



# JAIN AHIMSA TIMES

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## MR. DILIP GANDHI JOINS CENTRAL CABINET OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



A young, bold and dynamic, first time elected to Loksabha from Ahmed Nagar, Maharashtra Mr. Dilip Gandhi has been nominated to the Central Cabinet as State Minister for Shipping by Prime Minister Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpai. Entire Jain Samaj feels pride to have a member of its community on this responsible position.

Ahimsa Foundation interviewed Mr. Gandhi at his residence on 18th February 2003 to know his views about the relevance Ahimsa in today's world . To read excerpts of the interview& for his personal profile

please click on this line.

## PRESIDENT KALAM MEETS ACHARYA MAHAPRAGYA

The President of India Mr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam met Jain Acharya Mahapragya of the Shwetambar Terapanthi sect at Bombay. He was extremely impressed by the message of non-violence being preached by the saint during his Ahimsa Yatra. News Courtesy : jvbharti@yahoo.co.in.



## WORLDWIDE VEGETARIAN MISSION SPECIALIST KALPANA CHAWLA AMONG VICTIMS OF

### COLUMBIA CATASTROPHE OF SATURDAY, 1ST. FEBRUARY 2003



In case some of you did not know, one of the STS-107 astronauts who perished in Saturday's space shuttle Columbia catastrophe was a strict vegetarian. Kalpana Chawla, a national hero, was making her second space flight. Kalpana was a strict vegetarian and always avoided sharing the table with meat-eaters. Chawla, a graduate of Punjab Engineering College in Karnal, Haryana, went to the United States in 1982 for further studies. Chawla did her master's in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas in 1984, and a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado in 1988, after which she joined NASA's Ames Research Center. She was recruited in 1994 by NASA's astronaut program after she became a citizen of US and was one of only 20 candidates selected from more than 4,000 applicants.

## TEERTHDHAM, MANGALAYATAN, INAUGURATED AT ALIGARH BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT

"Teerth Dham-Mangalayatan" a world class Research Centre on Jainism has been recently established at Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh and it was inaugurated by the the Vice-President, Mr. B. S. Shekhawat on the 31st January, 2003 in the august presence of State Governor, Shri Vishnu Kant shastri, Mr. Murli Manohar Joshi and other eminent persons. The Pran-Pratishtha ceremony of the was conducted on 6th February, 2003 in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani. The Panch Kalyanak celebrations went on for a week and a large number of visitors and Jain devotees from the country as well as overseas participated in the programmes. The entire Centre is spread over an area of 80,000 sq. yds. The Research Centre will act as a repository of of rare, ancient and valuable literature on Jainism, which has so far not been collected and documented, both from Indian and foreign sources. More than 8000 rare volumes have already been obtained.



The Centre will have latest facilities for documentation, cataloguing, digitization and preservation of ancient literature and will provide valuable assistance for research in Jainology. Internet facilities will be made available for easy retrieval and exchange of information. Apart from the main Centre, the complex is also including temples of Bhagwan Adinath ji, Mahavir Swami, and Bahubali ji. A tall pillar, 63 feet in height has also been built as a stambh carrying the image of Shi Adi Nath Ji.

## MCDONALD'S SETTLEMENT: A STUDY IN GREED, CORRUPTION AND HEROISM



**Los Angeles :** Vegetarian's packed a Chicago courtroom on Monday, January 27th, to protest the list of groups recommended to share in a \$10 million settlement by McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's agreed to the settlement after being sued for misrepresenting its French fries and hash browns as "vegetarian."

The objectors who were present, which included the leaders of various prominent vegetarian organizations who had flown in to urge that the list be rejected, were not permitted by the judge to speak. Instead, the hearing focused on arguments between the plaintiff lawyers about their attorneys' fees. The irony was clear to the vegetarian courtroom observers. Not permitted to speak for themselves, they knew many of the attorneys present in the courtroom, lawyers who were supposed to be speaking for vegetarians, had been fired by their vegetarian clients for not representing their interests.

After watching the various attorneys spend the better part of the afternoon haggling over fees, vegetarian Jim Laurie shook his head in disgust. "First they turned on vegetarians, then they turned on each other," said Laurie, who had driven 125 miles from Iroquois County, Illinois, hoping to voice his objections to the judge. "It was like watching a bunch of jackals fight over a carcass -- no disrespect meant to jackals." Information source : Maynard S. Clark, Maynard E-Mail: Clark@Yahoo.com.

## SOYA ALERT OVER CANCER AND BRAIN DAMAGE LINK

Special report from Observer: what's wrong with our food? by Antony Barnett, public affairs editor Sunday August 13, 2000  
A health warning was sounded last night over the dangers of eating soya after two senior American government scientists revealed that chemicals in the product could increase the risk of breast cancer in women, brain damage in men and other abnormalities in infants. The disclosure, which sent shockwaves through the multi-billion dollar food industry, came after the scientists decided to break ranks with colleagues in the US Food and Drug Administration and oppose its decision last year to approve a health claim that soya reduced the risk of heart disease. They wrote an internal protest letter warning of 28 studies revealing toxic effects of soya. <http://www.observer.co.uk/international/story/0,6903,353660,00.html>

