

South Africa Temple Celebrates Akhand Hanuman Chalisa

SOUTH AFRICA, July 29, 2014 (Indian Times): The Isipingo Dharam Mandir celebrated its 2nd Akhand Hanuman Chalisa on 25th May 2014 at the temple in Isipingo. The President of the Temple Society, Neelien Ramchand explain that the event included the recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa 108 times. Various satsang groups from the Durban area were programmed to perform the Hanuman Chalisa during this marathon recital. The recitation started at 6 am and ended at 6 pm.

The day's proceedings commenced with prayer at 4-30 am. Neelien said that the Akhand Hanuman Chalisa was a thanksgiving prayer to the Supreme Being in the form of Lord Hanuman to acknowledge our existence and give thanks to what we have in this world. Pundith Suman Singh, the officiating priest, said, "We are all servants of the Lord and our existence is by the grace of the Lord".

The origins of the temple started in 1963 when the community of Malakazi got together to start this organisation. It had very humble beginnings and has grown over the years. It currently has about 120 members of the temple society. However, during the major festivals and celebrations, hundreds of people from far and wide gather at the temple to offer prayers and pay homage to the Lord.

Sydney Murugan Saivaneri Conference 2014

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, August 8, 2014 (Sydney Murugan Temple): The Saiva Manram & World Saiva Council Australia Inc. jointly present the Sydney Murugan Saivaneri Conference 2014. The theme of the conference is Humanitarianism in Saiva Agamas, Thirumurai and Siddhantha Texts. the conference will be held on August 29, 30 & 31, 2014, and tutorials on August 23, 24 and September 6 & 7, 2014. All conference sessions, religious ceremonies, cultural event, and tutorials will be held at the Sydney Murugan Temple Complex, 217 Great Western Hwy, Mays Hill NSW 2145, Australia. The conference is billed as a wonderful opportunity to learn the intricacies and greatness of Saivam

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The Himalayan Kumbh Begins

Source

UTTARAKHAND, INDIA, August 19, 2014 (The Hindu): After being delayed by a year due to the June 2013 deluge, the 20-day Nanda Devi Raj Jat yatra, also called the Himalayan Kumbh, began amid religious customs and traditions from Nauti village in Chamoli district, on Monday. The yatra, which is dedicated to the Nanda Devi — the reigning Deity of Uttarakhand — takes place once in 12 years, and involves a 175-mile trek. About 62 miles of the trek passes through difficult terrain.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat said: “A 62-mile trek can only be undertaken by medically fit persons.” Mr. Rawat said the trek included swamps, mountain treks and many slippery zones. “We will use logs for swamps and sandbags for slippery zones. We have engaged rock-climbing experts for certain areas where the pilgrims will have to cross mountains,” he said.

Nauti village is at an altitude of 4,000 ft. above sea level, and the yatra progresses till over 13,000 ft. above sea level. People from the State’s Kumaon and Garhwal region join the yatra at different points. Thousands of people participated in the yatra which progressed from Nauti to Idaabdhaani — first of the 19 stops of the yatra — on Monday.

\$33 Million Hindu Temple Funded by Community Opens in London

LONDON, ENGLAND, August 19, 2014 (BBC): A Hindu temple has opened in north west London, funded entirely by the local community. The ornate US\$33 million Shree Swaminarayan Mandir temple in Kingsbury combines traditional Indian architecture and carvings with “green” technology. It features solar panels on the roof and a rainwater harvesting system.

The temple’s opening has been marked with a concert to celebrate the arrival of the sect’s disciples in the capital 50 years ago. As part of the development, the Greater London Authority agreed to the relocation of community space from Barnet to Brent. The old temple site in Golders Green will be used to generate new funds that will go towards the temple’s local community.

The new site includes a multi-function hall with facilities for sports and receptions, which will be made available to members outside the internal community under the terms of the temple’s development.

RSS Sets Out to Write History Based on Puranas

NEW DELHI, INDIA, August 18, 2014 (Indian Express): As part of grand preparations for its centenary in 2025, the RSS is working on writing a version of Indian history based on the Puranas. The Puranas are ancient Hindu texts eulogizing deities through stories told by one person to another. They cover creation of the universe to destruction and the genealogies of kings, heroes, sages and gods. The 10-year project has been dubbed Puranantargat Itihaas.

The Sangh is also planning to put together the history of each one of the over 670 districts in the country, as well as the history of the over 600 tribal communities in India. The organisation is planning to tap local historians who can write the history of their districts, providing them all possible help.

An organisation linked to the RSS, the Akhil Bharatiya Itihaas Sankalan Yojna (ABISY), has arranged a workshop for over 100 historians in Palampur (Banaskantha, Gujarat) on August 22-24 for its Puranantargat Itihaas project. The historians called are mostly professors of history in various universities associated with the ABISY and its office-bearers

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