



Scottish Association of Marathi Regional Art and Traditions (SAMRAT) Annual General Meeting

President's Report 2024

As the President of SAMRAT, it is my privilege to present this annual report highlighting our activities over the past year (2024) and what we have achieved as a committee and community. I will also use this opportunity to look into the new year and provide an update on some of the things we have planned. This report highlights our ongoing commitment to celebrating marathi festivals and promoting marathi culture, with the help and support of the community.

2024 Review

This committee came into post in April 2024 during Gudhi Padwa and hence this report will primarily focus on events since April. As I had mentioned in my speech at the time, I am very happy and proud to lead this diverse committee, both in terms of gender and age. Whilst we take our responsibilities as members of the committee very seriously, it is also essential that in the process we all enjoy and have a good time together. I am sure the team will agree with me that this has been the case in the last few months we have been working together and I hope that we can continue with this in the coming year.

During this time we have had to undergo a change in the committee with [REDACTED] having to leave the Secretary post as he had to travel back to India. We then carried out the co-opting process as per the constitution, with [REDACTED] joining the team as a Committee member. [REDACTED] has taken up the Secretary position in place of [REDACTED]. I would like to welcome [REDACTED] to the team and wish both him and [REDACTED] good luck in their new roles.

I would like to officially thank [REDACTED] for his hard work and contributions as a Secretary in the Executive Committee. His enthusiasm, humour and dedication are missed and we hope to see him in Edinburgh sometime soon.

Highlights of events in 2024:

BBQ 2024 - Roseburn Park was chosen as the location which proved to be popular due to its location and availability of open grounds and cricket pitches for all. It was also the first time we organised a raffle during BBQ which the community enthusiastically supported and raised a good amount of money for SAMRAT

SGF 2024 - Details about income, expenses and highlights of the event will be discussed within the Secretary and Treasurer's reports. However, I would just like to acknowledge the community's enthusiastic participation and support on various fronts: vargani, anandmela, volunteering, cultural participation, pathaks and more. Although last year was a 2 day festival, some of the logistics do not change irrespective of the number of days and hence it is a big endeavor to organise, manage and execute a multi-day event. So a huge thank you to everyone.

Marathi Classical language status program - This was a CGI-led and SIAF organised event. However, with Marathi being one of the languages that was conferred the status, SAMRAT was actively involved in the Marathi language segment of the program. This was organised in a very short space of time with SAMRAT given only 2-3 weeks' notice. However, the community put forward a great cultural program in this short time, which was very much appreciated by the rest of the community as well. Additionally, we were the only organisation in Edinburgh that put together a video thanking the Government of India and CGI Edinburgh which was posted and shared on social media channels.

2025 Events and Plans

In 2025, we will organise our yearly events like every year, with this Makar Sankranti being the first one. Gudhi Padwa and BBQ will be organised in March and June respectively, details will be announced nearer the time.

Our main event of this year will be SGF which we are branding as SGF10. This will run from 27th Aug to 31st Aug. Since this will be a 5 day festival and with everyone's wish to make this grander and bigger, we have decided to focus our efforts and finances on SGF10 this year. Hence the Executive Committee has decided not to spend time and money on planning Maharashtra Din this year.

SGF 2025:

SGF in 2025 will be our 10th year of the festival and we would all like to celebrate it in such a way that we can do justice to its milestone status.

The Executive Committee has already started preparing in the background for SGF10, almost immediately after the last SGF. Some of the work carried out:

