



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

(SEP'2023 – DEC'2024)

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

PREPARED BY HRÖ TEAM

FEBRUARY 2025

Hinduistische Religionsgesellschaft in Österreich (HRÖ)

Hindu Religion Organization in Austria (HRA)

(Rechtspersönlichkeit von religiösen Bekenntnisgemeinschaften)

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Statement by the President

Hindu.. meri pehchan was our slogan when we started campaigning for the HRÖ elections last year. At the time, many in the Hindu community were unaware of HRÖ's existence as a separate entity and often confused it with the Hindu Mandir Association (HMA). From our experience during the campaign, we realized there was important groundwork to do—like educating the community about HRÖ, setting up official contact channels (such as an official email address, webpage, Bank account), and addressing foundational issues outlined in HRÖ's constitution.

To tackle these basics, we created a manifesto that prioritized these tasks before moving on to larger goals.

Thanks to the efforts of our team and other candidates during the campaign, HRÖ gained some attention. However, many people still didn't fully understand its purpose, responsibilities, and constitutional framework.

As a motivated and determined team, we got straight to work on day one of our tenure, energetically focusing on our agenda. On the next pages, you'll find details of the tasks we accomplished, the results we achieved, and their impact.

Additionally, we formed a Representative Group with members from different regions and states of Austria. These representatives act as a link between HRÖ and their local communities, helping to promote awareness and assist their members with registration.

Please look at the numbers below to see the time and effort the executive committee (EC, referred to as such henceforth) has collaboratively invested in since September 2023.

The table below showcases the various activities HRÖ has undertaken to gradually increase awareness among Hindus living in Austria.



Event	Number of times event occurred {n}	Average duration (Hours) {t}	Time spent* (Hours) {=nxt}	Total count of EC members attended event {N}	Total time spent by all EC members combined (Hours) {=Nxt}
HRÖ meetings	53	1,9	101	298	566
HRÖ Representing	19	3	57	39	117
HRÖ Reps Meeting	8	1,3	10	46	60
Promoting Hinduism	5	3	15	17	51
Introducing HRÖ	4	5	20	12	60
Interreligious – council Graz/Vienna	3	6	18	3	18
Courtesy visits to Congregations	3	2	6	13	26
Congregations' Meetings	2	2	4	12	24
School Children visits attended	2	2	4	4	8
International Day of Fraternity	1	2	2	1	2
Vielfalt im Dialog (Diversity in Dialogue)	1	3	3	3	9

Table 1: Matrix for time spent [* Cumulative time spend by individual EC member for the event]

HRÖ is actively working to connect with unregistered Hindu communities and bring together Hindus in every state of Austria. Its main goal is to gather enough registered members to begin the process of becoming a “legally recognized religious society”.

Finally, the executive committee made this all possible by diligently evaluating tasks, considering different perspectives, and executing them with precision. I am deeply grateful for their efforts.

Sincerely,

Sandeep Khanna

President, HRÖ



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Letter from Vice President I

Namaste to all the community members and readers,

As the current HRÖ Executive Committee has completed one year of its tenure after being elected in August 2023, as Vice President of HRÖ I would like to express my gratitude in investing their trust in us.

During this one-year term the goal of HRÖ was its continuous development as well as maintaining the engagement with various congregations, associations, offices and communities. We not only remained focused on strengthening our core building but also promoting HRÖ at various regional and national platforms.

Despite the challenges faced by the HRÖ due to financial restraints or being at the very budding stage of development, we successfully achieved many of our aims mentioned in our agenda in this first year. HRÖ received tremendous help and appreciation from our state representatives and different communities.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we remain committed to building on the momentum we have established. Together, we are positioned to navigate the challenges and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead.

Regards,

Deepti Garg

Vice President-I, HRÖ



Letter from Vice President II

Dear Members of the Hindu Community,

Namaste!

It is an honor to address you in this annual newsletter as the Vice President of HRÖ. Since our election in August 2023, we have made meaningful progress in promoting unity, growth, and representation for the Hindu community in Austria. I am fully committed to serving with honesty, integrity, fairness, and an unwavering dedication to advancing HRÖ's mission and amplifying our community's voice. Personally, I assure you of my commitment to upholding the highest ethical standards and encouraging everyone involved in HRÖ to maintain these values in all aspects of our work.

This year, we have focused on strengthening HRÖ's foundation by increasing awareness of our mission and fostering transparent communication channels. A key milestone has been the formation of a Representative Group—a concept I initiated to ensure every region and community feels included. These representatives have been instrumental in extending HRÖ's outreach, enabling two-way communication, and transforming HRÖ into a true community organization where every Hindu in Austria feels connected.

Within the executive committee, we have established a performance-driven culture with regular weekly meetings to review progress, set targets, and ensure accountability. We've also cultivated a professional working environment, advancing on multiple fronts simultaneously. These efforts include designing a new logo, developing a dynamic and feature-rich website with online membership forms, documenting meeting minutes, and maintaining official HRÖ email and social media channels. Together, these initiatives reflect our commitment to making HRÖ more accessible, efficient, and impactful for the Hindu community in Austria.

While we have achieved much, our work continues. Building recognition, preserving cultural heritage, and promoting unity require sustained efforts. With your support, HRÖ will continue to grow and serve the needs of our community effectively.



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I sincerely thank the executive team, representatives, volunteers, and all community members for their contributions. Together, let us advance HRÖ's vision and strengthen our community.

Wishing you all good health, happiness, and prosperity.

Warm regards,

Dr. Ram Vinay Pandey, PhD

Vice President-II, HRÖ



Letter from the General Secretary

Dear members of HRÖ,

It's been slightly more than a year since the elections were conducted and the new HRÖ office bearers were elected. The journey so far was not without hurdles and frictions, but what matters finally are the end results. I can say with satisfaction that a lot of tasks were completed in this one year, with many more in the pipeline. This annual report gives a complete overview of the tasks that HRÖ did in 2024 and the tasks we intend to do in this year. To specifically mention about the duties of the secretary's office, I would like to mention that, with 100% support from the Joint-Secretary, the following tasks were done/are being done by the secretary's office:

1. Conducting the weekly meetings regularly and recording the meeting minutes.
2. Executing the decisions made in the meetings and making sure that the decisions taken are as per the statutes.
3. Actively working to register as many Hindus as possible as members of HRÖ.
4. Preparing the necessary application forms.
5. Actively reaching out to the community members to submit blogs for our website.
6. Continuously suggesting improvements for our website and seeking approval from the committee to accept the proposals.
7. Conducting the congregation's assembly meetings.
8. Announcing, coordinating and performing tasks with respect to Hinduism courses and other announcements.
9. Keeping an eye on financial transactions.
10. Participating in meetings with outside agencies on matters concerning the administration of HRÖ.
11. Filing the documents.
12. Managing the Telegram group, etc.

The tasks were all very time-consuming and working at this pace for a long time needs a lot of dedication and motivation. Hope the community members reciprocate by actively participating in the membership drive and in all activities of the HRÖ and motivate us to serve you better.

With Best Regards,

Dr.(techn) Chandra Sekher Reddy Nathala
General Secretary, HRÖ



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Letter from Treasurer

Wishing a Very Happy New Year to All Members of the Hindu Community!

Since our election, we have made significant progress in fostering Hindu culture and unity, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to the community's well-being and development.

The HRÖ Committee has consistently worked on initiatives that enrich the community, and we believe that collaboration with organizations like the All-Hindu communities could greatly enhance the effectiveness of our efforts. Our shared values and common goals provide a strong foundation for meaningful collaboration that benefits our community and upholds our cultural and spiritual traditions.

Proposed Initiatives

We would like to propose the following collaborative efforts

1. Joint Events and Programs

Organizing cultural, educational, and HRÖ events in partnership with the All-Hindu communities to foster greater community engagement and participation.

