

Australian Official Announces \$1 Million Fund For Hindu Center

Source: www.dnaindia.com

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, November 1, 2010: Reaching out to the Indian community this Diwali, Victoria's premier John Brumby on Saturday offered an assistance of Aus \$1 million for the construction of a Hindu cultural and education center here. Brumby announced the grant during a Diwali celebration event that attracted thousands of Indians as well as locals in the heart of the city's business district.

Brumby said Diwali was an important occasion for the Indian community and a great example of how Victoria's many communities come together to share their values. "Diwali is one of India's most significant festivals which cuts across all religious, social and economic differences and is enjoyed by people all over the world," Brumby said

Massive Hanuman Statue to be Unveiled in December in Africa

Source: www.timeslive.co.za

CHATSWORTH, AFRICA, October 24, 2010: The temple society at the Shri Vishnu Temple in Chatsworth believes this Hanuman statue will be the largest Hanuman in Africa. Temple officials decided to erect the mammoth statue three months ago during a meeting to discuss plans to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians in the country.

Project coordinator .LC. Maharaj said the statue, which is 13m high, including the umbrella over the head of the Deity, was "in praise of the Almighty, without which the survival and success of Indians in South Africa would never have been possible". He said the statue, which still requires plastering and painting, would be officially unveiled at the beginning of December.

He appealed to community members to contribute to the completion of the project. Contractor Umash Harripershad, who is working on the statue, said: "We have used 12 truckloads of ready-mixed concrete in this project, 53 tons of which went into the foundation alone. The temple provided the design." He said despite working with a staff of only six to eight untrained devotees and a couple of casual workers, the project, which should have taken 12 months, would be completed in a quarter of that time. Harripershad had been on a strict fast and had been sleeping on the floor for the past three months as a sacrifice for the work he considered "honorable".

UK Scientists Suggest Giving Up Certain Foods to Save the Planet

Source: www.telegraph.co.uk

EAST ANGLIA, UNITED KINGDOM: October 26, 2010: Scientists from the University of East Anglia analyzed existing data on the nutritional and environmental effects of different kinds of foods and recommended eating less beef, sugar, and cheese, as well as drinking less tea and

coffee. The report was commissioned by the Food Standards Agency to try to change the way people cook and eat.

The report suggests that schools, hospitals and other public bodies should be expected to lead a change in national behavior by putting food on their menus which has contributed little to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The report noted: "The highest GHG emissions are associated with beef, cheese, coffee, tea and cocoa consumption."

32-Lb. Golden Crown Donated To Lord Venkateswara

Source: www.thehindu.com

INDIA, October 2010: Lord Venkateswara, the presiding Deity at the Tirumala temple, received two more precious donations. Reckoned as the richest temple in the world next to the Vatican Church, the Lord of the Seven Hills received a dazzling golden crown weighing 32 lbs. The exquisitely chiseled stone-studded tiara was offered by a Mumbai-based business tycoon who however preferred to remain anonymous.

Murals of Rare Forms of Shiva Found At Thrissur Temple

Source: www.hindu.com

THRISSUR, INDIA, August 24, 2010: An ASI study of 600 panels of murals in Kerala has revealed paintings that were hitherto covered, and also new details of the existing ones. Notable among them are the two rare paintings which are about 350 years old — a reclining Shiva and also a Shiva Nataraja

with 20 arms found on the walls of Vadakkumnathan temple at Thrissur.

"For long this painting was thought to be a reclining Vishnu, since it was partly covered with soot. Another reason is that a reclining figure is usually associated with Vishnu and it is common in Kerala to paint Vaishnavite themes in Saivaite temples. When we cleaned the painting, the details became evident and we could establish that it is a reclining Shiva [Panivarai Siva] with Parvati, Ganga and other attendant deities. This is a rare panel," said M. Nambirajan, Superintending Archaeologist of the Archaeological Society of India, Thrissur circle.

"Adjacent to this panel, another one depicting Nataraja also held a surprise. This panel is considered unusual since it is portrayed with 16 arms. Our study has revealed that there are more arms to it than what were known before. This Nataraja actually has 20 arms and carries various objects," says Mr. Nambirajan

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Ph. 28132790, 28131232