

### **Thieves Strike At Three Temples In Indore**

#### Source

INDORE, INDIA, February 25, 2013 ([daily.bhaskar.com](http://daily.bhaskar.com)): Unidentified miscreants struck at three different temples situated under Annapurna area and decamped with booty worth thousands of dollars late on Saturday night. The thieves targeted Sai Mandir and Sri Ram Mandir situated in the vicinity of Bank Colony and also broke open the locks of a Shiv Mandir situated in adjacent, Vishwakarma Colony. The incident came to fore when locals thronged the temples to offer their morning prayers and discovered the theft. Following this, a team of Annapurna police reached the spot and took stock of the situation but found no vital clue about the miscreants. The police suspect that the thefts were committed under the influence of drugs or alcoholic substance by some local miscreants, who were aware that the area was quite deserted with inadequate lights arrangement.

As the news of theft spread in the area, local residents gathered outside the temples and registered their protest against the incidents. The residents accused police of negligence as there was no police patrolling in the area. The locals warned police of soon arrest and stern actions against the thieves or they would stage a demonstration against the department. A case was registered at Annapurna police station and further investigation was underway. Over a dozen

temples, gurudwaras and shrines situated in different parts of the city have been barged in last one month. Besides, thefts in eight temples situated in Annapurna, Chandan Nagar, Rajendra Nagar and Hira Nagar have been reported in last five days. The incidents have raised a question mark over the claims of the police about night patrolling. The police even could not ascertain the identity of the miscreants involved in any of these thefts

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### **“Dharma Bee” Draws Huge Response As Registration Swells**

#### Source

HOUSTON, TEXAS, February 28, 2013 (Indo American News): The Dharma Bee contest, organized by the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), is getting enthusiastic response from children of all age groups all over USA. Learning from the popularity of Spelling Bee contests among Indian students, HSS has come up with the idea of Dharma Bee to make children learn about Hindu culture and heritage in a fun environment. The topic is Bhagwan Sri Krishna (early childhood stories) and Swami Vivekananda (life and message).

Over 2,300 children have already registered for the contest to date. Children in grades Kindergarten to Eighth are eligible to participate. There are 4 groups. Group 1 is K-1st grade; Group 2 is 2nd-3rd grades;

Group 3 is 4th-5th grades; and Group 4 is 6th, 7th, 8th grades. After registration, the contestants are required to undertake an online pre-qualifying exam to test their preparedness for Level 1.

The nationwide contest, first of its kind by HSS, will be held at 200 centers across 30 states. Level 1 will be mostly objective questions and written (similar to practice online exam). At Level 2, it will be oral (objective and subjective). Level 3 will have written, oral, and team aspects to it. Before Level 1, the contestants may do a Home Project which is optional. Level 3 National will be held at June 15-16 weekend in Chicago. The organizers will take care of all boarding and lodging arrangements. Some travel allowances may also be considered. For more information, visit <http://www.dharmabee.org>.

In Houston itself, 19 prominent Hindu organizations have opened their heart and premises as the Dharma Bee Centers for level 1 test. Along with rest of the country, Houston has seen a surge in interest towards this noble and unique project. HSS is expecting 10,000 children to participate in this by the time the registration closes next month.

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## Heightened Security At Meenakshi Temple Irks Devotees

### Source

MADURAI, INDIA, March 2, 2013 (The Hindu): With Meenakshi Amman Temple

coming under a security blanket, devotees as well as residents in the vicinity are uneasy over the heightened police presence. “The temple has been taken over by the police for all practical purposes and under the guise of security the police are troubling the common man,” devotees complain.

There were complaints from some of the Bhattars working in the Temple. “The police are checking us physically before entering the sterile area...We objected to this and informed the temple authorities. The moment we produce our photo identity cards, the police should allow us in without frisking,” they argued.

Women devotees with infants, unaware of the heightened security, are irked when they are told to leave camphor, match box, tender coconut water filled in bottles and other puja items such as agarbathis and milk outside the premises.

A policeman is on guard atop a specially erected watch tower. All this gives an impression that we are living in a high security zone such as New Delhi.” Even the temple staff are uncomfortable with the repeated checks. “When will the police relax this scale of security, a temple staff asked”

A senior police officer said, “After the receipt of a specific threat, we have no other option but to step up vigil. The public have to cooperate. When the Central security agencies alert us about a possible threat, we cannot remain silent or hope nothing untoward would happen,” he argued and added “if something goes wrong, the police would be blamed.”

