

Protest against Indian Government's brutal action against peaceful and sleeping people at Midnight

Three main reasons for our protest:

(1) During Baba Ramdev's peaceful hunger-strike, on June 5 2011 at Ramlila Grounds in Delhi, over 60000 sleeping civilians, who were also fasting, were brutally attacked by the police in the middle of night under the Indian government's instructions.

Continue...

Ayurveda+Herbal Medicine Symposium

Looking Beyond April 2011 was the theme on Monday 28th March 2011 at Indian YMCA, Fitzroy Square, London, where Amarjeet S Bhamra founder of www.saveherbalmedicine.com Continue...

>New programme on MATV promoting Hindu Faith

We are pleased to inform you that Hindu Council UK Jt. General Secretary Mr Brij Mohan Gupta is hosting an innovative and exciting new programme called "Let's Talk" every Sunday evening on MATV (Sky Channel 793). The programme addresses a variety of topics related to Hindu Dharma and culture. It also allows viewers to phone in to pose questions about the Hindu Faith and welcomes your suggestions.

Kindly let all your family, friends and associates know about this unique new service aimed especially at Hindus settled outside of India.

Continue...

HCUK - AGM December 2010

Dear All,

This is to give notice to all affiliated Organizations of Hindu Council UK that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on:

Day and Date: Sunday, 5 December 2010

Place: Sanatan Mandir, 84 Weymouth Street, Leicester LE4 6FQ

Tel: 01162661402

Time: 1pm for Lunch to start meeting at 2pm sharp to 4.30pm

AGENDA

1. To approve Minutes of the previous AGM

Continue...

Interfaith Celebration of Light

The World's religions, faith communities and others that value life share the concept of 'light' as a metaphor of energy, hope and life.

An Inter faith festival to celebrate 'light' and how it can act as a common thread to unite people of all faiths and none would be both inspiring and powerful. For Hindu's 'light' is used, in the form of divas, to represent the presence of God, and the triumph of light (knowledge) over darkness (ignorance). Similarly candles are lit in Christianity and Catholicism whilst the Hannukia is used in Judaism. Meanwhile other religions and traditions use 'light' to communicate values, express modes of good behaviour and exhibit potential beyond mankind's understanding.

Continue...

Emergency Ayurveda Meeting with HH Swamiji

HH Swami Ramdevji and Lord King were guests of honour at a gathering of the UK's leading Ayurvedic Doctors and Yoga Practitioners called to discuss the challenges faced by Ayurvedic and Herbal medicinal community especially in the light of the forthcoming EU legislation. Also participating were representatives of the major Ayurveda and Indian and Hindu organisations in the UK. The meeting had been called by Amarjeet Singh Bhamra of the saveherbalmedicine.com Campaign group to apprise Swami Ramdevji of the forthcoming legislative threat to Herbal Traditions and to seek his blessings for the formation of an All Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Sciences at Wembley on 10th July 2010.

Continue...

HINDUISM FOR HINDU YOUTH ON TV EVERYDAY

HINDUISM FOR HINDU YOUTH ON TV EVERYDAY

Hindu parents often complain that their youngsters struggle with Hinduism. Help is at hand during the summer break.

Hindu Faith Channel: Aastha International broadcast on SKY 807 in UK

(and on Direct TV in USA and Rogers Cable in Canada) are launching a new series of programmes specially aimed at Hindu youth in the West.

These broadcasts present Hinduism in a structured and rational format and consists of talks by our director of education Sri Jay Lakhani.

These talks are being broadcast a daily basis on Aastha International on SKY 807 at following times (BST or EST).

Continue...

The Swaminarayan Temple in Golders Green is proud to announce that it is authorised and approved by Sports Relief to organise North West London's event in Golders Green

The Swaminarayan Temple in Golders Green is proud to announce that it is authorised and approved by Sports Relief to organise North West London's event in Golders Green.

The event has been promoted as North West London's very own and only Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile is THE GOLDERS GREEN SHREE SWAMINARAYN GADI TEMPLE INTERFAITH MILE.

With several Synagogues, Mosques, Greek .Methodist and catholic churches, are supporting the run. Aim to make the 2010 event THE BIGGEST INTER FAITH RUN IN THE COUNTRY it is already oversubscribed!!

Continue...

Metropolitan Police & Fire Officer in Brent training session on Hinduism

This training session was attended by 20 officers who spent a day at the Hindu temple in Cricklewood. They were given a brief introduction to Hinduism and were encouraged to ask questions on issues they may have to face when dealing with interacting with Hindu families as well as Hindu temples.

Continue...

SHIVRATRI CELEBRATED WITH THE SARVODAYA HINDU ASSOCIATION AT TOLWORTH ON 12TH FEBRUARY 2010

Shiva literally means 'God combined with God's Grace' – two for the price of one.

HE is Hara from Sanskrit Harati meaning one who comes with the power to demolish our delusions regarding nature of reality

HE is Asuthosh – meaning easy to appease. Hence some call him Bholanath

HE is Ardhanarishwar – God and God’s manifesting power as one as Shiva & Shakti

HE is also Natraj – lord of the dance - Lord active in the dance of creation, preservation and destruction

HE is the only God of the Hindus that allow the devotee to proclaim his oneness with God ~
‘Shivoham Shivoham’

These ideas were shared with the devotees of Shiva at Sarvyodya Hindu Association Tolworth Surrey

Continue...

Re-appointments in Public Sector discriminating against British Asians

The Hindu Council UK (HCUK), a representative body for Britain’s 1.5 million Hindus, has today published a list of Re-Appointments in the Public Sector in the past year showing that the majority of UK’s NDPBs (Non-Departmental Public Bodies) are re-appointing board directors far too frequently; paying them too much and signing them up for far too long. The list, comprising 230 individuals re-appointed in the past year (from 1 September 2008 onwards) totals in excess of £10 million in salaries. HCUK claims this practice is preventing highly-qualified, skilled and experienced Asians from obtaining their first public sector role. Continue...

Interfaith Conference and Cultural Extravaganza

Hindu Council UK in liaison with other Hindu Organisations will host a cultural programme and interfaith conference with a variety of Guest Speakers and other dignitaries. This event will celebrate National Interfaith Week supported by the Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG).

Date: Saturday 21st November 2009

Venue: Shree Ram Mandir 22 King Street Southall Middx. UB2 4DA Tel: 0208 574 5276. Continue.....
Continue...

On the theme of Improving the profile of Hindu Council UK

Hindu Council UK continues to make inroads in promoting Hinduism at Universities.

This month Hindu Council UK will be conducting sessions on Hinduism for Post Graduate Students at the following colleges / universities:

Continue...

HCUK 2009 AGM Notice

All British Hindu temples and member Organisations' Trustees, Executives and Devotees are invited to the HCUK 2009 AGM at Bala ji Temple on 13 Sept at 1pm.

Continue...

