2/2012

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CIVIL APPEAL NO. 4905-06

IN THEOF.

NIRMOHI AKHARA

VERSUS

RAJENDRA SINGH & ORS.

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INDEX OF 1 HIBITS AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS IN ORIGINAL SUIT NO

YOLE -IV

| | VOLE -IX | | |
|------|--|------------------|-------|
| s.NO | PAR CULARS OF DOCUMENTS | EXHIBIT NO. | PAGE |
| | | | NO. |
| 1. | ANN CURE A-1 | DVIIIDIT N.O. | |
| | POSTAL RECEIPT OF REGISTERED LETTER | EXHIBIT NO. | |
| | SENT TO PRIYA DUTT DATED 06.10.1959. | 13 | |
| 2. | ANNEXURE A-2 | DVI UDET NO | |
| | RECEIPT REGISTERED LETTER SENT TO S.P. | EXHIBIT NO. | 2-0 |
| | OFFICE FAIZABAD DATED 06.10.1959. | 14 | |
| 3. | ANNEXURE A-3 | | |
| | EXTRACT FROM THE BOOK " A HISTORY OF | EXHIBIT No. | |
| | DASNAMI NAGA SANYASIS" WRITTEN BY SRI | 15 | 52 |
| | YADUNAH SARKAR ADMITTED ON 24.03.2009. | į | ¥: |
| 4. | ANNEXURE A-4 | | |
| | REGISTERED LETTER BY DY. COMMISSIONER | EXHIBIT No. | |
| | FAIZABAD TO MAHANT RAGHUNATA DAS CHELA | 16 | 0 s |
| | MAHANT DHARAM DAS DATED 30.11 1959 | | 5 |
| 5. | ANNEXURE A-5 | E33 | |
| | ENVELOP REGISTERED A D THE TOHED BY | DARLES AT | |
| | COMMISSIONER FAIZABAD DATED IN 12 1959 | - | |
| 6. | ANNEXURE A-6 | Times ! | |
| | Acknowledbylend S.F. F- g = Qed | 1.kr., | |
| | 07 10 1959 | 3.1 | |
| 7. | ANNEXURE A.T | 7 | į see |
| | AND INCEST OF THE U.S THE REAL PROPERTY. | <u> 9</u> 90 6 " | |

In The Hmille high court of Judicaline at Allahab

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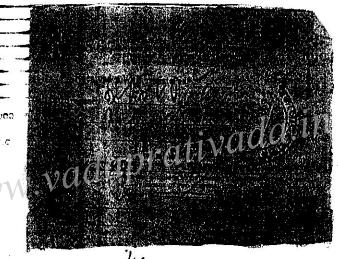
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A History of Dasnami Naga Sanyasis

Py

Sir Jadunath Sarkar

M. A., C. I. E. Hony. D. Litt., Honrowy Member Royal Asiatic Society of Great Erdein

Foreward By

Sri K. M. Munshi

(Ex-Rajyaçai, Uttar Pradesh

(Hindi Rendering) By Sri Krishna Pyare Dube M. ...

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Vol. I

| 1. | Life of Sharkaracharya | [-] |
|-------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| 2 | The date of Shankaracharya | 19-19 |
| 5. | Shankeracherya's Teachings | 19 |
| 7. | The temorders of Dasnamis | 561 |
| 5. | Rules and practices of Dashami | |
| . *** | monks | 6350 |
| 6 | The A tharas and their constitution | 82-108 |
| 7. | House solder or Gribasth Goswavis | 10911- |
| 3. | Hisdu fighting priests | 115-113 |
| | pr. | |

Vc!, II

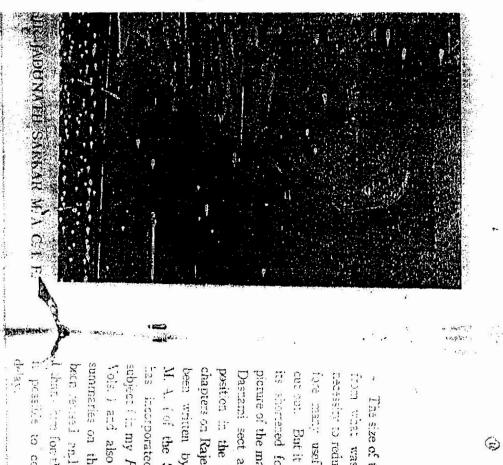
| 1. | Rajendragici Gosam | | .: :- | |
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| | In the jat service | | :) 7 | |