## 3RD CONGRESS OF THE EASR WILL BE ORGANISED BY THE NORWEGIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS

The 3rd congress of the EASR will be organised by the Norwegian Association for the History of Religions in collaboration with the Department for the History of Religions at the University of Bergen from May 8 - 10, 2003 at Bergen, Norway . Papers and suggestions for panels are especially invited that relate to the topic of the globalization and the localization of religion. In the context of the study of religion, globalization refers to the effects rapid means of communication, as well as economical, political and cultural forces of integration, are having on the interaction of religious traditions, on the internal developments of these traditions, and on the emergence of new religious forms. Localization refers to the accommodation, and creative re-interpretation, of larger religious traditions and trends within local contexts; from one point of view, localization is the dialectical counterpart to globalization. Localization also thematises the role of "place" in religion. The congress will also have status as a special conference of the International Association for the History of Religions, and be a venue for meetings of the IAHR International Committee and the IAHR Executive Committee. Proposals for papers, with abstracts, should be sent to Einar Thomassen, IKRR-Religion, Oisteinsgate 3., N-5007 Bergen, Norway, E-Mail: [enar.thomassen@krr.uib.no](mailto:enar.thomassen@krr.uib.no), [www.easr.de](http://www.easr.de), Information Source : Maxim Lebedev, E-Mail : [lebedev@philosophy.ru](mailto:lebedev@philosophy.ru)

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## 12TH BIENNIAL JAINA CONVENTION TO BE HELD AT GREATER CINCINNATI, USA IN JULY

As already informed earlier in these columns, the Federation of Jain Associations in North America in cooperation with the Jain Center of Cincinnati & Dayton will be organizing the 12th Biennial Jaina Convention at the Greater Cincinnati Convention Center from July 3-6, 2003. The theme of the convention is Jainism: the Art of Living. The Jaina Convention is expected to be attended by more than 6,000 invitees. In addition to discourses from prominent international Jain scholars, the focus of convention will also be on participative events such as Yoga, Meditation, Art and Vegetarian Cooking.

In the evening, professional entertainment is planned in conjunction with participative presentations from Jain centers across North America for short drama, songs & dances. For registration information please check on [www.jainaconvention.org](http://www.jainaconvention.org) or mail to Haresh Hemani, E-Mail : [4cs@fuse.net](mailto:4cs@fuse.net).

### MAHAVIR AHIMSA SEMINAR ON "NON-VIOLENCE IN PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE"

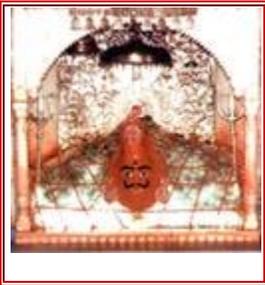


A Seminar on & Non-violence in Principle and Practice" is planned to be held on April 12, 2003 at Culpeper Video Theatre#2, Babbidge Library, UCONN, Storrs, CT, USA.

Background of the Ahimsa Seminar Series: The symposium "Nonviolence and Nirvana (Eternal Happiness)" had celebrated the 2600th birth anniversary of Tirthankar Mahavir Bhagwan at UCONN Campus on September 29, 2001. The proceeds received from the seminar were used to setup at the University of Connecticut (Asian American Studies Institute). Dr. Michael Tobias has been invited to speak on the occasion. He is the author of more than 25 books and the writer/director/producer of more than 100 films.

His books include A Day in the Life of India, A vision of Nature, Deep Ecology, Life Force, Nature's Keepers-On Front Lines of the Fight to Save Wildlife in America. On April 13th, 2003 Bhagwan Mahavir Jayanti Celebration will be held at the Temple. Those desirous to join are requested to register by April 2nd, 2003 to facilitate arrangements by E-Mail : [asiadm01@uconnvm.uconn.edu](mailto:asiadm01@uconnvm.uconn.edu) or calling Fe Delos Santos at 860-486-5083. Information By Courtesy: Dr. Sulekh Jain

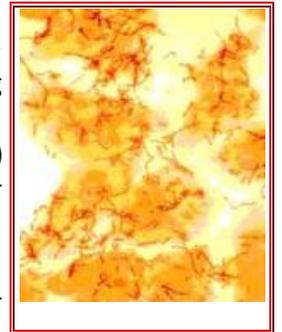
### DAY-TO-DAY HEARING ON PARASNATH TEMPLE TO START FROM JUNE 16: ANNOUNCES JHARKHAND HIGH COUR



Ranchi : The Jharkhand High Court has ruled that the hearing related to the dispute between the two sects of Jain religion - Swetambars and Digambars over the world famous Parasnath temple, Madhuban (Giridih), would begin from June 16, 2003 on a day to day basis. A division bench comprising Chief Justice V. K. Gupta and Justice Hari Shankar Prasad ruled while hearing a bunch of petitions, including one filed by Shri Shrenik Bhai Kasturbhai. The bench observed that the hearing of these cases is expected to consume a lot of time. So, the date has been fixed on the specific agreements of all the lawyers, including Shri. R. K. Jain. Information by Courtesy : Ajay Kumar Jain, E-Mail : [akumarjain@yahoo.com](mailto:akumarjain@yahoo.com), [www.ranchiexpress.com](http://www.ranchiexpress.com).

