

Judge Authorizes Sale of Hindu Deities

Source: www.ajc.com

GEORGIA, U.S., April 2010: On Thursday, a federal bankruptcy judge ruled that 100 Shiva statues and other property could be auctioned April 24 to satisfy debts of the Hindu Temple of Georgia, which filed for bankruptcy last year. The temple claimed to have \$9.4 million in assets and \$15 million in liabilities.

Attorneys for the Norcross temple and purported manufacturer of the statues, Indian Handicrafts Development Corp., sought to block the sale of the statues on the basis they were sacred deities and held great significance to followers of the Hindu faith. "It is considered the counterpart of a sin to sell these," attorney Jesse Hill argued. "That is the view I believe to be held by most Hindus and certainly by my client."

Judge James E. Massey said there was no credible proof to bolster the manufacturer's claim that the statues were on loan to the temple and not owned by it. The judge stipulated that the items be auctioned off individually rather than in bulk so the temple had the opportunity to reclaim the statues. The auction will be held April 24 at 10 a.m. at 5900 Brook Hollow Parkway in Norcross, the temple's former property.

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New Home For Paris Ganesha Temple

Source: www.templeganesha.fr

PARIS, FRANCE, April 18, 2010: On April 17 and 18, 2010 the new site of the Sri

Manicka Vinayakar Alayam was consecrated with Mahakumbhabhishekam ceremonies. New deity statues, carved in Mahabalipuram, and a gold plated kodimaram were blessed with an inaugural puja. Despite its tiny size the Temple de Ganesh, as it is commonly known, has become the most well known Hindu temple in the city due to its yearly chariot parade through the streets.

The new home of the temple is located at 17 rue Pajol just down the street from its old site on rue Philippe de Girard. Open daily from 9AM to 10:30PM. See source above for photos of the event

Ramayana Art Delights New York and Singapore

Source: www.ddinews.gov.in

UNITED STATES, April 28, 2010: The Ramayana has been transcending generations and geographical boundaries and now people in the U.S. and Singapore have a chance to know more about the epic popular for its allegorical and engaging storyline.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York is organising the "Epic India: Scenes from the Ramayana" exhibition from 31st March till 19th September which will showcase a selection of paintings, sculptures and textiles depicting scenes from the epic.

According to Naomi Takafuchi, communications officer at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, "The epic provides insight into the cultural values and rituals of ancient Indian tradition and by extension of the modern period as well. In America, the Ramayana is retold in the form of plays and dance performances and through a variety of

media aimed at young people and adults. It bridges generations.”

On the other hand, an exhibition titled “Ramayana Revisited: A Tale of Love and Adventure” featuring about 100 artifacts is on at the Peranakan Museum in Singapore from 22nd January and will continue till 22nd August

80 Million Attended India’s Ganges Festival

Source: sify.com

HARIDWAR, INDIA, April 28, 2010: About 80 million people bathed in the river Ganges in northern India during the Kumbh Mela festival that lasted 104 days, organizers said on Wednesday as the event drew to a close.

The Kumbh Mela, which is billed as the largest festival on Earth, attracts Hindus from across the country to the sacred water that they believe washes away their sins and frees them from the cycle of life and rebirth. The Ganges is especially auspicious during the Kumbh Mela, which is held every three years and rotates among four Indian cities.

Hindu Temple Claims Vandalism is Actually an “Attack On Religion”

Source: www.macarthuradvertiser.com.au

NSW, AUSTRALIA, April 28, 2010: It started off as a few graffiti tags on the side of Mukti Gupteshwar Mandir Shiva Hindu Temple in Eagleview Road, Minto. But last week things got worse. Offenders destroyed a 200-meter fence and forced their way into the temple before smashing light fixtures on Monday, April 19. They damaged property worth more than \$5000.

Minto Hindu Society president Prem Misra said local religious followers were being victimized. “We have spent more than \$3000 on community activities and to cop this sort of treatment is nonsense,” he said. “I can’t understand why they would deliberately do this. Why does it keep happening to us? One can only conclude this is an attack on our religion.”

The temple was built in 1991 after Campbelltown Council controversially approved the development in a scenic protection area. The proposal included a temple structure built partially below ground level to give the illusion that the building was underground.

Dharm,” a New TV Channel With a Religious Outlook

Source: www.afaqs.com

HARIDWAR, INDIA, April 28, 2010: Dharm media venture officially announced the launch of India’s religious channel Dharm. The channel will be available to over 50 million people across the country within 6 months of its launch. The channel is available through local networks in Delhi NCR, Uttar Prades, Uttranchal, Gujrat and parts of Mumbai, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. Dharm will look deep into the ancient Sat Sanatan Dharma, Vedic period and Gurus of modern India along with covering sacred temples and festivities throughout the country.

Dharma is the core essence of what the tv channel Dharm will follow in the time to come. The channel is dedicated to the religious Jagriti of India to awaken the spirituality of the world.

