

### **Declare Nepal A Hindu State, Students Tell Government**

Source: [www.thehimalayantimes.com](http://www.thehimalayantimes.com)

KATHMANDU, NEPAL, February 21, 2010: The Free Students' Union (FSU), Balmiki Campus, today demanded that Nepal be declared a Hindu state. Issuing a press statement, FSU demanded that ancient religions, norms and values of the Nepali society be preserved.

"We'll not be able to accept secular state," the statement said, adding that the culture of the country is not resembled through this declaration. The statement mentioned that the Hindu religion is the identity of the country and it should be protected at all cost.

The statement urged the concerned agencies to protect the national identity and to ensure the future of people living in the country. The statement further stated that the Hindu religion is the backbone of the country and demanded the concerned bodies to go for referendum to take the decision regarding the issue.

### **Fifth Hindu Executive Mandir Executive Conference's Dates Announced**

Source: Press Release

PEARLAND, TX, USA, March 17, 2010: The dates for the Fifth Hindu Executive Mandir Executive Conference have been announced as October 22 - 24, 2010. The Conference will be held in Houston and is sponsored by the Sri Meenakshi Temple, Pearland, Texas.

The Hindu Mandir Executives' Conference (HMEC) is an annual initiative seeking

development of network between the executives of all Hindu mandirs of America. Mandir and temple executives deliberate on ways of ensuring the sustenance of Hindu Dharma in America, explore ways of anchoring Hindu Dharma's values in the hearts of coming generations and roles which mandirs can play to make that happen. For more information contact [office@vhp-america.org](mailto:office@vhp-america.org)

### **Guyana's Hindus Encouraged By Response To "Holi Mela"**

Source: [www.stabroeknews.com](http://www.stabroeknews.com)

GUYANA, March 5, 2010: The East Coast Pandits and Mandir Leaders group said its gathering during Holi, the "Holi Mela," attracted more than 5,000 people and it is encouraged by the response and plans to host the event annually.

In a press release Pandit Amit Persaud said the turnout was a clear indication that Hindu festivals and occasions are to be celebrated with dignity. He said the members of the different temples ensure that the sacredness of the festival was maintained with in all stage performances and Hindu unity and the promotion of Sanatan Dharma were clear to all in attendance. The group's objective is to enlighten the masses about the benefits of the spiritual aspects of life and to resuscitate cultural traditions and customs.

### **Chidambaram temple: Swamy warns on SC order violation**

Posted by: "S. Kalyanaraman"  
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**Fri Mar 19, 2010 4:41 pm (PDT)**

Swamy warns on SC order violation  
\*By Express News Service  
18 Mar 2010 04:27:00 AM IST \*

CHENNAI: Janata Party president Subramanian Swamy on Wednesday said any alterations to Chidambaram Nataraja Temple structures would invite initiation of contempt proceedings by him in the Supreme Court.

Against the backdrop of a Supreme Court interim order on Monday restraining the executive officer from demolishing or constructing new structures at the ancient Nataraja temple, Swamy told reporters, "All construction or demolition activities should cease immediately or contempt of court proceedings would be taken up." Charging that Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister K R Periyakaruppan was violating the rules of the HR and CE Act, 1959 with regard to the Chidambaram temple, he demanded the Minister's resignation. "If he doesn't resign, Chief Minister Karunanidhi should immediately change his portfolio. If nothing happens, I will file a case against him under section 295 A of the Indian Penal Code for deliberately insulting Hindu religious beliefs," he said.

<http://www.expressbuzz.com/edition/print.aspx?artid=ALNlvGWdcis=>

## **U.K. Moves To Outlaw Caste Discrimination Among Resident Asians**

Source: [www.hindustantimes.com](http://www.hindustantimes.com)

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, March 4, 2010: In a move termed as 'historic', British lawmakers are in the process of amending equality laws to make caste-based discrimination illegal, following mounting evidence of the practice within the Asian community here.

After refusing to amend the laws for some years on the ground that there was no evidence of such practice, Britain has now accepted that discrimination on grounds of caste may be happening.

Baroness Thornton, a government peer in the House of Lords, said such evidence may exist and has commissioned the National Institute of Economic and Social Research to conduct research into the subject and present its report by August.

Based on the evidence and research present in the report, the government is expected to amend equality laws and initiate measures to prevent caste-based discrimination in the same way as discrimination on grounds of sex, color, religion, age or sexual orientation.

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## **Third Hindu Conference In New Zealand**

Source: [sify.com](http://sify.com)

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, March 16, 2010: Encouraged by the responses received for the 1st and 2nd New Zealand Hindu Conferences, which were inaugurated by Hon. Prime Minister of New Zealand, and the Maori King, respectively, the Hindu Council of New Zealand is now hosting the third conference on 1st and 2nd May 2010 at the Hindu Heritage Centre, Mangere, Auckland.

The theme of the conference is "Sustaining New Zealand through strengthening bond amongst communities".

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## Hindu American Community Building Through Seva

Source: <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dHZHUxNpZUF2WGRPMjFIRHI0TmFkREE6MA>

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 13, 2010: The Inaugural Hindu American Seva Charities Summit will take place March 27-28, 2010 in Washington D.C. with hundreds of temples, 1000 plus seva centers and several million people strong. The summit will focus on “What is the Hindu American agenda? And How to make it happen?”

To register see the url above. For further information contact Aesha Mehta at [Summit.HASevaUSA@gmail.com](mailto:Summit.HASevaUSA@gmail.com)

## The Problem With Missionaries

Source: Religion News Service

UNITED STATES, 2010 (By Rabbi A. James Rudin): Accusations that members of an Idaho-based Baptist missionary group tried to smuggle 33 Haitian children out of the earthquake-ravaged country have attracted wide media attention. The case, still pending in a Haitian court, raises serious legal, ethical and religious questions.

Missionary activity is not without its risks, or rewards. The New York Times described tensions between missionaries who have been active in Haiti for years and those who only arrived following the Jan. 12 catastrophe that killed more

than 200,000 people. In another sign of religious friction, evangelical Christians have reportedly attacked a Port-au-Prince voodoo memorial service. Max Beauvoir, the country’s voodoo leader, accused evangelicals of trying to “buy souls” with the lure of needed food and medicine.

To their credit, Christian missionaries throughout the world have established hospitals, colleges and universities, medical clinics, training schools, hospices, orphanages and other institutions. For these Christians, the term “mission” is less about saving souls and more about saving lives. But while recognizing those humanitarian efforts, the term “missionary” triggers resentment, and even rage, among Jews. For nearly 2,000 years, zealous Christians in their quest for converts have assailed Jews with hostile proselytizing campaigns and forced conversions. There were also humiliating public religious debates in medieval Europe. Such rigged “disputations” sought to prove Christianity’s spiritual superiority over Judaism.

In recent years, many Christians have muted or even abandoned active missionary activities. There’s a difference between “mission” and “witness.” Mission is frequently an act of insensitivity, even coercion, directed to adherents of another faith community. Witness, meanwhile, is the living out of authentic religious beliefs without attempting to proselytize another person. In authentic witnessing, there are no hidden agendas, no strong-arming, and certainly no court cases involving alleged kidnapping

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