### BE CAREFUL: CURD IS A SUSPENSION OF BILLIONS OF LIVE BACTERIA

Mr. Padam Ghate (Jain) a pathologist, has carried out research on curd has shown that curd is the suspension of billions of live bacteria (called Lactobacillus) with precipitated milk protein. According to him, when a small quantity of 'Jamawan ' is added to nearly sterile luke warm milk, the lactobacilli present in JAMAWAN multiply rapidly in the milk ( Milk is very good culture media for these bacteria) and produce acid (Lactic acid). This acid precipitates the milk protein (casein) and is responsible for its sourness. He has shown these motile live bacteria to his parents and others under the microscope and from that day they have stopped taking curd and its preparations. A small drop of curd has much more live bacteria (JEEV) than in a bucket full of unfiltered fresh water. Photo shows the micro-photograph of the curd carrying live Bacteria.



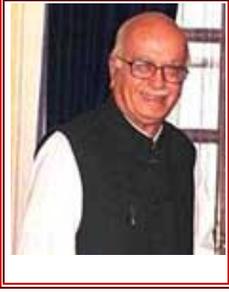
### PRESIDENT ABDUL KALAM INAUGURATES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNIVERSAL HARMONY AT NEW DELHI

In International Conference on the theme of "Universal Harmony and Reverence of all life" was inaugurated by the President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on the 6th December, 2002. The programme was largely attended by eminent persons from various parts of the country representing different religious and social institutions. It was organised by Sarva Jeev Mangal Pratishthan, Pune.

On this occasion, a book, named "Shakahar Hi Kyon? (Why only vegetarian?) written by Dr. Kalyan Gangwal, Founder Chairman of the Pratishthan was released by the President. Dr. Gangwal has been working on vegetarianism at International level. Information source : Jain Gazette.

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## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ADVANI EXPRESSES GRIEF AT INCREASING NUMBER OF FOETICIDE CASES



At a two-day conference of the Chief Registrars of Births and Deaths held at New Delhi recently, Shri L.K. Advani, Deputy Prime Minister showed grief at the increasing number of Foeticide cases in the country and desired that the laws in this regards must be strictly obeyed. The figures of birth and death should correctly recorded and carefully maintained. He said the steps are being taken to get the approval of the Cabinet for the issue of multi-purpose ID cards to all the citizens of the country. The Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths at the Centre mentioned that the rate of illegal abortions is fast increasing during the last ten years, in the States of Punjab and Haryana. Such incidents are also being reported increasingly in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamilnadu. The 1991 census has revealed stunning facts; the proportion of males is on the increase and a sharp fall in the proportion of females. To remove this imbalance, the laws have to be strictly enforced.

## PADAM BHUSHAN VIRENDRA HEGDE AWARDED SHRUT- SAVARDHAN PURASKAR

At a largely-attended religious gathering organised by Shrut Savardhan Sandthan, Agra, in the holy presence of Digambar saint, Upadhyay Shri Gyan Sagar Ji Maharaj, other saints in his sangh, Shrut Savardhan Puraskar was awarded to Rajarshi Padam Bhushan Dr. Virendra Hegde. Sahu Ramesh Chandra Jain of the Times of India group presided over the function which was attended by many intellectuals, social workers and eminent people of Agra. The award has been given to Dr. Hegde for his rich contribution in the field of conservation and protection of ancient Jain literature and Jain art and culture and for his unstinted efforts for the education and social development of Sarak community, which constitutes the original Jain population and the descendents of Bhagwan Parshwa nath ji. These people live in rural and remote areas of south Bihar (Jharkhand), West Bengal and Orissa and lead a simple life. This award consists of a cash prize of Rs. one lakh, a silver plaque as eulogy and a shawl. Information Source : Jinendu.

## DISCOURSES OF SHRI GYANMATI JI MAHARAJ TO BE BROADCAST ON JAIN T. V. CHANEL

Ganini Pramukh Shri Gyan Mati Ji Maharaj from Digambar sect will be delivering her discourses on 'Jain Agams' from 10th February, 2003 onwards every day on Jain T.V. channel for 30 minutes, from 7.00 AM to 7.30 AM on week days and from 7.30 AM to 8.00 AM on Sundays. Devotees of Jain religion and others interested in Jain philosophy will find this an excellent opportunity to learn about the rich contents of Jain scriptures.



## ACHARYA MAHAPRAGYA JI ARRIVES IN BOMBAY WITH HIS AHIMSA YATRA

After having moved through the states of Rajasthan and Gujarat, Acharya Maha Pragya Ji of Terapanth Sect along with his entourage of Ahimsa Yatra reached the suburban area of Bombay in the last week of January, spreading the message of truth and non-violence through the towns and villages falling on his way. Touching Bhayandar on the 25th January he arrived in Kandivalli (west) on the 2nd February. Several important functions were held at Kandivalli, one of which is annual Maryada Mahotsava, in which the followers of Terapanth and their saints re-affirmed the oaths for strictly following the principles of Terapanth Sect in day to day practice and show their total allegiance to their Acharya.

