



# SHREE GEETA BHAWAN

(FIRST HINDU TEMPLE IN THE MIDLANDS)

Established 1967

107-117 Heathfield Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B19 1HL  
Tel: 0121 523 7797 - 0121 554 4120  
Email: [info@shreegeetabhawan.com](mailto:info@shreegeetabhawan.com)  
[www.shreegeetabhawan.com](http://www.shreegeetabhawan.com)  
Reg. Charity No.258195



Head Priest: Acharya Dharm Dutt Vasistha Priest: Upendra Purohit

## Patrons:

Mr. R K Sethi  
Dr. A N Verma

## Board of Trustees:

2022-2024

## President:

Mr. Mukesh Murria

## Vice-Presidents:

Dr. Arun Sinha  
Mr. Harshad Trivedi

## General Secretary:

Mr. Vijay Sudera

## Assistant Secretary:

Mr. Kashav Sehra

## Membership Secretary:

Ms. Kusum L Bhanot

## Treasurer:

Mr. Naresh K Sabharwal

## Asst. Treasurer:

Mr. Mohinder Pal Jagota

## Public Relations Officer:

Mrs. Sharon Kalia

## Trustees:

Mrs. Kamlesh Duggal  
Mr. Raj K Dutta  
Mr. Sanju Sharma  
Mr. Rohit Gautam  
Mr. Deepak Murria  
Mr. Vikram Kapoor  
Mr. Jyoti Basandrai  
Mr. Jagdish Sharma

## AGM – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2022- PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

### WELCOME

Dear Members, our Patrons, RK Sethi Ji, Dr A N Varma Ji, and Acharya Dharm Dutt ji.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to attend our Annual General Meeting.

**The last couple of years will certainly be tagged as one of the most turbulent times** in the history of mankind caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. It had **shaken everyone**, and we were not the exception.

**Whilst our building work was in progress, suddenly** the government declared lockdown as a result of which the income of the temple **drastically dropped, labour shortages, construction** materials became scarce, and costs started climbing.

**Survival:** With the help of our congregation and with the **concerted efforts** by the committee and our head priest, we managed to come out well, but it was not easy.

### GRATITUDE AND THANKS

On behalf of the entire Committee, we pay **gratitude** to those who helped us during this difficult time and made a **significant difference** for the wellbeing of SGB.

We **would not be able to name everyone** due to the time constraints but would like to say thank you at least to those who are present here at this meeting today. **As stated at the last AGM**, the committee will **arrange a thanksgiving function** to honour those who helped the SGB's building project.

**Acharya Dharm Dutt ji:** Our sincere thanks go to Dharm Dutt ji who is the pillar of this temple and a big asset. He has raised over £100,000 by arranging the Shatchandi Maha Yagya and Pran Pratishtha of Lord Hanuman, Chitragupt Bhagwan, Shani Dev and idols of Nav Graha, and I would also like to remind you that he raised the sum of £85,000 at the last Yagya ceremony. The Yagya not only had divine significance, but it was also like the **entire community** coming together in a very **spiritually charged atmosphere**.

**Apart from doing his own work**, he works as a **caretaker, receptionist, telephonist, taking bookings**, managing **several festivals, and many other tasks** which a full-time manager is supposed to do. He also holds free classes such as:

- Shrimad Bhagwat classes are held every Monday evening and
- Ramayan, online classes are held every Thursday evening.



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So, any **criticisms levelled** upon him by some **misguided persons** are baseless and false.

**MM then requested Mr. Bhandari to offer a bouquet of Flowers to Dharm Dutt ji on behalf of everyone.**

**Dharm Dutt ji can only** do these tasks because he has been supported by our priest **Upendra Ji** who we find an honest & trustworthy person. He is **punctual** to the point in terms of opening & closing of the temple and **energetic** which has been witnessed by us during **Navaratri** with his singing skills for several days.

**Marriage Registration:** Saroj Ji is doing an excellent job as a marriage registrar along with Dharm Dutt Ji, who both received official training and are authorised to conduct marriage services. **Mrs. Saroj Sharma Ji is also doing an excellent job by doing Shree Bala ji Pooja every Sunday Morning.**

**Big thank you to the Committee Members:**

**During the last 4 years,** I have **worked with my committee** members and have **come to appreciate** what a fine set of individuals they are. They are **completely dedicated** to the SGB, they **care about their** temple and each other, and kept the Board united to carry out the mighty development working in the spirit of cooperation.