2. Resource Sharing

Providing mutual support by sharing resources such as financial assistance, volunteers, or facilities for projects that align with our shared objectives.

3. Financial Support and Contributions

We humbly request the support of the Hindu community through financial assistance for upcoming projects, including Hindu cultural events, educational workshops, and other community-focused initiatives.

Call for Collaboration

We are eager to hear your thoughts on this proposal and explore how we can work together most effectively. Together, we can create a positive and lasting impact.

Warm regards,
Ing. Sanjay Kumar
Treasurer, HRÖ



What Is HRÖ?

HRÖ – Hinduistische Religionsgesellschaft in Österreich (HRÖ) is a state-registered Religious denominational community in Austria; an official umbrella body responsible for all matters related to Hinduism in Austria.

Objectives of HRÖ

1. HRÖ achieved the state-registered religious denominational community status in the year 1998, due to which all Hindus living in Austria are free to practice their faith and establish their own places of worship. The next and final stage in the recognition ladder is to achieve the status of legally recognized religious society. Achieving this status will bring many benefits, like having Hinduism also as a religious subject in state schools, getting tax-exempt for donations made to religious bodies (mandirs, mutts, ashrams, etc) etc.
2. Highlight and convey the core beliefs, teachings, and doctrines of Hinduism so that the believers can benefit from them in every walk of life in contemporary society.
3. Engage with the local Hindu communities throughout Austria.
4. Participate in social service projects and charitable activities.
5. Conduct discourses on private and public forums and teach Hinduism in public and private schools as and when appropriate approvals are received.
6. With the financial contributions from the community, as well as the aid from various government bodies received as per the law, disseminate the teachings of Hinduism for greater benefits of human society.
7. Develop educational programs for Pandits (clergy), leaders, and members. Provide theological training, ethical guidance, and care resources.
8. Promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue between Hindus and members of other religious bodies. Foster goodwill and understanding between followers of all faiths.
9. Develop a robust and transparent organizational and financial structure, so that the continuous functioning of the governing body or the council can be ascertained for the time to come.
10. Secure suitable places to accommodate large audience to promote Hinduism and Hinduism related events.



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11. Represent Hindus residing in Austria on all public channels, be it broadcast media, print media, or any internet-based social media platform.
12. Promotion of the study of the Indian languages, especially Sanskrit.
13. Adherence to the culture of Hinduism by promotion of the traditional arts, music, dance etc.
14. Import and sale of spiritual and cultural articles like religious books, pictures, puja articles etc.
15. Foundation of libraries and promotion of the translation of holy scriptures into English and German.

Services Provided by HRÖ

Being the official umbrella organization for all activities related to Hinduism in Austria, HRÖ provides the following services:

- Receive, review, and give approvals to affiliation requests received from any Hinduism practitioner or a group wanting to form a new religious organization like establishing a new non-profit association (verein) to perform Hinduism related activities or establish a new temple etc.
- On request, issue religion certificates to members of HRÖ. This is sometimes asked for admissions in schools or in offices to take special leave on Hindu festival days etc.
- Assist Hindus in their religious practices by sharing info about pandits etc.
- Assist Hindus living in Austria on all activities related to religion.

Support HRÖ

For HRÖ to achieve the status of legally recognized religious society, it needs 0.2% of the population of Austria (~18000) as its members. So, if you are a believer of Hinduism and want Hinduism to achieve this status, please become a member of HRÖ. Please register on our website www.hroe.at or send us an email to office@hroe.at to express your interest. You can also volunteer in various activities of HRÖ, write blogs to post on HRÖ's website or help prepare material for Hinduism classes. Please contact us for any questions or feedback.



HRÖ's New Logo

When the HRÖ executive committee (EC) took over, one of its first goals was to create a new logo that was attractive, unique, and represented HRÖ's identity and spirituality.



Figure: 1 New HRÖ Logo

The new logo has several meaningful elements, each with its own significance. Here's a brief explanation of what each part represents.

The HRÖ (Hinduistische Religionsgesellschaft in Österreich) emblem intricately weaves spiritual, cultural, and religious elements. At its center, the abbreviation HRÖ features a Trishul for "H" (symbolizing Lord Shiva), a distinct "R," and a Shivalinga with OM and two dots forming "Ö," embodying spiritual significance. Thus, the three letters, with design, can be read as "Ha-ri-om".

A lotus flower represents purity and spiritual awakening, alongside HRÖ's founding year. The outer circle showcases two Shankhs, sacred to Lord Vishnu, Goddess Lakshmi, and Lord Garuda. The Sanskrit phrases emphasize universal values, like "Dharma protects those who protect it" and "for magnanimous, the world itself is a family".

The saffron color reflects sacrifice, enlightenment, and salvation, encapsulating HRÖ's spiritual and cultural identity.



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Establishing Effective Administrative Structure and Self-Policing Mechanisms

In any organization, clear working guidelines and self-monitoring mechanisms are essential for smooth operations and long-term success. HRÖ has implemented robust self-policing practices to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency in all its activities.

Key measures include:

- **Open Communication:** Seamless internal and external communication channels are maintained.
- **Documenting Meetings:** Over 50+ weekly Executive Committee (EC) meetings, 8+ Representative meetings, and 2 Congregation meetings have been documented with attendance records.
- **Consensus-Based Decisions:** Decisions are made democratically through majority consensus in EC meetings.
- **Transparency:** All processes, including financial transactions and data management, are conducted transparently.

To manage data efficiently, HRÖ utilizes cloud technology with a secure file structure, enabling safe data storage and role-based access. Benefits include:

- **Timely Sharing:** Information is easily accessible and shared among EC members.
- **Smooth Transition:** Data handover to future committees requires minimal paperwork, achieved through access permission transfers.

Official Communication: All correspondence with administrative value is conducted through official email IDs, ensuring a traceable and formal communication record. Social media discussions are documented in the EC group and reviewed during weekly meetings.



Financial Oversight: Any expenditure must first be discussed and approved in EC meetings, ensuring accountability and responsible resource management.

Record Management: Historical documents, such as membership forms, are being digitized and archived securely. Outdated records are responsibly retired or destroyed, while critical information remains easily accessible.

These self-policing mechanisms minimize communication gaps, promote transparency, and hold EC members accountable for their actions. However, the identification of disciplinary measures to address misconduct is still pending, as part of efforts to ensure HRÖ operates with integrity and professionalism at all levels.



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Online and Social Media Presence

Website Launched



Figure 2: HRÖ Landing Page

The Hindu Religion Organization in Austria / Hinduistische Religionsgesellschaft in Österreich (HRÖ) is pleased to announce the successful development and launch of its official website, <https://www.hroe.at>. This marks a significant milestone for HRÖ, as it didn't have any online presence. The website serves as a vital platform for Hindus living in Austria to connect with HRÖ, learn about its activities, and discover how they can benefit by becoming members.

Development Journey: The development of the HRÖ website has been both a challenging and rewarding process. Prior to the launch of the website, HRÖ had no digital presence, making this project essential for the organization's outreach and growth. HRÖ partnered with a developer based in Delhi to bring the website



to life. The development process was complex, as the team provided detailed requirements to ensure the website would meet the needs of the community.

The project faced several challenges, particularly in ensuring the website would be easy to manage by future committees with no technical expertise. Despite the difficulties, HRÖ persevered through multiple beta versions, thoroughly testing and refining each iteration. Although the process took longer than expected, the end result is a fully functional, accessible website that will serve as a valuable resource for Hindus across Austria.

