

Sadhus, Pilgrims Take Dip On Day Of 3rd Royal Bath

Source: www.timesnow.tv

HARIDWAR, INDIA, March 30, 2010: Nearly 2.5 million pilgrims and sadhus took a holy dip in the river Ganga on the occasion of third royal bath of the ongoing Mahakumbh in Haridwar on Tuesday (March 30). Twenty-eight representative Sadhus and seers, belonging to seven sanyasi (Shaiv) akharas (Hindu orders) of Juna, Niranjani, Atal, Aahwan, Anand, Mahanirvani and Agni were the first, who took bath at Brahmkund area of Har-Ki-Pauri, the main bathing ghat, on the occasion of Chaitra Purnima, which has been declared as a royal bath for the first time.

Sanyasi akharas were followed by thousands of sadhus. Hundreds of thousands of devotees were seen standing on both sides of the road with folded hands braving scorching heat to witness the procession.

Other bathing ghats of Haridwar and Rishikesh were also flooded with pilgrims since early morning. This was the third royal bath of the ongoing Mahakumbh mela that began on January 14 with Makar Sankranti. Eleven major baths, including four royal baths were scheduled during the Mahakumbh. The fourth and the last royal bath will be held on April 14

Encyclopedia of Hinduism launched

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Encyclopedia of Hinduism launched

By Pramod Kumar

THE much awaited Encyclopedia of Hinduism is finally out. After the deep research conducted by about 2000 eminent scholars for about 20 years, it came in 6,600 multi-colour pages divided into 11 volumes. It is jointly published by India Heritage Research Foundation and Rupa & Co. and is first of its kind on Hinduism.

The first preview of this compilation was organised at the Vivekananda International Centre in New Delhi on March 25-in the presence of eminent scholars, bureaucrats, educationists and leading personalities of the country including former Deputy Prime Minister Shri LK Advani, former Union HRD Minister Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, former Governor of J&K Shri Jagmohan and many others.

Three volumes of the Encyclopedia are ready and eight others will be ready within a few weeks. It is a comprehensive compilation of the vast ocean of knowledge, history and experience that constitutes Indian culture. The content has been divided into different sections like art, Hinduism in global context, history, historiography and geography, language and literature, philosophy, polity, religion and spirituality, science, special institutions and movements, spiritual disciplines, scholarship in Hindu studies and women in studies.

Talking to Organiser, Sadhvi Bhagwati, secretary of the India Heritage Research Foundation and a disciple of Swami Chidanand Muni Saraswati who has been instrumental behind the publication of the compilation, said the Encyclopedia answers the questions people are often confronted with, like:

What is Hinduism? Who is a Hindu?, etc. The historical details of Hinduism have been explained in various articles written by eminent scholars. More than 2,000 scholars have contributed in this publication.

One special preview of the Encyclopedia is being organised in Haridwar on April 3. The prominent dignitaries who will attend the event includes the Dalai Lama, Swami Ramdev, Swami

Gurusharanananda, Shri Rameshbhai Ojha, Swami Avadheshanand Giri, Shri Morari Babu, Dr Pranav Pandya, senior BJP Shri LK Advani, RSS Sarsanghachalak Shri Mohan Bhagwat, VHP president Shri Ashok Singhal and many others.

A panel discussion was also organised on 'Hinduism in the Contemporary World' at the preview in New Delhi. Initiating the discussion, director of Vivekananda International Centre Shri Ajit Doval said that at the time when historicity and ancientness of Hinduism is being questioned by some westerners for the last few centuries, this Encyclopedia would address all the issues with full authenticity. "It will remove many misconceptions and will restore the eternal truth about Hinduism," he said. Editor in Chief of the Encyclopedia Prof. Kapil Kapoor, noted scholar and director of International Academy of Indian Culture Dr Lokesh Chandra, Sadhvi Bhagwati, Vice Chancellor of Swami Vivekananda University, Kolkata Swami Atmapriya-nanda and former Principal of Hindu College, New Delhi, Dr Kavita Sharma, also shared their views.

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VHP protests SC comment on Radha and Krishna

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VHP protests SC comment on Radha and Krishna DELHI unit of Vishwa Hindu Parishad organised a demonstration at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on March 29 protesting against the remarks made by a Supreme Court judge on the divine relationship between Radha and Krishna. A three judge bench of the Supreme Court while hearing a case on live-in- relationship gave reference of Radha and Krishna living together before marriage. VHP president Shri Ashok Singhal also strongly condemned the remarks and said it is not good on the part of the learned judge to make such

irresponsible remarks on the Hindu Gods. "Shri Krishna had left Mathura in the age of 12 and never returned then. It is beyond anybody's imagination to think of such relationship as mentioned by the learned judge in such minor age. Such remarks misguide the younger generation and should not be made at all," he said while talking to mediapersons.

VHP Delhi state general secretary Shri Satendra Mohan said the comment is highly objectionable and it should be withdrawn immediately. He also said justice Shri BS Chauhan who made this comment should apologise to the Hindus for hurting their religious sentiments. He said the love of Radha and Krishna was purely divine and spiritual and cannot be compared with any relationship. Indraprastha VHP President Shri Swadeshpal Gupta, VHP leader BL Sharma (Prem) and many senior leaders of the VHP were present on the occasion.

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Encyclopedia of Hinduism Launched

Source: www.indianexpress.com

HARDWAR, INDIA, April 4, 2010: The eleven-volume "Encyclopedia of Hinduism" was launched in a grand ceremony at the Kumbha Mela. The ambitious project was conceptualized by Swami Chidanand Saraswati over two decades ago and some 10,000 people are believed to have pitched in, directly or indirectly, towards completion of this magnum opus.

