

# Hindu Vishwa News Digest

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) of America (VHPA) Monthly  
**Hindu Vishwa News Digest Vol. 1, No 11, December 1, 2010**  
'Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah - Protect Dharma to be Protected'



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## Our News Digest

The Hindu Vishwa News Digest is a 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 a *SEVA* to our community by running this digest and we hope that we get your support to constantly build our digest to be 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. Please send us your comments and suggestions

### Focus – Hindus Around the Globe

**Sri Daya Mata, Guiding Light for U.S. Hindus, Dies at 96** – Sri Daya Mata, who for more than five decades was the leader of one of the most influential Hindu groups in the United States and an ardent advocate of the healing power of meditation, died on Tuesday at the group's retreat for nuns in Los Angeles. She was 96.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/03/us/03mata.html>

**Navy conducts a Hindu religious ceremony in view of its 60th Anniversary** – Sri Lanka Navy conducted a Hindu religious ceremony at Sri Ponnambalawaneswarar Kovil in Kotahena on 1st December 2010 in view of its 60th Anniversary.

<http://www.navy.lk/index.php?id=2692>

**Nashville art center gets \$20,000 grant for 2011 exhibit on Hinduism** – Nashville's Frist Center for the Visual Arts has been approved for a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support the exhibition Vishnu.

<http://www.whnt.com/news/sns-ap-tn--fristgrant-hinduism,0,4258960.story>

**Catholic University of America offers Hinduism courses** – The Catholic University of America (CUA), national university of the Catholic Church in the United States located in Washington DC, is offering various Hinduism related classes.

<http://news.oneindia.in/2010/11/30/catholicuniversity-of-america-offers-hinduismcourses.html>

**UK's Northampton to have \$18.7 million Hindu temple complex** – Plan for an about \$18.7 million Hindu temple and high-tech community complex in Northampton (East Midlands, United Kingdom) has been approved, according to reports.

<http://www.southasiamail.com/news.php?id=90524>

**Jews support demand for recognition of Hinduism in Belgium** – In a remarkable interfaith gesture, Jews have come out in support of Hindus in their demand for recognition of Hinduism in Belgium.

<http://sify.com/news/jews-support-demand-for-recognition-of-hinduism-in-belgium-news-international-kl1mukjiifd.html>

**Julia Roberts Says Opting Hinduism is Not a Religious Gimmick** – Oscar winner Hollywood star Julia Roberts, a recent convert of Hinduism, said today that her reason for conversion to Hinduism is not a religious gimmick.

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20101114105906zzzz.nb/topstory.html>

**Hindus laud British Museum for extensive Hindu collection** – Hindus have applauded British Museum (BM) in London for its sizeable collection of Hindu art and artifacts.

<http://sify.com/news/hindus-laud-british-museum-for-extensive-hindu-collection-news-international->

[kmflkjigedi.html](#)

**Student group celebrates Diwali on campus** – Members of the University of Dayton's Indian Student Association will celebrate their cultural and religious heritage at the Diya 2010 festival at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20, in the McGinnis Center.

<http://sify.com/news/hindus-laud-british-museum-for-extensive-hindu-collection-news-international-kmflkjigedi.html>

**A Belgian chateau for Krishna** – A chateau in southern Belgium houses one of Europe's largest Iskcon temples. Pallavi Aiyar visits the medieval building to find a community struggling for recognition.

<http://sify.com/finance/a-belgian-chateau-for-krishna-news-lifestyle-klncqbjfcf.html>

**Louis Vuitton Fashion Displays Hindu Motifs Worldwide** – Louis Vuitton, one of the leading international fashion houses, will “lit up with elegant displays of traditional Hindu motifs” during the entire month of December in its global network of stores as an extended celebration of Hindu festival of Diwali, according to reports.

<http://www.washingtonbanglaradio.com/content/121621010-louis-vuitton-fashion-displays-hindu-motifs-worldwide>

**Sikh, Hindu temples to open in Twin Cities** – A Hindu temple in Edina and a Sikh temple in Bloomington will accommodate a growing Asian-Indian population.

<http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/faith/111230449.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUID3aPc: Yyc:aUeDyic:E7PNDh oaE3miUsZ>

## Justice and Activism

**Bringing to Light Yoga's Hindu Roots** – HAF's Take Back Yoga campaign truly went national on November 27-28, 2010 when the New York Times ran a piece entitled "Hindu Group Stirs a Debate over Yoga's Soul" on the front page of its Sunday print edition and online (registration with the New York Times may be required to access the story).

<http://www.hafsite.org/media/pr/takeyogaback>

**Bomb kills toddler at Hindu festival in India** – Responsibility for bomb in holy city of Varanasi claimed by Islamic militant network the Indian Mujahideen.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/dec/07/bomb-hindu-festival-india-varanasi>

**Egyptian held for inviting people to convert** – A 25-year-old Egyptian aboard a Kuwaiti flagship vessel was arrested on Friday for allegedly inviting ‘people practising Hinduism to convert to a better religion called Islam.’

