



Session 4

Hindu Mandir Empowerment Council
October 2 - 4, 2026 | Buena Park, California

Suresh Thekkot
Hindu Society of
Minnesota

Speaker Bio



Thekkot Suresh serves as the President of the **Hindu Society of Minnesota**, overseeing one of the largest Hindu temple campuses in North America, situated on 80 acres in Maple Grove, Minnesota. Under his leadership, the organization continues to promote Hindu religious, cultural, and educational activities while serving a diverse and growing community.

In addition to his current role, Suresh previously served as the President of **Kerala Hindus of Minnesota**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Hindu culture and traditions among the Kerala community in Minnesota.

Suresh is also a founding member of the **Kerala Cultural Forum of Minnesota**, a nonprofit organization established to celebrate and promote Kerala's rich cultural heritage, festivals, arts, and performing traditions.

Presentation Abstract



Today I will be speaking on a theme that is both ancient and urgently relevant — **Sustainability Rooted in Dharma**. In Hindu philosophy, sustainability is not a modern concept. It is woven into the very fabric of Dharma. Our scriptures remind us that nature is sacred — the earth as **Bhumi Devi**, the rivers as **Goddesses**, the Sun as **Surya Narayana**, and every living being as part of a divine ecosystem.

Sustainability Initiatives Rooted in Dharma

Hindu Society of Minnesota
President: Thekkot Suresh



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Sustainability Initiatives Rooted in Dharma

Dharma as the Foundation of Sustainability

- **Dharma principles** guide responsible living
- Nature is sacred: *Bhumi Devi, Surya, rivers, trees*
- Environmental care is an expression of **Seva**
- “Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah” — Protecting Dharma protects us



Sustainability Initiatives Rooted in Dharma

Why Sustainability Matters for HSMN

- Largest Hindu temple in North America
- High community footfall and energy usage
- Responsibility to lead by example
- Opportunity to model **eco-conscious religious practice**

Sustainability Initiatives Rooted in Dharma



Eco-Friendly Ganesh Initiative

- Clay idols with natural colors
- Fully biodegradable materials
- No chemicals, no plaster of Paris
- Aligns with **traditional Ganesh worship** and environmental ethic



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Eco-Friendly Visarjan at HSMN

- Controlled immersion on the pond situated on campus
- Zero pollution to natural water bodies
- Devotees experience a spiritually uplifting, responsible visarjan
- A model for temples across the U.S.

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Sustainability Initiatives Rooted in Dharma

Solar Panels at HSMN

- Harnessing Surya's energy
- Major reduction in electricity consumption
- Lower carbon footprint
- Long-term cost savings
- Demonstrates Dharma-aligned innovation

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Sustainability Initiatives Rooted in Dharma



Impact of Solar Energy

- Supports sustainable temple operations
- Reduces dependency on non-renewable sources
- Encourages community awareness
- Positions HSMN as a leader in green religious infrastructure

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Sustainability as Seva

- Every eco-friendly action is **Seva to the planet**
- Integrates devotion with responsibility
- Builds a culture of mindful celebration
- Inspires future generations

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TOMORROW

Sustainability Initiatives Rooted in Dharma



Broader Sustainability Vision

- **Eco-conscious festivals**
- **Responsible resource management**
- **Community education programs**
- **Volunteer engagement**
- **Youth leadership in green initiatives**

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Sustainability Initiatives Rooted in Dharma



Call to Collective Dharma

- Sustainability is Dharma in action
- Protecting nature protects our future
- HSMN will continue leading with responsibility and devotion
- Together, we uphold Dharma through environmental stewardship

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Thank You Hindu Society of Minnesota

Committed to Dharma, Community, and Sustainability

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