

Children Learn Hindu Scriptures At Summer Camp In Varanasi

VARANASI, INDIA, May 14, 2011: As an initiative to inculcate cultural values and allied Indian ethos among youngsters, a special summer camp has been organized for school children in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. This summer camp has been introduced by Ishita School where the children are taught the essence of Hindu culture, relevance of rituals, and recitation of passages from holy scriptures such as Vedas, Bhagwad Gita, Upanishads and Puranas."It is very necessary for today's children because today, children are convent educated, going far from our traditional culture. So, we need to enlighten them about our Indian cultural heritage since during their routine academics, they are unable to concentrate on this aspect. So, this is the right time to give them the right training. That's why in summer camp we are teaching these children Bhagwad Gita and Vedic Mantras among others," said Ishita Saraswat, a trainer at the school. Indu Saraswat, the coordinator of the school, said "Since many parents are working, both of them don't have time to make their children understand about basic culture. They don't have time even to make their children be aware about certain basic facts of our culture and hence this summer camp for the children."

Work Under Way At Sikkal Temple

NAGAPATTINAM, TAMIL NADU, INDIA, May 20, 2011: The famed Navaneetheshwara Swamy Temple housing the celebrated Sikkal Singaravelavar shrine in Sikkal is getting more infrastructural facilities, thus providing stimulus to religious tourism in the district. The facilities will house 3,000 pilgrims.

Work to the tune of US\$220,000 has been taken up at Sikkal as part of a project funded by the State Department of Tourism, with the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments as the executing agency.

The centuries-old temple, celebrated by the Thevaram saints, attracts an annual pilgrim population of 200,000, which includes a pilgrim influx during the week-long 'kanda sashti' festival in October and the float festival during 'thaipoosam' in January. "Over 50,000 pilgrims visit the temple in a single day for 'Vel' ceremony at the Singaravelavar temple

Jammu Builds Replica of Famous Ganesh Temple of Kashmir

JAMMU, INDIA, May 16, 2011: Jammu got a replica of the famous Ganesh Nandikishwar Temple, located in South Kashmir, today. "We have set up a replica of famous grand Ganesha Temple of south Kashmir's Hanand Chawalgan area," Secretary of the Temple Trust Professor O N Koul told reporters here today. Amid prayers, a maha yagya and hymns, a black murti of Lord Ganesha brought from Mahabalipuram, under the guidance of Shankracharya of Kanchi Muth Swami Vijendra Saraswati Ji Maharaj, was installed in presence of over 3,000 devotees.

The temple complex, which has come up in half an acre, has a sacred tree (bran) which is said to be the first tree to grow in Jammu soil. The temple has been opened for darshan of devotees from May 16 - the day of Ganesh Chaturdasi.
