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January 18, 2018

Dear Devotees of the Hindu Temple of Siouxland (HTOS),

Namaste! We wish your families and you a very Happy New Year, and hope this new year brings prosperity, health and happiness to all!

As you know, we began the new year with a Satyanarayana Pooja on January 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by a meeting of the General Assembly. Although it was a bitterly cold day, over 50 devotees braved the weather to attend the Pooja and meeting. You will receive the meeting minutes separately. The highlights are:

1. The new HTOS Executive Committee has been elected and is already hard at work on your behalf.
2. Our 9-year dream is about to come true soon – construction on our temple is going well and expected to be completed by this Spring.
3. Fundraising efforts are proceeding apace to pay back the loan taken to complete Phase 1 of temple construction – an ambitious goal of raising \$100,000 this year has been established.

Please follow updates to construction progress and significant milestones through our website <http://htos.online> and through periodic emails. If you have any queries or clarifications, please reach us through [hindutemple.sd@gmail.com](mailto:hindutemple.sd@gmail.com). Our temple needs you more than ever at this time. Please consider participating through donations, providing your creative ideas and volunteer time. Temple set-up including placement of murtis, services such as Bal Vihar, weekly poojas, monthly special poojas and other events, youth group, library, etc. are being planned – we encourage you to get involved in one or more of these activities. For those who have been working for years to realize our dream, we thank you on behalf of the community. For those who have not had the opportunity to participate yet, we invite you to join us in this once-in-a-lifetime effort. If you would like to volunteer, donate to the temple construction/maintenance and/or witness Executive Committee or Board of Trustees meetings, please let us know.

As the first Hindu Temple in the Dakotas becomes a reality, we request that you kindly consider donating generously towards its construction and maintenance. Please contact the Fundraising Committee to discuss how to contribute or donate through the temple website. Please remember that all donations to the temple are tax deductible.

We hope to see you at the next Pooja on January 27<sup>th</sup> – it will be a celebration of Saraswati Pooja/Vasant Panchami. Please bring your children/students to attend this special Pooja in honor of the goddess of knowledge, wisdom and the arts. Students will be participating in this Pooja, so have them bring a book and pen/pencil. Other Pooja materials will be provided.

God Bless!

Sincerely,

Archana Chatterjee

Chair – Board of Trustees

Saravanan Vedhachalam

President – Executive Committee