



श्री सनातन धर्म सभा – दक्षिण आफ्रिका

Shree Sanathan Dharma Sabha of South Africa

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Email : sanathan.sabha@gmail.com

Three-Year and six months Purohit Course-Year One 2026

INSTRUCTIONS: Please take note of the following:

1. Applications must be submitted electronically (**in PDF format only**) together with appropriate supporting documents (**copy qualifications, South African identity document or work permit/residence permit, and proof of payment**) to: Dhiraj.Gordhan@gmail.com. Applications submitted via WhatsApp or in JPEG format (photographs/screenshots) will not be considered.
2. Applications will be considered only if the applicant submits a signed copy of the code of conduct and initials each page of the code of conduct (attached).
3. Each applicant must submit a written undertaking that she/he will avail herself/himself to officiate as a Purohit upon completion of the three-year course.
4. Each applicant must sign a written undertaking declaring that she/he does not have a criminal record and that she/he has not engaged in any activity that may conflict with the SSDSSA code of conduct (see Pages 6 to 9) and which can/may bring the Hindu Priesthood and/or the SSDSSA into disrepute.
5. Each application must be accompanied by a completed questionnaire and a one- page (500-word) motivation stating why the applicant wants to become a purohit.
6. It will be an advantage if applicants present a referral from a religious/cultural organisation that they belong to.
7. All applicants **MUST** have access to email and the internet.
8. Closing date for applications is **31 January 2026**.
9. Applicants will be required to undergo and pass an oral assessment of their ability to read Hindi (Devanagari script) on **8 February 2026**. These will be conducted virtually. Admission to the oral assessment will be subject to meeting the ethical criteria as per the completed questionnaire (see 5 above).
10. Students **MUST** attend **all workshops**.
11. The total fee payable for the year is R850, made up of a non-refundable registration fee of R150 payable on application for registration and course fees of R700, payable on acceptance.
12. All payments must be made by **EFT**. An additional fee of R50 will be payable by

students for each direct deposit of cash. Payments must be made into the following account with your **name** followed by “**Fee**” as the reference:

- Bank: F N B
- Branch Name: Overport City
- Branch Code: 222 826
- Account Name: Shree Sanathan Dharma Sabha of S A
- Account Number: 5499 1159 632

13. Please note that **we do not accept cash** at the office.

14. For further information contact D H Gordhan on 082 706 1450 or Rishi Maharajh on 082 726 4229.



THREE-YEAR PUROHIT COURSE: APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION FORM 2026
Please print clearly.

Surname			
First Name/s			
Date of Birth		_ / _ / _	Gender
Nationality Tick appropriate block & indicate required numbers	South African	Other	
	* S A Identity no. Attach a copy	*Work/Residence Permit no. Attach a copy.	
Residential Address			
Postal Address			
Email Address (required)			
Telephone	Home Cell	()	
*Qualifications attach copies		X	Specify
Mark appropriate block with a X & specify where necessary.	Matric		
	Diploma/Degree		
	Post-Graduate		
*Highest Qualifications – Hindi Specify qualification & examining body	Qualification attach a copy	Examining Body	

*Submit application together with copies of all supporting documents & proof of payment by email to:
Dhiraj.Gordhan@gmail.com

Complete the questionnaire below.

1. Tell us about your background: family, occupation, interests.
2. How often do you attend Sathsang, and at which venue?
3. Have you read/listened to the Ramayan and Bhagavad Gita?
4. Are you a member of any religious organisation? If yes, what is your role in the organisation? Registered Member; Official (exec or board member)?

FOR OFFICE USE:

Application accepted/rejected.

Remarks:



CODE OF CONDUCT

Preamble

This code of conduct provides the basis for the professional and orderly conduct of purohits affiliated to the Purohit Mandal of the Shree Sanathan Dharma Sabha of South Africa (hereafter referred to as SSDSSA) and purohits undergoing training offered by the SSDSSA and in so doing provides an environment for the Sanathan community to benefit fully from the services and expertise of purohits/trainee purohits.