Key Features and Achievements:

- 1. User-Friendly Content Management System (CMS):** A primary goal of the website was to ensure it would be easy for future HRÖ committees to manage without requiring technical expertise. To achieve this, the website was built on a user-friendly CMS that allows for seamless content updates, and member registration, empowering the organization to maintain the site with minimal technical knowledge.
- 2. Online Membership Form:** The website includes an online membership form that allows anyone living in Austria to join HRÖ digitally. This feature will streamline the registration process, making it easier for individuals to become members and support the organization's efforts to achieve *legally recognized religious society* status in Austria.
- 3. About Us Page:** provides an overview of HRÖ's mission, vision, and activities. It also honors the history of the organization by listing all past committee members, helping to highlight the dedication and growth of HRÖ over time.
- 4. FAQ Page:** To address common questions, the website features a comprehensive FAQ page. This page covers frequently asked questions about Hinduism and HRÖ, providing a helpful resource for visitors seeking to learn more about the organization and the religion.
- 5. Events Page:** This page lists upcoming events organized by HRÖ or its affiliated congregations, such as temples, mutts, and yoga centers. This section serves as a hub for the community to stay informed about religious, cultural, and social events taking place in Austria.



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6. **Festivals Page:** The website includes a page dedicated to Hindu festivals, providing articles and educational content about the significance of key Hindu festivals celebrated throughout the year. This section helps promote understanding and appreciation of Hindu cultural practices.
7. **Projects Page:** HRÖ is involved in various community-driven projects, and the website showcases these initiatives on the “Projects” page. This section provides visitors with insights into the organization’s ongoing efforts to support and promote Hindu religion in Austria.
8. **Blog Section for Community Engagement:** The website includes a blog section where members of the Hindu community can submit articles related to Hinduism and cultural practices. Once submitted, blogs are reviewed by a committee and, upon approval, are published on the website. This fosters an engaging platform for the community to share their thoughts, experiences, and insights on Hinduism related topics.
9. **Contact Page:** A clear and accessible contact page has been created, allowing anyone to easily reach out to HRÖ for inquiries or support. This ensures effective communication with members and the public.
10. **Space for Advertisements:** The HRÖ website includes designated space for advertisements, providing a valuable opportunity for businesses and individuals to promote their services or products. Through these advertisements, HRÖ generates additional sources of income, which will support the organization’s ongoing projects and activities.

Future Enhancements: While the website is fully functional, HRÖ acknowledges that there are additional features that could further improve the user experience. Future updates may include a member portal (where members can login and modify their personal details or submit a request for a religion certificate etc.), an online donation system, and other advanced features. HRÖ is committed to continuously improving the website to meet the evolving needs of the community.



Conclusion: The launch of the HRÖ website is a significant achievement for the Hindu community in Austria. It provides a central platform for Hindus to learn about the organization, register as members, and access valuable resources related to Hinduism. Despite the challenges faced during development, HRÖ is proud of the outcome and looks forward to the website's role in strengthening the community and promoting unity.

With the inclusion of features like the online membership form, blog section, and event listings, the website will undoubtedly become an essential tool for fostering connections and supporting the growth of HRÖ. Additionally, the integration of advertising space helps generate vital income to sustain the organization's ongoing initiatives. HRÖ is excited about the future and will continue to refine the website to better serve the needs of the community in Austria.

Social Media: Facebook, X and Telegram Group

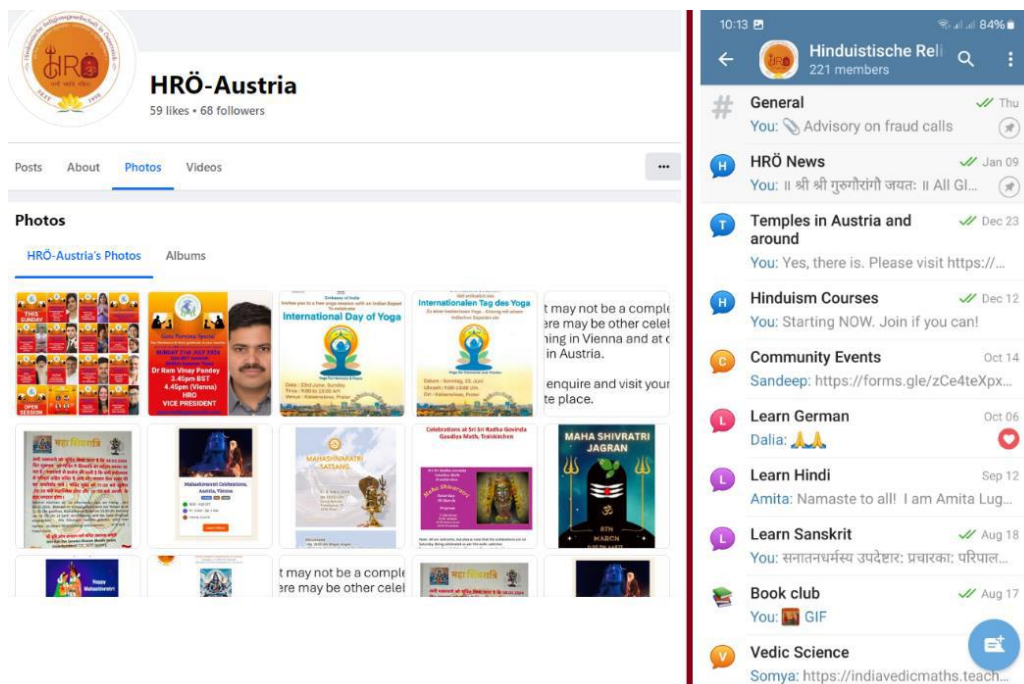


Figure 3: HRÖ's social media platforms

As part of an initiative to strengthen the Hindu community in Austria, a dedicated Facebook page has been launched to further connect and engage the Hindu community in Austria. This page serves as a central platform for sharing important updates, and event announcements. It aims to foster a sense of unity



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and provide easy access to relevant information for all Hindus living in Austria. Community members are encouraged to follow and participate in the page to stay informed and involved.

In addition to the Facebook page, a twitter (X) account and a dedicated Telegram group has been created to facilitate the seamless exchange of information among Hindus residing in the country. The Telegram group covers a wide range of topics, including General discussions, HRÖ news, information on temples in Austria and beyond, Hinduism courses, community events, language learning (Hindi, Sanskrit, German), and a Hinduism-related book club. This platform serves as a hub for cultural, religious, and social engagement. All Hindus living in Austria are encouraged to join and contribute to this growing community.

Follow on Facebook: <https://facebook.com/HROeAustria/>

Twitter (X): @HROeAustria

Link to join the Telegram group: <https://t.me/+APayVbnhhG9iMGI8>



Assembly of Congregations

According to HRÖ's constitution §7, the Executive Committee (EC) is required to hold quarterly assemblies of congregations. These assemblies serve as a vital part of HRÖ's operations, and the current [list](#) of all affiliated congregations is listed on HRÖ's website for reference.

This year, two assemblies were held, with most participating congregations based in Vienna. The main purpose of these meetings was to provide updates on HRÖ's achievements and discuss key points outlined in the HRÖ constitution, specifically §3.2 and §3.6.

Details of the First Assembly Meeting

Date: 8th June 2024.

Location: Afro-Asiatische Institut, Türkenstraße 3, 1090 Vienna.

Attendees: Chairpersons or Reps of HRÖ-affiliated congregations.

Agenda:

- Updates on HRÖ's activities and accomplishments.
- Discussions on collaboration and alignment with constitutional goals.

The meeting was both informative and successful, with participants agreeing on the importance of holding these assemblies regularly.



Figure 4: 1st. Congregations Meeting

The Executive Committee (EC) made additional efforts to connect with congregations that were unable to attend the first meeting. They visited these



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congregations in person to provide updates and maintain ongoing communication.

Details of the Second Assembly Meeting

Date: 16th November 2024.

Agenda:

Discussions on points outlined in §3.2 and §3.6 of the HRÖ constitution.

This meeting was constructive and highly productive, with active participation from four congregation representatives. The attendees engaged in discussions and brainstorming to find common ground on discussion points.

