

# Nikki Haley, Anna Hazare, Pachauri to launch Encyclopedia of Hinduism

PRAKASH M SWAMY

NEW YORK

This summer marks a historic moment in the spiritual and cultural history of India - the completion and launch of the international edition of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism, first of its kind in the modern world.

Twenty-five years in the making, the product of more than 1000 esteemed scholars from around the world, totaling 11-volumes and approximately 7000 entries, the Encyclopedia of Hinduism is the first time in history of mankind that the depth and breadth of India's great spiritual culture is made available in authentic, academic and scholastic form.

It is truly a compendium of thousands of years of history, science, art, architecture, polity, religion, philosophy and culture. Further, the Encyclopedia is not limited to Hinduism as a religion, but rather provides all inclusive treatment of India's spiritual culture including coverage of Sikhism, Jainism and Buddhism traditions in India. The Encyclopedia was previewed and blessed at a huge ceremony in India by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and hundreds of India's most revered spiritual, social and national leaders.

The Encyclopedia was conceived, inspired and blessed by one of India's most beloved and revered spiritual leaders, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji the founder of the Hindu-Jain Temple in Pittsburgh, and



Sadhvi Bhagawati, Swami Chidanand Saraswati, Mayor Greg Fischer and other invitees at the soft launch of the project

an inspiration behind innumerable Hindu/Jain temples throughout America and the world. The Encyclopedia has been compiled and completed by India Heritage Research Foundation of which Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji is the Founder/Chairman.

The official launch will be held on the Aug 26 at the University of South Carolina, Columbia. It will be organized, hosted and sponsored by the University and presided over by Dr. Harris Pastides, the President of the University. The Encyclopedia project was headquartered at the University of South

Carolina for many years during its compilation and editorial stages, and it is a beautiful and fitting full-circle for the University to be the ones to host the official launch.

The launch will be graced by the presence of H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati ; Nikki Haley, Governor of South Carolina; Dr. Harris Pastides, President of the University of South Carolina; Anna Hazare, renowned social leader from India; Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Nobel Laureate; Nirupama Rao, Indian Ambassador to the US; Dr. K.L. Seshagiri Rao, Chief Editor of the Encyclopedia and Dr. Sadhvi

Bhagawati Saraswati, Managing Editor of the Encyclopedia. The event will be attended by many other esteemed scholars and dignitaries.

Pujya Swamiji is also the president and spiritual head of one of India's largest spiritual institutions, Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh. He is also the founder of the Ganga Action Parivar, a world-wide network of people committed to serving, preserving and protecting the sacred and life-giving Ganges."

A "soft-launch" of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism was organized in Chicago recently at the Manav Seva Mandir. A special event was held on the theme of: "Spirituality in Daily Life: The Eternal Message of Sanatan Dharma." Spiritual discourses were given by Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati, PhD, the managing editor of the Encyclopedia, prior to the unveiling of the Encyclopedia.

A "soft-launch" was also performed in Louisville, Kentucky where the volumes were unveiled by Mr. Greg Fischer, the Mayor of Louisville. Mayor Fischer officially declared July 21 as the "Day of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism" and issued an official Proclamation which proclaims that July 21 will always be celebrated as the "Day of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism."

The international edition of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism is published by Mandala Earth Publications, and its 11 beautifully hard-bound volumes comprise more than 7000 pages with thousands of beautiful artwork and illustrations.

## India promoting renewable energy in a big way: Justice Vinayagam

PRAKASH M SWAMY

NEW YORK

Indian Power regulators are promoting renewable sources of energy by specifying a percentage of energy consumption of the distribution companies to be procured from renewable sources of energy, said Justice M Karpaga Vinayagam, chairman of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity, New Delhi.

The APTEL team comprising Justice Vinayagam and Rakesh Nath Technical Member was addressing the District of Columbia Public Service Commission. The staff of the Commission gave a presentation on the functioning of the Commission to the visiting delegates. Betty Ann Kane, Chairperson, District of Columbia Public Service Commission welcomed the guests.