## MR. MAHAVIR JAIN FINDS HIS NAME IN LIMCA BOOK OF RECORDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL MEMORY

Twenty seven years old, Mahavir Jain, belonging to Palwal town near Delhi, a mechanical engineer by profession has been honoured for his extra-ordinary memory by having his name entered in Limca Book of Records. The announcement was officially made at a Conference of Limca Book of Records arranged at Taj Man Singh Hotel at New Delhi on the 24th January, 2003. Mahavir Jain displayed his exceptional memory by telling the page number on which any given word appears in the Oxford Advanced Learner Dictionary, containing 80,000 words, within a maximum period of 16 seconds. Mr. Jain told the press reporters that every person possesses potential capacity to remember thousands of words but he is not aware of his inherent and hidden ability. This ability can be developed by continuous practice, confidence and will power. Though his own memory used to be very weak during his childhood, he was able to develop the memory and reach this stage by encouragement and inspiration of his mother, Mrs. Shakuntala Jain. He is now looking forward to have his name entered in the Guinness Book of World

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### **MR. MAHESH KAPASI'S NAME PLACED IN LIMCA BOOK OF RECORDS 2003 EDITION**

The name of Mr. Mahesh Kapasi, a Chartered Accountant by profession ( M. Com., LL.B., FCA, FICWA, FCS), has been placed in the 'Limca Book of Records' 2003 edition at page 52 in the category - 'Communications' - "Print"- "Most Letters to the Editor" i.e., 5209 letters in 179 Newspapers and magazines. Till date, he has to his credit 5629 letters which are published in 184 Newspapers and magazines. In addition he is has also written several articles, poems and jokes. For further information Mr. Mahesh Kapasi, B-49 Gulmohar Park, New Delhi, Tel. Phone: 26868147, E-Mail : maheshkp@vsnl.net.

### **FEDERATION OF JAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES OF INDIA FORMED AT PUNE**

Keeping in view the active role played by various Jain Institutions working for providing relief to the sufferers of natural calamities, such as earth-quakes, famine, floods etc., and looking at the necessity of proper coordination amongst these institutions, a Federation has been constituted at Pune by the initiative of prominent social worker, and now President of FJEI, Shri Shanti Lal Mutha. A Conference of various institutions, working for humanitarian work, is being organised by FJEI at Jalgaon on 1st and 2nd March, 2003. For details, contact: Mr. Shanti Lal Mutha, 1184/4, Shivaji Nagar, F.C. Road, Dhyaneshwar Paduka Chowk, Pune- 411005. E-Mail: info@fjei.org.

### **PRESIDENT KALAM INAUGURATES CONFERENCE OF CANCER SPECIALISTS AT JAIPUR**

A National Conference of Cancer Specialists was organised at Jaipur on 22nd December, 2002 by Bhagwan Mahavir Cancer Hospital and Research Centre. The theme of the conference was "National Comprehensive Cancer Network for India-2002". The programme was inaugurated by the President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. During his inaugural speech, he emphasized on the need to undertake thorough study of this disease and suggested a four point formula for its eradication. The four points are: (i) Social awareness about Cancer amongst masses; (ii) Disseminating information about Cancer at primary level; (iii) Laying down a net-work of medical statistics on Cancer and (iv) Practical and customary treatment by Jeenam technique. He further out-lined the need for application of psycho-analytical methods for the eradication of the disease.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION TURNS DOWN PROPOSAL FOR 4000 NEW SLAUGHTER HOUSES**

It is reported that the Planning Commission has explicitly turned down the proposals mooted out by some business houses to open 4000 new slaughter houses in the country so as to boost the export of meat and meat-products and earn foreign exchange. The clarification issued recently is a big victory for all the proponents of ahimsa.

### **PRANIMITRA SANSTHAN AT JODHPUR PERFORMING YEOMEN SERVICE TO PROTECT FAMINE-STRICKEN ANIMALS IN RAJASTHAN**



For the last three years in a row since 1999, Rajasthan is facing acute famine conditions and the animal wealth is fast-depleting in the State. The fields are lying barren and the cows and other animals are passing through a dreadful calamity. In order to face these conditions, and help the village people and the animals in draught-affected districts, many institutions are working hand in hand with the Government, specially for providing fodder and water. One of these institutions, which is doing great service is Prani-mitra Sansthan, located at Surya Nagari, Jodhpur. This institution was established in the year 1999 under the chairmanship of Shri Mofat Raj Ji Munot, a businessman from Bombay. It is totally dedicated to the protection of poor and helpless animals. In the previous year, this Sansthan helped in saving the lives of more than 60,000 cows, providing 60 shelter camps for the animals. This year too, it is engaged wholly in organising camps for animals and providing them fodder as well as water. So far, 73 such camps have been held in

remote villages in Barmer district, giving protection to more than 37000 animals. Prani Mitra Sansthan is presently spending over Rs. 80,000 every day through its relief camps and these camps will have to be continued for another 7 to 8 months. Financial support for this humanitarian cause from one and all, from within the country and abroad will be welcome. Contact for further details : pljain@sancharnet.in

### **SHRI CHITRABHANUJI FELICITATES BRILLIANT STUDENTS FROM JAIN COMMUNITY**

With the objective of encouraging brilliant students from Jain community, Shri Gyan Chand Himmat Lal Trust felicitated 250 students, who had secured high positions in their classes at a programme specially arranged at Miniland Ground, Bhandup.