As part of the process, the congregations were given a few weeks to discuss these points within their own executive committees and report their decisions back to HRÖ. An agreement reached during the meeting was to hold future meetings at the Congregations' facilities.



Figure 5: 2nd. Congregations Meeting



Advancing Efforts for HRÖ's Full Legal Recognition

Established a Representative Group

With the mission to make HRÖ an organization of every Hindu living in Austria irrespective of their demography, HRÖ executive committee (EC) has taken a decision to constitute a group of representatives. EC strongly believes that representatives could play an essential role in strengthening and expanding the HRÖ. This is an informal body, as the HRÖ constitution doesn't currently provide a legal basis for its establishment. During the next general assembly, the EC team intends to propose amendments to the constitution to formalize this body.

Representatives' role

Representatives play a crucial role by acting as intermediaries among their respective groups or communities and ensuring effective communication, decision-making, and alignment with HRÖ goals. They play an essential role in channeling feedback and information among their respective groups and HRÖ. Representatives help to ensure that HRÖ's agenda and policies are communicated clearly and followed by their group. The goal of HRÖ representative group is to extend its outreach to the whole Hindu Community residing in Austria.

Demographic representation

To ensure comprehensive and inclusive representation of Hindus, the HRÖ has been actively working to include representatives from all nine federal states of Austria. Beyond geographical representation, the HRÖ is striving to encompass the diverse Hindu community by including members from various regions and countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Representatives meeting

HRÖ organizes representatives' meetings on the first Tuesday of every month from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM. These meetings serve as a platform for discussions, strategic planning, and fostering collaboration among representatives.

As of now, HRÖ has successfully conducted eight representatives' meetings, seven of which were held virtually, and one was conducted in person. The in-



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person meeting was a significant milestone, providing a valuable opportunity for representatives and HRÖ Executive Committee (EC) members to interact on a more personal level.



Figure 6: Reps Meeting in Donau Park, Vienna on 11.05.2024

The meeting was attended by all HRÖ EC members and approximately 10-12 representatives. It fostered a deeper connection among participants and allowed for more dynamic discussions.

Communication with representatives

To ensure effective and timely communication, HRÖ has created a dedicated WhatsApp group where representatives and HRÖ Executive Committee (EC) members can actively exchange information, ideas, and agendas. This platform allows for seamless communication and collaboration, fostering a sense of unity and transparency among the members.

Introduction with Kultusamt

The Kultusamt - Office of Religious Affairs, acts as a bridge between the state and religious communities. It serves as the top authority overseeing state laws and regulations related to the public activities of churches, religious groups, or denominations. Religious laws help organize these communities in a way that ensures they have official points of contact and the necessary conditions to practice their faith.



Its responsibilities include managing current issues and handling legal processes, such as recognizing a group as a church or religious society (which grants them the status of a public corporation) or approving applications for legal recognition as a religious community.

Meet and Greet with Kultusamt



Figure 7: HRÖ meets Kultusamt authorities

After the elections and the official registration of HRÖ's executive committee in the records, its contact at the Kultusamt proposed a meet-and-greet at her office in the Bundeskanzleramt. We were pleased to accept the invitation, and the meeting took place on March 26, 2024.

The Kultusamt team was represented by Mag. Welzig (Head of Kultusamt), Dr. Leitner (Deputy Head), and Ms. Kumar (our point of contact). After a brief round of introductions, the Kultusamt team shared an overview of HRÖ's history over the years, including the challenges it has faced and the struggles that led to its dissolution.

They clarified that saying HRÖ is "not recognized" is incorrect. HRÖ is a "state-registered denominational community," which allows us the freedom to practice our religion. However, to advance to the status of a "legally recognized religious community," certain legal requirements must be fulfilled, such as the organizational structure.

Drawing on their experience with other religious communities, the Kultusamt advised us to review and update our constitution to address outdated points and make it more sustainable.



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In summary, the meeting was an excellent opportunity for committee to meet the Kultusamt team in person, gain clarity on the different levels of recognition, understand their role in supporting religious communities, and receive valuable feedback on HRÖ's current standing and areas for improvement.

Attended Kultusamt's 175th Anniversary

In September 2024, HRÖ participated in the 175th-anniversary celebration of the Kultusamt, marking the inauguration of its new office in Taubstummengasse. The exclusive invitation was extended only to the leaders of religious communities and societies. The event was attended by approximately 40 guests, including representatives from diverse religious communities and societies, members of the media, and the esteemed Federal Minister for Culture, Dr. Susanne Raab, as the special guest.



[bundeskanzleramt.gv.at](https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at)



Figure 8: 175th Commemorative publishing event



HRÖ Joins Interreligious Council - Graz

In February 2023, HRÖ was contacted by the project leader of ComUnitySpirit, a program run by the Afro-Asian Institute Graz in collaboration with the Interreligious Council of the City of Graz. HRÖ was invited to participate in the council's upcoming meeting on February 29, 2024, alongside other legally recognized religious associations and state-registered communities. Recognizing this as an opportunity to represent HRÖ at the city/state level and engage with Hindus in Graz and Steiermark, HRÖ accepted the invitation.

The First Meeting - February 29, 2024

The meeting took place in the City Senate Hall of Graz's Rathaus, chaired by the Mayor of Graz, Ms. Elke Kahr. HRÖ was represented by Mr. Sandeep Khanna, who introduced HRÖ to the council, shared its objectives, and explained how it plans to achieve them. The council members warmly welcomed HRÖ and appreciated the effort made to travel from Vienna for the two-hour meeting. While expressing gratitude, HRÖ also informed them of its intention to find a local representative in Graz soon.

Contribution to "Tag der Religionen"

In mid-May, the council members were asked to propose a saying related to the theme "Live in liberty and solidarity". The chosen sayings were to be printed on a shawl as part of a symbolic act and tied to a tree to be planted "Tag der Religionen" day, on September 22, 2024.

HRÖ contributed the Sanskrit saying "वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्" (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam), which appears in the Hindu text Maha Upanishad, and is also a part of HRÖ's logo. It translates to "The world is one family" or "One Earth, One Family". This saying was well received by the council as both meaningful and relevant for the event.

Subsequent Meetings and Activities

HRÖ also attended the next council meeting on May 27, 2024, in the media center of Graz Rathaus. Topics discussed included:

- The "Tea and Talk" event.
- The "Interreligious Football Tournament."



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- Finalizing the Sujet_Life design for the Tag der Religionen.

While HRÖ could not actively participate in or contribute to these events due to the absence of an organizational presence in Graz, it successfully established contacts with Hindus in the region who started serving as representatives for HRÖ later.

The meeting concluded with the official photo session with the Mayor Ms. Kahr. The next council meeting was scheduled for 14 Jan 2025 which was attended by our Representative Ms. Kalyani Gudiminche, based in Graz.



Figure 9: Graz Interreligious Council Members

Copyright (Stadt Graz/Fischer)

Impact of Membership

Joining the Interreligious Council in Graz allowed HRÖ to expand its presence beyond Vienna. HRÖ contributed to religion-based decisions in Graz, built a social network with leaders from other communities, and represented Hinduism and the Hindu community in Graz and Steiermark.



HRÖ joins Vienna Religions Council

After joining the Interreligious Council of Graz, HRÖ received an invitation from the Office of the Viennese Mayor to attend a meeting of the Religious Council on June 20, 2024. This invitation was a great opportunity for HRÖ to represent itself amongst other religious organizations in the Capital city. The meeting was held on July 2, 2024 in the City Senate Hall at Townhall Vienna.

The Meeting

The session was chaired by the Mayor of Vienna, Dr. Michael Ludwig, and attended by representatives of various legally recognized religious societies and state-registered communities. HRÖ was represented by Mr. Sandeep Khanna and Dr. Deepti Garg. Being the new committee's first-ever participation in Vienna's Religious Council, the organization was warmly welcomed by all participants.

