



CITY HINDUS NETWORK

FIRST MESSAGE FROM NEW CHAIR PRATIK DATTANI TO MEMBERS 26 OCTOBER 2010

Namaste dear Members

Message from new CHN Chair Pratik Dattani

The story so far

Since 2005 the CHN has achieved some special things. We have become one of the leading representative organisations for the Hindu community at Government level. We have forged close relationships with many other Hindu community organisations. We have been felicitated by the then London Mayor Ken Livingstone and hosted several events with 150+ attendees. We have seen the growth and establishment of Hindu networks at several banks and professional services firms. We piloted a mentoring scheme for over 50 mentees in 2008. And most humbly of all, over 1300 of you, including members of the CHN Facebook and LinkedIn groups, have invested your confidence in the Network.

A heartfelt **thank you** to all of you who have made this possible so far.

The story today

And here we enter the next phase in the CHN journey.

A little about me first. I know some of you through helping establish and lead the Deloitte Hindu Network in 2009 and others through leading the City branch of the Friends of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. Other than that, I'm an economic consultant currently at FTI Consulting and a mean erstwhile blogger.

And here I am today. It's an honour to be the Chair of the CHN. I'm looking forward to the challenge ahead to continue to develop the network and provide you with the kind of support you want.

Hinduism teaches us tolerance and respect for others; it teaches us the importance of family, community and education; it teaches us the fundamental importance of Dharma and Sewa. Through the CHN, I want to inspire people to build their own new relationships, learn more about Hindu thought and contribute to the sustained betterment of the world around us.

The story tomorrow

I see the role of the CHN as promoting networking, education and charity among Hindus in the City under four main banners:

- Through networking events such as the August event at State Street we can form new relationships which enable us to learn more about both the world and ourselves.

- Inspiring people to take interest in the spirituality, philosophy and religion in an open manner through smaller seminars, debates and talks.
- We must recognise our duty to our community in the form of Sewa and one way to do this is through a regular programme of charitable activities.
- By building on the 2008 CHN Mentoring Scheme, we want to provide members with an avenue for their professional, as well as personal, development.

So while you may have to bear with me during this transitional but exciting new phase...watch this space.

First though there are three items that you will hear more about very soon. Firstly, CHN activities for National Sewa Day on Sunday 21st November. Secondly, a multi-faith 'Faith in the Workplace' discussion event on Wednesday 24th November. Finally, the CHN is for **You** – so we want to ask you about what you think we have done well, what we haven't and what you'd like to see from us.

Finally, can I end on this: Dhruv's work for the network has been tireless, an inspiration to many of us and made so many of the achievements above this possible. You can read his departing note by clicking on the following link <<http://www.cityhindusnetwork.org.uk/docs/CHNDP01.pdf>>.

Please join me in wishing him all the best in the future. I look forward to meeting you and working with you all in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Pratik Dattani