The Chief guest invited on this occasion to give away the prizes was Shri Chitrabhanu, Jain intellectual, thinker and philosopher. Many other eminent people of Bombay and suburbs were present on the occasion.

### **FREE ARTIFICIAL FEET PROVIDED TO 201 DISABLED PERSONS AT BANGLORE**

It is a matter of pride for the Jain community of Karnataka that a medical camp was recently organised at Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital, Bangalore by Karnataka Marwari youth Federation in cooperation with Nagore district Jain Parishad for check-up of disabled persons and providing artificial feet to them. The Chief guest on the occasion was Shri C. M. Nagraj, Mayor of Bangalore. During his speech, Shri Nagraj showed high appreciation for the self-less services rendered by Jain community for the needy and back-ward persons of Bangalore. During this camp, 201 persons were provided artificial feet free of cost.

### **SURGICAL CAMP FOR POLIO PATIENTS ORGANISED BY MAHAVIR INTERNATIONAL, JODHPUR**

Mahavir International at Jodhpur, actively engaged in humanitarian work, particularly in the task of curing children and youth from Polio disease, has organised a Free Surgical camp for the fourth time with the assistance of a team of surgeons from P.N.R. Society for Relief and Rehabilitation of Disabled, Bhavnagar on 7th, 8th and 9th February, 2003 in cooperation with Social Welfare (Samaj Kalyan Vibhag) of Rajasthan Government. Polio-stricken children and youth in the age group of 5 to 35 years were checked and those who were found suitable were operated. The Camp Coordinator, Mr. P.L. Jain ( Founder Chairman Ahimsa Foundation) informed that more than 1000 persons have already been operated in Polio camps held earlier during the last three years by Mahavir International at Jodhpur and Jaisalmer. This time also more than 250 patients have been treated. Prior to holding of the camp, intensive publicity is carried out to inform people in remote areas through radio, T.V., pamphlets, posters, hoardings, slides and personal visits by social workers. It is believed that within the next 5 years, polio will be completely eradicated from Rajasthan. All the services at the camp, including transporting patients and their wards from their home-places to camp hospital, lodging, boarding, operation, medicines, calipers etc. are provided free of cost. Donations to meet the expenditure are welcome. Those interested to send donations may contact: Mr. P.L. Jain, Polio Camp Coordinator, E-Mail : pljain@sancharnet.in

### **RAMPANT ILLEGAL TRADE OF PANTHER SKIN FROM UDAIPUR REGION EXPOSED**



Recently, a gang of smugglers consisting of seven persons, found indulging in illegal sale of panther skin has been arrested by local police and recovered skin of 1300 animals from them, which was likely to be exported at a very high price. Though the killing of panthers is totally banned in the state, still, they are mercilessly killed in jungles around Udaipur and Sirohi in Rajasthan and their skin is removed. These heinous and criminal activities have so far been going on unabated in this region, inspite of the control of Government agencies and presence of non-Government and social organizations working for animal protection, like People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Indian Society for Protection of Animals (ISPA), Beauty without Cruelty, People for Animals etc. It is worth-noting that the Indian Parliament in this winter session has passed a bill on the 28th January, 2003 to amend its "Forest animals Protection Act, 1972" and made killing of forest animals (Vanya-Jeev) anywhere in the country as a non-bailable offence.

### **CORRECT LOGO FOR JAIN COMMUNITY**

In order to popularise the use of correct logo which Mr. Dhanyabad Sahit has mentioned that Jain community should use correct logo in all its publications, books, cards, magazines etc. A picture of correct logo is given here for the benefit of viewers.



### **BHARTENDU HARISH CHANDRA AWARD GIVEN TO MILAP CHAND DANDIA**

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India has honoured the well-known investigation and crime journalist, Shri Milap Chand Dandia with Bhartendu Harish Chandra Award for his contribution to journalism, particularly his book, "Behind the Mask" (Mukhuton ke peechhe), which was released earlier by the Vice-President, Shri B.S. Shekhawat in September, 2002. The award was given away by the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Ramesh Bais. In the absence of Shri Milap Chand, his son, Ravi Dandia received the award.

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS FOR CONSIDERING SIKH, BOUDH AND JAIN RELIGIONS AS SEPARATE FROM HINDUISM**

The Constitution Review Committee has recommended that the three religions, Sikh, Boudh and Jain religions to be considered as distinctly separate from Hindu religion and that the provisions made in the constitution for linking the followers of these three religions with Hindus be withdrawn.

### **CHANDAPRABHU JI TEMPLE INSTALLATION CEREMONY HELD AT LUCKNOW**

The Panch Kalyanak Pratishtha Ceremony for installing the idol of Tirthankar Shri Chandaprabhu Ji and others at Gomati Nagar in Lucknow was conducted with great fervor, faith and devotion from 3rd to 8th February, 2003 in the holy presence of Digambar Jain saints, Shri 108 Saurabh Sagar Ji and Prabal Sagar Ji Maharaj.

Thousands of followers from Digambar tradition from the country and abroad participated in the week-long celebrations. The temple has an unique design with three domes (Shikhar). Various idols of Tirthankar Bhagwan are being brought from other ancient but obscure temples for installation here.

