

### Puja Workshop To Help Priests Stick To Tradition

Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com

KOLKATA, INDIA, September 2010: Just a few weeks before Durga Puja (Navaratri), several families of the city are organizing training camps for priests to bring authenticity into community pujas. While the old family pujas still follow tradition rigorously, when it comes to community pujas, the general complaint is that the piety gets drowned in merrymaking and that even priests take it easy.

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### Hindu Mandir Executives' Conference 2010

Source: mandirsangam.vhp-america.org

HOUSTON, TX, USA, October 8, 2010 (from the press release): The 5th Annual Hindu Mandir Executives' Conference will be held on October 22-24, 2010, at the Sheraton Hotel in Houston, Texas. It continues the tradition of the previous four successful conferences gathering many of America's Hindu leaders.

The Hindu Mandir Executives' Conference (HMEC) is an annual initiative seeking development of network between the executives of all Hindu mandirs of America. Temple leaders understand Hindu-American needs and challenges. At HMEC-2010 the goal is to deliberate on ways of ensuring the sustenance of Hindu Dharma in North America, exploring ways of anchoring Hindu Dharma's values in the hearts of coming generations and roles which mandirs can play to make that happen.

The Conference will also be a place where participants will share their experiences and offer wisdom in specific areas for everyone's benefit.

[HPI note: Two members of the Hinduism Today Staff will be present at the HMEC Conference. Paramacharya Palaniswami, Editor-in-Chief, will give a presentation on the Festival Media Outreach Initiative. Sannyasin

Senthilnathaswami, A. Editor, will present the Hindu History Lessons #4 and #5. Also, the Hindu Heritage Endowment (another organization based at Kauai's Hindu Monastery) will be the theme of a presentation by Rajkumar Manickam].

The training camps are trying to bring back authenticity to community pujas. One such camp is on in full swing at the Daw family mansion at Girish Park. The camp is being conducted by Sanskrit scholars like Murari Mohan Bendanto Tirthaand Jayanta Kushari. At least 150 priests were being instructed why they should not take tea breaks in between the pujas and how to get the Sanskrit accents right. "The magic of the mantras lies in the diction. The right mantras will make you feel the presence of the divine, they are so powerful," said Kushari.

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### Bengaluru To Host World Samskrit Book Fair

Source: groups.google.co.in

BENGALURU, INDIA, September 2010: More than 10,000 Sanskrit Scholars from across the world and over 150 publishers from 14 countries will participate in the World Samskrit Book Fair to be held at Bangalore Karnataka from January 7 to 10, 2011. Samskruta Bharati, an RSS affiliated organisation for Samskrit speaking-learning activities will be organizing this mega event.

Sanskrit Promotion Foundation spokesperson Srinivas announced that the fair, to be organized jointly by various Sanskrit organizations and the Karnataka government, will be the first of its kind. More than 500 new publications would be released, he said. He stated that conferences and workshops would also be held to provide a platform for discussion on translations, new vocabulary and the role of Sanskrit, management and leadership principles in its literature

## Tamil Nadu Sculptors Renovate Delhi Temple

Source: www.thehindu.com

NEW DELHI, October 11, 2010: A group of artisans from Tamil Nadu is trying to rebuild the Sri Lakshminrisimha temple in Karol Bagh, Delhi. A team of 10 artisans is in the Capital to reconstruct and rebuild the structure. The objective of the temple's managing committee is to bring to the city one more example of the art of carving temple structures — shilpa-shastra — seen in some of the most magnificent structures of southern India.

Senthil, one of the artisans, has been working from the age of 18. "This isn't just a source of income for us," he says. "We worship this art. And if you do this for money, the perfection will never come." Srinivasan, the co-ordinator, adds, "One also needs to be happy from the inside as this would reflect on the structure."

The vimana, the central structure of the temple, depicts the gopuram tangis, who are followers of deity Narasimha (an incarnation of Vishnu). The followers are shown holding the deity in their hands. The vimanna is supported by pillars that have intricate designs from the Chola period. The gate tower rises in multiple levels tapering to the top. A brass kalash (pot) containing grains is placed on the top of this structure in conformity with the old belief that grains when mixed with copper have the power to nullify the effects of lightning and thunder. The vimana is a three-story structure rising between 20 and 22 feet.

A great deal of patience and dedication is required to make sure the structure looks as it is intended to, say the artisans. They add that an artisan needs to be aware of the Deity of the temple and the religious lore surrounding the various Gods and Goddesses to infuse life into the sculptures, an intimate connection between artist and Divinity.



Pujya Swamiji, in his foreword to the book says Smt. Meena Hariharan is endowed with skills to draw and paint which she dedicates always to express her devotion. She is now offering this small book with different patterns of rangoli, each one drawn with ராம! in place of the usual dot. The whole pattern is presented through the name of the Lord Rama in Devanagari script. This book contains not only her various patterns of rangoli but also the songs composed on different occasions. It can be a good book to learn rangoli as well as songs, besides other stotras.

The book is available with the Book Dept. of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti, Coimbatore 641108  
Email : books.cds@arshavidya.in

The book is priced at Rs.250/-.