

World Sanskrit Conference

[www. samskritbookfair.org](http://www.sanskritbookfair.org)

INDIA, December 26, 2010 (Press Release): Bangalore is getting ready for a major Sanskrit event in January 2011 where scholars, enthusiasts and well wishers meet for a first ever World Sanskrit Book Fair (WSBF) at National College Grounds from 6th to 10th January.

The chief architect of this Book Fair is Samskrita Bharati, an NGO established in 1981 for the promotion and propagation of Sanskrit language and literature. The organization has made giant strides in the last three decades by organizing one lakh and fifteen thousand 'Ten day camps on Speaking Sanskrit' all over India. As a result more than one Crore Indians are speaking in simple Sanskrit now. The movement started in 1981 in a small hall in Bangalore and led by Cha Mu Krishna Shastri who had just graduated from Tirupati Sanskrit University.

Bangalore hosted the tenth World Sanskrit Conference in January 1997, which gave a big boost to Sanskrit activities worldwide.

Students and elders can enroll as delegates for the entire fair for a symbolic fee. See [www. samskritbookfair.org](http://www.sanskritbookfair.org) for more details

American Fast Food Chains In India Discover the Appeal of Vegetarian Food

<http://www.mydigitalfc.com/news/america-goes-vegetarian-india-881>

BANGALORE/DELHI, December 21, 2010: Cashing in on the rising fitness awareness among Indian consumers, players such as McDonald's, KFC, Pizza Hut and Domino's are seeing over 50 per cent of their sales coming from their vegetarian spread.

In contrast, the global average of sales split for Domino's is 95 per cent from non-vegetarian offerings.

"Consumers are making smarter and healthier choices these days and are looking for leaner food, trying to avoid red meats and fats as much as possible. This is a growing trend not only in India but also globally," said Anup Jain, marketing director of Pizza Hut. For Pizza Hut, which at present operates a total of 120 restaurants across India, the vegetarian menu contributes about 70 per cent to its overall sales. The company is famous for its classic margherita and its signature 'kadai paneer' pizzas.

To Understand the Cold Spell, Look East

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/26/opinion/26cohen.html?hp>

USA, December 25, 2010: The Earth continues to get warmer, yet it's feeling a lot colder outside. Over the past few weeks, subzero temperatures in Poland claimed 66 lives; snow arrived in Seattle well before the winter solstice, and fell heavily enough in Minneapolis to make the roof of the Metrodome collapse; and last week blizzards closed Europe's busiest airports in London and Frankfurt for days,

stranding holiday travelers. The snow and record cold have invaded the Eastern United States, with more bad weather predicted.

All of this cold was met with perfect comic timing by the release of a World Meteorological Organization report showing that 2010 will probably be among the three warmest years on record, and 2001 through 2010 the warmest decade on record.

Why?

Even though the long-term change in the Earth's climate can be summarized in one word (hotter), the new weather patterns are hard to foresee and sometimes surprise meteorologists. Take the newly discovered influence of Siberian snow, for instance. Up high in the atmosphere there is an air jet stream, a river of fast-flowing air five to seven miles above sea level, which bends around Asia's mountains in a wavelike pattern much as water in a stream flows around a rock or boulder. When snow cover is more abundant in Siberia, it creates an unusually large dome of cold air next to the mountains, and this amplifies the standing waves in the atmosphere, just as a bigger rock in a stream increases the size of the waves of water flowing by. The cold air displaced spreads to most of the northern hemisphere, cooling Europe, Asia and the East coast of America.

Christian Church Becomes Ganesha Hindu Temple In Scotland

<http://www.sify.com/>

SCOTLAND, January 7, 2011: Before the Temple organizers purchased it, Wardlawhill Church was affiliated to Church of Scotland, the majority church in Scotland. It was then renovated and refurbished into the Sri Sundara Ganapathy Hindu temple.

On the opening day, following the milk abhishegam ritual for Lord Ganapathy, the Deity was carried on a decorated palanquin in a procession from the City Centre to the Temple hall through the Main Street with a police escort. A Hindu priest from London conducted the opening ceremony. Two area councilors, the Consulate General of India, and many others attended the inaugural ceremony.

The Ganapathy Temple, whose aim is to "promote the ideals of Hinduism" and which is part of the South Indian Cultural Centre, plans to serve the religious, spiritual, cultural and social needs of the community. Besides prayers, sermons, lectures by spiritual leaders, ceremonies and festivals, it also plans to host Indian language-art-dance-music-yoga-spirituality instruction, marriage counseling, community gatherings, etc. It is a member of the Scottish Interfaith Council.

In Slovenia, A Love for Ragas And Vedas

<http://www.thehindu.com/arts/music/article981400.ece>

SLOVENIA, December 26, 2010: In Slovenia, musician Emilija Kerčan's love for Carnatic music took shape in 2006 — a natural extension to her decade-long interest in devotional music and Indian spiritualism. Traveling often from Slovenia to Chennai, Emilija has organized high profile Carnatic-based events in her country's capital city, Ljubljana. The concerts have been well-received by the population of the city, one of the international capitals of Western classical music.

Emilija's brother Vojko Kerčan also fell in love with the Vedas and the duo have a site, www.gopuram.org, dedicated to Hinduism and Indian music (in Slovene).