L. K. Advani, who last week blogged on the need to accord "due place to traditions in the contemporary discourse", said the encyclopedia would in a way result in the "resurrection of India's swabhiman (self-esteem)." Before it, he said, many lamented about the "lack of any authoritative primary source" on Hinduism in the country.

The launch was attended by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Yoga Guru Swami Ramdev, NDA working

chairman L. K. Advani and others at a function that drew spiritual gurus and leaders from the BJP and VHP.

In a speech, the Dalai Lama stressed that India's tradition of plurality, harmony among various faiths and non-violence "should now be a lesson for the rest of the world". He stressed that people of different faiths had lived together in harmony in India for the last 3,000 years and the encyclopedia would further strengthen the culture of debate and dialogue in the country. "You (India) are the guru; we (Tibet) are the chela. And I am a son of India," he said, to loud applause

Spiritual Water Show Inaugurated At Swaminarayan Akshardham In Gandhinagar

Source: www.onlinepnews.com

GANDHINAGAR, INDIA, April 8, 2010: The Sat-Chit-Anand Water Show was inaugurated with a unique multi-media water extravaganza at Swaminarayan Akshardham in Gandhinagar, India on April 3.

The Sat-Chit-Anand Water Show has been conceptualized and realized by the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha. This first of its kind spiritual water show, including a 60 ft wide water screen, reveals the ancient secret of enlightenment, mysteries of life, death, and life after death through the story of Nachiketa, a nine-year old boy, who appears in front of the Lord of Death, Yama, as a result of fulfilling his father's word.

The assembly was presided over by the spiritual leader of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha and the inspirer of the water show, Pramukh Swami Maharaj, Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Narendrabhai Modi, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Shri R. Chidambaram and Creative Designer of the water show Yves Pepin. More than 1,500 dignitaries attended the function.

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Ghent's Weekly Meatless Day

Source: www2.macleans.ca

GHENT, BELGIUM, March 30, 2010: Last May the townsfolk of Ghent, a Flemish burg of some 250,000, gathered outside a centuries-old slaughterhouse in the town's historic core to sample soy fritters and pick up a map of local vegetarian eateries. This was Ghent's inaugural "Donderdag Veggiedag" –Thursday Veggieday, literally—a weekly holiday from the evils of beef, fish, pork and poultry introduced last year by city council, which declared that the moratorium on animal protein would be "good for the climate, your health and your taste buds." Said a representative of the Ethical Vegetarian Alternative, Belgium's largest vegetarian organization and a partner in the city initiative: "If everyone in Flanders does not eat meat one day a week, we will save as much CO2 in a year as taking half a million cars off the road."

Though meatlessness in Ghent each Thursday is encouraged rather than required, the policy has made vegetarianism pervasive: 95 per cent of the city's children at 35 local schools, as well as the city's elected councillors and civil servants, now submit to the Veggiedag menu each week.

Donderdag Veggiedag was a global first, putting medieval Ghent on the cutting edge of efforts to combat climate change by changing the way people eat. But elsewhere, too, the moderate meat movement is gaining ground. A Meatless Mondays organization founded in the U.S. has now opened branches in Holland, Finland, Canada, Taiwan and Australia. Following Ghent's lead, cities like Sao Paulo and Tel Aviv have created city-wide schemes. Last year, Baltimore became the first city in North America to mandate Meatless Mondays in its school cafeterias, for environmental as well as health reasons. A similar proposal has just been made for New York City schools. Read more at [source](#)

Outrage Ensues as Goa Lists Centuries-Old Temples as Illegal

Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com

PANAJI, GOA, April, 19, 2010: A Hindu organization, the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti, on Monday condemned Goa government for declaring some of the centuries-old temples in the state as illegal in a recent survey and has planned a massive rally on April 22 to make people aware about government's "plans to target Hindu structures."

"There are some temples which are as old as 500 years which are listed as illegal structure by state government," Hindu Janajagruti Samiti's Goa spokesman Jayesh Thali told reporters today.

Goa government has listed 800 structures, including 350 temples, in a list of illegal religious structures built on government land. The list was prepared following a Supreme Court directive which asked the state to submit a report on illegal religious structures existing on government land.

While pointing out some of the temples were built well before the very system of state governance came into existence, Thali said that the state government should have taken into confidence local temple committees before declaring them as illegal. "The authorities should have known the time period in which they were built and also their significance to local population", he said.

Given that the government has listed even some mosques and churches as illegal, he said that the organization is not averse to talk to Muslim or Catholic community to build up an organized resistance to government's plans.

Responding to a query, Thali said that HJS is open to the idea of relocating temples but felt that "there are some temples which cannot be relocated."

The Internet Hindus

Source: www.organiser.org

INDIA, April 4, 2010, (an opinion piece by Shachi Rarikar): For decades the Indian media in English, both in print and electronic, has been dominated by an elite who by virtue of their education, articulate speech and degrees, scholarships and awards from abroad face little or no competition at home. A handful of such people occupy most of the media space. All news and views are doctored to fit their ideological parameters.

To the common, average, educated Indian, especially the majority Hindus, this is a frustrating situation. He and his religion has become the object of ridicule and despise in the mass media. For the Indian Hindu, there is not way to fight this malicious campaign. Neither are his letters to editors published, nor can his articles match the linguistic skills of the foreign-educated. Even his messages are not displayed during the TV programmes. His responses on a channel's website are also never published.

Thus, the internet comes with fresh breath of air, providing a breathing space to the common man. With the advent of blogging, web groups, chat forums, free websites and social networking sites he gets an opportunity to express himself, gives vent to his thoughts which had been deliberately suppressed all these years. As more and more Indians become internet savvy, the web space is being filled with a new generation of Hindu activists.

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