1. Aims of Code of Conduct

- 1.1 establish a disciplined and purposeful environment which facilitates effective and professional service to the community;
- 1.2 set the highest standards of moral behaviour;
- 1.3 promote self-discipline and leadership;
- 1.4 develop a culture of mutual respect;
- 1.5 establish a fair and just process for handling of complaints and disputes.

2. General Ethics

The Purohit/trainee purohit must:

- 2.1 possess the highest moral values and must display exemplary behaviour;
- 2.2 be sensitive to the legitimate and reasonable needs of the general community and to those of the followers of Sanathan Dharma;
- 2.3 be empathetic and caring;
- 2.4 provide excellent purohit service to the community;
- 2.5 place reasonable community needs above self-interest;
- 2.6 be polite and courteous;
- 2.7 practice the teachings of the Bhagvad Gita and other scriptures of Sanathan Dharma – this includes, but is not limited to, being compassionate, truthful, honest, humble and practicing ahimsa;
- 2.8 contribute actively to developing unity among purohits of the Sanathan Dharma Sabha of South Africa;
- 2.9 actively promote Sanathan Dharma and the practices authorised by Sanathan Dharma scriptures;
- 2.10 be of sober habits – this includes not taking intoxicants, and not taking alcohol and tobacco/cigarettes;
- 2.11 not participate in gambling;
- 2.12 be prepared to provide purohit services to all followers of Sanathan Dharma, irrespective of their financial and/or social background and without demanding a set fee or dakshina;
- 2.13 be vegetarian and follow a pure lifestyle in accordance with Sanathan Scriptures;
- 2.14 promote and contribute to the religious education of the community;
- 2.15 render voluntary support and services to Sanathan religious organisations;
- 2.16 engage in capacity building workshops and skills development among Sanathan Purohits as a participant and/or as a facilitator;
- 2.17 develop a relationship of mutual trust with yajmans.

3. Performance of Purohit Duties

In order to ensure service excellence, the purohit/trainee purohit must:

- 3.1 perform duties sincerely and diligently;
- 3.2 be properly attired at religious ceremonies and observances and especially when conducting puja;
- 3.3 be punctual at all pujas that the purohit/trainee purohit conducts;
- 3.4 conduct pujas in accordance with scripturally prescribed methods and according to guidelines of the Shree Sanathan Dharma Sabha of S A and its Purohit Mandal.
- 3.5 Discourses - The Purohit/trainee purohit must:

- 3.5.1 Use positive language – with a view to encouraging good morals & values. People should not be “scolded”, ridiculed or looked down upon. The purohit must motivate and encourage (as opposed to instilling fear) people to follow scriptural-instructions and teachings.
- 3.5.2 Not use his position as a Purohit/trainee purohit to “score points” or to settle personal differences.
- 3.5.3 Not disturb the faith of others.
- 3.5.4 Not say anything negative, insulting, or derogatory about any religious group and/or the “gurus” of any religious group.

4. **Behaviour/Practices to be avoided by Purohits/trainee purohits**

Purohits/trainee purohits must **not**:

- 4.1 criticise purohits/trainee purohits and/or the Purohit Mandal in the presence of yajmans or in public – rather seek solutions by approaching the Mandal or the Purohit concerned directly;
- 4.2 take on more pujas than can be comfortably and properly completed on a particular day;
- 4.3 allow anyone to undermine the role and authority of purohits/trainee purohits;
- 4.4 permit bands and other distractions while puja is being conducted;
- 4.5 permit any practices, even traditional practices, that are contrary to scripture;
- 4.6 engage in inappropriate conversations and inappropriate behaviour with yajmans
- 4.7 be alone, behind closed doors, with any yajman or a teenager/child;
- 4.8 encourage animal sacrifice, which is contrary to the principle of Ahimsa;
- 4.9 engage in sexual harassment (see Sexual Harassment Policy – attached Page 5)