### **GROUP MARRIAGES OF 36 COUPLES CONDUCTED AT UDAIPUR**

Shri Mahavir Youth Manch at Udaipur organised a mass marriage programme (Samuhik Vivah) at the city Town hall here, where 36 Jain couples were wedded with great jubilation and fanfare. The marriage procession of all the couples, starting from their houses ended at the attractively and elaborately decorated town hall. Prior to the marriage ceremony for all the couples at one time, a community lunch was arranged for the relatives and friends of all the couples to married.

### **NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR AHIMSA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS**

Proposals or nominations are invited by Ahimsa International for various awards sponsored by different persons in the fields of Jain literature, vegetarianism, animal protection and journalism. The last date for sending nominatios is 15th March, 2003. Those interested may contact Shri Pradip Kumar Jain, Secretary, 4687, Umrao Gali, Pahadi Dheeraj, Delhi. Ph. 23531678/ 23626813.

### **COMPACT DISK ON CHANDANBALA LAUNCHED BY COMPUTER CHRONICLES, MUMBAI**

An Animation Video CD has been produced by Computer Chronicles, 39, Ram vadi, Room No. 25, Kalba Devi Road, Mumbai - 400 002 on the entire life of Sati Chandan Bala, the main disciple of Bhagwan Mahavir. It is of 90 minutes duration.

### **NAKODA PARSHWANATH TEMPLE INSURED FOR RS. 44.00 CRORES**

Shri Nakoda Parshwanathji temple, about 120 Km. from Jodhpur in Rajasthan has been insured for a sum of Rs. 44.00 crores against militant attacks or terrorist activities, riots, theft, dacoity of temple premises, etc. The pilgrims visiting the temple have also been insured for Rs. 4 crores by a insurance policy.

### **BHAKTAMBER STOTRA ON CD-ROM**

Mr. Rakesh Dhanesha has launched a fully automated CD-ROM of Bhaktamber Stotra. The CD-ROM is available for a price of Rs.450/-. Bhaktamber Stotra is an interactive Multimedia CD-ROM for the devotees of Bhagwan Rishabhdeva, the first tirthankar of Jains. This interactive CD-ROM Shows 44/48 Sanskrit Stotras with animation and explanation of all the stotras with the option of different language (Gujrati, English & Hindi). Those interested in the CD-ROM may please contact Rakesh Dhanesha, E-Mail : rakeshdhanesha@rediffmail.com.



### **MAHESH BHATT REFUSES MEETING WITH BUSH**



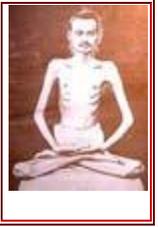
Noted film director Mahesh Bhatt has refused an invitation to attend the 51st National Prayer Breakfast meeting with US President George Bush in Washington. "It occurs to me, on second thought, that participating in such sessions with the President is to condone born again Christian Bush's terrorism of demonic proportions around the globe," Bhatt said in a letter to a friend in Washington, copies of which were released here. America's "bullying ways" must come to an end, said Bhatt, noting "America has entered one of its worst periods of historical madness." "Bush and his junta have succeeded in deflecting America's anger from Bin Laden to Saddam Hussein. It is perhaps one of the most clever eye-wash exercises that the government has achieved to date with the help of their awesome propaganda machinery," he wrote in the letter. "What is at stake here is not an Axis of Evil, but oil, money and people's lives," says Bhatt, observing that the comparison between Saddam and US or Britain is like that of an ant to an elephant. Saddam's weapons of mass destruction, if he has still got them, will be peanuts compared to the stuff Israel or America could hurl at them at five minutes notice. And the effect could be beginning of the end of the world, warns Bhatt. Information Courtesy: Mr. Mahavir Sanglikar, E-Mail : msanglikar@yahoo.com.



**PIZZA HUT QUESTIONED FOR ALLEGEDLY SERVING NON-VEG FOOD TO A VEGETARIAN**  
New Delhi : Police in Noida adjoining the capital are investigating whether multinational food chain Pizza Hut had served non-vegetarian food to one of its customers, who claims to have been a vegetarian all his life. Acting on a complaint from a Noida company executive, Shailesh Mishra. A sub-inspector of the police has been asked to find out whether Mr. Mishra had indeed been served non-vegetarian Pizza by the outlet located at Sector 18 as against his order for a vegetarian pizza.

"We will be visiting the outlet and checking out the facts," Station House Officer of Sector 20 Police Station . Mishra said in his complaint to the police, "I have never had non-vegetarian food in my life. By serving us non-vegetarian food in place of vegetarian food, Pizza Hut has hurt our religious sentiments." The food chain also had to shell out millions of dollars in a lawsuit filed by Hindus in US for allegedly serving them with non-Vegetarian food. Meanwhile, Mishra said he would be seeking damages from Pizza Hut. Information Source : Maynard S. Clark Maynard, E-Mail : Clark@Yahoo.com