First Ever Hinduism Summit In Melbourne

Source: www.newsmaker.com.au

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, April 28, 2010: The first ever Hinduism Summit (Hindu Dharmasabha) in Australia, will be held on the auspicious occasion of Akshay Trutiya, 5112 (May 16, 2010) at the Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, Camberwell, Melbourne. The Hinduism Summit will be held by the Forum for Hindu Awakening (FHA) and Hindu Janajagruti Samiti (HJS), with support from noteworthy Hindu and spiritual organizations and leaders from Australia. This Summit welcomes anyone and everyone interested in understanding, living and preserving Hinduism.

This Hinduism Summit follows the success of recent similar summits held in the last half of 2009 by FHA in Virginia, USA and jointly with HJS in New Jersey, USA and London, UK. The event will be webcast live on FHA and HJS websites.

Among the saints blessing the event are: Her Holiness Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma) of Ammachi, His Holiness Vaishnavacharya Goswami Shri Dwarkeshlalji Mahodaya, Pujya Guruji Shri Ashwinkumar Pathak of Jai Shree Ram Sundarkand, Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Jayendra Saraswati of Kanchi Kamkoti Peeth, His Holiness Pande Maharaj of Sanatan Sanstha, and His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar of The Art of Living International Center.

Spanish translation of Pujya Swamiji's books

I am totally submersed in editing the Spanish translation of the Gita and other books of Pujya Swamiji. The lessons of 20 pages each are going out over the internet to Spanish students all over the world every two weeks. I am very much behind schedule at present.

Otherwise, I would love to contribute articles to the newsletter. Thank you for asking me. Hope you are well. I love to read the newsletter online and I put a link to it on our Spanish website: www.arshavidya.es

With love and best wishes,
Swamini Vilasananda

Encyclopedia of Hinduism Launched

Source: www.organiser.org

DELHI, INDIA, March 25, 2010: The much awaited Encyclopedia of Hinduism is finally out. After the deep research conducted by about 2000 eminent scholars for about 20 years, it came in 6,600 multi-color pages divided into 11 volumes. It is jointly published by India Heritage Research Foundation and Rupa & Co. and is first of its kind on Hinduism.

The first preview of this compilation was organized at the Vivekananda International Centre in New Delhi on March 25 in the presence of eminent scholars, bureaucrats, educationists and leading personalities of the country including former Deputy Prime Minister Shri LK Advani, former Union HRD Minister Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, former Governor of J&K Shri Jagmohan and many others.

Three volumes of the Encyclopedia are ready and eight others will be ready within a few weeks. It is a comprehensive compilation of the vast ocean of knowledge, history and experience that constitutes Indian culture. The content has been divided into different sections like art, Hinduism in global context, history, historiography and geography, language and literature, philosophy, polity, religion and spirituality, science, special institutions and movements, spiritual

disciplines, scholarship in Hindu studies and women in studies.

Talking to Organiser, Sadhvi Bhagwati, secretary of the India Heritage Research Foundation and a disciple of Swami Chidanand Muni Saraswati who has been instrumental behind the publication of the compilation, said the Encyclopedia answers the questions people are often confronted with, like: What is Hinduism? Who is a Hindu?, etc. The historical details of Hinduism have been explained in various articles written by eminent scholars. More than 2,000 scholars have contributed in this publication.

Malaysian Academy To Train Hindu Priests

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com

IPOH, MALAYSIA, APRIL 5, 2010: Malaysia's first academy to train Hindu priests will conduct a five-year course developed in consultation with similar institutions in India, Human Resource Minister S. Subramaniam said. He opened the academy Sunday, stating that for now the country's Tamil Hindu community will continue to get priests from India since the training, grading and certifying of priests will take time.

The Hindu community's wish to have a training facility for local priests has been fulfilled with the setting up of the academy

in Jelapang Tambahan. With the opening of the academy, the availability of qualified priests will be assured for over 3,000 Hindu temples in the country.

Subramaniam said although there were locals who were trained as priests, the training was not done formally by recognized institutions and was not accredited at the national level. He said a major problem facing the community was the qualifications of local priests conducting important and complicated ceremonies in the temples.

Indian Cultural Fests In China And France

Source: sify.com

INDIA, March 31, 2010: The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) will present the Festival of India in China and France in April, showcasing a variety of art forms from various regions of India. "India has close and friendly ties with both China and France. With these festivals, ICCR is looking forward to strengthen and expand its relations with the two countries," ICCR Director General Virendra Gupta said. The Festival of India in China will be a six-month-long event, beginning April 7 at Beijing. The Festival of India in France, known as Namaste France will be a 14-month-long program, to be inaugurated by ICCR president Karan Singh in Paris April 14.

Arsha Vidya Newsletter

Annual Subscription: Rs.180/-

Published by V. Sivaprasad

Trustee, Sruti Seva Trust, Anaikatti, Coimbatore 641108

And

Edited by S. Srinivasan - 0422-2657001

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

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