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Shri Ram Mandir : Upholding the Dignity, Beware of Betrayal

Lord Rama, the epitome of virtue, resides in the animate and inanimate universe as the self-existent Brahman. He is the creator and sustainer of all, the focal point of the faith and trust of millions of Hindus. Lord Rama, the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu, is renowned in Indian mythology.

According to popular belief, the temple of Lord Rama was constructed by King Vikramaditya. However, it was later demolished and replaced by Babri Masjid in 1528 by Mughal Emperor Babar's com-

mander, Mir Bai. The disputed site, known as Babri Masjid, became the epicenter of a prolonged conflict until 1992 when Ram Janmabhoomi Andolan activists demolished it.

Finally, the construction of a grand temple dedicated to Lord Rama is underway, covering 70 acres of land with the main temple occupying 2 acres and featuring a towering spire.

On January 22, the grand consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple will take place in Ayodhya, drawing devotees and believers from across the

nation and the world. The event will be attended by approximately eight thousand dignitaries, gurus, scholars, saints, along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and leaders from various political parties.

Amidst the celebrations, some individuals across the country have started questioning the significance of the Ram Temple and Hinduism itself. Is this a matter of concern? Is it appropriate to criticize a religion in a secular nation? Such debates arise

when individuals make inflammatory statements to please their political interests or other religious affiliations.

In Hindu philosophy and Mimamsa, individuals are warned against such actions. If they truly understand the essence of Hindu scriptures, they would avoid making such mistakes. The sacred text Ramcharitmanas mentions the fate of those who oppose Lord Rama:

"Sab jagu tahn anlahu te tata, Jo Raghubeer vimukh sunu bhrata."

It means, "The whole world is against those who turn away from Raghubeer (Lord Rama)." Such individuals face fiery consequences. Considering the magnitude of the power of Lord Rama, who would be willing to support those who oppose Him?

During the battle between Lord Rama and Ravana, Mandodari, Ravana's wife, advised him, "Nath bayroo keeje taahi so, Buddhi-bala saki-atijaahiso. Tumahi raghubata antar kaisa, Khalu khadyota dinkar jaisa."

She urged Ravana to

choose an opponent who could be defeated through intellect and strength. There is a vast difference between you and Lord Rama, just like that between a firefly and the sun.

Even adversaries should be respected. Is it fitting for anyone to mock or criticize Lord Rama's strength? He is all-powerful and eternal.

The opposition, criticism, and questioning of feelings and beliefs only add insult to injury. Hence, those who engage in unrestrained statements should ponder over this couplet by Tulsidas:

"Tulsi mere Ram ko, rish bhaajo ya khij, Bhaum pada jaame ulta-sidha beej."

The immortal seed of the name of Lord Rama, accepted by leaders of both sides, will eventually sprout. Hence, Indian political pundits must strive to strengthen the faith, sentiments, and beliefs of the nation.

They should remember the verse from Sundarakanda - "Sab jagu tahi anlahu te tata, Jo Raghubeer vimukh sunu bhrata."

- Bhagwan Prasad Gaur



Shri Vishal Bawa Inaugurates 'Waiting Hall' at Preetam Pol in the Holy Abode of Shri Nathji

Udaipur: (Dr. Munesh Arora) During the ongoing innovations in the Haveli of the revered deity Shri Nathji at Pushitmargi, the inauguration of the two-story waiting hall named 'Preetam Pol' took place. On the auspicious occasion of the Pragya Mahotsav of Shri Gusai Ji (Go. Shri Vitthalnath Ji) Maharaj, Go. Ti. Shri 108 Shri Rakesh Ji (Shri Indradaman Ji) Maharaj, under the guidance of Shri Kesh Ji (Shri Bhupesh



Kumar Ji), Bawa Shri, from Hyderabad and a member of Shri Nathji Temple Mandal, inaugurated the waiting hall built by Shri Shivcharan Agrawal, the founder of 'Shri Krishna Jewelers.'