Celebrating the Life of a Kashmiri Saint in Switzerland

Since time immemorial Kashmir has been the home of Rishis (Vedic seers); its origin is documented in the Nilamata Puran and its history has been enshrined within the Rajatarangini written by the 12th century Kashmiri Brahmin Kalhan. The very name of Kashmir is derived from the illustrious Kashyap Rishi; once a vast lake which geologists have dated back to 50,000 years ago it was drained and created the blissful Kashmir Valley. The Kashmiri Pandits are the descendants of these celebrated Rishis and though driven out of their homeland through insurgency, they have preserved their culture and rich heritage wherever their destiny has taken them.

Continue...

Pluralism wins the hearts and minds of staff and boys at Sutton Grammar School

'Question Time' at Sutton Grammar School on 15th July 2009

The RE department at Sutton Grammar School organised a 'Question Time' session with a panel of faith members. Over a hundred year 10 boys were allowed to fire pointed questions at the panel. One of the pointed questions that came up was: Which of your religions is right and hence who in the panel is going to hell?

Continue...

Shree Laxminarayan Yagna on Water

World-first event for the most memorable holiday of your life with His Holiness Swami Shree Satyamitranand Giriji Maharaj (former Shankaracharya)

Pujya Swamiji invites you on an idyllic 9-day cruise across Europe to perform Laxmi Narayan Yagna commencing on the 16th August and ending on the 24th August 2009. The Cruise liner will sail past Europe's most magnificent landscapes whilst you fulfill your dreams of Satsang with Pujya Swamiji, and be a part of history in the very first Laxmi Narayan Yagna at sea on a cruise ship!

Continue...

Hinduism for the Beefeaters

Recently the Establishment at the Tower of London arranged an introductory session on Hinduism for their staff members (including the famous beefeaters) who wanted to learn about different world religions. The Hindu presentation focused on two aspects of Hinduism that are relevant for the modern world.

Continue...

Interfaith Music Event on 24th June held at the London Interfaith Centre

This annual event we help organise went off well. We had devotional music from 10 faith traditions.

Music is one of the best tools to bring about natural cohesion between people of different faiths. This was very visible last night.

We enclose an image.

Continue...

How to thrive in a challenging economy - Lecture on 28th June

Dada Vaswani's biography is briefed here. Dada as he is affectionately known, celebrated his 90th birthday on 2nd August 2008. His 90th birthday celebrations continue. As a mark of Dada attaining this memorable milestone, the Sadhu Vaswani Centre UK donated funds to the KK Eye Institute (part of the Sadhu Vaswani Medical Complex, Pune) for the performance of 900 eye procedures for the needy in India. The eye campaign championed by Dada – “Sight for the Sightless” has benefitted several thousand poor rural folk - adivasis, dalits, farmers, tribals, woodcutters, shepherds and landless labourers all earning meagre daily wages. As they age, they become blind and sadly they continue to live with their blindness. High levels of illiteracy coupled with the fact that they are unable to afford even the basic necessities of life prevent them from seeking this simple cure of eye surgery. But, it doesn't have to be this way as a vast majority of this blindness can be prevented or treated.

Continue...

Hindu Council UK warns the use of Beef and Pork in Chicken Products

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 8th June 2009

For immediate Use

The Hindu Council UK (HCUK) has reacted with shock and disgust to the news that food manufacturers in three EU states have used bulking agents made from pork and beef bones and gristle to inflate chicken breasts, before selling them on to the UK market at a higher price.

Continue...

Community participation in June elections 2009

Despite Joseph Rowntree Foundations Findings of February 2007 that “Hindus are the most likely to vote of all the religious groups common in the South Asian electorate.” However there are many who may think their vote is irrelevant, if we had adopted this precept then we would not have a very small number of MPs, GLA Assembly member, MEPs or local Councillors.

Continue...

Sansaar Pantomime "MASTI MAJA"

All children, parents and grandparents are invited to a third and final performance Masti Maja.

A Gujarati play for all the family to enjoy. Please see attached flyer.

The production is kindly supported by HCUK.

Continue...

London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games - opportunities to engage

Event scheduled for 12th May from 5pm to 9pm at City Hall, London

The London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will focus the world's attention on our capital city in just over three years' time and you can be part of it.

Continue...

An Appeal to the NRI's to support the Gandhian Satyagrah Brigade for Good Governance

The Gandhian Satyagraha Brigade was launched to fight against high level political corruption, in many cases criminality in politics, and promote good governance. Our umbrella organization, the Servants of People Society, is an organization of national activists dedicated to the service of India. It was founded by Lala Laljpat Rai and inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi at Lahore in 1921. We are running high schools, working in villages for education, health and employment projects, a public library and an old age home for senior citizens. We are one of the oldest NGOs of India. Our Society's Presidents have held high positions like Prime Minister (Lal Bahadur Shastri), Vice President (Krishan Kant), Governor U.P., Biswanath Das, several Chief Ministers and Members of Parliament.

Continue...

Eastern Eye Opinion Piece

Hindus complain about the Temple Setting in Russell Brand Show

By Anil Bhanot

General Secretary, Hindu Council UK

A few years ago there was outrage over the Indian artist M F Hussain's paintings of Hindu deities in the nude. Then fashion got in on the act and it became chic to imprint Hindu deities onto footwear, T-shirts and bikinis. Now we at the Hindu Council UK have had numerous complaints from British Hindus about yet another incident in which Hindu deities have been used for cheap amusement. This time, Hindus are upset because Channel 4 has shown a TV show in which comedian Russell Brand tells obscene jokes and simulates sex on a stage set to a backdrop of Hindu deities.

Continue...

Hindu Academy ~ the Vivekananda Centre London

Annual Award Ceremony was held at Brent Town Hall on 6th of February 2009

The Hindu Academy Annual Award Ceremony took place on Friday 6th of February at Brent Town Hall. Lynne Sedgmore CBE the Patron of Hindu Academy launched the ceremony. The Head Master of Eton College Mr Anthony Little was the chief guest and gave out the awards. Hindu Academy trains the largest number of candidates studying and sitting for GCSE and Advanced level examinations in Hinduism in the country. Every year a number of candidates manage to obtain the maximum 100 percent marks in Hinduism at AS or Advanced level modules on Hinduism.

Continue...

Indology X

Bindi and Namaste over 5,000 Year Old Traditions

Source: <http://sites.google.com/site/kalyan97>

GUJARAT, INDIA, November 16, 2008: The sindhur Bindi, or pottu by which it is known in Southern India, a unique marking on the foreheads of Indians, dates back to the third millennium BCE. Even during the early days of civilization people used to wear the sindhur Bindi or tilak on their foreheads, excavations along the now defunct Saraswati river have proved. "The Indian woman had adorned her forehead with sindhur as a symbol of marriage. This perhaps also indicated the existence of a

structural family life in an orderly society," Prof B.B. Lal, former director general, Archaeological Survey of India told Deccan Chronicle.

Continue...

Exploring the challenge from a Science oriented World-view Upper Sixth form at Queen Elizabeth's School Barnet

Dear Colleagues

One of the greatest challenges for religious communities is how to reconcile a science oriented world-view with a multitude of religious world-views. I took on this topic today while exploring the role and relevance of religion in modern times for the Upper Sixth form at Queen Elizabeth's school in Barnet.

Continue...

