

Acting General Secretary's Annual Report 2010/11

It gives me great pleasure to give my report for last year. Having stood as Joint Secretary at last year's AGM, it was with a little trepidation that I took on my current role, following the unexpected resignation of Dhuru Galani for his personal reasons. Fortunately, for me, his timing was good as he left after the usual busy part of the year was almost over.



I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Association to thank him for his invaluable service which he still continues to provide as one of the co-opted members, of the building maintenance and special projects committees. The latest of these projects is the refurbishment of the Sports Hall. If you get the chance please take the time to view it, as we have built a mezzanine floor to give us more space and flexibility, for example for a library and computer room. Decoration of the small hall was completed last year and it is now licensed for conducting civil marriage ceremonies. A substantial contribution towards its costs was made possible by the generous donation bid won by late Babulal Ratanshi Mehta and his family, at last year's Paryushan festival. This year, as you will have noticed, we have also carried out much needed redecorations of the main hall and other areas and this project was led by none other than our vice-president, Paresh Mehta.

Looking back at the year, like always, it was a mixture of happiness and sadness. Happiness because some functions went well such as the annual picnic cum sports day, Paryushan and Navratri. This, in spite of not having the music group that we had hoped for. However, the events and shows went ahead as planned with local talent and it is one of the many strengths of Navnat that we did not moan and groan too much. In between, the EC hosted a long awaited evening of dinner and entertainment to appreciate our volunteers, which was deemed to be a welcome gesture, judging by the comments received.

The sadness part was due to such things as low turnouts, weather spoiling the much awaited Janmashtmi Mela and for the unexpected loss of some prominent Navnat members, amongst whom we can count, two patrons and ex-committee members, some as you are aware, within the last three months.

In my opinion, the Association is still not firing on all four cylinders. However, with new and enthusiastic faces in the various committees, including sub-committees and the editorial board, and also not forgetting the behind the scene 'helpers', who are too numerous to list here, I hope that you will all support the incoming committee members in making the next and future years even more memorable. A commitment from community members to visit Navnat Centre a few times a year would not go amiss to see at first hand the improvements and activities being undertaken not to mention the almost unlimited potential for the future. I thank my colleagues and all volunteers for their invaluable contribution in their individual and unique manner and in addition we must not forget the contribution of members of our Board of Trustees and affiliates, NVBS, NVYVM, NYA, NBC and NGS, who run parallel events efficiently and in such good harmony, throughout the year. You will have the chance to hear their spokespersons later on, giving their individual news and views in their reports.

Jai Jinendra and Jai Shree Krishna

Dipak Shah
Acting General Secretary