The council addressed a variety of ongoing and new topics:

Independent Church Representation: The council discussed whether independent churches should have individual representation or be collectively represented by one delegate.

Partial Blackout Drill (Lichtinseln): A drill conducted in Fall 2023 aimed at housing people during power outages. HRÖ did not participate due to the lack of suitable space.

Religious Education for Children: The council emphasized that all children should have access to classes in their own religion. Discussions also touched on creating equality in religion, including gender equality, advocating that women should have the same rights as men. HRÖ inquired about who determines the curriculum for religious studies and was informed that it is centrally controlled. HRÖ recommended adding a common module across all religions to teach ethics and democratic values.

Media Representation of Religion: Concerns were raised about how religion is often portrayed negatively in the media. HRÖ suggested that individual organizations should contribute to improving public perceptions so the media



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can also highlight positive aspects. The meeting concluded with the official group Photo session.

Impact of HRÖ's Participation

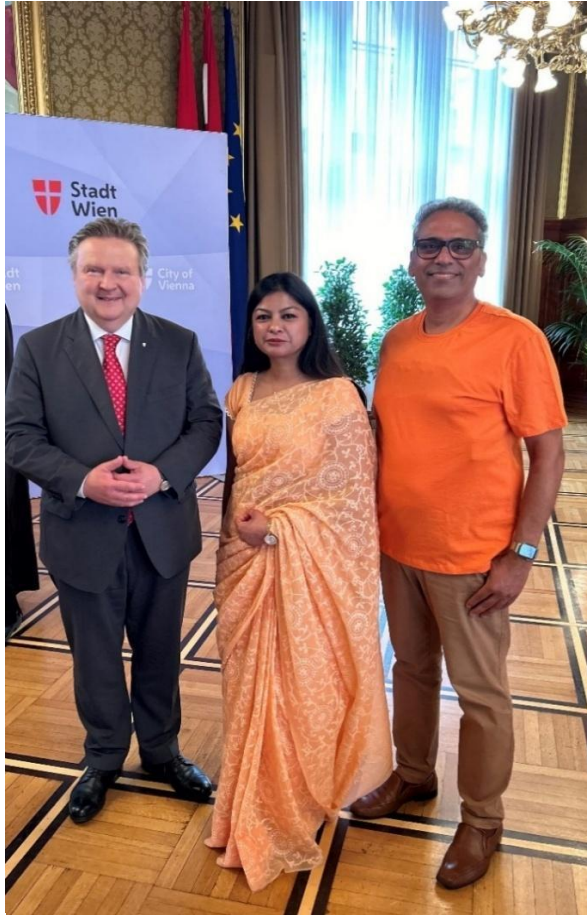


Figure 10: HRÖ meets Vienna Mayor Dr. Michael Ludwig

By joining Vienna's Religious Council, HRÖ achieved several milestones:

- Securing a seat in Vienna's influential religious discussions.
- Actively participating in debates and contributing to decision-making on religion-based issues.
- Strengthening social networks with leaders of other religious communities.
- Representing Hinduism and the Hindu community in Vienna.

HRÖ successfully established these connections thanks to its prior efforts in building a strong online presence by:

- Launching its official website (www.hroe.at), providing comprehensive information about the organization.
- Publishing its official email address (office@hroe.at) to enable direct communication.
- Ensuring that HRÖ's contact details were updated on key government platforms, such as the Bundeskanzleramt and Österreich.gv.at, making it accessible to government offices, organizations, and institutes.

These initiatives played a crucial role in making HRÖ reachable, establishing its credibility, and meeting objectives listed in its manifesto.



Building Religious Network

As HRÖ expands into various Hindu congregations, its duty and responsibilities are to maintain strong relationships with congregation members and Hindu communities across Austria. Over the past year, the HRÖ executive committee has worked diligently to rejuvenate connections with existing congregation members and establish new relationships with emerging congregations and Hindu communities that were encountered over time.

During this process, the executive committee recognized that a lack of communication in recent years had literally led to non-cooperation between HRÖ and the congregations. To address this gap, specific measures were taken to rebuild trust and strengthen relationships. One of these initiatives was to attend individual congregational events whenever possible. By doing so, the EC was able to introduce itself to the respective committee members and the devotees personally.

The congregations warmly welcomed the HRÖ team, treated them with respect, and listened to them attentively. This interaction marked an important step towards fostering mutual understanding and cooperation.

HRÖ Participates in Member Congregation Events

Hindu Mandir Association (HMA)

Since HRÖ is officially registered at Lammgasse 1, the HMA serves as its home. The executive committee members regularly visit the temple, not only to represent HRÖ but also to actively participate in the poojas and other religious activities.



Figure 11: Hindu Mandir, Lammgasse 1



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Brahma Kumaris (BK)



Figure 12: EC team with Mr. Gitesh from Braham Kumaris

Last year, the Brahma Kumaris community invited the HRÖ team to celebrate the Rakhi festival with *Behan* Maureen Goodman, who traveled all the way from the UK. It was a wonderful experience to participate in the event, engage in meditation, and tie *Rakhis*.

ISKCON Tempel



Figure 13. ISKCON Tempel visit for Janmashtami celebrations in 2023



After learning from Mr. Abhinav, a devotee of the ISKCON temple, that their president wished to meet the HRÖ team, few executive committee members of HRÖ visited the temple during the Janmashtami celebrations and had a brief introduction with the president.

Shiva Tempel Vienna



Figure 14: HRÖ Team meets Swami ji and Umapuri ji in 2023

The HRÖ team visited Shiva Mandir in Vienna's 3rd district on the occasion of Bhadrapada Krishna Pratipada. The team joined devotees in Satsang and participated in various religious activities.

The team was fortunate to meet Swamiji's at the temple on this special day and receive his blessings. Furthermore, the team met Swami Umapuri Ji and her associates and expressed its heartfelt gratitude for their continuous support.

Visit to Hindu Communities

Alongside the ongoing membership drive, HRÖ has also worked hard to expand its reach by connecting with congregation members and reaching out to new groups. Throughout the year, Executive Members attended various Hindu events like Pujas, Satsangs, Kirtans, and festival celebrations organized by different communities.



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HRÖ reached out to Hindu communities that are not yet members, met their spiritual leaders or representatives, and introduced them to HRÖ's purpose and goals. These communities were happy to learn about HRÖ's work and appreciated its efforts to promote Hinduism in Austria. Some communities are considering registering as legal entities with the Vereinspolizei and may join HRÖ in the future.

BAPS



Figure 15: HRÖ meets Pujya Manharmurtidas Swami and Pujya Nirgunpurushdas Swami

In July 2024, the HRÖ team was invited by Mr. Rushin Thacker, the BAPS coordinator for Austria, to meet with two visiting Swamis in Vienna during the Guru Purnima and Satsang events. During the three-hour meeting, Sandeep Khanna and Dr. Ram Vinay Pandey presented the purpose and objectives of HRÖ, highlighting the benefits of BAPS joining the organization. They also explored opportunities for collaboration to achieve shared goals.

Vienna Tamil Sangam

HRÖ is especially grateful to the Vienna Tamil Sangam for extending its invitations for Diwali celebrations on 12 Oct 2024. It was wonderful to see how effectively they are preserving their culture and traditions in Austria. The EC members were honored and given some stage time to speak about HRÖ as an association.



Figure 16: Brief HRÖ intro to Vienna Tamil Sangam



Maharastrian Mandal Austria



Figure 17: Alter decorated by MMA

HRÖ is deeply grateful to Maharastrian Mandal Austria for its invite to attend the annual Ganesh Pooja held on September 14th in Vienna. The altar was thoughtfully prepared and beautifully decorated. Most participants wore traditional attire, and the event was primarily conducted in Marathi. The program included Ganesh Poojan, Aarti, followed by bhajan singing and classical dance performances. It was a wonderful experience to witness how such an event was organized with great care and discipline. HRÖ was also allotted a time slot to introduce the organization and its purpose.