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## Could Hindu Festival 'Pop-Up Megacity' Be An Organizational Model For India?

Source

ALLAHABAD, INDIA, March 1, 2013 (Washington Post): — Onno Ruhl, head of the World Bank in India, calls it “an incredible logistical operation.” Harvard researchers describe it as “a pop-up megacity”. On the sandbanks of the Ganges River at Allahabad, bureaucrats and workers from Uttar Pradesh, India’s most populous state and one of its poorest, took less than three months to build a tent city for 2 million people — complete with hard roads, toilets, running water, electricity, food shops, garbage collection and well-manned police stations.

Organizers do much the same every three years - although on a particularly large scale every 12 years, as in 2013 - for the Kumbh Mela, a Hindu festival celebrated in turn at four different locations in India.

Apart from a Feb. 10 stampede at the nearby Allahabad railway station in which 36 people were killed, the Kumbh Mela itself has so far gone smoothly. Fresh water comes out of the taps. Toilets are disinfected. Trained police carefully shepherd the crowds to the bathing ghats. The lights come on at night.

In the minds of both Indians and foreigners, this raises important questions: How? Why? Or, if the authorities can build infrastructure so efficiently for this short but very large festival and its instant city, why can they not do the same for permanent villages and towns?

The World Bank’s Ruhl, who was moved to bathe in the Ganges himself when he visited the Kumbh Mela this year, says the city on the sandbanks, soon to be dismantled before

the river floods, “has water, sanitation, power, solid waste management, everything, actually, that many Indian cities lack”.

”To somebody who does projects, it’s like a mega-refugee camp that came up overnight and gets sustained and managed for two months with people filtering [in and out] at a rate of millions a day. I’ve never seen anything like it in my life. It’s managed by the UP [Uttar Pradesh] government. If somehow we could translate that capacity to day-to-day business, you could transform UP. It’s a really powerful thought.”

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## Malaysia’s Hindu Temples Face Priest Shortage

Source

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, February 7, 2013 (Free Malaysia Today): Hindu temples nationwide are facing a shortage of priests. This is because the Immigration Department is only granting visas for only one or two priests from India to work at a temple.

The Petaling Estate Sree Maha Mariamman Temple board of trustees chairman A. Vasudevan Nair said it was difficult for one or two priests to serve about 5,000 to 10,000 devotees who throng temples, especially during Hindu festivals. “While they allow barbers and restaurant workers from India to work here without any major restrictions, the same cannot be said for priests.

The issue of shortage of Hindu priests was brought up just after the 2008 general election. The government had entrusted Human Resources Minister and MIC vice-president S. Subramaniam to look into the matter. The government then came-up with a plan to send local Hindus to be trained, not only as priests, but also musicians and

sculptors, in India for a one-day induction course.

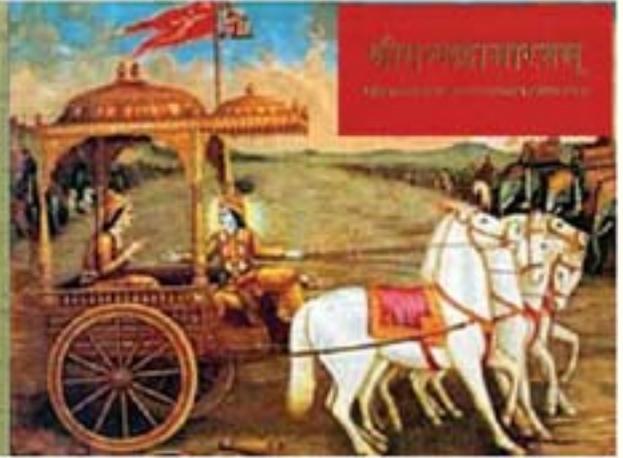
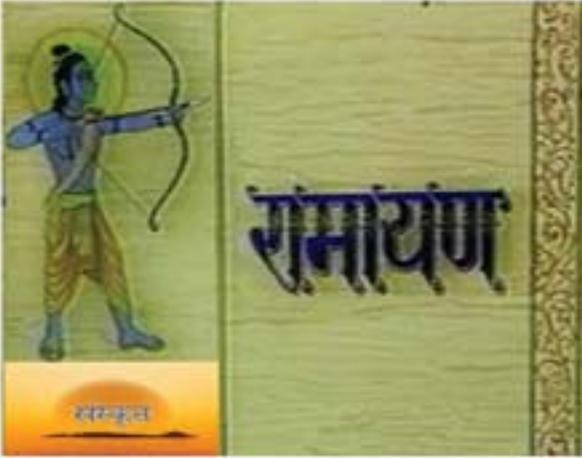
“Local priests are not well versed in Sanskrit... most prayers and mantras must be recited in Sanskrit. This is one disadvantage. Another is the small number of priests serving thousands of devotees. For example this temple has some 5,000 devotees but is only serviced by one priest. This is absurd,” Vasudevan said.

