

**Request your input towards developing a common resource:**

**12th Hindu Mandir Executives' Conference**

**Session 8A: Developing a Common and Simplified Temple Resource**

**Saturday, September 16, 4:15 PM – 5:30 PM**

Sanatana dharma, the way of living practiced in ancient India, has provided the foundational principles, philosophies and practices for the emergence and evolution of Hinduism over the millenia. The essence of Sanatana dharma lies in the basic concept of duty (dharma) and is non-denominational meaning, every human being can practice it. During the evolution of Hinduism, in addition to the basic philosophies of Sanatana Dharma, many beliefs, rituals, symbols, services, and practices have been incorporated into it making it a vast resource which could easily cloud the underlying basic principles and philosophies that Hinduism was built on.

While many information resources are available throughout the world for explaining Hinduism and the beliefs and rituals, we feel that there is a need for a simple and informative booklet that lays down the foundational philosophy of Sanatana Dharma and how it has transformed over time and also provide the basis for the core beliefs, rituals, etc. The goal is to make this booklet available through our Temples to all devotees as well as those who are interested in learning about the 'roots' of Hinduism and its practices.

To this end, we are planning to have a Panel discussion (Session 8A; details above) the output of which will be used for the creation of a simple informational booklet enabling us to speak in one voice about Sanatana Dharma (generally known as Hinduism). We cordially invite you to participate in the session, listen to the discussion by experts and also share your input so that we can address all the key suggestions towards developing the booklet. Following are the tentative sections we are planning to have in the booklet:

1. Outline the principles and core belief system of Sanatana Dharma
2. Significance of Rituals, Rites, Symbols and Worship at the Temples and homes
3. Easily understandable guiding steps to Temple visitors
4. Q&A on the meaning behind the practices

Please provide your input on this sheet in the space below the respective questions and also for the open suggestion and hand it over to any Session 8A panel member during the session. If you cannot attend the session, please hand over your input to the registration/reception section where we will have a tray available for your input sheets. We thank you in advance for your input in developing this unique and valuable resource!

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1. In your view what foundational or guiding principles of Sanatana Dharma/ Hinduism are not generally known or understood and need to be emphasized in the booklet ?

