

News & Views

Stuttgart Hindus Celebrate

STUTTGART, GERMANY, June 4, 2012: From the outside, the old factory building on Bad Cannstatt's Lehmfeldstrasse is quite unimpressive. Once inside, however, it offers a different picture: the dilapidated concrete building holds within itself a magnificent temple. Hundreds of Tamils from Sri Lanka in colorful clothing crowd into the room decorated with garlands of flowers. The air is warm and filled with incense. It is very noisy. Bare chested men in white robes beat on large drums and play oriental melodies on long oboe-like instruments.

Some 1,000 Hindus from a radius of 62 miles have come this Sunday at the height of the temple festival in Bad Cannstatt, and also some Germans, for whom the spectacle is not to be missed. After the ceremony in the temple, the men have come out carrying the statues of the Deities on their shoulders. In Sri Lanka the procession outside the temple could take place every day, "in Stuttgart, it is allowed only once during the ten days," says 24-year-old Thadchajini Sothinathan.

While the convoy passes through the streets, the music continues to play. The Hindu priests, the Brahmins, throw coconuts to the ground,

so that they burst. The hard shell represents the outer ego shell of man. When the shell is crushed, the soft core, the good qualities are exposed.

Michigan Temple Upgrade Complete

TROY, MICHIGAN, USA, June 16, 2012 (AP): It took seven years and \$10 million to renovate and expand the Bharatiya Hindu Temple to accommodate the growing numbers of worshippers who have arrived in the Detroit area from India. The temple in Troy, a northern Detroit suburb, has been enlarged from 28,000 square feet to about 70,000 square feet, The Detroit News reported. Its prayer hall houses seven new interior temples that were made in India from marble that was mined there. Other parts of the building, including teak doors, were also built in India then transported to Detroit by ship and train. Local masons spent a year assembling the parts inside the Bharatiya Temple. At least 25,000 Hindus live in the Detroit area and about 800 families worship at the Bharatiya Hindu Temple, said Tom Patel, chairman of the temple's board of trustees. "More people are joining and coming, and we needed more space to offer services," he said.

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