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Egyptian-held-for-inviting-people-to-convert/Article1-625519.aspx>

**It is wrong to deny that yoga has its origins in Hinduism** – A 2002 survey of Americans showed that more than half the population expressed an interest in practicing yoga, and a 2004 news report claimed that there were nearly 15.5 million yoga practitioners in the country.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/dec/02/yoga-hindu-rebranded-wrongly>

**Singhal addresses VHP workers' meet** – Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Sunday organised a meet of its workers in Rajendra Nagar locality here with a view to presenting its Hindu-oriented point of view both to the government and non-believers in Hinduism.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/Singhal-addresses-VHP-workers-meet/articleshow/7050736.cms>

**Indian Christians Continue to Face Boycott, Forced Conversions** – Two years after losing relatives and property to anti-Christian violence, survivors in India's Orissa state are still being pressured to "return" to Hinduism, according to a private investigation.

<http://www.worthynews.com/9766-indian-christians-continue-to-face-boycott-forced-conversions>

**The pollution of the Ganges River** – India's holy river the Ganges has fallen victim to pollution.

Photos portraying the alarming condition of the river have made their rounds on the internet calling for action. [http://www.asiaone.com/static/multimedia/gallery/101114\\_ganges/](http://www.asiaone.com/static/multimedia/gallery/101114_ganges/)

**Three-year-old Hindu girl snatched from outside temple** – Some residents of Kashmore staged a sit-in outside a police station on Thursday to protest the kidnapping of a girl from Hindu Mohalla Wednesday night.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/81839/three-year-old-hindu-girl-snatched-from-outside-temple/>

**Hindu Mahasabha writes to CJI on Ayodhya verdict** – Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha on Thursday said it has written a letter to the Chief Justice of India expressing its dissatisfaction over the Allahabad High Court's verdict on the Ayodhya title suit.

<http://sify.com/news/hindu-mahasabha-writes-to-cji-on-ayodhya-verdict-news-national-klzaucgcaha.html>

**60 Hindu couples tie the knot at mass wedding in Karachi** – Sixty Hindu couples from poor families tied the knot at a mass wedding in Karachi on Saturday. The Pakistan Hindu Council, an NGO, which organised the event, bore all expenses; it even chipped in with the dowry.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article904061.ece>

**Legal bid to expose Sonia Gandhi's faith rejected** – A court in India's northern Punjab and Haryana state has dismissed a petition seeking details of Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi's religious beliefs.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-11860192>

**7,500 participate in South Bay Hindu festival** – Diwali, the largest Hindu festival that is also called the Festival of Lights, drew approximately 7,500 people during a traditional five-day celebration at Shreemaya KrishnaDham in Milpitas beginning Nov. 2. An estimated 6,000 people attended on Saturday alone.

[http://www.mercurynews.com/san-jose-neighborhoods/ci\\_16587819?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/san-jose-neighborhoods/ci_16587819?nclick_check=1)

**Muslim girl killed for love affair with Hindu** – A Muslim man has been arrested for killing his teenaged daughter who was in love with a Hindu youth from the same village, police said on Thursday.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Muslim-girl-killed-for-love-affair-with-Hindu/Article1-630801.aspx>

**Hindus laud Archbishop of Canterbury for 'joyful' Diwali wishes** – Hindus have applauded Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Rowan Douglas Williams for his Diwali message wishing 'joyful festival' to 'Hindu communities' published on the Archbishop's official website.

<http://sify.com/news/hindus-laud-archbishop-of-canterbury-for-joyful-diwali-wishes-news-international-klmr4jafeg.html>

## Hindu Lifestyle

**Delhi's most beautiful Hindu shrine is largely unknown** –

<http://blogs.hindustantimes.com/the-delhi-walla/2010/11/29/delhis-most-beautiful-hindu-shrine-is-largely-unknown/>

**Study says yoga reduces anxiety & improves mood** – Yoga has a greater positive effect on a person's mood and anxiety level than other forms of exercise, according to a study published in the November edition of prestigious monthly Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine.

[http://www.dnaindia.com/lifestyle/report\\_study-says-yoga-reduces-anxiety-and-improves-mood\\_1466120](http://www.dnaindia.com/lifestyle/report_study-says-yoga-reduces-anxiety-and-improves-mood_1466120)

**A good life makes for happy cows at Hare Krishna farm** – Milked by hand, allowed to breed naturally and free from the threat of slaughter, the cows at Gokul farm near London could be possibly the happiest in Britain.

<http://www.mysinchew.com/node/49101>

**Simplifying Hinduism** – In the process of drawing criticism from various quarters, the essence of

Hinduism has been lost. It has, in fact, assumed negative overtones in the minds of the younger generation. In order to quell “the misconceptions associated with Hinduism”, the monks of Kauai's Hindu Monastery at Kapaa (Hawaii) decided to spread the concepts of the religion through the medium of a film.

<http://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/religion/article915307.ece>

**Yoga Beyond Asana: Hindu Thought in Practice** – Yoga, from the word “yuj” (Sanskrit, “to yoke” or “to unite”), refers to spiritual practices that are essential to the understanding and practice of Hinduism.

<http://www.hafsite.org/media/pr/yoga-hindu-origins>

**China finances restoration of historic Shiva temple in Cambodia** – Hindus have applauded China for reportedly financing the restoration of deteriorating Ta Keo Hindu temple in Cambodia's UNESCO World Heritage Site Angkor temple complex, which began on November 27.

<http://sify.com/news/china-finances-restoration-of-historic-shiva-temple-in-cambodia-news-international-kl3rkidfcie.html>

## Hinduism Studies

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[http://www.dnaindia.com/lifestyle/report\\_study-says-yoga-reduces-anxiety-and-improves-mood\\_1466120](http://www.dnaindia.com/lifestyle/report_study-says-yoga-reduces-anxiety-and-improves-mood_1466120)

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