



Hindu Vishwa News Digest

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Our News Digest

We are delighted to publish Hindu Vishwa News Digest a bi-monthly, online only digest. This digest is for the benefit of the Hindu Society at large. Its purpose is to consolidate useful and relevant information from around the world and present it in a reference guide format. We are providing *SEVA* to our community by running this digest and look forward to your constant support to build our digest as informative and effective as possible. The digest will feature news items, articles from various sources, articles from likeminded groups, original VHPA articles and much more. We welcome your comments and suggestions

“Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah” - The one who protects Dharma is protected by Dharma

Focus – VHPA News

VHPA comes out strong in support of US troops and fire fighters on Friday Jan 17, 2014

The Hindu Jain Temple of Pittsburg hosted an evening of performances and Bollywood Jeopardy by the local artists on behalf of Hindu American groups to support troops and fire fighters in both the United States and India. The sponsors for the program included the Hindu Jain Temple, the Maharashtra Mandal, Overseas Volunteer for a Better India, and the Bhutanese Association, the World Hindu Council of America (VHPA).



Lt. Col. Bruce Kish of 316th Sustainment Command, Coraopolis, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003-04), shared experiences of troops and thanked the organizers. Local artists volunteered to put on a show to encourage support and raise awareness for this noble cause. Donations raised will be given to the groups who are helping the families of troops that have been affected in both, the United States and India.

Pradeep Fulay, who led the effort, thanked all the volunteers and groups for their support in organizing the event and contributing towards the cause. Report by Gyan Mehta.

VHPA North Houston Chapter celebrates Basant Panchami in Houston on Feb 01, 2014

At the annual Basant Panchami dinner get together of VHPA North Houston Chapter, members and well-wishers of VHPA met and greeted each other on Hindu new year and seek blessings of Goddess Saraswati – Goddess of knowledge, arts and music. The program started with a prayer of Goddess Saraswati.



Rahul Chandra, president of North Houston VHPA Chapter welcomed all guests and members of VHPA. He updated them on current and upcoming programs, objective, foundation mission of North Houston VHPA chapter. He emphasized on the requirement of strong involvement of Hindu families in VHPA North Houston Chapter which has been successfully conducting social and cultural programs since eighteen months and has now grown into a full fledge chapter with support from VHPA national leadership.

Science & Environment

Oculus closing the rift before a high-tech reality. Throw together a state-of-the-art program and an ingenious idea and what you have are the Oculus Rift — a \$300 console that creates highly immersive virtual realities using only a stripped-down tablet, a pair of stereoscopic lenses and a processor for hardware.

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/oculus-closing-the-rift-before-a-hightech-reality/article5729916.ece>

800 turtles dead in Nellore. More than 800 Olive Ridley turtles, which came to lay eggs on the beaches of Nellore in Andhra Pradesh, have died, it was reported on Tuesday. N.V. Sivarama Prasad, District Forest Officer, Nellore, said such large-scale deaths of Olive Ridley turtles had not been reported from the Andhra Pradesh coast in the recent past.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/800-turtles-dead-in-nellore/article5727378.ece>

Hindu Studies

The Coalition of Hindu Youth (CHY) announces 2014 'Sanatan Dharma' Scholarship' for school and college youths. Details: www.hinduscholarship.org

Crocodile help scholar link Indus Valley, Sangam era. Houston-based Tamil scholar Naa Ganesan has sought to draw a link between the Indus Valley Civilization and ancient Tamil culture by drawing attention to the use of the crocodile as a symbol in both regions. Ganesan's theory focuses on the crocodile deity in Indus, post-Harappan and Megalithic periods <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Crocodiles-help-scholar-link-Indus-valley-Sangam-era/articleshow/29073088.cms>

Relics of India's Golden Age discovered in Bihar. Concrete floors and walls that likely belong to a temple of the ancient Gupta Period – known as the Golden Age of India – have been discovered in north Bihar's Vaishali district. The Gupta age lasted roughly from the 4th to the 6th Century AD <http://bharatkalyan97.blogspot.in/2014/01/relics-of-indias-golden-age-discovered.html>

Hindus Around the World

In a landmark judgment passed in January 2014, a bench of justices B S Chauhan and S Bobde at The Supreme Court of India has held that Hindu temples freed from government clutches. State should return all usurped temples back to the rightful Hindu proprietors for the famous Chidambaram Nataraja Temple in Tamil Nadu. <http://bharatkalyan97.blogspot.in/2014/01/hindu-temples-freed-from-government.html>

A record number of British Hindus have flocked to one of Europe's largest Krishna temples as part of Janmashtami celebrations this week. Over 50,000 people converged on Bhaktivedanta Manor in Watford, north-west of London, for the annual festival to mark the birth of Lord Krishna. This year's spectacle ran over two days – Wednesday and Sunday <http://worldhindunews.com/2014022118355/record-number-of-british-hindus-at-europes-largest-krishna-temples-as-part-of-janmashtami-celebrations>

Social Justice/Activism

Hindu groups protest controversial American evangelist Benny Hinn's visit. Around 2,000 people from various Hindu groups on Friday staged a demonstration in the City, urging the State government to bar the controversial American

evangelist, Benny Hinn, from attending a religious event set to be held here from January 15 to 17.

http://worldhindunews.com/2014010316084/india-hindu-groups-protest-controversial-american-evangelist-benny-hinns-visit/?utm_source=wpnewsman&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=WHN%20WEEKLY%2001-06

Scammers Target Hindu Americans. A group of scammers impersonating IRS officials is targeting Hindu and South Asian Americans. They have received phone calls from individuals claiming to be from the IRS or law enforcement. The callers generally state that the IRS has assessed tax penalties against the victim. The victim is asked to pay a settlement with the IRS to avoid further legal and financial penalties

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4SItnuess>

1. DO NOT provide the caller with any personal or financial information or make arrangements for payment.
2. Collect the number you were called from, as well as the scammer's name, the agency he claims to represent, and the amount and method of payment demanded.
3. Call the IRS Helpline at 800-829-1040 to assess if there is an actual situation.

Hindu Lifestyle

Shivratri is the day when rituals and worship are given more importance. There is no fun or merrymaking as in other Hindu festivals. It is a day of renunciation and prayer. It is a day to realize the Brahmn and cleanse ignorance. Lord Shiva appeared in the form of Jyotirlinga on this day. It is said that one should practice non-violence on this day. Worshipping Shiva with Bilva leaves is considered highly auspicious. If you are unable to observe fast or keep vigil during night, you can observe the day by chanting 'Om Namah Shivaya.'

Read more at: <http://www.mahashivratri.org>

Holi is the festival of color and an important festival of Hindus. It is celebrated at the end of the winter season on the last full moon day of the lunar month Phalgun (February/March), (Phalgun Purnima), which usually falls in March, sometimes in late February. It heralds the onset of Spring season's abundant colors and saying farewell to winter. The festival of Holi is usually associated with Lord Krishna. In places like Braj, Vrindavan and Mathura, Holi is a grand festival in which people celebrate the eternal love of Lord Krishna and His divine companion Radha.

Read more at: <http://www.boldsky.com/yoga-spirituality/faith-mysticism/2014/holi-special-legend-of-radha-and-krishna-038681.html>

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