

From: City Hindus Network [<mailto:info@cityhindusnetwork.org.uk>]

Sent: 26 October 2010 17:15

To: City Hindus Network

Subject: Dhruv Patel - personal message



Dearest Community Friends and Contacts
Namaste

CHN Chair: Dhruv Patel steps down and Pratik Dattani appointed

My apologies for the group nature of this letter, but I have worked with so many people over the years (and I fear that I may have missed some of them off this list so please forward this message on to anyone who I may have forgotten) that it would be virtually impossible to write individual messages to everyone.

In the five years since I began to set up the City Hindus Network, I believe that we have been able to achieve some special things. We have grown our membership to over 900 professionals. We have become one of the leading representative organisations for the Hindu community, being consulted by bodies such as the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for International Development, the Government Equalities Office, the Greater London Authority, the Tony Blair Faith Foundation and the London 2012 Olympics.

We piloted a mentoring scheme where some of our younger members are coached by more senior professionals from our community to help their development. We have seen the growth and establishment of individual firm Hindu networks; there are now at least ones at Accenture, Barclays, Deloitte, Ernst and Young, PricewaterhouseCoopers and UBS. Beyond running a program of smaller events, we have organised major events, each with over 150 people attending, in association with the Mayor of London's office, Barclays and State Street.

We have forged close relationships with many other Hindu Community Organisations including Hindu Council UK, Hindu Forum of Britain, National Council for Hindu Temples, Chinmaya Mission's CHYK, Swadhyay Parivar, ISKCON's Vaishnav Professionals Network, Sewa Volunteers, Hindu Experience, National Sewa Day, National Hindu Students Forum, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Connect India, Asian Foundation for Philanthropy and Samakti Youth Mission; as well as wider community organisations including the UK India Business Council, St Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, Lambeth Palace, London Jewish Forum, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Indian Jewish Association, City Sikhs Network, the City of London and Tower Hamlets Interfaith Forums and Faith in Leadership.

I will be forever humbled by our successes and this fine record. But following on from our very well received event at State Street in September, I believe now is the right moment for me to step down as Chair. Whilst leading this organisation, that has become so much a part of my life, is something I am sure to remember fondly and in some

senses miss, it is time for a new leader to take the reigns; someone who can bring fresh ideas while continuing to drive the Network forward.

To this end, I have decided to appoint Pratik Dattani to take over the role of Chair. He will be known by many of you already as he has a great record in community work, having established and led the Deloitte Hindu Network before moving to FTI Consulting and having founded the City branch of the Friends of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies.

Setting up and leading the City Hindus Network has been a wonderful experience. Of course, I will always be on hand to offer my input and experience to the Network and also to the community in whatever way I can going forward. But for me personally this step clearly marks the end of a certain and hopefully noteworthy stage and endeavour in my life.

Finally, I must say that it is due to your support that we have managed to achieve what we have. Those that have helped the most know who you are, and your input has been greatly valued and we are forever indebted to you. I am truly privileged to have been able to serve the community and to have worked with you all. And indeed I hope to continue to do these things in other capacities in the future.

In the mean time, it would be much appreciated if you could bear with us during this transitional period. Thank you for reading and for all your tireless work over the years.

Yours sincerely

Dhruv Patel

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