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| | 1 2) | |
|-----|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 4. | In Bundelkhand and Oudh Service | 176 18+ |
| 5. | In the emperor's service | 185-204 |
| 6. | Later Service under the empire | 205-223 |
| 7. | Mahadaji's Sindhia and the | |
| | Gosain's rupture | 22215 |
| | | 2-7-2+9 |
| 9. | Military Service under our princes | 260-273 |
| 10. | Gosains in banking and civil | |
| | administration | 27 |



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The size of this book has been greatly reduced from what was originally planned, because of the nacessay to reduce the cost of printing, and therefore many useful details have been mavoidably out out. But it is the authors hope that even in its shortened form this book will give a general picture of the main course of the thistory of the Dashami sect and their past service and present position in the life of the Indian mation. The chapters on Rajendra Giri and his disciples have been written by Professor Nirod Himsan Roy M. A. (of the Santi Niketan University). He has incorporated my previous writings on the subject the my Full of the Mughai Empire, 4 ols.) and also used my manuscrip notes and unnuaries on that period. His fine draft has each remain for this course when her printing, that the for this course with me before printing.

of useful documents for this history. If there is and exploring their records and taking transcripts of the Nirvani Akhara, Allahabad, for the irvalu due to this history-loving monk, Dattagirji. any merit in this volume the reader's gratitude is maths, princely States, and roable crividuals corresponded and travelled all over India, visiting trustwenty history will be well have been able help which he has given me by the mass of impossible. For thirty years Mahant Dattagir has original documents and anthentic records place by him in my hands. But for these materials a As the author, I must thank Mahant Daitagir

adunath Sarkar.

6

great part in the history of India. most powerful monastic order, which has played a The Dashnami Sampradaya is perhaps the

is their appropriate guardian deity, ped by animals. The Vedas refer to the longdepicts Pashupati sitting naked and being worship haired ascetics Lord Shiva sitting on Mount dec when Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were no more pretere-historic ancestry. It must have been founthan swamps. The famous Mohen-jo-daro sea. Kailand, almost naked and besmeared with ashes, The cult of the nagas, naked ascetics, has a

still found in many parts of India morks who later spread their doctrines. when they came with Alexander, met the naked idazes in were in facts leaders of two Orders of philosophers, the Gynnosophists. long before the dawn of history. The Greeks, reamours, the Nagas of the Jain Monastic orders of such ascetics existed in India persuasion, are Buddha and

Most of the Nagas go without -ceremonial

occasions. Some of them, however, achere to their vows of keeping to possessions.

Most of the Nagas belong to the Pashnami Sampradaya organised by Shankaracharya the oldest, the biggest and the most effective of our monastic Orders.

On initiation, the Dashnam, as the very name indicates, is given a name combined with one of the ten words: Giri Puri, Bharati, Van, Aranya, Parvat, Sagar, Tirth, Ashram or Saraswati. The initiate has to make strict vows not to indulge in more then one meal a day; not to beg for feod from more than seven houses; not to sleep anywhere but upon the ground; not to salute, not to praise, nor speak ill of anyone; not to bow to anyone but a sanyasi of a higher order: not to cover himself with a cloth, unless it were a bhagara brownish-red colour.

e to avocations in various parts of the country, but are pledged to the glory of the Order.

The Dashnamis are divided into two sections: the shastradharis, who specialise in sacred lore, and the astradharis, who specialise in arms. The sanyasis, are ranged in four ranks. Kutichak, Bahudak. Hansa and Paramahansa—the last being the highest. The fighting wing is organised into akharas, and, in the past, played a historic role.