Saraswati Statue in Belfast Gardens

ArtsEkta, Northern Ireland first and only Multi-Ethnic arts organization, last week unveiled a wood carving of Saraswati Mata, Hindu Goddess of Arts and Knowledge. This is one of the first non Christian Religious artworks in a public place in Northern Ireland and is situated in the Palm House in Botanic Gardens Belfast.

Continue...

Hindu Education

Our work in promoting Hindu education continues as follows:-

This week we did a session for the Post Graduate students at St John and St Marks in Plymouth and will be conducting two more sessions for Post graduate students at Sheffield Hallam as well as Canterbury Christ Church Universities.

Continue...

Ethics in a Global Economy

Dear Colleagues

The financial turmoil we are experiencing is a topical issue we will be examining at a seminar held on Ethics in a Global Economy at St Ethelberga's on 29th October. I am one of the keynote speakers and will draw attention to the role of religions teachings on this issue.

Continue...

Hinduism at English Universities

A day session on Hinduism with Postgraduates at University of East London

4/9/08

Dear Colleagues

The work I do at universities in promoting not just Hinduism but the broader vision of spirituality generates very warm response. I am taking the liberty of sharing the reaction from a course leader.

Continue...

Indology X - Mahabharata VI

Yuga Confusion in Indian History

This 'Confusion of Yugas' document is a compilation of articles and emails I brought together to explain why the commonly used "traditional date" of 3102 BCE for the Mahabharata is actually not traditional at all and that the tradition of our scriptures/literature, royal chronologies, astrology and archaeology all actually support a timeframe of the 15th century BCE for this post-Vedic Epic.

Continue...

Indology IX - Mahabharata V

The Ancient (now underwater) Harbor of Dvaraka

The Ancient (now underwater) Harbor of Dvaraka This article by Gaur, Sundaresh and Tripathi reviews their marine archaeological findings as it relates to the location and material evidence for the harbor of Dwarka as it existed during the timeframe of the Mahabharata and ideas around how it sank into the sea afterwards (after Krishna's death). The article includes some nice underwater photos.

Continue...

Indology VIII - Mahabharata IV

The Legend of Dwaraka

This lengthy article reviews all the history of Krishna's city of Dwarka and presents evidence from different sources. Numerous images and drawings help the reader visualize what the city was actually like during its heyday. At the end of the article, I've added in a Dwaraka Timeline to put a chronology to the evidence and this is followed by some additional postings, articles and images/maps of Dwaraka.

Continue...

GITA YAJNA, LAUNCH OF BHAGAVAD GITA & JANAMASHTMI CELEBRATION

Swami Nirliptananda and the devotees of the Sangha cordially invite you to participate in celebrating the event of Janamashtmi, the birth of Lord Krishna and will very much appreciate your presence on this very special occasion.

GITA YAJNA, LAUNCH OF BHAGAVAD GITA

And

JANAMASHTMI CELEBRATION

Continue...

Press Release: Indo-European Kashmir Forum (IEKF)

August 8th 2008

For immediate Release

IEKF and the European Hindu Communities are deeply shocked at the Government's attack on the non-violent protesters and media persons in Jammu. The Forum and the Hindus strongly condemn the Government's action in manhandling of the media persons and attacking them with tear gas shells.

Continue...

Indology VII - Mahabharata III

Actual Location of Krsna's Dvaraka

Krsna's city of Dvaraka has a long tradition and is described in the Mahabharata, Harivamsa, Skanda Purana and Vishnu Purana. All traditions describe how the city sank into the sea as observed by Krsna himself. This paper describes the changing western coastline of India which is affected by plate tectonics and how these tectonics not only changed the coastline, but also shifted the course of the Sarasvati River and other rivers in that western region of India.

Continue...

Indology VI - Mahabharata II

Internal Consistency of Eclipses and Planetary in Mahabharata

This paper goes into the details of the exact text from the Mahabharata and how those words can be analyzed properly using modern planetarium software to arrive at logical and reasonable conclusions regarding chronology of the MBH Epic in the 1493 to 1443 BCE timeframe.

Continue...

Indology V - Mahabharata I

Archaeo-astronomy of the Mahabharata

This article summarizes the internal evidence in the Mahabharata which clearly establishes the historicity of the MBH and also pinpoints its timeframe to the band between 1493 and 1443 BCE. The evidence described in this article correlates the archaeological finds (drying up of the Sarasvati River) with the internal astronomical evidence (3 solar eclipses and polestar and planetary movements) in the texts.

Continue...

The Indus Riddle

Courtesy: India Today

A flurry of excavations has uncovered startling evidence that presents a radically picture of the Indus Valley civilisation -- and calls for a complete revision of ancient Indian history.

By Raj Chengappa

To school students, history classes on the Indus Valley civilisation have always been simplistic. Even dull. Most textbooks talk of how the civilisation appeared like a meteor on ancient India's skyscape, shone brilliantly for a while and then was snuffed out either by marauding Aryans or sudden floods.

Continue...

The Myth of the Aryan Invasion

Svami B.V. Giri

Introduction

The aryan invasion theory has been one of the most controversial historical topics for well over a century. However, it should be pointed out that it remains just that – a theory. To date no hard evidence has proven the aryan invasion theory to be fact. In this essay we will explain the roots of this hypothesis and how, due to recent emergence of new evidence over the last couple of decades, the validity of the aryan invasion theory has been seriously challenged.

Continue...

Invitation for all to attend Mata Ka Jagran

Against the backdrop of stillness, change occurs and all change is a movement from one state to a new state. The eternal stillness which is the backdrop to all of Creation is called Shiva, the consciousness within which all changes occurs and within which all changes are experienced. The capacity for change, which is within Shiva, is termed Shakti and the most popular representation of this power of change is that of Durga Mother, the Divine Feminine Principle, seated on the pacing tiger. Like all of the Vedic depictions of aspects of the Divine, a closer study of the image reveals many teachings.

Continue...

Ramayana at the British Library

The Ramayana Exhibition at the British Library, Kings Cross, illustrates Rama's story through pictures, some of which are shown below:

Continue...

The Historicity of Rama

By the Indian Historian: P.L. Bhargava

The Ramayana is one of the greatest and noblest works in the literature of the world. Whether Rama, who is today venerated by millions of people, was a historical figure or not can only be determined if we impartially, objectively and dispassionately examine the vast evidence that luckily lies at our disposal.

Continue...

Historical Basis of Ramayana

Valmiki Ramayana is the "aadi" (original) Ramayana. Most of the scholars agree on the matter that Valmiki Ramayana originally consisted of five parts starting from the Ayodhya kanda chapter to Yudhya kanda chapter whereas the Bal-kanda and the Uttar-kanda chapters in Ramayana were additions at a later stage.

Rama is mentioned in the last book of the RV – X.93, 14. Since Mandala 10 of the RigVeda was chronologically the last and likely was composed from 2200 to 1700 BCE, this timeframe makes sense since according to other corroborative evidence Rama probably lived around 2100 BCE.

Continue...

