



# *Encyclopedia of Hinduism*

A PROJECT OF INDIA HERITAGE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

This summer marked a historic moment in the spiritual and cultural history of India: the completion and launch of the international edition of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism. 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 that the depth and breadth of India's great spiritual culture is made available in authentic, academic and scholastic form.

The Encyclopedia 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 launched in India by the hands of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the international edition was launched in the United States by the University of South Carolina, Columbia. The United States' event was organized, hosted and sponsored by the University and presided over by Dr. Harris Pastides, the President of the University and attended also by Nikki Haley, Governor of South Carolina and many eminent scholars.

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 India Heritage Research Foundation.

These days, whichever sphere of reference to which one turns – science, engineering, medicine, philosophy, math or theology – one cannot ignore the role of India and Indians. The contributions made in the past and being made in the present by people of the Indian subcontinent, adherents of the Hindu faith, are phenomenal. Awareness and understanding of the civilization, culture, history and philosophy of the people of this land, is therefore, not only interesting, but crucial to international understanding and progress.

