feedback that some volunteers were hesitant to share their contact details. **Exploring alternative platforms like Telegram** could be beneficial to address privacy concerns.

Only **two new volunteers signed up**, indicating the need for a more engaging onboarding strategy.



(b) Volunteer Coordination & Management

Early 2024, it was mentioned that to improve volunteer placement, administrative staff were assigned to manage different volunteer groups:

Ms. Komala: EC, Bhakthi, Bandhu and general volunteering. **Ms. Renugah:** Mitra and Balagurukulam.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both as this structure **improved response times**. However, the **lack of retention remained an issue**—many volunteers lost interest between inquiry and the actual training period. **A structured engagement plan is required to sustain volunteer interest.**

(c) Recruitment Efforts & Challenges

Balagurukulam was the only group that formally requested volunteers in 2024. Despite organising a **general recruitment drive in 2023**, less than five new volunteers remained active.

Some of the Key Challenges Identified are:

- **Volunteer Retention Issues:** Many volunteers express initial interest but disengage before formal placement.
- **Lack of Clear Structure:** Volunteers often feel disconnected due to **unclear roles and responsibilities**.
- **Limited Inter-Group Collaboration:** Smaller groups work independently, limiting shared resources and teamwork.
- **Inconsistent Communication:** No centralized communication platform to provide updates and retain engagement.

A Strategic Plan for 2025 to recruit, train and deploy volunteers has been developed to address these challenges:

- Increasing Volunteers through Outreach & Engagement
- Strengthening Retention through Structured Progression
- Regrouping for Resource Optimization & Efficiency
- Creating a Shared Identity to Build a Stronger Community

- Launching Volunteer Recruitment for Volunteer Management
- Implementing a Volunteer Calendar of Events

(d) Conclusion

For 2025, the Hindu Centre’s focus should be on **increasing volunteers, retaining them through structured engagement, and empowering them through leadership opportunities**. By optimizing volunteer group structures, improving outreach, and creating a shared identity, we can build a **stronger, more sustainable volunteer communi**

13 Beneficiary and Volunteer Hours

| Beneficiary and Volunteers Hours | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Activity | Programme | No of Volunteers | Volunteer hours | No of Beneficiaries | Beneficiary Hours |
| Seva | Mitra | 30 | 3000 | 200 | 20000 |
| | Bandhu | 5 | 185 | 14 | 510 |
| Jnana - Educom- Adults | Educom in house classes & talks | 4 | 79 | 329 | 760 |
| | Educom in house Workshops | 3 | 10 | 165 | 613 |
| Jnana -Yoga | Yoga Events | 20 | 217 | 77 | 623 |
| Jnana Online | Satsangs/ Talks | 18 | 688 | 85 | 309 |
| Jnana Culture | Taranga (Ramanavami and Rakshabandhan | 10 | 60 | Public | 102 |
| Jnana- Balagurukulam | Children’s Online and In- house classes | 7 | 14 | 66 | 1089 |
| Bhakti | In house and On line events | 15 | 475 | 735 | 6923 |
| Yuvasakthi | In House and On Line Events | 5 | 262 | 41 | 146 |
| Book Sales | Shivarathri, Ganesh Chathuthi and Puratassi | 22 | 700 | Public | Public |
| Library | Housekeeping and re cataloguing | 1 | 3 | Public | Public |
| Research & Publications | Omkara & Parenting Book | 8 | 200 | 2000 | Public |
| Volunteer Management | olunteer Recruitment and training & Maitrey | 3 | 40 | Public | Public |
| Educom Committee | Strategy, planning, execution and outreach (Adults, Yoga, Online) - Teaching prep, EC Class co-ordination, EC Observers | 3 | 900 | 1000 | 3000 |
| Management Committee | Strategy, planning, execution and outreach | 16 | 10000 | Public | NA |
| Total (2024) | | 170 | 18 340 hrs | 3996 | 34,075 hrs. |
| Total (2023) | | 150 | 13 631 hrs. | 5267 | 34,189 hrs. |
| Total (2022) | | 117 | 9015 hrs. | 1441 | 35,122 hrs. |
| Total (2021) | | 146 | 4373 hrs. | 3529 | 23,648 hrs. |

*excluding Rakshabandhan events and readership of publications.

14 Communications and Outreach

We continue to improve our social media presence on WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram with regular posts. This has increased our reach significantly. In 2025, we are planning a major rebranding and repositioning of our communications and outreach.

