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परम पूज्य आचार्य युगभूषणसूरिजी महाराज साहब  
गीतार्थगंगा

14th February 2024

॥ जय जिनेन्द्र ॥

Respected Lajeshbhai,

On 29th January I had the pleasure to visit the Gitarth Ganga Research Institute for the second time, but after a gap of many years. We were given a Powerpoint and video presentation of the work being done in the Institute and about the vision of Acharyaji Yugbhushan Maharaj Saheb which represents both a global approach and an in-depth exploration of the Jain tradition of teaching. I was very impressed by the team who works there. It is essential that it has an important staff of both dedicated and qualified people whose talents apply to many areas, from manuscript reading to proficiency in digital matters, as is shown by the powerful inhouse software used for the databases, catalogues, etc.

The encyclopedia of 108 subjects and 15000 subsubjects which is being prepared is really a marvel which will leave no corner untouched so vast its approach is in scope and in details. The sample I was given for study is extremely promising. We were all very impressed by the trees and charts which have been painstakingly prepared by researchers and Jain nuns. This is an extraordinary tool and it should be made known as soon as possible. The digitisation of handwritten or printed material which is being done at Gitarth Ganga is also very commendable, and the fact that it even includes magazines and news paper articles by itself shows that it has an extent which has no limit. This intellectual ambition is very striking in all the projects undertaken at Gitarth Ganga. The aim is to cover everything it seems, and this aim is being reached at through the incentive given by Acharyaji and the implement provided by immense work being done by able workers. This will provide an invaluable resource to the world.

I was also very much happy to see that the Gitarth Ganga projects associate Jain monks and nuns who are highly educated and an extremely competent lay-staff.

A short visit to the library was extremely rewarding and we all could see how well organized and well maintained it is. The material it contains is of invaluable importance. With all humility, I would like to suggest that more steps are taken to share the work being done more easily. Gitarth Ganga aims at perfection, but it would be rewarding to make all the work done available to the world in the near future. So a beta version of the database could be made available to the global scholarly community.

Although it is not directly connected to research, I would like to say that I fully support the Gitarth Ganga involvement in the rescuing of Jain sacred places such as Sammet Shikharji and Shatrunjaya from today's projects which disturb the sanctity of these two eminent tirths.

Yours sincerely,

Anil Bally .