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Center for Indic Studies Seminar

Date: March 16, 2007
Place: Library Browsing Area
Time: 12 - 1PM
Refreshments: 11:45 AM

Speaker: Mr. Pankaj Jain
Ph.D. Candidate in Indian Religions, University of Iowa

**Topic: "Dharma, Asian Traditions, Western Religions:
A Quest to Save the Planet"**

Abstract: Dharma is compared with the Chinese and Japanese traditions and also with other Western Religions. Some of the comparative themes of this presentation are: Multiplicity of adherence of faiths, Monotheism vs. Polytheism, Divinity outside the nature vs. nature as divine, Idea of "original sin", Reincarnation, Division of sacred and mundane, Importance of Historic events vs. myths and Religious Rivalry. Pankaj's PhD dissertation is about cultural ecology of Rajasthan and he will present some hypotheses from his research about how Indian traditions offer unique perspectives to save the planet's ecology.

Bio: Pankaj Jain was born in India and came to America as a software engineer (IT). Here his professional interests changed and he pursued the Master's degree (Columbia University) and PhD (University of Iowa) in Indian religions. He is currently finishing his dissertation, "Religion and Ecology of Rajasthan," while teaching Sanskrit (Rutgers University) and World religions (New Jersey City University). Pankaj Jain has a special interest in connecting ancient traditions with contemporary issues, such as global environmental problems and the latest ecological theories. He continues to seek novel ways of incorporating technology into his research and teaching on ancient traditions, where his presentations and publications have already begin to attract honors and awards. Pankaj Jain is fluent in several Indian languages and has published poems in Hindi. He is a member of several Asian and Indic studies professional societies.

**For further information, please contact: Dr. T.K. Roy at 508-999-8497 or
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