

NEWS IN BRIEF



Panduranga Puja at Balaji temple.

Panduranga Puja

The Balaji Temple in San Jose, Calif., organized annual Panduranga Puja at Alviso, San Jose.

Swamijee Narayananda started the puja with sankalpam of Panduranga and Hanuman Rath Yathra

Hundreds of devotees participated for the Rath Yathra and garlands were prepared with flowers and Vadas decorated on the deities. The puja was performed by Swamijee, Satyanarayana Marathe ji, Prabhu Ram, Rao Panuganti, Vikram and other devotees.

The event was organized at the Alviso venue with the a huge canopy's erected by volunteers and devotees.

Pujas, Bhajans, Kirtans and Satsangs were narrated by Swamijee and devotees. His message was very simple and straightforward: To love and serve God in the best way possible a person can contribute in his or her way.

Sunita Nag invited Vijay Laxmi, Surbee and Bhuvya Rao to sing bhajans. They

were sung in Marathi, Hindi, Kannada and Telugu.

After Bhajans, guests were invited on the podium. San Jose city council member Ken Sen Chu was in attendance. The temple board also acknowledged Mahesh Nihalini for his help in Balaji temple construction. Council member Chu assured his support in making this traditional Hindu temple project a reality.

Turban Screening

Three civil liberties organizations say the rights of Sikhs in America are being further trampled upon as the Transportation Security Administration rolls out a new policy which will mandatorily require all turbaned Sikhs to undergo three levels of security screening at U.S. airports.

The new policy was first unveiled at a Sept. 21 meeting with representatives from the Sikh Coalition, United Sikhs and the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Kimberly Walton, TSA Special Coun-

sel, and Margo Schlanger, officer for civil rights and civil liberties at the Department of Homeland Security.

That meeting was ostensibly held to discuss new advanced imaging technology scanners – also known as backscatter x-rays - that are being rolled out throughout the nation's airports. More than 750 such devices will be installed by next year, and allow TSA screeners to view a full-body, nude image of each passenger.

Advanced imaging technology enhances security by detecting both metallic and non-metallic threat

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