

# Vedanshi

The part of the sacred knowledge

*For one who sees Me everywhere and sees everything in Me, I am never lost, nor is he ever lost to Me.*

*Chapter 6, Verse 30; Bhagavad Gita*

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 30: May 2016

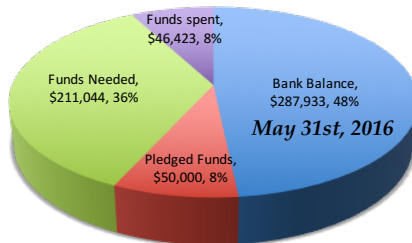
## Sanatan Hindu Sanskar Kendra

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Email: [shskendra@gmail.com](mailto:shskendra@gmail.com), Website: [sanatanlft.org](http://sanatanlft.org)

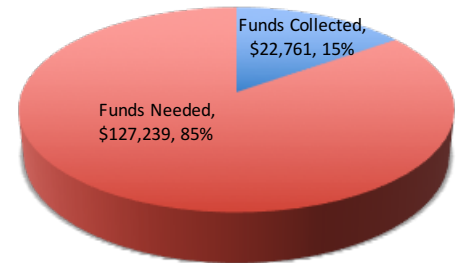


### Temple - Fundraising Campaign

Estimated Construction Cost + Deities : \$595,400



Fund Raising Challenge : \$150,000



Sponsor Category	Sponsors Needed	Committed
\$15,000	6	2
\$10,000	6	2
\$5000	10	4
\$2500	15	2
\$1000	20	3

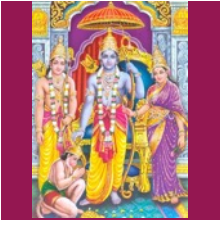
### Challenge Update

An Anonymous donor will match \$1 for every \$3 that is donated towards SHSK Temple. The matching contribution will max upto \$50,000, therefore taking the challenge amount to \$150,000. SHSK request all the supporters to fulfill this challenge to obtain the funds needed for the temple to the amount of \$200,000, as this challenge will end on **December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016**. Thanks to our generous supporters who came forward to contribute \$22,761 so far after initializing this challenge on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. This challenge excludes already committed \$50,000 donation made prior May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

### Residing Deities

Balaji, Lakshmi, Shiva Ling, Durga, Ganesha, Radha Krishna, Ram Parivar, Subramaniyam Parivar, Saraswati, Hanuman and Navagraha

Sita Ram



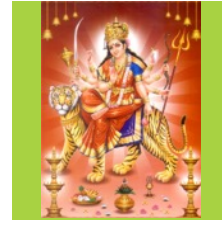
Ganesh



Krishna



Durga



Shiva



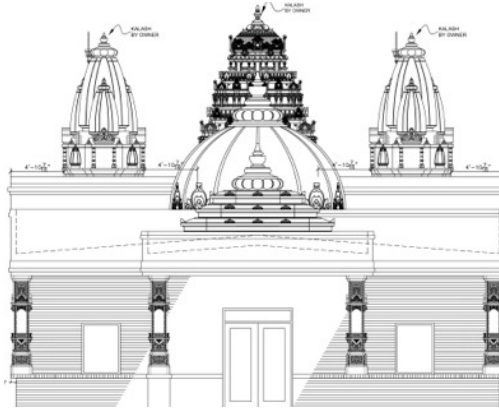
## Summary of Third Annual General Body Meeting - May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

**Chairman of the Board:** *Akshey Gupta* welcomed the members of SHSK and introduced Jay Patel to start the proceedings of the General Body Meeting.

**President's Report:** *Jay Patel* thanked all the members of Acadiana Indian Association and Lafayette Gujarati Samaj for helping SHSK in its efforts to make the dream come true for establishing a Sanatan Hindu Temple in Lafayette. He mentioned that [SHSK volunteers](#) have put their sincere efforts in various forms and activities to create the platform necessary to operate and manage the Hindu temple in Lafayette in the near future.

Jay Patel highlighted the evolution of thinking process in terms of temple architecture and the planning that took place in the past year that manifested in a practical form that covers the devotional desires of Acadiana Hindu community.

He mentioned that the current plan will include a shikar (gopuram) in the middle resembling Thirupati Balaji temple shikar, supported by two smaller shikars as shown in *temple front view*. There will be a central dome in the middle and a small samaran at the entrance of the temple as shown in the *temple side view*. There will be pillars outside and inside of the temple with ancient Indian sculptures molded within the pillars. The shikars and pillars are all made of Fiber Reinforced Plastic



SHSK Temple Front View

(FRP) and it is more advantageous compared to stone or concrete structures because of its light weight and still maintaining its strength against deforming forces. *FRP Accessories USA Inc.*, who has done many number of Hindu temple projects in USA will be contracted to provide the shikars and pillars for SHSK temple project.