Figure 18: HMA and HRÖ reps addressing MMA



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HRÖ meets Indian Ambassador to Austria



Figure 19: HRÖ Team with His Excellency Sh. Shambhu S. Kumaran

The HRÖ team met with Indian Ambassador - HE Shri Shambhu S. Kumaran, and the ASO (Culture), Ms. Bhawna Satti, to introduce and explain the organization.

The Ambassador warmly received the discussion, came up with a few ideas and informed EC about the areas where the embassy could provide some support. HRÖ

intends to maintain this engagement and actively seek the support of the embassy, where possible.

Durga Puja Events

The *Durga Puja* event in Vienna, Austria, was celebrated starting from October 9th, 2024, with *Shashti*, *Saptami*, *Ashtami*, *Navami*, and concluding with *Vijaydashami* on October 13, 2024. The blessings of ***Maa Durga*** were sought throughout the celebrations.

HRÖ received an invitation from organizers and seizing this opportunity, HRÖ team members attended the Puja to introduce HRÖ with a larger Hindu community, including the Hindu Bangladeshi Group, Austria.



Figure 20: HRÖ at Bangali Austrian Hindu Cultural Association (BHO KV)



Figure 21: HRÖ with Bangali Hindu Cultural Association



Figure 22: HRÖ at Sanatan Dharam Mandir



Figure 23: Durga Puja at Hindu Mandir Association

EC members' participation allowed them to receive blessings and a chance to present HRÖ to a wider Hindu audience in Vienna. They engaged with members and devotees, shared HRÖ's mission, and sought support. A key focus was encouraging Hindus to register for membership on the HRÖ website.

Kriya Yoga Zentrum



Figure 24: Kriya Yoga Zentrum in A-2523 Tattendorf, Austria

The Kriya Yoga Centre in Tattendorf, approximately 46 km from Vienna, stands out as a tranquil location perfectly suited for a yoga and spiritual retreat.



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In early September 2024, from the 4th to the 6th, the Kriya Yoga Centre celebrated its Ashram Foundation Day, marked by the presence of the esteemed Paramahansa Prajnananandaji. As a world-renowned Kriya Yoga master, Paramahansa Prajnananandaji imparts teachings on Kriya Yoga, spiritual living, and profound interpretations of Vedanta and sacred texts like the Bhagavad Gita.



Figure 25: The Executive Committee of HRÖ visited Kriya Yoga Zentrum in A-2523 Tattendorf, Austria, on 3rd August 2024.

On 3rd August 2024, HRÖ team members visited the yoga center and had a productive discussion with Swami Sankalpanda Ji reflected a shared enthusiasm for potential collaboration, particularly in supporting the efforts to achieve legally recognized religious society status to HRÖ. The team has also expressed great enthusiasm about the possibility of the Kriya Yoga Zentrum becoming an affiliate congregation member of HRÖ in the near future.

Bhaktimarg's Darshan Event

On March 2nd, 2024, devotees and spiritual seekers in Telfs, Tyrol, Austria, had the unique opportunity to experience the divine grace and blessings of Gurudev shri Paramahansa Vishwananda during a special Darshan event. Paramahansa



Vishwananda ji, a renowned spiritual leader and founder of Bhakti Marga (<https://www.bhaktimarga.org/>), travels the world offering darshan.

During his darshan a personal blessing is given through his loving gaze, which is a moment of deep connection and spiritual transformation. His teachings emphasize Bhakti (devotion) as a path to realizing the Divine within oneself and in all creation. He encourages people to cultivate unconditional love for God and to live their lives in service and compassion toward others.

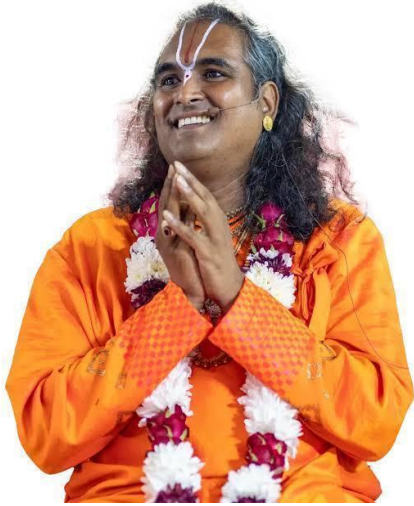


Figure 26: Paramahansa Sri Swami Vishwananda ji

HRÖ received the invitation by the organizers to attend this event and HRÖ saw this opportunity to introduce itself with a larger Hindu community in Austria. There were more than 2200 registered devotees from across Austria, Germany, Hungary, Czech Republic, Italy and other EU states who attended the event.



Figure 27: HRÖ introducing to Swami Vishwananda ji

The HRÖ was represented in this event by two executive committee (EC) members, President Mr. Sandeep Khanna and Vice-President Dr. Ram Vinay Pandey. They gave a presentation to pitch their Agenda towards the Hinduism and Hindus living in Austria. The message was loud and clear that HRÖ is for all Hindus living in Austria irrespective of their demography. EC members also discussed HRÖ's mission with him and sought out his guidance and support. During the short meeting it was acknowledged that it is in our mutual interest if HRÖ and Bhakti Marga work together for Hinduism and Sanathan dharma.



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Teaching Hinduism

One of the primary goals of HRÖ is to encourage and support educational classes focused on Sanatan Dharma and its values. In the pursuit of achieving this aim, with the support of Dr. Satyendra Tomar, Dr. Sandip Banker, Ms. Darshana Banker, and Mrs. Seetha Medavarapu, HRÖ commenced two Bhagavad Gita discourses and one Sanskrit Shlokas class.

This initiative serves as an enriching opportunity to explore the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita and its relevance in modern life and derive the benefits of learning Slokas at an early age.

The two Bhagavad Gita discourses and the Slokas class are conducted by Dr. Satyendra Tomar, Mr&Mrs. Banker, and Mrs. Seetha Medavarapu respectively. Over the past 12 months, the classes have been running consistently, offering insightful teachings about Hinduism. Individuals who are interested are warmly invited to join.

Current Classes:

Class 1: Bhagavad Geeta Discourse I:

Dr. Satyendra Tomar is an alumnus of the IIT Kanpur (PhD 2002; Mathematics and Scientific-/super Computing) and has been living in Europe since 2001. For more than 6 years he has been devoting a considerable amount of his time towards important issues such as Sanatan life, learning scriptures, inspiring people/students to enhance their knowledge.

In these Hindi Bhagavad Gita discourses, one also gets the opportunity to ask Dr. Tomar at the end of every class about our queries about any of the shlokas. Once a month a question-and-answer session is held where the participants and students get the answers to all their questions about what they learned throughout the month as well about the learnings of the shlokas.

Session Details:

Format: In each class Dr. Tomar reads out some shlokas and then he tells their interpretations as well as how these teachings could be adapted in day-to-day life with interesting and meaningful examples and stories from our spiritual



books and Vedas. In addition to learning about the shlokas, meditation is also being practiced in these classes.

Audience: Open to individuals aged 12 and above, with ~20 participants attending from Austria, India, Italy - depending on their availability.

Timings: Every Sunday at 11:00 hrs.

Duration: 60 minutes per session.

Language: Hindi

Meeting link: Please contact (sms/whatsapp) +43 650 7276982 for the link.

Class 2: Bhagavad Geeta Discourse II:

Under the dedicated efforts of Dr. Sandip Bankar, and Mrs. Darshana Sandip Bankar, a weekly English discourse on the Bhagavad Gita has been running successfully since January 2024. Residing in Innsbruck, the Bankars have been ardent followers of the Bhagavad Gita for over 15 years, guided spiritually by ISKCON.

Mrs. Darshana Sandip Bankar, a graduate of the Bhakti Shastri course—which encompasses an in-depth study of the **Bhagavad Gita As It Is**—has been conducting Bhagavad Gita sessions for children in Innsbruck. The couple now extends their teachings to a broader audience.

