

HJS creates awareness and holds exhibition on the occasion of 'Attukal Pongal' at Andaman

Port Blair (Andaman) : Hindu Janajagruti Samiti (HJS) started its activities related to propagation of Dharma at Andaman, an Indian island in Bay of Bengal on the occasion of festival of Keralites called 'Attukal Pongal', by holding exhibition of 'flex' boards with matter related to 'Dharma-jagruti' and holding a lecture. Shri. Ramesh Shinde, the spokesperson of HJS spoke about antiquity of Hindu Dharma and its supremacy. He also explained the importance of 'Dharma-shikshan' classes held by HJS.

The members of audience were impressed and expressed wish of HJS starting activities at Andaman and participating in such activities. On the occasion of this festival, Hindu families from Kerala come together and cook 'pongol (a type of rice)' as holy sacrament offering to God. Several temporary stoves with logs of wood are lit.

The stove in front of God is lit first; followed with igniting other stoves with the fire from the first stove. This festival is celebrated in Kerala on large scale. Shri. Biju Pillai had taken lot of efforts for starting the festival at Andaman and it is being celebrated for the past 5 years. This year, HJS' flex boards and guidance added to the enthusiasm of all

Court Case Challenges Use of Hindu Temples and Deities on Coins

NEW DELHI, INDIA, March 20, 2014 (Free Press Journal): The State should not be seen as propagating any religion and the word secularism should be construed in right context, the Delhi High Court today said while seeking

response from the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India on a PIL for withdrawal of coins having religious symbols embossed on them. "The State should not be propagating any religion, be it Hinduism, Islam, Christianity etc," a bench headed by Acting Chief Justice B. D. Ahmed said. The bench issued notices to the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and asked them to file a status report within three weeks detailing the policy under which the symbols of temples and deities are being embossed on coins. The court was hearing a PIL filed by Delhi residents, Nafis Qazi and Abu Sayeed, through lawyer A Rasheed Qureshi. "These symbols undermine the secular character, a basic feature of the Constitution.... The making, marking, naming, drawing, embossing or displaying overtly any religious figure or symbol is tantamount to espousing a religion by the State," the plea said.

The government, in 2010, brought into circulation a five rupee coin in celebration of 1000 years of Brihadeeswara Temple, Thanjavur with its image embossed on it. "Again in 2013 the Respondent No. 2 (RBI) brought out another five Rupee coin with the figure of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board embossed on it," it said and termed the state action as "anti-secular".

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.,
40 Peters Road, Madras 600014.
Ph. 28132790, 28131232**