

Digitization of 40,000 Sanskrit Manuscripts on At BISM

PUNE, INDIA, September 22, 2011 (Times of India): Under the National Manuscripts Mission, a collection of around 40,000 manuscripts in Sanskrit are being digitized at the Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal. A team began work over a month ago. The work includes digitizing manuscripts from private sources in the city as well.

The process of digitization began at early August, and 550 manuscripts on Ayurveda were the first of the lot to be scanned and uploaded. "The 40,000 manuscripts run into several thousand pages, the digitization of which is to be completed within the next two years. So far, we have digitized 2,000 manuscripts," said historian Mandar Lawate, who is coordinating this project with the NMM.

Dating back 600 years, the Sanskrit manuscripts pertain to various topics on Ayurveda, Puranas, Vedas, philosophy and art. For instance, 'Shivlilamrut,' 'Pandav Pratap' and 'Hari Vijay' authored by poet Shridhar, Eknathi Bhagwat, Sant Tukaram's

'gathas' and 'Dnyaneshwari,' are some of the manuscripts which would be digitized soon.

High Court Upholds Temples' Rights

Source

MADURAI, INDIA, October 4, 2011 (The Hindu): A Hindu temple cannot be compelled to engage the services of a security agency owned by non-Hindus, the Madras High Court has ruled. Ultimately, reforms in matters of religious administration, if any, must come from within, not dictated by the court.

So stated Justice K. Chandru, dismissing a writ petition of a Christian-owned private security agency against the Subhramaniya Swamy Temple at Tiruchendur. He held that courts could not direct a temple management to engage the agency even if it provided only Hindu personnel. "Guarding a temple or a place of worship is a sensitive issue and ultimately it is for the temple to decide on such matters."

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He pointed out that Section 10 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act clearly states that all servants of a temple, from the Joint Commissioner of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department to the last grade servants, including the security guards, must be Hindus.

He affirmed that a temple is not a State institution which could be forced to engage contractors of other faiths and explained that the Joint Commissioner had only supervisory authority; it was the Board of Trustees' decision to engage a Hindu-owned security agency.

Christians "Outraged" as BBC drops B.C./A.D. Dating

Religion News Service

LONDON, September 29 (RNS): British Christians are incensed after the state-funded BBC decided to jettison the terms B.C. and A.D. in favor of B.C.E. and C.E. in historical date references. The broadcaster has directed that the traditional B.C. (Before Christ) and A.D. (Anno Domini, or Year of the Lord) be replaced by B.C.E. (Before Common Era)

and C.E. (Common Era) in its television and radio broadcasts. The BBC said in an official statement that since it is "committed to impartiality, it is appropriate that we use terms that do not offend or alienate non-Christians." It described the terms B.C.E. and C.E. as "a religiously neutral alternative to B.C./A.D." .

The new edict drew immediate accusations that the network was guilty of political correctness run amok as the BBC's phone lines were jammed with irate listeners and readers. Retired Anglican Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali of Rochester, a leading British evangelical, told journalists that "this amounts to the dumbing down of the Christian basis of our culture, language and history." "These changes are unnecessary," said the bishop, "and they don't actually achieve what the BBC wants them to achieve. Whether you use Common Era or Anno Domini, the date is still the same and the reference point is still the birth of Jesus Christ."

[HPI note: Only it isn't the date of the "birth of Jesus Christ," who is now believed by most scholars to have been born between 3 and 7 before the common era, BCE.]

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