Ask the Pandit: Define who and what is a "Practising" Hindu

As part of an ongoing dispute involving a Hindu pupil attending a Lincolnshire school where the Governors consider her choice of wearing a nose stud for religious reasons a contravention of school uniform policy, have requested further information from the Hindu Council UK.

The author in a previous article has already explained the religious significance of the nose stud in the Hindu context.

<http://www.hinducounciluk.org/newsite/circulardet.asp?rec=60>

Continue...

Shiva, Shivaa and Shivalingam

FACT, FICTION & PHILOSOPHY

Ask the Pandit: We go to the temple and worship Shiva-lingam with devotion to Lord Shiva but we hear at school that Shivalingam represents Shiva-phallus. Is this true? A British Hindu Teenager

Answer: No, Shivalingam is a characteristic symbol of the formless supreme being with explanation as hereunder. It was the European Indologists of the colonial era who inflicted this translation onto the Shaivite Hinduism whereas in South India you will find noble surnames ending with the word...lingham, to denote not a phallus but their peity to the indivisible God Shiva, Shivaa and Shivalingham.

Continue...

A FREEDOM STRUGGLE TOUR OF LONDON FOR INDIANS

Dear Friend

I conduct a day tour of London showing places associated with some of the Indian Freedom fighters. If you are interested please contact me. My address is

V S Godbole

14 Turnberry Walk

Bedford

MK 41, 8AZ

U K

Telephone Number 01234 357388

E Mail v.godbole3@ntlworld.com

Continue...

Ask the Pandit : Presumed Consent for Organ Donation

Question to HCUK

Namaskar

On the issue of "Presumed consent for Organ Donation", I would like to know if you have any written evidence, as far as Hindus are concerned, which will help us to present to the Welsh Assembly the case for or against this issue. Whole of UK is going through this process and you would have already

given some evidence to such inquiry in England or for UK. Would it be possible for us to have access to Hindu prospective as far as "presumed consent" is concerned.

Naran B Patel

Swaminarayan Cardiff

Continue...

Electoral participation of Hindu and Sikh communities in England and Wales

A Joseph Rowntree Foundation Report summarised for Hindu Council UK by Jane Brotchie and Anant M Vyas: Please see the full Report under the link:

http://www.hinducounciluk.org/newsite/report/Electora_participation.pdf

Nearly a year of patient perseverance paid off to produce this specially prepared report for the Hindu Council UK by the dedicated staff of the esteemed Joseph Rowntree Foundation. It is in simple English understandable by most irrespective of individual educational background.

Continue...

Hinduism at Worth Abbey

The undersigned was invited to offer a Hindu perspective on: Living my faith in a world community at Worth Abbey in Sussex. The session was good humoured and produced a very warm response. At the end of the presentation an Anglican lady stood up and declared, 'This was the best Christian sermon she has ever heard. The concept of the Holy Ghost became clear.'

Continue...

Happy Shiva-Ratri

Simone, at Life FM a Radio Station run in Harlesden, North West London wanted to find out what is the importance of Shiva-ratri for Hindus and what Lord Shiva stands for. We explained that Shiva literally means God combined with God's grace, so we get two for the price of one! On Shiva-ratri the devotees of Shiva discipline themselves by fasting for 24 hours and spend time chanting or singing devotional songs to Lord Shiva.

Continue...

Gangotri's Final Destination - Vrindavan, land of Shree Krishna's cows

[Special Report by Gauri Das ji President of Bhakti Vedanta Manor Iskcon]

Following the unforgettable ceremonies already performed in Prayag, Varanasi and Hardwar, they set out for Vrindavan, the land of Lord Krishna's cows, Gangotri's final ceremony in this holy town situated on the banks of the river Yamuna.

Sri Padma Nabha Goswami, one of the leading Goswamis of the Sri Sri Radha Damodar Temple performed the ceremonies submerging Gangotri's ashes in the river Yamuna and then conducting the evening Aarti ceremony to the river in Gangotri's name.

Continue...

10 Principles of Dharma

Centuries before the revelation of the Ten Commandments to Moses by God as described in the Old Testament, the Vedic Seer Adi-Manu, the first Man created by Brahma to civilise the world, has described the ten "attributes of Dharma." Manu was endued with great wisdom and devoted to virtue. He became the progenitor of a line and in Manu's race have been born all human beings, who have, therefore, been called Manavas (Mankind through the Sanskrit root). These 'commandments or directives if adhered to ensure lasting peace and happiness in life. People wrongly confuse dharma with ritualistic religion. In fact conscious observance of religious rituals inspires us to imbibe true attributes of dharma and eliminate from our minds, hearts, speech and acts the evil tendencies and practices.

Continue...

RBCG meeting on 13th Feb. And Faith Communities Forum meeting on 14th Feb 08

1. RBCG meeting on 13th Feb. '8.

At the end of my last e-mail regarding RBCG and our frustrating experience at the hands of EHRC, its Chairman, Trevor Phillips, Its Commissioners namely Joel Edwards and Ziauddin Sardar and its Strategy Director Patrick Diamond, I had said that I would report further progress after the meeting on 13th Feb. I am sorry to say that there is no happy outcome to report. Everyone present shared each others frustration. RBCG Chairman Barney Leith has a meeting with Sukhwinder Singh scheduled for 26th February. Mr. Singh is an officer at EHRC; nobody knew his exact designation and I do not expect anything different from him.

Continue...

Malaysian Hindu demonstration at 10 Downing on Friday, 1st February, at 11am to 2pm

Malaysian Hindus, a two million minority in Malaysia, are suffering religious persecution under the new "lite-taliban" policies of the current Government. HINDRAF (Hindu Rights and Action Force) of Malaysia have organised a protest opposite Downing street at 11am this Friday to present a petition to the Prime Minister at 2pm.

Continue...

Annual Om Day Unity Programme

LONDON SEVASHRAM SANGHA

99A Devonport Road, London W12 8PB, Regd No. 261363

E-mail: sevashramglobalv@hotmail.com

Tel/Fax 020 8743 9048

2008 CELEBRATIONS

THE GLOBAL VISION

HINDU COMMON PRAYER FOR UNITY And World PEACE

Continue...

Connecting Communities Plus Grants

Hindu Council UK would like to bring to your attention the above grant. This is a grants programme designed to support practical action to help achieve the goals set out in Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society, - the Government's strategy to increase equality and improve community cohesion. The programme facilitates tailored initiatives to meet the specific needs of disadvantaged communities, rather than treating all BME communities in the same way. Connecting Communities Plus Community Grants are aimed at locally run and managed voluntary and community organisations with an income of less than £50,000 per year, run by volunteers or with one full time or two part time paid staff. Grants are between £6,000 and £12,000. All funding from this final round must be spent by 31st March 2009.

Continue...

"Charities can bring a fundamental change in values in our consumer society"

Ketan Patel - Best selling author of 'The Master Strategist':

London, UK: On Sunday, 2nd December 2007, Ketan Patel, renowned investment banker, strategist, and best-selling author delivered the keynote address at an inaugural event titled 'The 2007 Indus Insight' organised by leading British Charity - Sewa International.