The comms branding will adhere to the following: fit for purpose in modern life (Principles 1-3), yet one that remains true to its roots (Principles 4-6). Bringing happiness to the individual and community well being, striving for universal peace (Principles 7-9).

Nine Cardinal principles to be backbone of external engagement

- **Fit for purpose** - Learning and practice modules ready to use in the modern scenario. For a contented and happy life, community well being and universal peace.
- **Empowering** - The Hindu worldview places power and responsibility directly in the person's hands, along with the logical knowledge and opportunities for practice and enabling them to live contented and happy, knowing their goals and purpose in life.
- **Relevant** - Knowledge and practice to provide life skills relevant to the times, addressing all demographics from children to seniors - providing opportunities for improving their knowledge (Jnana), devotion (Bhakti) and service (Seva).
- **Direct** - Sharing directly from the scriptures to enrich lives - Sruti and Smrti texts
- **Curated** - Information curated and made fit for purpose by our learned mentors.
- **Inclusive** - Accepting and spreading all knowledge from all sampradayas and lineages as long as they are derived from the Vedas and Agamas. Classes in English, Sanskrit and Tamil to address the Singapore public.
- **Cultural** - Food and the arts make our practices vibrant, enjoyable and sustainable, this is what makes the practice attractive and not bland, to the majority of people.
- **Community** - satsanga of like minded people with a shared purpose of well being and growing together
- **Welcoming** - Non judgemental, we welcome one and all.

(a) Social Media

HC Social media team will work in 2025 to improve the awareness of Singapore Hindu public to Hindu Centre's activities through refreshing our strategies.

(b) HC Content

Content to follow the brand principles and to be updated / added to on an ongoing basis.

- **Core content** - Base content is available from our mentors and our publications. New content needs to be created by research, or through external partnerships.
- **Event Content** - audio, video and picture - need to be created from our activities
- **Social media assets** - Purpose built assets need to be created from above content
- **Controversial topics** - list of topics that are not to be touched on social media need position papers to be created for private sharing.

(c) Patrika

Patrika is a very important part of our outreach plan since it reaches not only our signed-on contacts, but can also go to our members, donors and well-wishers. It is mainly a chronicle of our thinking and activities and is an important vehicle of our brand. It is to be published monthly in 2025. It includes messages from the President and Editor, a prayer, introductions to our volunteers, description of all our activities, a calendar of our offline and online classes for the next month and our contact information. It is different from Omkara and our publications, which are topical magazines and books on Hinduism published annually.

(d) HC Outreach and Communications

HC will push out the above content through social media as below, to create awareness among our followers about our programs and to increase the number of followers, monitored through some KPI. But we also need a means of knowing what else we need to do that is of interest to our followers that will make them our followers - this will need to be addressed in 2026, based on progress with the above in 2025.

- Youtube, Website - Long videos, Event recordings, Shorts.
- Facebook, Instagram, Whatsapp broadcast, Website - Fliers, writeups, pictures, audio and short video assets made fit for purpose from available material
- Specifically produced content - Engage professionals to do this work
- Influence to make content viral - HC should have our own influencers and collaborate with like minded people, maybe even professionals.
- Articulate and project the brand principles through the content.

(e) Website

Finally, we will revamp our website to be more dynamic and user-friendly.

15 Administration

Staff

Hindu Centre has two part time staff, one supporting all our internal and external events and social media, managing our calendar of events, and outreach. She works closely with the Bhakti and Educom teams to ensure that events are well-organised and attended. The other staff's role is administrative, managing the office support, finance related matters, payroll and CPF matters, bookkeeping, premises upkeep and maintenance and regulatory filing.

Premises Management

The Centre had its fair share of maintenance and upkeep that was taken care of. We had

several repair and replacement work that were undertaken during the year which included

rodent control, new air con installation, new standees, etc. The major repair works for the roof and maintenance cost us about \$5000. We also terminated the predatory copier contract that was in existence. The total cost outlay regular maintenance and upkeep of the premises and office equipment came to about \$20,000.

Regular renewals of licensing for the building, electrical systems and newspaper permits were also carried out. Hindu Centre premises are also being used by other organisations for their events, and this helps to keep the space busy on some days when there are no inhouse events.

16 Special Projects

There were several special projects during the year.

(a) North India Yatras

In 2024, Hindu Centre organised two Yatras to North India, including the newly-opened Ram Temple in Ayodhya. This follows the highly successful 2023 Yatra to South India.

The first one went to Delhi-Ayodhya-Prayagraj-Varanasi-Bodhgaya-Deoghar-Patna-Delhi.