#### **SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA NIRVANA SHATABDI COMMEMORATIVE BOOK PUBLISHED**



A commemorative book on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of Shrimad Rajchandraji's Nirvana has been published. The book, titled, ' Shrimad Rajchandra Nirvana Shatabdi Smaranika', is in Gujrathi language. It carries about 220 pages, printed on art paper, with accompanying supportive photographs. It has 10 chapters, commenting on the different writings of Shrimadji in a simple language, written by Sri Sudhaben, Sheth a scholar on Shrimad Rajchandraji's preachings). The followers of Shrimadji would definitely find it very helpful and enjoyable. This book is sent free of cost. Please get in touch at the following contacts. Niranjanbhai& Sudhaben Sheth, 111 Silver Shine, Panchayat Chowk, University Road, Rajkot 360 005 ( India ), Phone No. 0281 575182, Fax No. 0281 573262, E-Mail : sahatatma@icenet.net

#### **PADMA SHRI AWARD TO SH. OM PRAKASH JAIN AND SH. NEMI CHAND JAIN**

The Govt. of India has honored with Padam Shri Award , on 26th January 2003 to Shri Om Prakash Jain for his contribution to Art & Shri Nemi Chand Jain for exemplary work in the field of theatre and art.

#### **JAIN SUTRA'S AVAILABLE**

The following Sutra on Jainism are available from Hindi Granth Karyalaya, Hirabaug, C. P. Tank, Mumbai 400004.&  
**1. SHRI DASHAVAIKALIK SUTRA**, Prakrit Gatha - Hindi translation - English translation, Ed. By Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras, Rs. 500.00

**2. SHRI UTTARADHYAYAN SUTRA**, Prakrit Gatha - Hindi translation - English translation, Ed. By Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras, SDP, Rs. 500.00

**3. SHRI NANDI SUTRA**, Prakrit Gatha - Hindi translation - English translation, Ed. By Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras, SDP, Rs. 500.00

**4. SHRI ANUYOGDWAR SUTRA** (in 2 volumes), Prakrit Gatha - Hindi translation - English translation, Ed. By Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras, SDP, Rs. 1000.00 for the set of 2 volumes

**5. SHRI ACHARANG SUTRA** (in 2 volumes), Prakrit Gatha - Hindi translation - English translation, Ed. By Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras, SDP, Rs. 1000.00 for the set of 2 volumes

**6. SHRI GYATADHARMAKATHANG SUTRA** (in 2 volumes), Prakrit Gatha - Hindi translation - English translation Ed. By Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras, SDP, Rs. 1000.00 for the set of 2 volumes

**7. SHRI UPASAK DASHA EVAM ANUTTARAUPAPATIKDASHA SUTRA**, Prakrit Gatha - Hindi translation - English translation, Ed. By Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras, SDP, Rs. 500.00

**8. SHRI ANTAKRIDDASHANG SUTRA**, Prakrit Gatha - Hindi translation - English translation, Ed. By Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras, SDP, Rs. 500.00

**9. SHRI RAYPASENIYA SUTRA**, Prakrit Gatha - Hindi translation - English translation, Ed. By Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras, SDP, Rs. 500.00

**10. SHRI KALPASUTRA**, Prakrit Gatha - Hindi translation - English translation, Ed. By Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras, SDP, Rs. 500.00

**11. AUPAPATIK SUTRA**, Prakrit Gatha - Hindi translation - English translation, Ed. By Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras, SDP, Rs. 500.00

**12. NIRAYAVALIYA TATHA VIPAK SUTRA**, Prakrit Gatha - Hindi translation - English translation, Ed. By Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras, SDP, Rs. 500.00

**13. SHRI DASHAVAIKALIK SUTRA** Bhashantar (Gujarati), Composed by Shri Shyyambhav Suri Prakrit Gatha - Gujarati translation, Tr. by Manek Muni, Ed. by Muni Jayanand Vijay, Guru Ramchandra Prakashan Samiti, Bhinmal; 1st edition -

## **BOOKS REVIEWS**

### **1. THE FOREST OF THIEVES AND THE MAGIC GARDEN**

An Anthology of Medieval Jain Stories, Ed.& Tr. by Dr. Phyllis Granoff, Penguin Classic paperback 1998 edition 1st edition 1998, 373 pages, Rs. 250.00, the stories have been selected by Dr. Phyllis Granoff from Jain literature of the period between the 7th century C.E. and the 15th century C.E. They belong to various genres, some are didactic in nature, others are epics retold, yet others are spiritual in nature; and some are simply folktales. Dr. Granoff's translations from Prakrit & Sanskrit are accurate, correct and reader-friendly. These are, original and compelling tales of Jain wisdom.

### **2. THE CLEVER ADULTRESS AND OTHER STORIES**

A Treasury of Jain Literature, Ed. by Dr. Phyllis Granoff, 1st edition 1990, 290 pages, Rs. 225.00, the stories in this collection span a thousand years of story-telling in India. Jain literature is rich and varied. Jains wrote in Sanskrit, Prakrit and in local languages with equal felicity. Some are simple folktales, others are as sophisticated as courtly romances. The stories have been translated by a renowned group of scholars from India, North America and Europe. Each translator has chosen his / her favourite story from the vast treasury of Jain literature.

### **3. JAIN SANSKRITI KOSH**

BY: Dr. Bhag Chandra Jain, Price: Rs. 3000/-, Published by Sanmati Research institute of Indology, NAGPUR and Kala evam Dharm Shodh Sansthan, Varanasi. - 2002., 2. Number of pages : 1500 along with 60 colorful plates and 60 diagrams., The Jain Sanskriti Kosh is really a scholarly survey of Jain religion and culture around the world upto the twentieth century. It describes not only official teachings but also popular practices, sources and their interpretations, tradition, history, modern developments, festivals and devotions. It can be called as an Encyclopedia of Jainism in Hindi language.