From the **deepest chamber of our heart,** I wanted to say thank you to all of you.

**Mr. Naresh Sabharwal Ji** works very hard for the temple. His duties are vast and many, among them supervising the accounting of money and banking it, keeping all accounting records up to date, arranging wage slips, payment to staff and others, providing a monthly financial report to the committee, delivering records to the accountant, arranging accounts, and many other tasks. With his honesty & integrity we are moving forward.

**Dr Arun Sinha Ji** played a great supporting role helping me to do my tasks, representing the SGB to various meetings and functions in the city. He is my right hand.

**Mr. Kashav Sehra** has been instrumental in getting home office grants, alarm system, sound system, debit card donation machine, helping me to develop a risk management strategy alongside Dr Sinha Ji dealing with covid 19, and managing all communications on social media and virtual pujas during the pandemic. He made an Application for a Govt grant for improving Security with new CCTV cameras and fences, which was successful as we received £56K from the home office and we contributed £16k, the outcome of which is that we now have high-definition CCTV with proper alarm system. After installation, attempts made by intruders twice were unsuccessful and the culprits were arrested.



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**Mrs. Sharon Kalia** immensely assisted in the Yagya by motivating 50 to 70 Volunteers to help us. Throughout the year, she carried out extensive physical duties in caring of the deities and working in preparation for various festivals. She also assisted in getting the home office grant and writing minutes of the committee meetings.

**Mr. Harshad Trivedi Ji** is doing an excellent job in carrying out all the shopping for the kitchen, supporting Naresh Ji with writing cheques, counting, and banking, and being a great help to Pandit ji with managing festivals. We witnessed his singing Garba songs during Navratri for a continuous period of 10 days. He has been carrying out all the duties which the late RK Duggal ji was carrying out.

**Mr. Raj Dutta Ji** dedicates all his spare hours for various work for the temple especially in respect of any maintenance required and kitchen duties. During any break ins at the temple, or if the intruder alarm goes off, he comes to the temple even if it is in the middle of the night without fail to attend to the situation. Whatever we delegate to him, he delivers the task.

**Ms. Kusum Lata Bhanot** has established great rapport with the Bishop office of Birmingham and arranged an interfaith dialogue on a topic called ONE LIFE OR MANY. Pandit ji spoke, and I translated the talk, which was very well received by the audience. She also does a lot of work in conjunction with Naresh Sabharwal Ji especially in processing the gift aid donations with the HMRC.

**Mr. Shiv Passi ji** assisted the treasurer with accounting and banking, and with disposing of surplus stock to collect money for the SGB.

**Mr. Rahul Vashisht** brought SGB's name to the outside world such as by participating in several marathons, and more notably by taking the torch for the commonwealth games held in Birmingham.

**Mr. Rohit Gautam** by providing various services and security to the temple in the evening in addition to carrying out several physically challenging duties, including regular assistance to kitchen and servery duties.

**Mr. Sanju Sharma** provided financial support and backing to the SGB, and represents SGB at various Hindu Organisation.

**Mrs. Kamlesh Duggal** has been doing an excellent job in handling issues relating to the 50 plus group.

Finally, I just wanted to remind you that since our last AGM in 2019, we have lost Mr **Dwivedi Ji**, **Mr. R K Duggal Ji** and **Mr. Mohinder Pal Sharma Ji**, we pay our respects to them. They were decent, honest, dedicated, and trustworthy individuals who selflessly served our temple.



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**Some people make things happen, some watch things happen, others wonder what had happened. Our current committee in partnership with our two priests and kitchen staff make things happen.**

## Special Regards to the following:

My sincere thanks go to Mr. **Kapil Raja Basandrai's** family who made a **significant donation** to the SGB and attained the **authorisation from the NHS** for the **Covid Vaccination programme at SGB's premises**. They donated all the income they received from the NHS to the SGB. Please give them a loud round of applause.

Thanks to **Chatur Gupt Samaj UK** for arranging a big donation for the Shani Mandir and thanks to those **committee members and devotees who sponsored the Nav Grah Murtis**.