Jay Patel walked through the positioning of deities inside the temple which is as follows: As we enter inside the temple, on the left side there will be **Ganesha** idol. Then we enter into garba gruha 1) below the left small shikar there will be **Ram Parivar** and **Radha Krishna** idols, 2) below the main shikar in the middle there will be **Balaji** idol 3) below the right small shikar there will be **Shiva linga** and **Durga** and to their right **Subramaniya** (Murugan) Parivar idols.

Followed by **Lakshmi**, **Saraswati** and **Hanuman** idols on the right side of the temple. There will be **Garuda** idol near the entrance facing Balaji and **Nandi** and **Turtle** in front of Shiva Linga. There will be **Navagraha's** on a support next to Hanuman close to the exit on the right side.

He mentioned that the unwanted trees in the site were cleared and site survey and soils report were completed. He was happy to announce that SHSK contracted **Jeff Sampson** for Architecture services, **Neel-Schaffer** for Civil Engineering services and **Nilesh M Patel construction business** for temple construction. SHSK submitted the necessary drawings to obtain **Fire Marshal Permit** on April 29th, 2016.

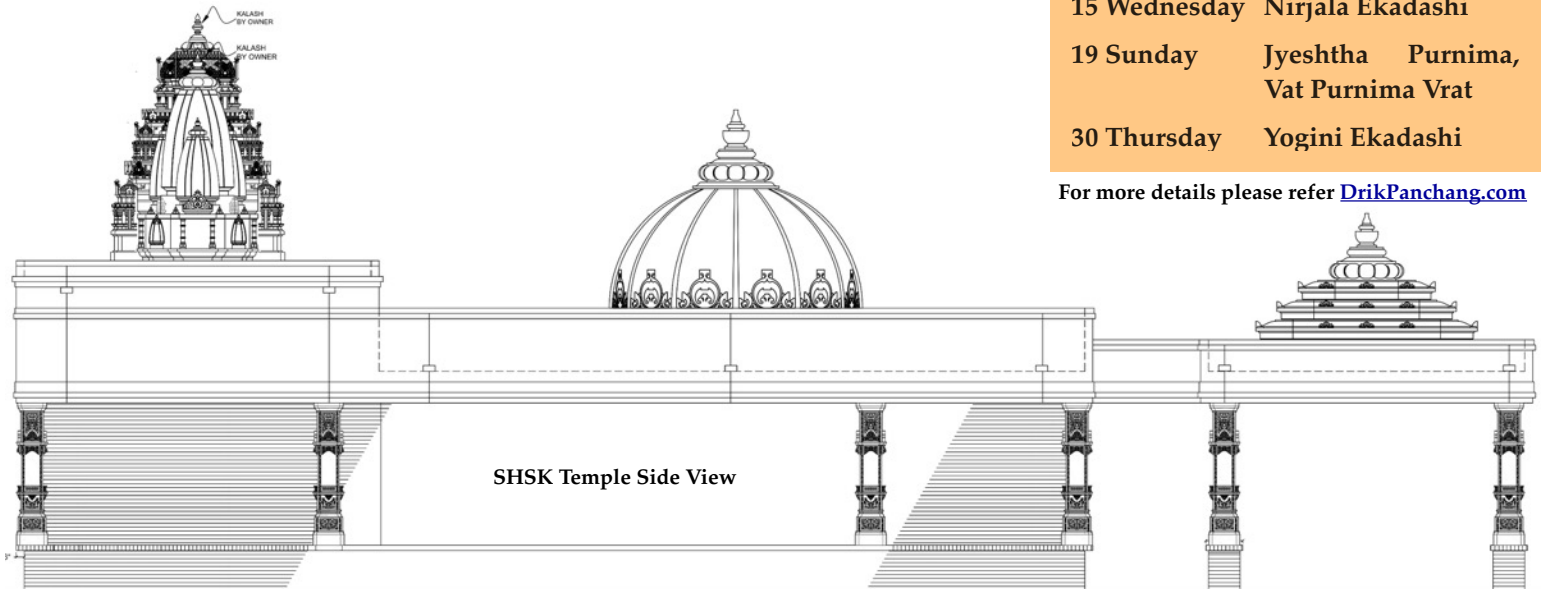
Jay Patel told that he has full faith in the all mighty to successfully complete the temple project in 2017 and it would provide an abode for all the deities and would bring a much awaited place of worship to the region of Acadiana and further the practice of Sanatan dharma principles for the generations to come.

