

Kulguru Swami Rajarshi Muni of Lakulish tradition

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In news- Kulguru Swami Rajarshi Muni of Lakulish tradition has passed away recently.

A brief note on Swami Rajarshi Muni-

- He was the **founder of the Lakulish International Fellowship's Enlightenment Mission (LIFE Mission)**.
- He was **born** in a Kshatriya family on February 11, **1931 in Porbandar, Gujarat**.
- Swamiji took diksha in 1970 from Swami Kripalvanand and renounced his home on his birthday in 1971.
- Later he was **involved in 'yogsadhana'**. He dedicated his life to popularising and developing yoga.
- He **established ashrams in Gujarat, Haridwar and USA**. He also authored several books in English, Gujarati, Hindi and Marathi languages.
- He was also **awarded the Prime Minister's Yoga Award in 2019** for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of yoga.
- He was also the **founder of the Lakulish Yoga University** based in Ahmedabad.

Who is Lakulisha?

- Lakulisha (meaning the lord with a staff or mace or club or stick) was a **prominent Shaivite revivalist, reformist and preceptor** of the **doctrine of the Pashupatas**, one of the oldest sects of Shaivism.
- According to some scholars, **Lakulisha is the founder of the Pashupata sect**. While, another section argues that the Pashupata doctrine was already in existence before Lakulisha, and he was only its first formal preceptor.
- According to a tradition stated in the **Linga Purana**,

Lakulisha is considered as the 28th and the last avatar of Shiva and the propounder of Yoga system.

- According to the same tradition, **Lakulisha had four disciples**, viz., Kaurushya, Garga, Mitra and Kushika.
- According to another tradition mentioned in the **Avanti Khanda of the Skanda Purana**, Lakulisha and his four disciples while passing Mahakalavana, installed a linga at that place, which was then known as Kayavarohaneshvara.
- **The Kurma Purana, the Vayu Purana, and the Linga Purana predicted that Shiva (Maheshvara) would appear in the form of a wandering monk called 'Lakulin' or 'Nakulisha'**, and that he would have four disciples named, Kushika, Garga, Mitra, and Kanrushya, who would re-establish the cult of Pashupati and would therefore be called Pashupata(s).
- Lakulisha was the fruition of these divine predictions.
- According to Vayu Purana, **Lakulisha was a contemporary of Vyasa and Krishna**, and was the 28th incarnation of Rudra (Shiva).
- Lakulisha Pashupata has been identified as 'Dualistic-combined with-Non-dualistic Monism' (bheda-abheda) Shaivism, and there was strong emphasis on Yoga system.
- The principal text of the Pashupata sect, the Pāśupata Sūtra is attributed to Lakulisha.