As a result of his time at leading investment bank, Goldman Sachs, Patel cultivated a powerful network of substantive authorities in various fields of work. This unique access to people in high places gave him the opportunity to discuss fundamental questions facing us, in particular, the strategies for creating peace, prosperity and freedom.

Continue...

Series of talks at Universities

Talks on Hinduism in simple English especially aimed at the Hindu youth

On Freeview, every Sunday morning at 10am: Continue...

Press Release New hindu school admissions policy COULD barr most hindu CHILDREN

Britain's first state-funded Hindu Primary school, set to open in Harrow, north London, in September 2008, has outlined an admissions policy the Hindu Council UK (HCUK) says may rule out applications from the vast majority of British Hindu children in the area. HCUK is also concerned the policy may cause division within the local Hindu community.

Continue...

Diwali in Northern Ireland

ArtsEkta Ltd, Northern Ireland's only Ethnic Arts organisation recently celebrated Diwali in the City of Lisburn.

The event was hugely successful and was attended by members of the local community as well as Indian, Chinese and the Zimbabwean community. A showcase of traditional, classical dance and music was on display as well as european and African performances.

Continue...

Ask the Pandit: Hindu scriptural guidance for our environment

Question: Some Local Authorities asked for Hindu scriptural guidance on Recycling and Waste Reduction for their current publications on this important initiative.

What the scriptures say about not being wasteful

Quotes from the scriptures relating to waste reduction

How Hinduism regards individual responsibility concerning the issue

The impact of wastefulness on individuals and communities

Continue...

Karva Chauth UK 28th October 2007

The auspicious fast of Karva Chauth will grace us again this autumn and as with last year, I will clarify the auspicious time for the fast, which is to be observed by many faithful 'suhaagans' (married ladies). For married men of course, you may observe the fast of the monthly Ganesh Chauth that coincides with the Karva Chauth. This will not only support your partner's resolve to fast, but ensure that you attain increased merit for your endeavours, by observing the day jointly.

Continue...

SECULAR INDIA GOVERNMENT ENGINEERS TO DESTROY THE HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF HINDU DHARMA

The Congress-led India government had planned to destroy the Lord Rama Bridge (Lord Rama is revered in Hinduism as an incarnation of the Supreme Godhead) in order to make an easy route for commercial and American warships into the borders of India. This plan had met with stiff opposition in the country as well as in the courts. In a writ petition the Supreme Court had ordered to stop the dredging of the bridge and had required the government to submit an affidavit in support of its plans. The petition had argued that the Bridge, apart from having a great ancient religious significance, having been built by Lord Rama's army in order to facilitate the passage of the Lord to Sri Lanka in order to save His wife from the clutches of the tyrant king Ravana, had also historical, defense and environmental significance and that it should be preserved.

Continue...

Conservative reception at City Hall

The conservative party in GLA held a reception for representatives of various organisations with London 24th of September at City Hall, London. Dilip Joshi and Alok Mitra represented HCUK and EMBG and were welcomed by Richard Barnes, Chair of London Assembly Conservative Groups. Amongst other members of our community was Dolar Popat a leading member of our community in the Conservative party.

Continue...

HCUK Evidence on Nose Stud Significance sent to the GMB union acting for Amrit Lalji

The piercing of the ears (karnavedha) is a prescribed sacrament (samskara) for all Hindus. Furthermore, for females the piercing of the nose as soon as puberty, or before marriage is also stipulated in Hindu Scriptures such as Sushruta Samhita (Chikitsa Sthana Chapter 19). According to

the Hindu Ayurvedic scriptures, the piercing of the nose near a particular node (marma) on the nostril lessens the pains of a woman's monthly cycle and facilitates childbirth. These crucial nodes on the human body are known as 'marma', not dissimilar to acupuncture points.

Continue...

Sewa International UK South Asia Flood Appeal 2007

The flood situation in India this year has been the worst in the living memory, as stated by the United Nations. The worst affected states being Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam followed by many other states like West Bengal, Orissa, and Gujarat. Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh have witnessed severe flash floods resulting in loss of life and property, Millions have been affected due to these severe floods and thousands have been rendered homeless.

Continue...

Lord Ganesh Procession in Southall and Visarjan in River Thames 23rd September 2007

The gloriously warm and sunny September Sunday saw thousands of devotees from diverse faith-communities through the streets of Southall, West London, for the 3rd successive year to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi.

In an emotionally charged and divinely purified atmosphere, they moved slowly, clapping, dancing and chanting "Ganpati Bappa Maurya", thus paying their obeisance to the Lord of the Universe, the remover of all hurdles from their lives.

Continue...

Statement from Hindu Council UK

Hindu airport worker sacked for wearing nose stud

Many Hindu women have their nose pierced and fitted with a stud for their wedding as part of the Shringar ritual. This ritual bestows sixteen different 'marks of a married woman' on the bride; other marks include the Bindi, the red dot on her forehead, the wearing of a Mungal Sutra, or wedding necklace and Sindur, putting vermilion in the hair parting. These marks are not just the outward symbol of marriage - traditionally they are believed to help ensure the match is harmonious.

Continue...

Ask the Pandit : Flowers and Plants in Hinduism

Question

I am a floristry student at Capel Manor College, Enfield and am researching how flowers and plants are associated with Hindu life and culture and would be grateful for any information, or help you could give me.

In particular, I am looking at how flowers and plants are associated with events such as birth, marriage and death as well as religious events.

Thank you for your assistance,

Elizabeth Mortimer

Continue...

Belfast Mela now an annual event celebrates Indian Culture

The Belfast Mela 2007, a one day event in Botanic Gardens Belfast on 26th August 2007 was a huge success. The organisers, ArtsEkta Ltd aimed to bring together people from all cultural backgrounds in this one day event. Almost 10,000 people attended the event which showcased art, culture, music, dance and food from India, Pakistan, China, Romania, Poland, Zimbabwe, The Carriibbean, France and Ireland.

Continue...

Happy Janamashtami

JAI SHREE KRISHNA

Janamashtami 4th September

Birthday of the Supreme's Incarnation on Earth c.BC3100

[Krishna was the most dynamic, in degree of divinity the Ultimate Brahmm, whose life was full of miracles including bringing a dead child alive out of compassion in spite of the cycle of birth and death but above all he gave a sermon at the battlefield of Kurukshetra in the form of a divine song "The Bhagwad Gita", a holy book unparalleled by any other on Earth]

Continue...

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – The Charity for your Community

Do you know what your legal holiday entitlement is? Do you know what your rights as a consumer are? Have you ever had problems while on holiday or with your credit card company? Do you know what a grievance and disciplinary procedure is?

If you have ever wanted the answer to these questions or any other legal matters the Citizens Advice Bureau can help you to make an informed decision on almost any issue.

Continue...

A History of The Kashmiri Pandits Race

Myth and reality move together in the Saffron Valley of mystic splendor. The reclamation of land from Satisar created certain complications. The Saraswati River that flowed into the eastern Punjab, Rajasthan, Sind and other parts of Indian subcontinent suddenly got dried up. Geologists are of the opinion that all those streams, which fed Satisar and form the source of water for the Saraswati river, mostly ran underground [Now evidenced c.40,000 years ago]. Once the cleft materialized at Baramulla, the water of the Satisar flowed out in an opposite direction, leaving the Saraswati

Continue...