## June 2016 Dates

Based on Lafayette, Louisiana, US Time

01 Wednesday	Apara Ekadashi
04 Saturday	Shani Jayanti, Vat Savitri Vrat
14 Tuesday	Ganga Dussehra, Mithuna Sankranti
15 Wednesday	Nirjala Ekadashi
19 Sunday	Jyeshtha Purnima, Vat Purnima Vrat
30 Thursday	Yogini Ekadashi

For more details please refer [DrikPanchang.com](http://DrikPanchang.com)



SHSK Temple Side View

**Secretary's Report:** *Srinivasan Ambatipati* presented the no. of activities (11 in total) organized by SHSK in collaboration with Lafayette Gujarati Samaj in 2015-2016 calendar year. And thanked Lafayette Gujarati Samaj for their dedicated

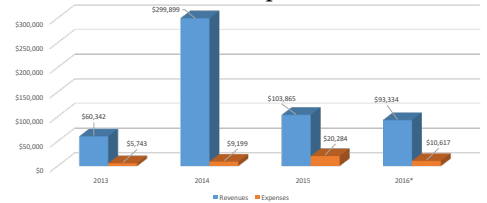
He also thanked growing number of volunteers who are dedicating their time and effort to provide needed services to Acadiana community in order to raise funds towards SHSK temple project. Specifically Punitha Vallalar for Dosa & Idli Batter service, Swetha Puri for helping new comers in town, Ravi Padumane for notary public services, Kala Jaikishen, Pallavi Pal and Jay Patel for pooja services at home and events and finally Vastu services from Srinivasan Ambatipati.

Srinivasan also showed few metrics graphically to show SHSK active presence on Facebook, Google +, WhatsApp and Youtube to promote SHSK goals and activities. Total number of Vedanshi downloads were 2357 between January 2015 to March 2016. He pointed out about Amazon smile program and encouraged all the SHSK supporters who use [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) to buy their everyday goods go through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) where amazon will contribute 0.5% of their purchase to SHSK. Please follow this link: <http://sanatanlft.org/?download=1199> to add SHSK as the charitable organization in Amazon.

**Treasurer's Report:** *Ravi Vallalar* presented the financial position of the organization and highlighted the major Revenues and Expenses accounted from 2013 to April 2016. He pointed out that as an organization, SHSK so far raised a total amount of **\$511,596.66**, out of which total properties and equipment accounted for **\$246,423.87** and cash balance of **\$265,172.79**. He presented the *Revenues vs Expenses* chart with respect to the years in operation so far along with the *Cash Balance trend* showing a gradual increase in cash from 2013 to April 2016.

**Architecture Overview:** *Jeff Sampson* thanked SHSK for giving the opportunity to be part of this project. He presented the Site Plan and explained about the overall layout of the Temple and the utility building. With respect to the Temple floor plan, he mentioned that there will be a provision for washing feet and placing the footwear outside on both

Revenue vs Expenses

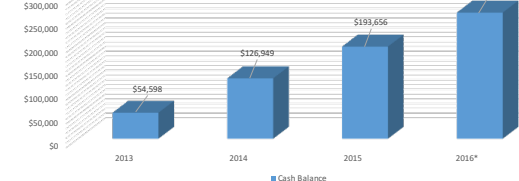


sides of the entrance. There will be small kitchen on the left side of the Foyer Area and a small office space on the right side of the Foyer Area. There will be a second exit as shown in the floor plan and also a 5ft wide footpath around the building.

The Utility building will host the restrooms, warming kitchen and an area to accommodate two classrooms or this area can be used temporarily as priest quarters.

**Civil Engineering Overview:** *Vijay Kunnada* told that he is grateful to lend his services through his company (*Neel-Schaffer*) to design and develop layouts for SHSK Temple project. He mentioned about the location of sewer in the North west corner of the lot and the sprinkling system from the sewer will be located in the East most part of the site. A water well will be located on the north east side of the utility building. Neel-Schaffer will complete the drawings by end of May 2016 to submit to the city for construction permit.