This waiting hall, inspired by Shri Vishal Bawa, can accommodate approximately 2000 Vaishnavs, providing them a comfortable place to sit and wait during darshan and pre-darshan times. The building is equipped with all essential facilities and basic amenities to facilitate the convenience of Vaishnavs, ensuring a hassle-free experience. The Agrawal family members, including Smt. Pushp Lata Bai, Shri Pradeep Kumar, Smt. Bharati, Shri Mithilesh, Smt. Archita, Hyndava Reddy, and others, were present during the occasion. Shri Vishal Bawa distributed prasad and blessed the gathering.

Officials of Shri Nathji Temple, including Shri Sudhakar Upadhyay, Chief Administrator, Shri Bharat Bhushan Vyas, Main Administrator, Shri Anjan Shah, Chief Advisor of Tilakayat Shri, Assistant Administrator Anil Sanadhya, Mandal Board members like Shri Sameer Chaudhary, Shri Suresh Bhai Sanghvi, CEO of Mandal Shri Kailash Chandra Sharma, Property Officer Rishi Pandey, Secretary of Tilakayat Shri Shri Leeladhar Purohit, Temple Pandit Shri Paresh Na Gar, and Solutinary Shri Dinesh Mehta were present during the ceremony.

Photo Journalist Tara Chand Gavariya Honored with National Recognition

Udaipur's renowned photojournalist, Tara Chand Gavariya, was honored with national recognition at the prestigious Shreefal Smriti Journalism Awards ceremony organized by the Shreefal Foundation Trust in Indore on Sunday. The event, held at the divine presence of Muni Shri Pujya Sagar Maharaj at the magnificent Shri 1008 Kalpadrum Mahamandal Vidhan in the Greater Baba Parisar within the Nava Graha Jinalay premises, witnessed the felicitation of esteemed journalists from across the country.

Organized with the collaboration of Anit Jain Sagwara, Rekha Patni Indore, and under the guidance of Shreefal News Editor Tusti Jain, the event recognized Tara Chand Gavariya and other notable journalists with a cash prize of 21,000 rupees, a certificate of appreciation, a Shreefal garland, shawl, and a shield. The awards were presented as a token of honor for their exceptional work and dedicated contributions to the field of journalism.

In addition to the individual awards, the ceremony also acknowledged the winners of the Sw. Karpur Chand Kulish Shri Shreefal Journalism Awards for the year 2021 and 2022. The awards were distributed to Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Rajesh Lahoti, Vipul Gupta, Harshvardhan Prakash, Madhav Sharma, and Shashi Mohan for their outstanding contributions in the field of journalism.

The ceremony, attended by dignitaries Narendra Ved, Hitesh Kasliwal, Kamlesh Jain, Aditya Jain, Deepak Jain, Sanjay Patni, and Dr. Subodh Marora, was graced by the presence of Muni Shri Pujya Sagar Maharaj, adding a spiritual dimension to the occasion. The organizers, Narendra Ved and Bharat Jain, received praise for their efforts in making the event a grand success.

Conclusion of 8-Day Specialized Art Workshop in Varda

Udaipur: The VC of Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Prof. Sunita Mishra, emphasized the need for students to excel not only in educational knowledge but also in the field of art. She stressed the importance of developing artistic skills to create well-rounded individuals capable of choosing successful careers.

Prof. Mishra was addressing the closing ceremony of the special-level art workshop organized jointly by the Patiala North Regional Cultural Center and Team N Effort in collaboration with the Kasturi Foundation. The workshop took place at the Government Senior Secondary School in Varda near the city.