Among the places visited were Akshardham Temple in Delhi. Sri Ram Janmabhumi Temple in Ayodhya, Lodheshwar Mahadev Temple, Triveni Ghat Prayagraj, Kaal

Bhairav Temple, Annapurna Temple, Kashi Vishwanath Jyotirlinga, Shri Vishalakshmi Shaktipeeth, Dhaashasweth Ghat, Sarnath, Vishnupad Temple Gaya, Mahabodhi Temple Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Nalanda University ruins, Baba Vaidyanath Jyotirlinga, and Patna Sahib Sikh Temple. 29 persons went on this Yatra.



The second group went to Kashmir, Ladakh and Leh on the foothills of the Himalayas. The itinerary included - Shankracharya Temple at Srinagar, Mulbekh - Buddha Statue, Lamayuru Monastery, Alchi Monastery, Gurudwara Pathar Sahib in Leh, Shanti Stupa, - Thikshey Monastery and Dikshit Monastery in the Nubra Valley.



(b) Ram Utsav



To celebrate and mark the opening of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Hindu Centre organised a Ram Utsav on 22 January 2024, comprising puja and Ram bhajans. This was a full-house event and prasad was served to everyone.



Crowd at Ram Utsav celebration

(c) Rakshabandhan

After a lapse of a year, our flagship community event Rakshabandhan was held with Minister of Transport and 2nd Minister for Finance Mr Chee Hong Tat as our Guest-of-Honour. About 800 people attended the event which was held at the PGP Hall on 25 August 2025. There was also an art competition for children and raakhi-making competition for families. Our co-lead for 2024 was BAPS Singapore.

It was a grand show with dance items from various parts of India as well as local items. Two Lifetime Achievement Awards were given out to Mr Suresh Patel, Trustee of BAPS Singapore and Mdm S Sundari, President of Krishna Our Guide. Also our book “Parenting: The Hindu Way” was officially launched by Minister Chee.





Depiction of sibling love and affection



Tying Raakhi on GOH Minister Chee



Community Lifelong Achievement Award winners





Hindu Centre's own Taranga Dance group performing at Rakshabandhan for the first time.



Launch of HC book on Parenting: The Hindu Way



(d) Hindu College

A task force was established to plan for a Hindu College in Singapore under the auspices of Hindu Centre. Currently work is ongoing to develop the following:

Courses and curricula
Financial plan
Partners
Timeline
Market study
Pitch book

To meet our launch timelines we have to complete the critical step of raising funds to support the pre-operative costs for the following:

17 External Engagement

Dr Chitra Sankaran gave a talk on Hinduism at the Mountbatten Community Club in April 2024.

18 Looking Ahead

While we are doing well in creating increased participation and activities for all segments of Hindu society and are well-respected, we need to continuously improve our offerings and reach. Among the areas to be addressed are:

- (a) Deepening Volunteer Engagement
- (b) Achieving Financial Sustainability
- (c) Strategic Use of Social Media
- (d) Clarifying HC Branding
- (e) Broader and deeper Programming
- (f) Enduring Partnerships

19 Partnerships

We thank the following organisations who supported Hindu Centre during 2024.

- Arya Samaj Singapore
- BAPS Singapore
- Beej Utsav Group
- Bhaskar's Arts Academy
- Gita Jayanti Committee
- Gita Reading Society
- Haridas, Ho and Partners
- Hindu Advisory Board
- Hindu Endowments Board
- Indian High Commission
- Krishna Premi Satsang
- Ministry of Social and Family Development
- Samskrita Bharathi Singapore
- Singapore Dhakshina Bharatha Brahmana Sabha
- Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society
- Singapore Prison Service
- SP Shree Lakshmi Narayan Temple
- Sri Layan Sitthi Vinayagar Temple
- Sri Sivan Temple
- Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple
- Sri Vadapathira Kaliamman Temple
- Vyasa Yoga Singapore
- And all other supporting organisations

20 Acknowledgements

Hindu Centre deeply and gratefully appreciates the contributions of our dedicated volunteers, our members and donors, partners and the community at large for supporting us in our mission.

21 Request for your support



SCAN TO PAY

You have seen the work that we are doing in this report. In order to execute our ambitious growth plans, we need the support of each and every one of you and your friends. Hindu Centre runs entirely on the goodwill of our supporters. Kindly donate generously to our cause of promoting Sanatana Dharma through the three pillars of Jnana, Bhakti and Seva.