**Mr. Ram Gogna Ji**: the chairs donated by you are **immensely popular and useful** which are being fully utilised, we say thank to you on behalf of the congregation.

Thanks to Mr. **Harnek Singh** of No.1 skip hire for donating 46 dining tables.

Thanks to my cousin **Mr. Shiv Sarna** for the donation of steel plates, glasses and spoons. This helped us reduce our usage of plastic plates, saving the SGB money.

Thanks to **Mr. Surjit & Mrs. Kiran** of **Kiran jewellers** and **Dr Badri ji** for donating the dishwasher.

Thanks to my Dad and Mum **Mr. Surinder Bhandari and Mrs. Kailash Bhandari** for donating the air conditioning system. The public greatly appreciating it during the time the **Maha Yagya was taking place**, when they needed a rest to cool down from **the sweltering heat**. Many thanks to you on behalf of the devotees.

Thanks to Mr. **Rajinder Sehdev** for making monetary donations.

Thanks to Mr. **Raj Ram** for paying the labour costs of installing the **Shiv Mandir tiles** and the new drainage system for the Shiv Ling.

Thanks to Mr. **Kabal Jaswal**: Please give a big round of applause to **Kabal Jaswal** who built the **Shani mandir** for the SGB's devotees.

Thanks to **Mr. Tony Chawla** of Brindley Accountants: During the pandemic, he played a pivotal role, especially when the temple's income dropped. We applied for a bounce back loan and Tony played a pivotal role for providing the required information to the bank. He understood the situation and **did not press for payment** in respect of his outstanding invoices. Furthermore, he did not charge us for helping to get the bounce back loan.



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By the way, the **bounce back loan was taken** as an emergency measure which was paid off within a year without paying any interest.

### Seventeen providing interest free loans:

Those who read my briefing will know that the building work was carried out **without taking a bank loan**, this was possible as **17 individuals gave the SGB £5,000 each interest free.**

**Among those who are present here are:** my niece **Mrs. Mamta Bhoji** and her husband **Mr. Rakesh Bhoji** who donated £5,000 each and they were first to lend, **Mr. Vikram** and **Mrs. Kavita Kapoor**, our Patron **Mr. R K Sethi**, my committee members **Mr Naresh Sabharwal Ji**, **Mr. Shiv Passi ji**, **Mr. Sanju Sharma**, and the late **Mr. R K Duggal Ji**.

My three children **Mrs. Sita Murria**, **Mrs. Usha Parekh**, and **Mr. Bharat Murria**.  
My cousin **Mr. Mukesh Bassi**, my mum and dad **Mr and Mrs Surrinder Bhandari**.

**Others:** **Mr. Dev Tewari**, **Mrs. Sanjogita Kumari**, **Dr. Vatish**, **Mr. Roshan Dass** have also provided interest free loan.

By the way, **all the monies borrowed from them** have been paid back.

### Volunteers:

There are **some people** who gave **physical seva and financial seva**, the **lead person among them is Rinku/Sandeep Gogna**. **We do not have enough words** to express our gratitude to him.

**Mr. Paul Rana** and his wife **Mrs. Raju Rana**, along with **Sunny, Kashav** and **Mrs. Abilasha Rani**: they are always here in the temple in their spare time and provide **all logistical support** to the SGB which also includes providing security services especially by Paul Rana.

Special thanks to our **kitchen and cleaning staff**, **Mrs. Sonum Peshwa**, **Mrs. Daksha Ben Parekh**, **Mrs. Varsha**, and **Mrs. Sato ji**, who had worked really hard to get a 5-star food hygiene rating for our kitchen and are always there to cook **whenever we** require them to so.

Thanks to our **Jagrata/Chowki Mandli**: **Mr. Rakesh Bhoji**, **Mr. Kashav Sehra**, **Mr. Seshwar Sehra**, **Mr. Rinku/Sandeep Gogna**, and **Mr. C L Thakur ji**: **whatever they collect from these bookings, they donate it to the temple.**

Our thanks also go to the several **youth volunteers** who helped during Maha Yagya ceremony. When we witnessed them tirelessly working, especially **helping the elderly and less able people**, I felt our future will be safe in their hands.