Rajya Bha-ran, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

K. M. Muzshi



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Mundaleshwars living at the time 'who is recognised as the most learned man among than.

Right of Bathing of Kumbh

Every twellth year, when the planet Jupiter (Vrihaspati) enters the sign of Aquarius (Kumbh), the event is considered most sacred and Hindus believe that they can wash away their sins by hathing in some sacred river, especially the Ganges, or the Godāvari (cailed the Dakshini Garga) m Southern India. The occasion is called the Krambh Jag. In addition to it, every year, the day when the Sun enters the sign of Capricornus (Maker) on the new moon of the month of Magh (in January), is celebrated by purifying baths and religious ceremonies all over India; it is called Makar Sankranti, three months later than this i.e. in April, comes the Mosh Sakranti, or the day when the sun enters the sign of Aries (Mesh), which is celebrated similarly, especially at the conducace of the Ganges and the Jamuna at Allahabad. Thise two Sankrantis become doubly puspicious Aquarius (Kumbh) on the Makar and Mesh Sanevery twelfth year when Jupiter happens to be in



kranti new moons, and then they are called the Makar Kumbh and Mesh Kumbh respectively. Extraordinarily large crowds of Hindus assembled at Hardwar and Allahabad on these Kumbh bath days,—(c. g., 20 lakhs at Hardwar in 1796 according to Capt. Hardwicke).

The Kumbh Melas are held at four different places at a stated time for each, namely—

- (1) The Mahar Kumbh bath at Allahabad, when the Sun enters Capricornus (Mahar), Jupiter being then in Aquarius (Kumbh).
 - (2) The Mish Kumbh bath at Hardwar, when Jupiter enter Aquarius, the Sun being in Aries (Mosh).
 - (3) The Singh Kumbh bath at Trimbak on the Godivari, when the Sun enters Leo (Singh).
 - (4) The Kumbh at Ujpin in the Gwalior State. The enter of Julieta enter the enter of the color of the color of the state o

The question of precedence in bathing on these occasions formerly led to bloody fights. But the British Government, after inquiring into the old time-honoured practice, have laid down the following rules, which are strictly enforced by the Magistrate—First the Naga Gosains (i. e., akharas) will bathe, then the Vaishnav Bairagi Sadhus, next the Udasi Nanak Panthi Sikhs, and lastly the Nirmalā Sadhu Sikhs.

Among the Akharas the following order is observed and enforced,—At Hardwar first the Niranjani Akhara accompanied by the Juna, Abahan and Ananda Akharas; Second the Nirvani, accompanied by the Atal.

At Allahabad, first the Nirvani accompanied by the Atal Akhara, and then come the other four akharas. The first ceremonial bath is taken on the Makar Sankranti, the second on Magh amavasya (new roon), the third on Vasant Panchami.

On this occasion, on the sand bank at the confluence of the Ganges and the Jumna, the, — Nirvani Akhara form the camp and plant two flags 52 cubits high, under which the holy *Chandi* is constantly read. While the flags are standing every comer is supplied with free food. After the

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three baths r entioned above, a hom (fire sacrifice) is held, ac companied by Chandi reading and the feeding of Sächus, learned scholars (mandaleshwars) and ordinary Brähmans; which costs Rs. 525.

On each of the above holy cays (parv) this Akhara gives away in charity one horse, $5\frac{1}{4}$ maunds of beiled rice and peas (khichri) and Rs. 525 in each or as the price of other things.

Each mela costs the Nirvani Akhara at least Rs. 30,000. At the end of it, these monks move off to Varanesi.

The first English account of the Kumbh that we have was written in 1796 when Hardwar was in the possession of the Marathas. On 8th. April 1796, an English officer named Captain Thomas Hardwicke, accompanied by Dr. Hunter paid a visit to Hardwar during the mela held on that date which was the Mesh Sankranti.

"But every 12th year, when Jupiter is in Aquarius, at the time of the Sun's entering Aries, the concourse of people is greatly augmented. The present is one of those periods, and the multitude

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collec ed here on this occasion may, I think, with moderation, be computed at two million of souls.