- Funding: This is key so that we are able to celebrate SGF comfortably and in the manner we would all like. The Executive Committee identified the National Lottery Community Fund as a potential source and started the application process for SGF10 immediately. As communicated previously we were successful in securing £5000 by the end of November for SGF10 specifically. This is great news and will help us enormously towards the venue which is always a challenge for us. I would like to add that this funding would be supplementary to generous contributions from the community like every year, and other sponsorships that we will continue to seek.
- Venue hunting and booking: As was discussed in the last AGM, finding a venue in Edinburgh for SGF has become challenging. This is primarily because of the capacity that we are looking for, given that the festival is open to all. In addition, we have some unique requirements for SGF like proximity to a water body for visarjan, sufficient space outside the venue to kick off the procession with our pathaks, ability to keep murti and decorations for 5 days in one location, space for anandmela and business stalls etc. After careful deliberation and in consultation with BoA, the Executive Committee has decided to book Edinburgh College, Granton for all 5 days for SGF10.
- SGF10 Logo: Social Media team have had discussions about how to promote SGF10 differently this year and the result of that is the creation of the SGF10 logo that was unveiled today. We would like to make use of this logo and promote SGF10 throughout the year. This is only the beginning and further innovative use of social media channels for SGF10 will be discussed and implemented.
- Help Team: The Executive Committee has been meeting monthly to discuss SGF10 and already has some thoughts and ideas which are still in the nascent stage. However, to make the event bigger and grander, we would like to involve the community members in the early planning stages itself.

What we are looking for just now are 10 members who:

- Have experience/network in areas such as funding, food provision, venue setup, decorations, cultural performances etc.
- Have capacity in terms of time and effort to actively work on these area(s) - this includes having regular meetings with ExCo, and carrying out actions coming out of those meetings in consultation with ExCo.

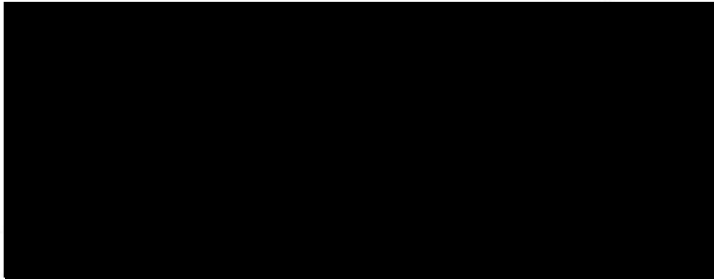
This is not a volunteer team which we will form nearer the time like every year.
If you fulfil the above criteria and are interested then please send an email to SAMRAT and we will get in touch with you.

If you are not able to join the Help Team but have any contacts or inputs that would help towards SGF10 then please do get in touch with any of the committee members.

SGF10's success is dependent on the community's ongoing support and involvement, hence would urge all to look out for messages and requests of help from the Executive Committee. We can only make SGF10 successful with all your help and support.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all members, volunteers, and sponsors whose contributions over the last year have helped make all our events successful and fun. We are a small community organisation but we punch above our weight with the number of events we organise with SGF particularly being complex. So we should all be proud of what we are doing as a community to keep our marathi culture and traditions alive.

Thank you!



PRESIDENT, SAMRAT

Scottish Association of Marathi Regional Art and Traditions (SAMRAT)

Charity Registration Number: SC050264

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31-Dec-2024

EXPENDITURE	Amount	INCOME	Amount
1 Scottish Ganesh Festival			
Hall Hire charges	4,352.00	Donations Received	7,219.24
Food Expenses	821.66	Sponsorship Received	1,801.00
Decoration and Pooja Expenses	688.67	Stall hire charges	1,150.00
Entertainment Expenses	187.81		
Event Insurance	362.00		
Other Expenses	707.71		
	7,119.85		10,170.24
2 Swar Anand event			
Program charges contribution	701.00		
Miscellaneous	318.36		
	1,019.36		-
3 Gudi Padwa Event			
Food Expenses	1,100.00	Gudhi Padwa food charges	751.88
Miscellaneous	485.67		
	1,585.67		751.88
4 SAMRAT BBQ			
Venue	21.50	Raffle ticket sale	359.91
Miscellaneous	35.00		
	56.50		359.91
5 Other Expenses			
Music system	262.00	Membership Fees	190.00
Hall bookings for 2025 events	1,980.00	National Lottery Fund Grants	5,000.00
Miscellaneous	115.00	Miscellaneous	611.00
	2,357.00		5,801.00
6 Sankranti			
Venue Hire	110.00		
Miscellaneous	56.32		
	166.32		
Sub-Total	12,304.70		17,083.03
		Excess of Expenditure over Income	- 4,778.33
TOTAL	12,304.70		12,304.70

President

Treasurer