

President's message at Annual General Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

Dear friends,

Jai Jjinendra and Jai Shri Krishna.

I am delighted to see the presence of so many members to-day, On behalf of my committee and as President –we welcome you all. Today's AGM will be constructive, professionally conducted and well disciplined and for this we look forward to your full co-operation.

As your 9<sup>th</sup> president, I am pleased to present to you my first annual report. The year has been extremely successful and we have achieved milestone in various areas. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone..

'Delegation' of responsibility combined with clear guidelines has paid handsome dividends. I am totally committed to delegation as this enables me to spend more time talking and listening to the community members. .

My committee's first task was to deal with various issues raised at the last AGM. These were

- 1 Changes to our constitution.
2. Launching of our website and
- 3 Finalisation of 2008 accounts. All these have been dealt with.

I must say that launching of the website has been very successful and the operational side has done wonders to our community.

I would like to high light some of the achievements we as community have made during the year:

1. Complete new look given to our Darpan—well appreciated by all.
2. Celebration of Janmashtami on grand scale with full participation of Vaishnav Vaniks, a great success
3. Divine discourses based on Bhagvat Gita by Pujya Shri Rakeshbhai Jhaveri.
4. Variety Show that we presented in this hall to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our assoc. The show was a total sell out; it was professionally produced and directed by Navnatees. It really showed up the talents of our community, especially within the ranks of our youths -it makes me proud as President to share with you all the congratulating messages received from guests and members.
5. New activity-- 'Family Fridays' which is on its way to becoming a well attended success
6. The creation of a new beautiful smaller hall and our hope is that we will get some donors in the near future.
7. The successful application and receipt of grant by Vadil Mandal of £ 9,750.
8. Part of our car park given on 7 years lease generating an income of £ 33,000 per year.

Whilst the last year has been a particularly productive one for the community, we are determined not to sit on our laurels and already we have created aggressive plans for the next year. These include:

- upgrading the main hall

- carryout improvements to the flat roof
- develop a computer training facility
- provide container storage facility
- install a solid an additional floor (wooden) in the sports room
- develop library facility
- develop and enhance our relations with local community councillors and MPs.
- form a think tank committee whose remit will be to consider the long term development and enhancement of the community and our facilities.

In the medium term, we aim to:

- change the status of our property from D2 to D1. This will enable us to increase the use of our property. This is a must.
- create a new kitchen facility
- apply for a lottery grant
- create a children's play area
- develop outdoor sports facilities

For our long term projects we must aim to

- the building of Mandir/ Derasar
- total improvement of car park

Finance

At present we have a healthy balance sheet and for this we thank the chairman of the building project Yogesh Mehta, the building project committee and of course the generous donors. We welcome more donations to the building fund

However, to meet all of the objectives mentioned earlier, we must continue our fund raising efforts.

With this in mind the EC recommends that 50 percent of the Uchhavni funds generated at Paryushan continue to be credited to the building fund for the next 5 years. We are sure that today's AGM will approve the recommendation. I hope you are in agreement?

General

Let us go back to when the building project was formed in 1996 - they decided then that the future of Navnat would be based on around 4 pillars. These 4 pillars were - faith (religion) education—culture—and social harmony.

It is our duty to ensure that we continue to develop and build around these four pillars. my mission is to see united community with strong bonding and a sense of belonging among all of us.

On behalf of the executive committee I would like to thank all the affiliated bodies: Bridge club, Bhagini Samaj, Yuva Vadil Mandal and Golf Society for their continued support throughout the year. Our youth association is dynamic and they deserve to be congratulated for their understanding and co-operation throughout the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the following individuals:

- Jayantilal Doshi - for his services as the editor for Darpan.
- Reshma Mehta - for helping with the Darpan and for successfully executing the 40th Anniversary souvenir project.
- Vikesh N Doshi, a 17year old for providing sound and light controls during the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He has stepped in and looks after our sound system.
- Mayurbhai Mehta and Divyeshbhai Kamdar—for their services as trustees. Both will retire as trustees but we look forward to their continuous involvement, support and guidance.
- To all the many volunteers, for all the hard work and help throughout the year.
- To all the members, for your tremendous support.

Finally, on behalf of the EC and myself, Michhami Dukkadam to all.

If we have offended anyone knowingly or unknowingly over the past year....Thank you .

Bhupendra Shah