The Kumbh mela of 1882 is thus described by Mr. T. Benson, I. C. S., in his report :—

"To each corporation (Abhera) of religious ascetics was assigned a space of ground, within which it erected a temporary village or town for the accommodation of its members, in the centre of which moved the standards of the guild on a loftly flag-staff. These encamproents were orderly and well laid out, and of a comfortable description...The various camps formed were,

- (1) Nirvani Naga Gosains.
- (2) Niranjani, with whom were associated the Juna.
 - (3) Variagis, Including three socts. The found for
- (4) Chhota Akha a Panchayati Udasi Nanak-Panthis,
- (5) Bara Akhara Panchayati with the Banalhua Akhara (Sikhs).
 - (6) Nirmala Sikhs, with the Vrinda-vani.

in 17 of the lat ruler Navals Singh was no doubt a weak man, but be was buttressed by the warrior onk Balanand and his Gosain contingent: It was Balanand who is concert with Dan Shah-Jat had put Naval Singh at the head of affairs ir 1775 in reference to Ranjit Singh. It was mais y under his influence and inspiration that the jats tried conclusions with the Marathas hired by Ranjit at Sonkh-Ating on 4th. April. Notwithstanding the reverse sustained here, Balanand maintained his position of ascendincy and the spirits of the Jats remained high. Hence the Gosain troops formed the core of opposition during Najaf's repeated tussles with the Jat power When Nawal Singh cowered under the terror of Najaf's arms, these Gosains barred the Mughal's. path at Barsana. In the action that was fought there on 30th. Octobar, 12,000 of them (Ibarat, i. 236) armed with musikets took their position on the Jat left under the command, of Balanand, while opposite their ranks stood the Ruhelas under Rahimbad. The Nagas began the action by a fusilade from their firearms, but It was not effect tive. The mass of charging Puhela infantry rose. and fell before them like the waves in a tempestuous sea and by dodging the bullets, bore down.

upon them in a tumultuous rush. The wall of the Naga line held for a time the surging billiow of the Ruhela attack, but broke after a thousand of the Nagas had laid down their lives. The position could yet have been retrieved for the Jat right under Samru had scattered the Mughal left; but at last the Jats went down for lack/of grit and commanding ability in their generallissimo, Nawal Singh.

During Najaf's second offensive, 1775-76, Balanand mist have done his part in frustrating Najal's swoop upon the Jat Raja, 10th June, 1775, in the course of the Rajah's pilgrimage from Dig to Govardhan, (Fall, III 114-15. His greatest service to the Jat State was to liberate Dig from the grip of Rahimabad Ruhela. The latter had seized the occasion of general mourning on the death of Nawal Singh to make himself master of the fortress-city. But it was wrested from him by a bold coup organised by the monk. Allied with a body of 2000 Maratha horse under Jaswant Rao Bable the Gosain marched under cover of durkness in the night from Kumbher and sell upon he Ruhela camp under the fortwalls at break olday. Attracted by the uproar,

previously built by himself, belonging to Raja Udikaran, (Ibrat, A. S. B. II 476, C.) P. C. no. 574 P, R. C. l. no. 39, while his brother Anupgiri gained the protection of Almas Ali Khan the Oudh Nawab's governor of Etawah.

This Gosain insurrection is no doubt, a minor episode, but it had important consequences for the Jaipur state. The Maratha's distraction was the Kachhwa's opportunity; It put the brake to Sindhia's ambition and enabled the Jaipur Raja to obtain better terms (P. R. C I I nos. 56 & 59).

Bulananda Mahant.