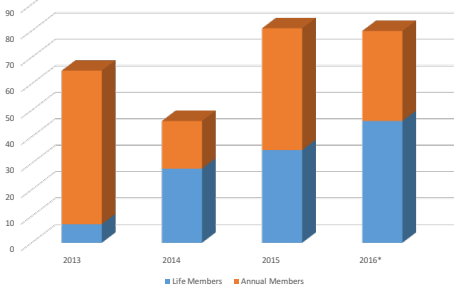
Cash Balance Trend



**Construction Overview:** *Nilesh M Patel* mentioned that he would like to continue his family tradition of supporting spiritual activities through lending his expertise in the construction of SHSK Temple and the Utility Building. Nilesh M Patel business have constructed many number of hotels and malls at various locations. He is confident that the temple project will be constructed within 6 months once we receive the permits.

**Fundraising Goals:** *Srinivas Yerasi & Ramesh Kolluru*, In 2015, based on preliminary discussions, the board proposed to build a single building with both temple and utilities in under one roof with a real estate of 2600 sqft costing \$350,000. After thorough due diligence, the board decided upon two separate buildings with a total real estate of **4232 sqft (Temple: 2616 sqft and utility building: 1616 sqft)**. The increase in footage contributed to the overall increase in construction costs. Yerasi presented the updated construction estimated cost to be **\$495,400** which includes 10% contingency. This cost includes both the temple and the utility building but excludes the cost of shikars (gopuram), central dome, entrance samaran and art work for the pillars and also the pranaprathista costs. The estimated cost of excluded items will be **\$300,000**.

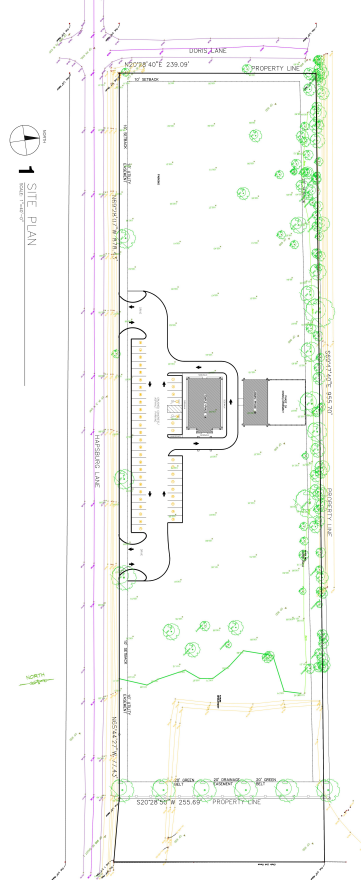
SHSK Membership Trend



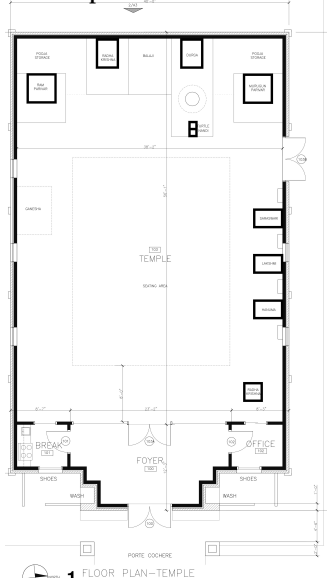
support to all the activities. He also thanked Acadiana Indian Association for supporting SHSK to setup promotion booths both in Annual Diwali event and Lafayette Holi Festival.

Srinivasan pointed out that Acadiana Hindu community has it roots in terms of satsang and education with Sunday School managed by Jay Patel and Purna Vidya managed by Pallavi Pal for many number of years. To extend this trend Kiranmai Bandaru started to teach Telugu language classes followed by Senthil Thavamani to take on Tamil language classes and Suchandra Hazra Bharatanatyam classes in the past year. He extended the gratitude to all of them for their dedication and selfless service to serve Acadiana community.

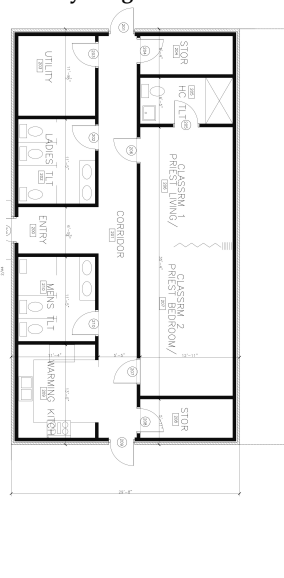
Site Plan



Temple Floor Plan



Utility Bldg Floor Plan







## SHSK Temple Model

**Table 1: Project Cost**

<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$695,400</b>
Cost of Land	\$200,000
Temple Building Cost	\$495,400
Construction of Building	\$262,200
Pre-Construction Costs	\$173,400
Parking Lot	\$60,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$695,400</b>
Funds Available in Bank	\$265,172.79
Total Commitments for 2016	\$50,000
Funds Spent	\$246,423.87
Funds Raised so far	\$511,596.66
<b>Funds needed after commitments</b>	<b>\$133,803.34</b>
<b>Additional Funds needed for Deities</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>
<b>Total Funds needed</b>	<b>\$233,803.34</b>