5. **Disciplinary/grievance – handling procedure**

- 5.1 Complaints/grievances must be in writing and must be sent to the President/Deputy President of the SSDSSA within three weeks (21 days) of the occurrence/omission of the act which gave rise to the complaint/grievance.
- 5.2 The President/Deputy President must refer the complaint/grievance to the executive committee within 3 days of receipt of the complaint/grievance.
- 5.3 The executive must appoint a disciplinary committee comprising 3 members (one of whom shall chair the disciplinary committee); the disciplinary committee shall investigate/conduct an enquiry/conduct a formal disciplinary hearing and make recommendations relating to the complaint/grievance to the executive committee within one month of its appointment.
- 5.4 The executive committee must make a decision regarding the complaint/grievance, having considered the recommendations of the Disciplinary Committee and must communicate such decision to all parties concerned within two weeks of receipt of such recommendations. The executive committee must keep a record of its decision.
- 5.5 The disciplinary committee must keep a confidential record of all proceedings.

6. **Outside complaints mechanisms**

A person who has been subject to sexual harassment can also make a complaint outside of the SSDSSA as per the criminal procedure Act.

7. **Sanctions and disciplinary measures**

Anyone who has been found to have sexually harassed another person under the terms of this policy is liable to any of the following sanctions:

- verbal or written warning
- suspension
- termination of membership/being struck of the roll of purohits

The nature of the sanctions will depend on the gravity and extent of the harassment. Suitable deterrent sanctions will be applied to ensure that incidents of sexual harassment are not treated as trivial. Certain serious cases, including physical violence, will result in the immediate termination of membership/being struck of the roll of purohits.

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF CODE OF CONDUCT

I,(full name).....(ID Number)
hereby declare that I have received a copy of the code of conduct of the Shree Sanathan Dharma Sabha of SA and that I promise to abide by the code of conduct.

.....

.....

Signature of purohit/trainee

DATE

Shree Sanathan Dharma Sabha of South Africa Sexual Harassment Policy

The Policy Statement

The Shree Sanathan Dharma Sabha of South Africa (hereafter referred to as SSDSSA) and its affiliates are committed to providing a safe environment for interaction with members of the community free from discrimination on any ground and from harassment including sexual harassment. The SSDSSA will operate a zero-tolerance policy for any form of sexual harassment, treat all incidents seriously and promptly investigate all allegations of sexual harassment. Any person found to have sexually harassed another will face disciplinary action, up to and including termination of membership.

All complaints of sexual harassment will be taken seriously and treated with respect and in confidence. No one will be victimised for making such a complaint.

Definition of sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated. It includes situations where a person is asked to engage in sexual activity as a condition of some purohit service or as part of some puja/ritual, as well as situations which create an environment which is hostile, intimidating or humiliating for the recipient.

Sexual harassment can involve one or more incidents and actions constituting harassment may be physical, verbal and non-verbal. Examples of conduct or behaviour which constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

Physical conduct

- Unwelcome physical contact including patting, pinching, stroking, kissing, hugging, fondling, or inappropriate touching
- Physical violence, including sexual assault
- Physical contact, e.g. touching, pinching
- The use of puja/ritual-related threats or rewards to solicit sexual favours

Verbal conduct

- Comments on a person's/yajman's appearance, age, private life, etc.
- Sexual comments, stories and jokes
- Sexual advance
- Repeated and unwanted social invitations for dates or physical intimacy
- Insults based on the sex of the person/yajman
- Condescending or paternalistic remarks
- Sending sexually explicit messages (by phone or by email or other electronic media)

Non-verbal conduct

- Display of sexually explicit or suggestive material
- Sexually suggestive gestures
- Whistling
- Leering

Anyone can be a victim of sexual harassment, regardless of their sex and of the sex of the harasser. The SSDSSA recognises that sexual harassment may also occur between people of the same sex. What matters is that the sexual conduct is unwanted and unwelcome by the person against whom the conduct is directed.

The SSDSSA recognises that sexual harassment is a manifestation of power relationships and often occurs within unequal relationships in the work/service environment, for example between purohit and yajman.

Anyone, including members, employees, registered priests and affiliated organisations of the SSDSSA who sexually harasses another will be reprimanded in accordance with this internal policy.

All sexual harassment is prohibited whether it takes place within/at SSDSSA premises / events including at social events, meetings, training sessions or conferences sponsored by the SSDSSA.