It has been sated that Mahadji had already marched into the Jaipur territory. Renewed pareys for the adjustment of the tribute brought again into prominence the gosain Balananda Mahant, who after his right from the Jat land, had been landing a secluded existence as the Guru of Sawai Madho Singh of Jaipur and after his demise, that of Pratap Singh. In the face of Sindhia's threat to overthrow the Kachhwa monarchy, the monk exchanged his howl for the diplomatist's wallet and set out with the Dewal Khush-hali Ram

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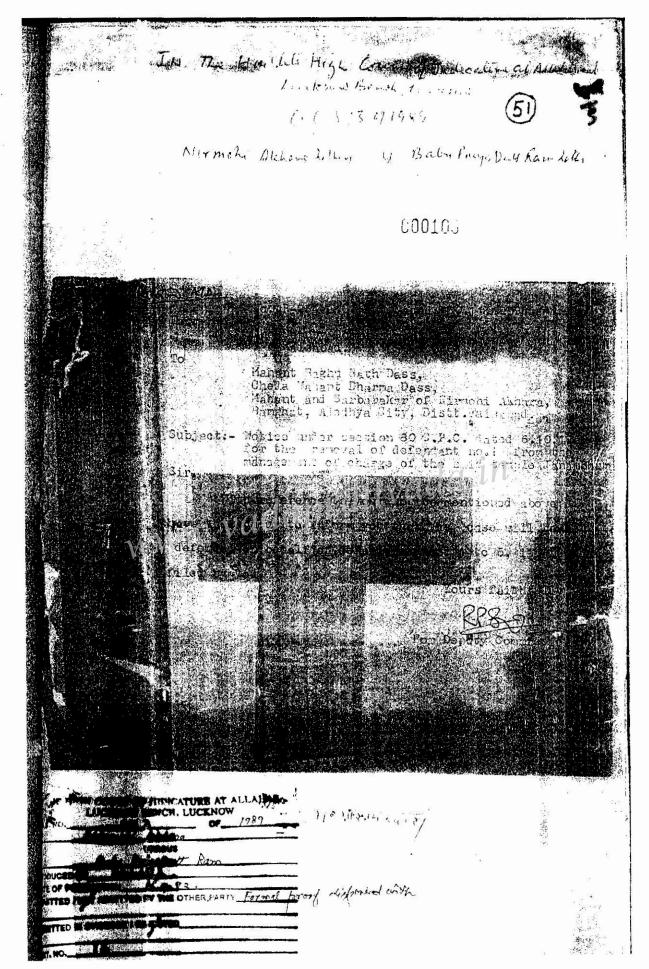
prove. Though they did not rise to the rank of burous like Hirrmat Bahadur, their loyalty and heroism in defence of the right cause may be totally lorgotter in their deeds are not included in this general history of the Ten Orders. Our only disadvantage is that these acts of heroism and loyalty were done in many scattered States and at different times, and detailed descriptions of the fights are not available, because the records of the f idal States of India have not been searched at 1 indexed for the use of historical research acholars

Many other o lers of Hindu religious warriors took part in the wars of Rajputana and Malwa along with the D mamis. But the exact proportion of Naga a 1 non-Naga fighters in those old half-forgotten battles and the names of their captains cannot be clearly distinguished now for want of detailed records. The only information some ealled Ramanandis and Vishnuswarcis), under the general name of Maha-purushas or Crosains fought in defense of our Rajahs, and only the general result of their actions is given in

defence of his ally the Kachhwa Raja. In the battle of Tunga that followed, these Gosain fought most bravely, fired 35 rockets (bans) and prevented the advance of the Maratha cavalry. At the end of the day Sindhia had to retreat in disappointment. Naga monks also fought on the side of the Jaipur Raja against De Boigne and Jiva Dada (the generals of Sindhia) at the battle of Patna, in the left wing of the Jaipur army (20 Jhne 1790). They checked Holkar's cavalry during the engagement. Romanandi and Vishnu-Swami monk also fought for the Jodhpur Raja at the battles of Merta on 10th, September, 1790. (See Jadunath Sarkar's Fall of the Mughal Empire, Vol. IV. Ch. 58 for details).

In November 1701 Bijay Singh, having become an old and Milf crazy man in weak health, warted to please his concubine of the Oswal caste by seating his heir on her lap and forcing the nobles to salute her. At this a rebellion broke out in Murval. All the nobles with their contingents, numbering at it said to 80.000 it thore, let the court and assembed at Janawar, withing to set up another prince, Bhim Singh, as their Maharajah. But Bijay Singh, was supported

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Annexure-A5

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