He said the government should not only concentrate on repairing and rebuilding temples but also pay heed to the temple’s needs and requirements of devotees,” he said.

There are (18) eighteen Puranas and 18 Upapuranas and another 18 Upapuranas.

\*Name the important major Puranas.  
(Total 4,00,000 verses )\*

*1.	Brahma Purana	10,000	verses*
*2.	Padma Purana	55,000	verses*
*3.	Sri Vishnu Purana	23,000	verses*
*4.	Siva Purana	24,000	verses*
*5.	Bhagavatha Purana	18,000	verses*
*6.	Naradha Purana	25,000	verses*
*7.	Markandeya Purana	9,000	verses*
*8.	Agni Purana	15,400	verses*
*9.	Bhavishya Purana	14,500	verses*
*10.	Brahma Vaivarta Purana	18,000	verses*
*11.	Linga Purana	11,000	verses*
*12.	Varaha Purana	24,000	verses*
*13.	Skandha Purana	81,100	verses*
*14.	Vamana Purana	10,000	verses*
*15.	Koorma Purana	17,000	verses*
*16.	Matsya Purana	14,000	verses*
*17.	Garuda Purana	19,000	verses*
*18.	Brahmanda Purana	12,000	verses*



## Two Muslim students win all 3 Sanskrit medals in Gujarat University.

*“inspired to learn Sanskrit after hearing stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharata”.....*

*“Muslim boys and girls diversifying into other educational fields is a good sign”.....*

Syed Khalique Ahmed | Indian Express | Ahmedabad, | Thu Mar 07 2013 :: Defying stereotypes, a Muslim boy and girl have bagged all three medals instituted for the BA

course in the ancient Indian language by the Gujarat University.

Two of the medals for Sanskrit were won by Taiyab Sheikh, a student of Y S Arts and Commerce college in Devgadhi Baria in Panchmahals district. The third went to Yasminbanu Kothari of the Adiwasi Arts and Commerce college in Santrampur in the interior of the state's tribal belt.

Sheikh got 75.5 per cent marks and Kothari 68.5 per cent. The medals were awarded at the convocation Tuesday.

Sheikh, 23, who is now studying for a B.Ed. degree in a Godhra college, said he was inspired to learn Sanskrit after hearing stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharat told by his teachers in primary school in his village of Tokarwa.

He said he wants to be a post-graduate in Sanskrit and pursue teaching it as a career. Sheikh enrolled himself for a BA degree with Sanskrit as his main subject as he failed to get a teaching job in a primary school after doing a teachers training course.

His elder brother is a head master in a government primary school and there was no opposition in the family to him studying

Sanskrit. "My parents, who are farmers and not educated, only wanted me to perform well," Sheikh said.

Kothari said she developed a liking for Sanskrit when she was in class 12. The daughter of a fruit-seller who studied up to class 12, she too said she did not face any opposition to her choice of the language. "In fact, my father and his friend Rafiq Sheikh, a college teacher, encouraged me to study it," she said.

Kothari teaches at a primary school in Santrampur and like Sheikh, she too wants to do an MA in Sanskrit and work as a teacher.

"A language does not belong to any community. Anyone can learn any language provided he or she has interest in it," said J R Machchi, Sheikh's Sanskrit teacher.

"Muslim boys and girls diversifying into other educational fields is a good sign," added J S Bandukwala, a retired Physics professor from M S University who runs Zidni Ilma Trust, which promotes professional and technical education among poor Muslim students.

**Courtesy: Indian express**

*Arsha Vidya Newsletter*

Annual Subscription: Rs.180/-

**Published by V. Sivaprasad**

Trustee, Sruti Seva Trust, Anaikatti, Coimbatore 641108

**Edited by S. Srinivasan - 0422-2657001**

**Printed by B. Rajkumar, Rasi Graphics Pvt. Ltd.,**

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