100% marks in Hinduism at Advanced level

Hindu Council UK celebrates the success of four top achievers in Hinduism at Advanced level. These candidates obtained 100 percent marks in Advanced level modules on Hinduism. Congratulations to:

Varun Bhanot

Rajiv Chabria

Geeta Gohil

Arati Mohal

for excellence in Hindu education.

Continue...

Hindu Religion on Poverty and Charity

Ask the Pundit : Redbridge Council asks for its interfaith material the Hindu scriptural injunctions on poverty and charity

Poverty is bad and there cannot be two opinions about it in the view of any religion. Hence the scriptures are unanimous in prescribing ways to eradicate it by certain moral conducts. The Hindu scriptures deal in an ethical or religious way with the same threefold business of economics, namely production of wealth, its equal distribution and the appropriate consumption.

Continue...

PRESS RELEASE

HINDU COUNCIL UK (HCUK) DEMANDS SECURITY FOR HINDU TEMPLES IN TRINIDAD FOLLOWING ATTACK

The media has reported that the Sewdass Sadhu Hindu Temple, also called the Temple-By-The-Sea, in Waterloo, Central Trinidad, has been the subject of a religiously motivated attack. A group of vandals had damaged the deities (icons) of Lord Krishna, Lord Ganesh, Lord Hanuman and Goddess Durga.

Continue...

Climate Change Challenge by UK 8020

On 12th July HCUK attended a launch of two life changing initiatives, Climate Change Challenge and Pledge4REG.

An organisation called UK 8020 are funding a Challenge to find someone who can invent a REG (renewable energy generator) that will produce green, free energy for anyone who wants it. The invention needs to produce 90% of an average household's domestic energy requirements but it must retail and be installed for £500.

Continue...

HINDU COUNCIL UK CONGRATULATES MR VIRENDRA KUMAR

SHARMA ON WINNING EALING SOUTHALL 19 JULY 2007

Mr Virendra Sharma said Labour had not taken Ealing Southall for granted.

Hindu Council UK extends heartfelt congratulations to Mr Virendra Kumar Sharma on his victory as the next MP for Ealing Southall. May he continue to better serve the diverse communities that elected him?

Whilst HCUK remains non-political, it is nonetheless quite pleased of its continued [albeit meagre] representation with the

Continue...

Janeu Sanskaar for Hindu Teenagers

Question

My question is can a janoi be given to a non-Brahmin boy? I am a nagar-Brahman woman married a jain man. I would like to know if I can give janoi to our son. Thank you.

Answer

Dear Madam, by 'janoi' (Janeu, janiya) you are referring no doubt to the sacred thread which is invested on a youth during the 'Upanayana', which is the samskara that initiates a person to society.

Continue...

Great Hindu Pioneers of Science

ARYABHATT (476 CE)

MASTER ASTRONOMER AND MATHEMATICIAN

Born in 476 CE in Kusumpur (Bihar), Aryabhatt's intellectual brilliance remapped the boundaries of mathematics and astronomy. In 499 CE, at the age of 23, he wrote a text on astronomy and an unparallel treatise on mathematics called "Aryabhatiyam." He formulated the process of calculating the motion of planets and the time of eclipses. Aryabhatt was the first to proclaim that the earth is round, it rotates on its axis, orbits the sun and is suspended in space - 1000 years before Copernicus published his heliocentric theory.

Continue...

Tara Rani Katha

Question

Dear Sir

I recently attended a Jagrata (Jagran) with my Indian friend, but he could not fully explain the significance of this act of worship or the meaning of the Tara Rani Katha at the end. Would you please elucidate?

John Mills

Continue...

A brief presentation on Hinduism to Ministry of Justice

An introduction to the Hindu religion

For the most ancient among the living world religions, Hinduism is the name given by outsiders to the Indian religious lifestyle. It astonishes them with its spontaneity, diversity and rationality. While its followers recognise it as an eternal religion, for others what they are practising is called the religion of Hinduism.

In fact, there is no Indian word for 'religion' in the first place because religion is related to any set of faiths which emerged outside of India. Rather, in Hinduism the word used is 'Sanatana Dharma' (Eternal Duty).

Continue...

Norfolk County Council Asks the Pundit

Question

Norfolk County Council, with respect to its housing policy, asked whether the Tantric yoga practices were mainstream Hinduism.

In order to resolve this matter, it is important to understand the complexity of the Hindu faith. The essence of Hinduism is in the Vedas, originating from the word 'vid' meaning to know. The divine seers, or the 'Saptarishis' were revealed this divine knowledge from Brahman and in these Vedic mantras, a myriad of beliefs are contained. These all strive to one ultimate goal, salvation or mukti,

Continue...

Saathi is here to support the elderly Hindu Community

On Tuesday 15th May 2007 the first meeting for launching Saathi took place.

The initial meeting was a response to Satish Parmar's - (Chairman of Saathi) research and findings that we need to create a meeting point for elderly.

Continue...

Meeting with 'Halkevi'

Kurdish and Turkish Community Centre, N. London

Dilip and I met at my office yesterday with Ibrahim Dogus, Chairperson, 'Halkevi' the Kurdish & Turkish Community Centre, an NGO operating out of 92-100 Stoke Newington Road, London N16 7XB. I had met Ibrahim for the first time at the Mayor of London's May Day Function at the City Hall earlier this month and was impressed by his commitment to his community and the vision he has for BME dialogue. We took up the opportunity to meet with him as a part of our initiative for 'rainbow alliance'.

Continue...

Hinduism taught at Muslim College in London

As part of a postgraduate course in world religions the Muslim college in London allows Hinduism to be presented on its premises. It is a marvellous example of how very innovative ideas are being tried out on the London scene. The positive response such sessions create is visible in the faces of the Muslim students.

Continue...

Hindu Council UK calls for safe release of BBC Journalist

Hindu Council UK (HCUK), the largest national network of Hindu temple bodies and cultural organisations, this week lent its official support for the safe release of journalist Mr. Alan Johnston, the BBC's Gaza Correspondent currently being held hostage in the Palestinian territories.

Continue...

Hindu Council UK Calls for Reprieve for Shambo the Sacred Bull

The Hindu Council UK (HCUK) has today added its voice to calls to save the life of Shambo, the sacred bull at the Skanda Vale temple in Wales who is threatened with slaughter because he has tested positive in a routine tuberculosis test.

HCUK is urging its 500 member organisations (including all UK Hindu temples) and Hindus nationwide to write to their MPs, asking them to back Andrew Dismore MP, the Labour Member of Parliament for Hendon, who has raised an urgent question in Parliament and tabled a House of Commons motion challenging DEFRA's decision that Shambo must be slaughtered.

Continue...

HCUK bulletin on forthcoming local elections – May 2007

Taxation with representation

Community Governance & electoral participation of British Hindus communities in UK

Despite Joseph Rowntree Foundations Findings of February 2007 that "Hindus are most likely to vote of all the religious groups common in the British Hindus electorate." there are many who don't

Continue...