Session Details:

Format: Participants read the Shlokas, followed by discussions on their meanings and significance. Queries are addressed comprehensively to ensure participants grasp the profound essence of the text.

Audience: Open to individuals aged 12 and above, with ~22 registered participants attending depending on their availability.

Timings: Every Thursday at 20:00 hrs.

Duration: 30 minutes per session.

Language: English.

Meeting Link: [Join Here](#)

Class 3: Sanskrit Shalokas (Verses) Learning Program

As part of its Hinduism teaching programs, with big support from Mrs. Seetha Medavarapu, HRÖ started a level-0 Sanskrit Slokas Learning program for small children. The importance of kids learning slokas (Sanskrit verses) at an early age was well studied by various research groups and the benefits extend beyond religious or cultural practices. It was found out through MRI scans that multiple

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regions in the brains of Vedic pandits who practice slokas as part of their daily life were remarkably larger, indicating enhanced cognitive functions and strong long and short-term memories.

As per Mrs. Medavarapu the following are the benefits of learning and practicing Slokas from an early age:

- Learning slokas helps children maintain a strong bond with their Indian heritage.
- It instills pride in their cultural roots and provides a sense of identity, especially when living in a multicultural society.
- Chanting slokas introduces children to Sanskrit, one of the world's most ancient and structured languages.
- It enhances their articulation, diction, and pronunciation, which can also positively influence their command over other languages.
- Memorizing slokas improves memory, focus, and concentration. Many slokas convey profound moral lessons and philosophical insights.
- The rhythmic patterns and structured verses stimulate cognitive skills, making it easier for children to learn and retain information in other areas.
- Reciting them at a young age helps children internalize values like compassion, discipline, humility, and respect for others.
- Chanting slokas is known to have a calming effect on the mind, reducing stress and anxiety.
- It fosters emotional resilience and instills a sense of peace and positivity.
- Learning slokas often involves guidance from parents or elders, creating opportunities for quality time and strengthening family bonds.
- It allows the transmission of traditional wisdom across generations.
- Understanding and practicing slokas can help children participate in Indian cultural and religious events, fostering a sense of belonging within the NRI community.
- Slokas often form the basis of meditation and spiritual practices. Learning them early lays a foundation for deeper spiritual exploration later in life.

For the course, Mrs. Medavarapu started with simple and meaningful slokas that are easy to understand and recite. She explained their meaning to enhance

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curiosity and engagement. Mrs. Medavarapu used creative methods like storytelling and group activities to make the process enjoyable.

Teaching slokas to children is more than just preserving a tradition. It equips them with tools for personal growth, emotional stability, and all-round development.

Format: Online through whatsapp video call.

Audience: Open to all, but currently only children of age <15 are attending

Timings: Every Sunday at 11:00 hrs.

Duration: 45 minutes per session.

Language: English.

Please get in touch with Mrs. Medavarapu (+436507664577) directly to join the class.

Introducing Hinduism to School Children

Sometimes, HRÖ gets requests from public schools about introducing Hinduism to their students. When requested, HRÖ works with HMA to arrange visits of school children to the Hindu Mandir in Lammgasse 1. Working in close collaboration with HMS, HRÖ also organizes an instructor who then explains to the children about Hinduism.



Figure 28: School Children visit Tempel

The instructors also explain the importance of nature in Hinduism, highlighting how it teaches respect for the environment and reverence for trees, plants, rivers, mountains, and animals. After learning about Hinduism and experiencing

its vibrant culture, the children leave happy and informed. Occasionally, those who attend recommend the visit to other classes or schools.

Making Ganesh Idols in Vienna

Ganesh Chaturthi, or Vinayaka Chaturthi, is a Hindu festival celebrated on the anniversary of the day when Ganesha was revived in his new elephant-headed form. Every year, it is celebrated as a 10-day festival. The celebrations start by installing the Ganesha idol made of clay and decorating it beautifully with flowers and lights.

Many Indians bring idols from India or purchase them locally, but not everyone can access one. To help the community, during Ganesh Chaturthi 2024, **Mrs. Sravanakeerthi Yadla and Mr. Dharani Kesav Putta** crafted idols in Vienna, providing them for a nominal €5 fee and donating the proceeds to HRÖ.



HRÖ highly appreciates and deeply thanks Mrs. Sravanakeerthi Yadla and Mr. Dharani Kesav Putta for their service.

Figure 29: Ganesha idols made by Mrs. Sravanakeerthi Yadla and her husband Mr. Dharani Kesav Putta



Cooperation at International Level

Hindu Forum for Europe (HFE)

The HRÖ is proud to be a member of the Hindu Forum of Europe (HFE) and actively collaborates with it on various international initiatives. At the request of the HFE, the HRÖ recently contributed to an international Guru Purnima event hosted by the "Healing Our Earth" platform. This participation highlights HRÖ's commitment to fostering global connections and promoting Hindu spiritual traditions on an international stage. Further details are in a separate article.

Guru Purnima Special Event

The “[Healing Our Earth](#)” organization in co-operation with The [Hindu Forum of Europe](#) had organized a virtual event to celebrate the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima on 21 July 2024.

On this occasion, Healing Our earth provided an opportunity to honor the wisdom, guidance, and spiritual significance of the guru. This event was a sacred opportunity for participants across the globe to express their gratitude and receive blessings while being part of a community dedicated to healing, spiritual growth, and transformation. The spiritual leaders, yoga gurus and religious leaders across the globe participated and enlightened the audience about the tradition and importance of Guru Purnima in our Sanatana dharma.



Figure 30: Speakers at Guru Purnima occasion



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HRÖ had received an invitation by The Hindu Forum of Europe (HFE) to not only attend this event but also actively participate. HRÖ saw this as an opportunity to introduce HRÖ on yet another international platform to showcase our dedication and commitment to adhering to our Sanatana dharma values as an organization. There were 13 distinguished speakers including spiritual leaders, yoga teachers and motivational speakers on Hinduism and the importance of the occasion of Guru Purnima in our life.

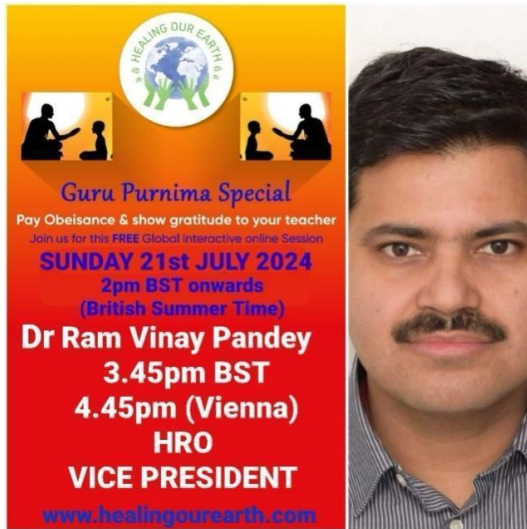


Figure 31: Dr. Ram Vinay Pandey represented HRÖ during Guru Purnima Special event

On behalf of HRÖ, the Vice-President Dr. Ram Vinay Pandey has participated and presented the organization. He spoke about the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima, a day honoring gurus and teachers. During his speech he cited a few relevant slokas and stories from our Vedas and Puranas to highlight the importance of Guru Purnima. He also highlighted the activities of HRÖ in Austria to facilitate especially the next generation to learn about the importance of gurus in their life.

He also emphasized about the ongoing efforts of HRÖ in Austria such as:

- Organizing Shrimad Bhagavad Gita discourses and slokas classes, especially for children.
- By different means encourage Hindus especially the children so that they can learn about our Vedas, Purana and get enlightened throughout their life and learn how to manage the ups and down during their life.
- Working to celebrate our diverse cultures in Austria which also teaches our children about our culture, traditions, and pooja Vidhi.