The estimated cost of annual operating expenses is **\$120,000**. The goal is to raise funds to cover the cost of building construction and the deities by end of 2016. The estimated cost for deities is **\$100,000**, the breakdown of the construction cost and the funds required to complete the construction along with deities is shown in the **Table 1: Project Cost**. The projected goal to raise funds through sponsoring deities is \$200,000, out of which \$57,500 were collected from our generous donors, which leaves out \$142,500 to be raised towards deities. The breakdown of deities cost is shown in **Table 2**.

Ramesh pointed out a fundraising challenge from an anonymous donor to match a \$1 for every \$3 raised. If SHSK raises **\$150,000 by end of 2016**, the anonymous donor will max out his contribution to \$50,000. Ramesh presented an overall strategy to raise \$250,000 as shown in **Table 3: Fundraising strategy** where \$150,000 from deities sponsorship, \$50,000 from anonymous donor and \$50,000 from life membership and yearly commitments. Yerasi mentioned that a backup strategy if we fall short of expected funds will be either issue bonds in denominations that is practice to all groups or

approach major temples to sponsor deities or to take credit from bank which is already approved at a low interest rate. Both Yerasi and Ramesh were confident that the SHSK supporters will fulfill the need for the required funds to fast track the temple

**Table 2: Breakdown of Deities cost**

Moorthy cost	Money Given	Target	Money we want to raise
Venkateswara Swamy	15000	50000	35000
Durga Ma	16500	30000	13500
Radha Krishna	5000	25000	20000
Siva Lingam	4500	20000	15500
Murugan	2500	10000	7500
Ram Parivar	1000	10000	9000
Hanuman	0	10000	10000
Saraswati Ma	0	6250	6250
Lakshmi Devi	0	7500	7500
Navagraha	0	6250	6250
Ganapathy	13000	25000	12000
<b>Total Money towards Moorthy</b>	<b>57500</b>	<b>200000</b>	<b>142500</b>

project and achieve the target of reaching **\$150,000** to fully take the advantage of matching money from the anonymous donor well before the end of year 2016.

Srinivasan presented the temple construction project schedule as shown in **Table 4** with the goal

**Table 3: Fundraising Strategy**

<b>Fund Raising Strategies for Temple Construction and Moorthy</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
Money towards Moorthy	\$150,000
Anonymous Donor Matching the money	\$ 50,000
Temple activities, Life memberships	
Dollar a day program, annual commitments.	\$ 50,000
	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>If we fall short of the money</b>	
Issue bonds in denominations that is practice to all groups.	
Approach major Temples to sponsor the Dieties	
Use line Credit that is approved by the bank	

**Table 4: SHSK Project Schedule**

Task	Start	End
Site Survey & Clearing	Completed	
Soils Report	Completed	
Master Plan	In Progress	05/31/2016
Site Plan	In Progress	05/31/2016
Architectural Services	In Progress	05/31/2016
Civil Engineering	In Progress	05/31/2016
Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing Engineering	06/01/2016	07/30/2016
Permits – LCG & Fire Marshal	In Progress	08/01/2016
Fencing (auto dealership)	10/01/2016	10/25/2016
Construction	08/01/2016	03/31/2017
Certificate of occupancy	04/01/2017	04/10/2017

of performing **Prana-Prathistha** on the auspicious day of **Akshaya Tritiya** which falls on **April 28th, 2017**.

On behalf of **SHSK Trustees and the Board of Directors**, Srinivasan thanked all the generous sponsors for their support and pointed out the cumulative donor karma model SHSK adopted in the 2nd General Body Meeting in 2015. The updated sponsor list can be viewed at [www.sanatanlft.org/sponsors](http://www.sanatanlft.org/sponsors).

The motion to extend the term of all the Trustees for another year was introduced and it was unanimously accepted by the General Body. Also due to recent resignation of Pradeep Mallenahalli as Trustee, nomination for one Trustee position was proposed. Nishant Puri nominated Ravi Padumane, seconded by Kala Jaikishen. The motion to appoint Ravi Padumane as a Trustee was introduced and Padumane was appointed as Trustee by the General Body unanimously.

The meeting concluded with the ending prayers.

Thank you for your support and blessings.  
Srinivasan Ambatipati, Editor