



Fellow Community Members:

Hindu Temple and Cultural Center (HTCC) of Kansas City established in 1982, is serving spiritual needs of over 5,000 Hindu families residing in Greater Kansas City area. Our Hindu Culture and Heritage is being passed on to our future generation throughout HTCC activities throughout the year.

Celebrating festivals of every segments of the Indian residents in our region has attracted and appreciated by our community patrons. It is exiting to see our patron's enthusiasm and participation during the festivals and cultural events.

At the request of our temple devotees, one of the salient features of a HINDU TEMPLE such as RAJAGOPURAM is being proposed to beautify our temple's front entrance and elevation. This magnificent 35' feet tall three level Rajagopuram will enhance the view of our temple and add landmark to the City of Shawnee Mission. A Gopuram or *gopura* (Sanskrit: गोपुरम्, *gopuram*) is a monumental entrance tower, usually ornate, at the entrance of a Hindu temple. Rajagopuram built along the new boundary will be are topped by seven "kalasam".

Will also install 21' tall *Dhvajasthambham* or *kodimaram* which is a flagstaff, a common feature of Hindu temples along with a *balipeetam* (altar for offerings). Symbolically, these features are barriers that protect the sanctuary of the temple from the impure and undevoted.

Our current pal is to add Rajagopuram to the front of the temple with a court add to add approximately 4,000 square feet with provisions to expansion feature within the courtyard in future. This temple Rajagopuram expansion project is estimated at seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, \$750,000.00. Project is schedule to start this year on October 7th, 2019 with a traditional ground braking ceremony conducted by our priests.

Maha *Kumbhabhishekham* is planned for October 30th, 31st and November 1st, 2020. Three-day rituals will include honoring of Lord Ganesha, the Lord of Beginnings and the Remover of Obstacles, thread of blessing and protection (*raksha bandhanam*), and *yajnashala*, a "House of the Fire Offerings," where the powerful rites of consecration are performed around the brick fire altars with hundreds of *kumbhas*, or copper pots, sponsored by various members of the community.

Kumbhabhishekham, also known as *Samprokshanam* is a Hindu temple ritual that is believed to homogenize, synergize and unite the mystic powers of the deity. *Kumbha* means the Head and denotes the *Shikhara* or *Crown* of the Temple (usually in the Rajagopuram) and *Abhisekham* or *Prokshanam* is ritual bathing.

We request our community members to participate in this prestigious "Rajagopuram Expansion Project" and donate generously. Your donations will make this transformation to our Temple and to the community as a whole. All donations to HTCC are tax deductible per IRS regulations. Donations above \$1,000.00 will be recognized as per the HTCC policy. Donations of \$10,000.00 and above will qualify for lifetime Fellow Membership of HTCC.

Sincerely,

Chairman, Board of Trustees and President of Executive Committee, 2019