The delegation of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity after attending the Summer meeting of National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) at Denver, Colorado visited Washington to meet with the Chairman and Commissioners of District of Columbia Public Service Commission.

Justice Vinayagam gave a presentation on the functioning of the regulatory system in India, functioning of the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity and status of electricity utility industry and critical issues being faced by the electricity sector in the country.

He stated the benefits accrued to the system as a result of the implementation of the regulatory framework in pursuance of the Electricity Act, 2003.

He said that the setting up of the Appellate Tribunal has helped in quick disposal of the

cases. Further the Appellate Tribunal has the advantage of having industry expert as one of the Member of the bench as a Technical Member having vast experience in the power sector.

He also laid stress on the uniformity of approach by the Tribunal so as to give clear signals to the Commissions and noted that Tribunal has been able to maintain the consistency and it has been possible to have a consensus decision by the Members of the bench without a dissent.

He also raised queries relating to qualification of Commissioners in US, nomination of Commissioner with legal background and the resolution in case there is difference of opinion between the Commissioners.

Rakesh Nath raised issues regarding benchmark of capital cost for various renewable energy sources, operational norms for the renewable energy generators and measures taken by the Commissions in US to promote renewable energy sources to ensure achievement of their target of 20 percent consumption by 2020.

The District of Columbia Public Service Commission explained provisions about the selection of Commissioners and gave a presentation regarding benchmarking of the capital cost of renewable energy sources and the measures being taken by them to promote renewable energy sources. The Commission also furnished papers relating to renewable portfolio standards, benchmarking of capital cost and net energy metering.

Both sides expressed satisfaction about the fruitful discussions held in the meeting and felt that its future also technical cooperation between two organizations in the form of exchange of information and sharing of best practices should continue.

## US to hike fees for generic drug makers to hit Indian firms

OUR BUREAU

WASHINGTON

Many Indian drug makers will soon have to bear higher costs for sale of products in American markets, as the US health regulator FDA is hiking the fees for generic drug makers by up to 48 per cent from October.

India is the second largest drug exporter to the US, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Indian drug makers mostly specialize in manufacturing of generic versions of innovative drugs at a fraction of cost after their patent expiry and are estimated to command 10 per cent share in the \$ 30-billion US generic drug market.

The US regulations require the companies to pay user fees to supplement the costs of reviewing generic drug applications and inspecting facilities.

However, the FDA's proposed hike in fees for generic drug makers is expected to push up the overall costs for companies from India and other countries, including US itself. The FDA said it is aware that industry is adjusting to the new requirements and fees, and it has minimized the increase in fees "as much as possible".

The increased fees have been published in the Federal Register -- the official journal of the US government -- are would be effective from October 1, 2013. The fees would be reviewed after a year.

The new Abbreviated New Drug Appli-

cation (ANDA) fee has been fixed at \$ 63,860, which is around 24 per cent higher than the existing \$ 51,520.

An ANDA contains data which when submitted to FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Office of Generic Drugs, provides for the review and ultimate approval of a generic drug product.

Similarly, the Prior Approval Supplement (PAS) fees for fiscal year 2014 (from October 1 2013 to September 30, 2014) has been hiked by 24 per cent to \$ 31,930. The PAS application includes change to be made to approve products.

The steepest increase has been made in Drug Master File (DMF) fees, which has been hiked by 48 per cent to \$ 31,460.

A DMF submission is required to be made to the USFDA to provide detailed information about facilities, processes, or articles used in the manufacturing, processing, packaging, and storing of one or more human drugs.

The annual facility fees for finished dosage forms (FDF) have been increased by about 25 per cent. The domestic FDF facility fee has been revised to \$ 220,152 and foreign FDF facility fee to \$ 235,152.

However, the FDA has lowered the annual active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) fees for both domestic and foreign API facilities.

FDA says that these fees help it reduce the backlog of pending applications, cut the average time required to review generic drug applications for safety, and improve the risk-based inspections.