HWPL

Through its association with the Hindu Mandir Association, the HRÖ was introduced to HWPL (Heavenly Culture, World Peace, and Restoration of Light), an international peace organization. HWPL is renowned for organizing and



conducting interfaith dialogues, bringing together religious leaders from various faiths to share perspectives and promote harmony. The organization also provides a platform for religious leaders to speak about their faiths, fostering understanding and mutual respect.



Figure 32: Meeting with HWPL reps in Lammgasse1 in 2023

The HRÖ has actively engaged with HWPL by contributing to one of their virtual interfaith dialogues. Additionally, HRÖ representatives attended several of HWPL's events as listeners, reinforcing their commitment to interfaith collaboration and global peace-building efforts.

Campus der Religionen

HRÖ seized every opportunity to introduce the new executive committee to the



Campus der Religionen team and ensured their [homepage](#) data related to HRÖ was accurate and up-to-date. Additionally, HRÖ participated in the Lichter der Frieden event which was organized by Campus der Religionen in the Seestadt.

Figure 33: Lichter der Frieden Event



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Financial Summary

The HRÖ has successfully raised funds through generous donations and contributions from its executive members. Presented below is an unaudited summary of the financial transactions during the reported period.

Income Overview

- Amount received from the previous HRÖ committee: €1,179.00
- Contributions (donations) from HRÖ's new executive committee members and HMA committee members: €1,005.00
- Donations from the congregations, well-wishers and interest: €702.01
- Donation from Mr. Ram Vinay Panday for website development: €366.00
- Earnings from advertisements: €800,00
- Loan to HRÖ by an executive committee member: €880,00

Total collection: €4,932.01

Expenditure Overview

- Lawyer fee for conducting HRÖ elections in August 2023: €2303,21
- Website development: €366,00
- Bank charges (monthly fee + transfer charges etc): €315,45
- Hall rent for congregations' meetings: 110,00
- Website annual domain fees and hosting charges: €86,66
- Administration expenses (logo design, HRÖ stamp/seal, business cards, Stationary, Reps meeting arrangements etc): €376,91

Total Expenditure: €3,558.23

Current Balance

- Net balance: €1373,78 (Included loan amount of: €880.00)

Appeal for Financial Support

The Hindu Religious Organization (HRÖ), despite minimal inflows, has effectively managed its resources to successfully carry out its activities and uphold its mission. However, till a steady source of income is established, the dependency



on donations is very high to maintain the HRÖ's initiatives. Hence HRÖ requests all Hindus to donate generously.

Your generous donations will strengthen the long-term growth and stability of HRÖ thereby preserving the Hindu cultural values and helping the Hindu diaspora in maintaining their traditions.

How You Can Contribute

Your support is invaluable. Together, we can ensure the continued success and growth of HRÖ as a cornerstone of the Hindu community in Austria. Please use the following bank details to make your donation/contributions:

Account Name: Hinduistische Religionsgesellschaft in Österreich

IBAN: AT21 1200 0100 4116 6934

BIC: BKAUATWWXXX

Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all donors, members, and supporters who have contributed to HRÖ's mission. Your continued support ensures the preservation of our cultural and religious values while strengthening the Hindu community in Austria.



Hinduistische Religionsgesellschaft in Österreich (HRÖ)

Hindu Religion Organization in Austria (HRA)

(Rechtspersönlichkeit von religiösen Bekenntnisgemeinschaften)

web: www.hroe.at Email: office@hroe.at

Key Tasks for the Year Ahead

The Hindu Religion Organisation (HRÖ) in Austria has made significant strides in its outreach initiatives, including regular congregational assembly meetings, online membership registration, and collaboration with religious bodies across different states. However, to ensure the smooth functioning and sustainable growth of the organisation, several crucial tasks must be addressed in the coming year.

1. Conducting the General Assembly Meeting

As per HRÖ's constitution, a General Assembly must be convened annually. This year, it is particularly important due to several pressing matters requiring collective discussion and decision-making. The meeting will serve as a platform to review progress, propose changes, and ensure that the organisation is aligned with its goals and responsibilities.

2. Introducing a Membership Fee

To sustain HRÖ's operations and further its mission, financial stability is essential. Membership fees can provide a reliable source of income to support ongoing initiatives, administrative costs, and future projects. The proposal to introduce a membership fee will be put forward during the General Assembly, where members will have the opportunity to deliberate and give their consent.

3. Amending the Membership Registration Process

The current membership registration process, as outlined in HRÖ's constitution, has proven to be impractical and has led to confusion both during member registration and elections. To streamline the process and avoid inconsistencies, specific clauses need to be amended. The General Assembly will address these concerns and work towards a more efficient and transparent registration system.

4. Implementing Governance Reforms

To enhance organisational efficiency and leadership renewal, it is necessary to introduce reforms, such as:



- Limiting the number of terms an office bearer can hold a position
- Defining the time period for each term.

These changes will ensure democratic governance and prevent stagnation in leadership roles. The General Assembly will discuss and vote on these structural reforms.

5. Expanding Hinduism Courses and Establishing HRÖ's Own Classes

HRÖ has been actively promoting Hindu educational initiatives, but there is a need to expand these efforts further. This includes:

- Extending the reach of existing Hinduism courses
- Launching HRÖ's own structured classes to educate members and the broader community about Hindu philosophy, traditions, and values By taking this step, HRÖ will strengthen its role as a key provider of Hindu religious education in Austria.



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Summary

Last year, HRÖ focused on establishing a foundation of standardized and structured procedures to enhance organizational efficiency and productivity. Each initiative undertaken by HRÖ increased awareness of its existence and solidified its recognition as a legitimate representative of the Hindu community in Austria.

HRÖ's active presence on social media and updated contact information on government platforms significantly boosted its visibility. This enabled various institutions, organizations, and associations to connect with HRÖ for contributions, such as joining the Interreligious Councils in Graz and Vienna, participating in the Multireligious Calendar 2025, attending events, and addressing queries related to Hinduism.

The Executive Committee (EC) made significant strides in rebuilding trust with Hindu congregations and communities. As a result, two Assemblies of Congregations were successfully conducted, yielding important outcomes, alongside active participation in over 30 religious events organized by Hindu communities.

To ensure future relevance, HRÖ maintained relationships with key stakeholders such as Kultusamt, the Indian Embassy, and other religious societies. The EC also expanded its network, collaborating with Hindu organizations across Europe and international interreligious organizations.

Promoting and teaching Hinduism remains a core priority for HRÖ. With the guidance of knowledgeable and respected Gurus, the organization facilitated spiritual classes for the Hindu community, fostering a deeper understanding of Hinduism's relevance in modern life.

HRO's final goal is to achieve legal recognition for Hinduism as a society in Austria. This ambitious objective requires a systematic approach, robust organizational structures, and active participation from every Hindu living in Austria. Therefore, it is essential for all Hindus to [register with HRÖ](#). While achieving this goal will take time, HRÖ is progressing in the right direction.



The upcoming year is critical for HRÖ as it focuses on these important tasks. Conducting the General Assembly in a timely manner will allow for the necessary discussions and approvals to move forward. With the introduction of a membership fee, amendments to the registration process, governance reforms, and the expansion of educational initiatives, HRÖ will continue to grow as a strong and well-organised institution representing Hinduism in Austria. The collective effort of members and leadership will be vital in achieving these goals.

HRÖ को पूर्ण कानूनी मान्यता प्राप्त करने का मार्ग बेशक बहुत कठिन है, लेकिन याद रखना हमारी मंजिल बहुत खूबसूरत होगी।

How to Contact HRÖ

Web: <https://hroe.at/>

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/HROeAustria>

Twitter (X): @HROeAustria

Telegram Group: <https://t.me/+APayVbnhhG9iMG18>

Email: office@hroe.at