During the event on Saturday, Prof. Mishra mentioned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of building a self-reliant India would materialize when workshops like these, focusing on nur-

ture art and skills, are organized in schools and colleges across every village and town. She commended the efforts of organizing such workshops with the aim of bringing hidden artistic talents in schools of tribal regions to the forefront and encouraged organizers to continue such initiatives consistently. She also assured support from the university in such endeavors. As a special guest at the workshop, the Director of the Department of Fine Arts at MLSU, Prof. Meera Mathur, and Radhika Agrawal from the Kasturi Foundation praised the training provided by instructors and the artistic creations prepared by students during the workshop. They considered the workshop as an unparalleled example of creative activity.

Hemant Joshi, the coordinator of the workshop and a creative teacher at Government Senior



Secondary School, Varda, highlighted that the workshop involved students learning intricate details of fine arts from art specialists and sculptors. Additionally, five sculptures were crafted from scrap marble and granite during the workshop.

As part of the workshop, guests inaugurated an exhibition where students showcased their artwork, including canvas paintings and sculptures. The exhibition inauguration included insights from art instructors Sunil Bhatt and

Neelofar Munir. Renowned artists, including Dr. Chitrasen, Kamlesh Dangli, Shivangi Deora, Keni Sen, Amit Solanki, Kabir Meghwal, Kishan Sen, Rahul Rawatwal, and Shiva Rawalwal, presented artworks created using charcoal.

Ghazal and songwriter Kapil Paliwal mesmerized the audience with his traditional performances during the event. The school principal, Manohar Lal Suthar, welcomed the guests and shared his experiences of the eight-day workshop.

International Conference Explores Indigenous Wisdom on Geo-centrism, Naturalism, and Collectivism

Udaipur: The collaborative efforts of the Department of English at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, and the Rajasthan Association for Studies in English (RASE) culminated in an insightful International Conference held from December 26-28, 2023. Focused on "Understanding Geo-centrism, Naturalism, and Collectivism through Indigenous Literatures," the event marked the 20th Annual Conference of RASE.

The conference commenced with a powerful keynote that echoed the opposing perspectives of civilized societies and indigenous peoples: "Ja se jahaj... nahin/ Ja se Jameen, ja se jangal aur ja se jal." Dr. Minakshi Jain, the Head of the hosting department and Conference Director, warmly welcomed guests to the City of Lakes.

Kanji Bhai Patel, a distinguished poet and Gujarati writer, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the disconnect between the modern world's written language and the richness of oral indigenous cultures. Renowned Hindi writer/novelist Hariramji Meena, the Chief Guest, delved into the concepts of collectivism and naturalism inherent in indigenous communities,



challenging the notion of human supremacy.

During the event, Dr. T. C. Damor, former Vice Chancellor of Rajeev Gandhi Tribal University, highlighted the intuitive approach to life among tribal communities, emphasizing their harmonious connection with nature. Prof. Sudha Chaudhary, Head of the Department of Philosophy at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, underscored the importance of learning from tribal philosophies rather than imposing non-tribal worldviews.

The conference featured a S. N. Joshi memorial lecture by Prof. Sharad Srivastav, who paid tribute to the late faculty member and founder President of RASE. Prof. Hemendra Singh Chandalia, the founder of RASE, unveiled

"The Annals of RASE" along with the conference souvenir and the 2022 Journal of RASE. Several books were also released during the event.

A "Meet the Writer" session allowed noted writers like Hariramji Meena, Dr. Sunita Ghoghara, and Rekha Kharadi to share insights into their writing process and read excerpts from their works. An online session featured Dr. Geraldine Sinyey from Cameroon, Africa, presenting her paper and life experiences.

The second day included a Panel Discussion addressing geo-centrism and collectivism. Prof. Nilanjan Chakrabarti analyzed these concepts with references to Darwin and Pascal, emphasizing the fundamentally egalitarian nature of tribal life. Prof.

Dipa Chakrabarti discussed the struggles of Tituba in a West Indian novel based on the Salem Witch Trials, while Prof. Sumanbala explored the portrayal of indigenous people in global literature.

The Kaleidoscope session presented documentaries on the challenges faced by various indigenous tribes, fostering a deeper understanding of their lives. The evening concluded with cultural performances by students, showcasing the vibrant traditions of tribal communities.