TIRUPATHI TEMPLE TRUST USHERS GOLDEN ERA OF EQUALITY

The Tirupathi Temple Trust in Hyderabad has decided to open the doors of the famous temple to all sections of Hindus, irrespective of caste or creed. Hindu Council UK has welcomed the news with great jubilation. The Temple trust has proposed to send the priests along with the Deity of Lord Vishnu into the so-called "Dalits" or "lower caste" colony. The priests will be living for a week among the socially separated Hindus and will share food with them.

Continue...

ACAS RESEARCH SEMINAR ON DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND RELIGION AND BELIEF

In pursuance of the Government regulation of December 2003 preventing discrimination at work on grounds of sexual orientation or religion and belief ACAS has conducted research into discriminatory practices funded by the DTI.

Continue...

"Ask the Pandit" - A question from Derby Temple

QUESTION:

"I am General Secretary of the Hindu Temple of Geeta Bhawan, Derby which is more than forty years old. It is small. We are now constructing a new purpose-built temple. In the present temple the icons of Radha Krishna, Shiv Parivar, Durga Mataji and Ram Darbar are small. Many devotees want the

icons to be installed in new temple to be life-sized. But the devotees who donated the present icons want to relocate the present icons - which are small, about 3 feet tall -in the new temple.

Continue...

Adopt a Mother Programme

Child In Need Institute

Ma is one of the most emotionally charged words in the languages of India. It is universally understood and has the power to bring the most powerful of us to our knees. Our mother is not only our barer and carer, but a divine power, the Shakti behind the extraordinary attributes of the Hindu Gods Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh.

Ma is equally our motherland. A country that has culturally and spiritually enriched us for generations upon end and with whom there exists an eternal bond. Yet our glorious Bharat Mata is also home to the highest number of starving mothers in the world, even more than sub-Saharan Africa. Starving mothers equal starving children and in 2006, India ranked a tragic 117 out of 119 countries in the children's Global Hunger Index.

Continue...

Foreign Policy Centre Event 06 March 2006

I attended a talk by Rt. Hon Peter Hain MP on "The End of Policy" organised by the Foreign Policy Centre and hosted by Hill & Knowlton, 20 Soho Square, London W1A 1PR. The invitation was extended to me in my capacity as an executive member of the Hindu Council. Besides diplomats, politicians and business executives, there was a sizable participation from the voluntary sector, including Oxfam and Christian Aid. I was the only representative of the Hindu community at the gathering.

Continue...

DCMS meeting on Tourism for the 2012 Olympics

Hindu Council UK attended the above meeting at the ministry of sports and culture in Culture. The brief of the meeting was to ensure that ethnic minorities play a full and positive part in the event. Apart from Hindu Council UK there was a representative from 'Black Churches', the Jewish and a Gay organisation. The discussion centered on how we could participate in cultural events as well as how best could London welcome tourists during the Olympics.

Continue...

Bicycles for Uganda Appeal

One of the best gifts that you can give to a family in Uganda is a – 'BICYCLE'.

In Uganda, as in much of the developing world, a bicycle is much in demand and is used for transportation of goods and people over short distances. A bicycle can also provide an income, as it can take a worker to a place of work which might otherwise be too far away, or it can be used to offer transport services.

Continue...

A Sainly Hindu Priest Killed in Sri Lanka

The Hindu Council UK (HCUK) strongly condemns the killing of a Tamil Hindu priest on Wednesday 7th January 2007 in Santhiveli, East of Sri Lanka. Rev Chelliah Parameshwara Kurukkal (pictured below on the right with the President of Sri Lanka, Mahintha Rajapaksa), a father of three was a resident priest at Pillaiyar (Ganapathy) Hindu temple in the village.

Continue...

Launch of Secondary Curriculum Review by the QCA on 5th of February at the British Library

The presentations by Sue Horner, Head of Development and Mick Waters, Director of Curriculum were very focused and helpful. What was visible at this event was the very innovative manner in which the QCA is taking on the challenge of educating the young. The most endearing feature of this innovation was: Incorporating a more integrated approach in education that allows the students to see and explore linkages between subjects.

Continue...

German Minister proposes to abuse the Swastika once again in the 21st century after Hitler's evil use in the 20th century

While Germany holds the European Union presidency, its Justice Minister Brigitte Zypries has, without realizing its wider implications, proposed to ban the swastika throughout Europe. This is evidently to demonstrate Germany's repentance of the treatment meted out to the Jews by the Nazis. Although such a show of repentance is something everybody can appreciate, it does however look preposterous if it harm's the world's oldest religion in its wake. This is because the proposed ban would have far reaching implications as it strikes against the very heart of Hinduism.

Continue...

Germany to ban the Swastika symbol in all EU countries

The BBC Asianet interviewed me today about the renewed move by Germany to ban the Swastika symbol in all EU countries.

Of course, the response from all Hindus will be to oppose any such move. Hindu council (UK) will lobby all the MP's and MEP's to ensure that any such attempt to ban the Swastika is opposed in the British Parliament and defeated in the European parliament.

Continue...

DHARMA धर्म Philosophy to live forever by Dr Manmohan Sharma within the Enlightenment of The Glory.....

The concept of the word Dharma is a set of spiritual principles of all living beings, which came into practice, since the human beings, first the mothers with their children and later on with male persons started to live together through their physical emotional and imaginary feelings, first into small but later on into large groups throughout the world. In the early stage they gone through various non-principle systems but ultimately with their day by day life experience they established the Dharma based upon the similar principles of the word Snatan (सनातन) to emphasize its great values and achievements.

Continue...

Donors display boards in Temples

Question: I saw a large display board of donors names placed in the worship area where deities are consecrated. Is this acceptable?

In Hinduism, temples survive largely on the donations of the congregation, and the donors often like to be recognized by the Lord for their charity so that He may bless their family.

Continue...

One day seminar with workshops to assist in teaching Hinduism

Hindu Council (UK) supported by the DfES, the QCA and the Neasden temple have organised a one day seminar on Hinduism as under:

Date: Thursday 22nd March 2007

Time: 10am to 3pm

Venue: Swaminarayan Temple, Neasden, Brentfield Road, London NW10 8LD

Directions: <http://www.mandir.org>

Lunch, tea, coffee and refreshments, kindly provided by the Neasden temple

Fee: Nil

Continue...

Metropolitan Police Authority - Counter Terrorism Debate

A counter terrorism debate meeting was held on November 16.2006 at Metropolitan Police head Quarters at St James Park. The panel consisted of Lord Toby Harris (chair), Ms. Sandy Butts (deputy chair MPA), Mr. Reshard Auladin (deputy chair MPA) and Prof. Tariq Ramadan (Oxford University). Three community leaders each from Hindu, Muslim and Sikh were requested to open the debate.

Continue...

COURT RULES TEMPLE BAN ILLEGAL

A bastion of Hindu caste-ism crumbled this week in the face of more enlightened times. In a landmark ruling, the Orissa High Court in India legislated that Dalits – ‘outcastes’ from the traditional Hindu caste system – could no longer be banned from entering any Hindu temple.

"Every Hindu, irrespective of his caste, has a right to enter any Hindu temple which is open to other persons professing the same religion," a division bench of Chief Justice Sujit Burman Roy and Justice M M Das observed.

Continue...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

06th December 2006.

Hindu Council UK is concerned that a report claims that 3 out of 4 employers have banned Christmas decorations from their offices for fear of offending other faiths.

Hindu Council UK, on behalf of the mainstream Hindu community of the UK, would like to stress that they have no objection whatsoever if employers were to put up Christmas decorations.

Continue...

Struggle for Survival – Sponsor a Street Child in India

Few of us who visit India are strangers to being pestered by street children trying to sell their petty goods or serve us a cup of chai. India is home to the largest population of children living or working on the streets worldwide, with at least eighteen million in urban areas.

Continue...

Race & Faith Leadership Summit 27th November 2006 @ city hall

The Hindu Council UK (HCUK) is proud to support this coalition of Race equality and faith based organisations, particularly at a time when our Human rights are being corroded and support we should be getting from the government is being 'buried', namely the CRE. Furthermore, there is a shared fear that the new body, the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) will dilute race equality and will pay little attention to religious equality.

Continue...

World AIDS Day – 2nd December 2006

To mark World Aids Day (1st December 2006) we will be holding a Gala evening to raise funds and awareness for a huge but mostly ignored problem facing modern day India, AIDS/HIV. The details of the event are attached. Last year we raised substantial funds and bought essential equipment for a hospital treating HIV/AIDS patient. We are also sponsoring a study in Goa to carry out the following :

Continue...

Events at the www.bhavan.net

Dear all lovers of Vedic and Sanskrit, Namaskar. May I request you to pl read, circulate this matter of three things and encourage by attending them.

Dr Shastry has been invited to deliver 7 lectures commencing from 4 Nov on every Saturday between 12.30 and 1.30 pm at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's London Kendra. A fee of £ payable for series, individual talk £ . The following is the plan of the series of talks on the Vedanta.

Continue...

KARVA CHAETH-TO FAST OR NOT TO FAST?

In the Hindu calendar, the month of Kartik (October-November) is a time of both physical and spiritual purification and as such, for centuries, Hindus have undertaken various acts of piety to achieve this end.

Why is it then that Kartik has this pre-eminence over the other months of the year? The testimony given in the Bhagavad-Gita by Lord Krishna that he is manifest in the year as the month of Kartik, is an unequivocal endorsement of this. However, older scriptures such as the Puranic texts mention numerous observances and festivals celebrated at this time of the year.

Continue...

Poor portrayal of Hinduism in the West

Honour Killings in the UK

We participated at the Foreign Press Association meeting where faith members from Sikhism, Islam and Hinduism debated the issue of Honour Killing with Dr Gill a lecturer from Roe Hampton University. At the start of the meeting we clearly stated that on enquiry with an individual at the Metropolitan Police Authority they could not recall a single case of Honour killing in the Hindu faith in the UK over the past many years. So a question can be asked, 'If Hinduism is not implicated then what is a Hindu doing at this meeting?'

Continue...

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN SCHOOLS

Briefing in support of the amendment of Baroness Massey of Darwen and others to the Education and Inspections Bill

Recommendation on the issue of Collective Worship in schools from Hindu Council UK

Need for more Inclusivist Assemblies:

Inclusive assemblies can have great educational value, not least in building a collective ethos in bringing a school community together; they can contribute greatly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development. Many schools provide such assemblies but the current law needs to be re-assessed to take into account the evolving needs of a multi-faith society.

Continue...

Ruth Kelly's work with the Muslim Community

Ruth Kelly addressed a meeting this morning outlining her work with the Muslim community.

This initiative is meant to address the issue of Terrorism in the UK.

What she said can be summarised as: Let us focus on common human values and denounce the extremists in our society. She mentioned that the Muslim community is far better equipped to do this than any Government body and encouraged the Muslim community to take up this challenge.

Continue...

The Hindus' first hair-cutting ceremony - Mundan Sanskaar of a child

Hinduism has a number of "samskaras", or rites of sacramental purification, which are performed from birth till death. These include:

1) "Garbhadhan samskara", or the purification before a couple conceive a child

2) During pregnancy the child in the womb undergoes two sacraments – "Pumsavana" and "Simanta"

Continue...

HH Anandmurti Gurumaaji at the Launch of Shakti in West London

In the British heat wave on Saturday 12th August 2006, Amarjeet-singh Bhamra with his wife Amrit-kaur were invited to have an audience with Her Holiness Anandmurti Gurumaaji.

Gurumaa is an enlightened mystic who has shown many the ways towards higher realms of consciousness and in-depth silence. Amarjeet-singh welcomed Her Holiness with a garland and spoke to her about the role and activities of Hindu Council UK in particular on Mind Body and Spirit

Continue...

Lord Ganesh procession on 8th October Sunday, through Southall Broadway, followed by the immersing of the Deity in river Thames

"Lord Ganesh processions is set to become an annual event in South Hall. Last year Brij Mohan Gupta of the Hindu Cultural and Heritage Society did the first Ganesh Visarjan (Immersing of Deity into a River). Normally the tradition is to immerse the Deity into running Holy waters of Ganges but it would seem that the British Hindus now are in the process of deifying the rivers of Great Britain" said the General Secretary of Hindu Council UK Anil Bhanot.

Continue...

Vivekananda Centre as the Education Arm of Hindu Council (UK) announces the following classes in Hinduism:

GCSE and Advanced Level Hinduism Classes

Twelve of our A/S & A2 (Advanced level) Hinduism candidates gained 100 percent marks in Hinduism Modules this year.

Continue...

OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES COURSES IN HINDUISM 2006/7

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is pleased to announce that it will continue to offer courses in Hindu Studies at five different locations during the upcoming academic year; in Harrow, Ilford, Leicester, Oxford, and Birmingham.

Each of these courses is overseen and validated by the University of Wales, Lampeter, and students who complete a course and its assessment can acquire credits that contribute towards Higher Education qualifications. Continue...

MINORITY HINDU HUMAN RIGHTS IGNORED IN INDIA JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE

Hindus living in the Muslim majority State of Jammu and Kashmir had to perform, at the religious village Mattan in Kashmir, the annual religious rites (SHARADHA) of the relatives murdered by the terrorists in Kashmir. The Punum Kashmir Sanstha (organization) had on 8th August 2006 requested security protection from the authorities and their request was forwarded to the Prime Minister, the state Governor and the state chief Minister. Continue...

The media events of M F Hussain's nude Hindu Deities' episode

An acclaimed Indian artist M F Hussain brought two of his nude Hindu Deities' paintings to London for an exhibition at Asia House. The Hindu Human Rights group protested against the exhibition of those paintings and Asia House decided not to exhibit them. Continue...

Press Release - Malaysian Government Destroys Hindu Temples

We have learnt with dismay and sadness of the destruction of Hindu Temples in Malaysia. It was originally noted in April that a century old temple, KALIAMMAN, was demolished in Kuala Lumpur in order to give way for the construction of a private building. Continue...