On the third day, participants visited Ogana village, providing a firsthand exposure to tribal rural life. The Valedictory Session emphasized the need for introspection and learning from indigenous peoples to address the crises faced by the modern world. Dr. Minakshi Jain, the Conference Director, expressed gratitude, highlighting the importance of nuanced coexistence for humanity's true progress.

Life Time Maru Ratna 2023 Award to Dr. Kamlesh Sharma and Amit Sharma

Jodhpur: The Maru Environment Conservation Institute (DEKO) and Women's PG Mahavidyalaya, Jodhpur, jointly announced that the "Life Time Maru Ratna" award for the year 2023 will be conferred upon Dr. Kamlesh Sharma, Joint Director of Information and Public Relations Department, and Amit Sharma from Bhillwara. This prestigious award recognizes their significant contributions to the fields of information and public relations and youth employment in the micro, small, and medium enterprise sectors, respectively.

Dr. S.L. Harsh, President of the Maru Environment Conservation Institute, mentioned that the awards ceremony would take place on January 13th at 1:30 PM in the S.N. Jodhvat Auditorium at Women's PG Mahavidyalaya, Jodhpur. Professor S.P. Vyas, Chairman of the college, added that the awards highlight noteworthy contributions in art, culture, environmental and wildlife conservation, as well as in the field of wildlife photography and public relations.

Dr. Kamlesh Sharma, based in Banswara district, has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to information and public relations, while Amit Sharma from Bhillwara district has been acknowledged for his special efforts in skill development and strengthening the micro, small, and medium enterprise sector, leading to youth employment for the past 15 years.

Additionally, 12 other individuals from various fields, including Dr. Sanjeev Desai of Tarabai Netra Charitable Trust, Mahendra Kumar Vyas in the field of yoga, Kaminee Kashyap, Chairperson of Tejasvi Udan Foundation Kota, Prof. Dilip Kumar Billore in environmental conservation from Indore, Prof. Prem Prakash Paliwal, Prof. Lakshmikanth Sharma, Karn Singh Rathore for blood donation and social service, Madhusudan (Fatheriya) for social service, Guru Govind Kalla in the field of music, and Lion K.K. Singhvi for social service, will be honored with the Maru Ratna award.

Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Speaker Initiates All-Party Tradition Ahead of Session

- Gopendra Nath Bhatt

New Delhi: Vasudev Devnani, the Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, is set to initiate the tradition of holding an all-party meeting before the commencement of the legislative session for the first time in the State Legislative Assembly. This meeting is proposed to be organized on December 18, a day before the commencement of the session.

After assuming the role of the Speaker, Devnani, on his first official visit to the national capital, shared in a special meeting that starting the tradition of an all-party meeting will greatly aid in the smooth functioning of the legislative proceedings.

He mentioned that although the tradition of an all-party meeting exists in the Parliament, this will be the first time it will be introduced in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. Devnani informed that a significant number of new legislators have been elected in the 16th Legislative Assembly. To acquaint them with the rules, legislative procedures, methods of work, questioning, and the process of speaking during zero hour, a one-day training will be provided on January 16, and similar workshops will be organized periodically.

He expressed his commitment to ensuring that the proceedings of the house are conducted efficiently and without hindrance, with the expected cooperation of all party legislators. Devnani remarked that the election of the Speaker for the Legislative Assembly took place without opposition and with unanimous consent, and the support and cooperation of all party leaders during the assumption of the Speaker's seat have given him confidence that he will receive complete support from both the ruling and opposition parties in the functioning of the house.

He mentioned that he will engage in discussions and consultations with the Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and leaders of the opposition to organize more and more meetings in the Legislative Assembly and bring innovations. On Tuesday, Vasudev Devnani, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, during his visit to New Delhi, also had a courtesy meeting with President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhad, and Union Minister of Environment and Forests Bupendra Yadav.