### **4. ELECTRICITY HAS LIFE OR IS LIFELESS (SAJEEV OR NIRJEEV)? (GUJARATI)**

By Muni Shri Yashovijay Ji Maharaj, Publisher: Divya Darshan Trust, 39, Kalikund Society, Dholaka, Dist., Ahmedabad., Pages: 158; Price: Rs. 10/-,

The author discusses at length the controversial point about whether electricity carries life or is lifeless based on the information available from Agams and arrives at the conclusion most logically that electricity has life, like any other live objects. The book is doubtlessly informative and useful for overcoming the current controversy amongst different sects of Jainism.

## **JAINISM AND THE NEW SPIRITUALITY**

By Shri Vastupal Parikh Publisher: Peace Publication , 685, Merton Street , Toronto , Canada M4S1B4, E-Mail : peacepub@hotmail.com, Pages: 228; Price: Rs. 600/-. This book is intended for two audiences: for those who want to understand the basic ideas and story of Jainism and also for those who seek ethical principles that may help society meet current challenges. The book begins with Professor Parikh's own search for a meaning, starting from a career as a scientist where religion and related philosophy were seen as somewhat secondary pursuits. The struggle to understand the many problems of the 20th century led the author to rediscover for himself key Jain teachings. He found that the logic of the Jain worldview, and its doctrines of ahimsa, anekantavada and aparigraha would resonate well with the rational mindset of the modern generations, and would, thereby assist them in their struggle to resolve many issue currently facing our planet. The book explains key Jain principles and practices in a simple lucid language and reconciles these with current topics that might be understood as 'new spirituality' - the widespread attempts to reassert human rights, recognize the interdependence of humans and the environment, and achieve both personal fulfillment and social justice. Information Courtesy Mr. Abhay Firodia.

## **DIKSHA CEREMONY**

1. Shri Lokesh Jain of Ajmer was initiated to Jain Sthanakwasi sect and given bhagwati diksha by Shri Gyan Muni Ji Maharaj, disciple of late shri Hasti Mal Ji Maharaj. A large procession (shobha yatra) was taken out through the city, which was attended by local M.P.'s, M.L.A.'s, eminent people from the town and members of Sthanakwasi Jain Conference.
2. An entire family of Godwad region in Rajasthan, belonging to village Gadwara, consisting of Shri Kesarimal bhai, (son of Shri Khem Chand Ji Ramsina) his wife Chandra Bai, son Praful Kumar and daughter, Nikita Kumari are going to be initiated to Jain order of saints/sadhwis in Shwetambar Murti-Pujak sect by Ganivarya Shri Ratnasen Vijay Ji Maharaj. Their Diksha ceremony will take place on the 7th February, 2003 at Dehu Road near Pune. The celebrations for Diksha will go on from 31st January to 7th February.

3. Inspired by Sadhwi Shri Sulakshna Ji Maharaj, Km. Bhavita Parikh daughter of Shri Naresh Bhai Parekh will join the Jain order and accept diksha under Shri Mani Prabh sagar Ji Maharaj in Shwetambar Murti-Pujak sect at Baroda on 22nd February, 2003.

4. Shri Hitesh Kumar Bokadia son of Shri Shanti Lal Bheem Raj Bokadia was allowed Jain Bhagawati Diksha in the holy presence of Ganadhipati Shri Champa Lal Ji Maharaj belonging to Jain Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect on the 6th February, 2003 at Sanchore in Rajasthan. On the same occasion, ku. Niraksha Kumari Chhaged daughter of Shri Raj Mal ji Rid Mal Ji Chhaged was allowed Diksha by Mahasati Shri Magan Kunwar Ji of the same sect.

5. Shri Mahendra Kumar, aged 20 years, son of Shri Ashok Kumar Ji of Lohawat in Rajasthan will be allowed Jain Bhagwati Diksha in Shwetambar Murti-Pujak sect by Shri Jambu Vijay Ji Maharaj, disciple of Shri Bhuvan Bhanu Ji Maharaj on the 7th May, 2003 at Nakoda Teerth in Rajasthan.

6. Shri Ratan Chand Jain and Smt Sheela Jain were provided diksha by Acharya Shri Suvidhi Sagar Maharaj of the Digambar sect at Nagpur Maharashtra on 16th November 2002 in the presence of about 5000 people. Their son Yogendra Jain who also stood first amongst all Jain samaj 12th students in India by securing 94.6% marks, presently studying at MACT NIT at Bhopal, has also taken aajivan bramhacharya along with his younger sister (18 yrs). The new names given to the saints are Shri Sudaiv Sagar Maharaj and Sudaiv Mati Mataji.

#### **DEVLOK GAMAN**

1. Sadhwi Shri Keshar Ji, disciple of Acharya Shri Mahapragya Ji of Jain Shwetambar Terapanthi sect passed away on the 31st December, 2002 at Balotra in Rajasthan.

2. Mahasati Shri Sayar Kunwar Ji Maharaj, disciple of Shri Mishri Mal Ji Maharaj (Madhukar), belonging to Sthanakwasi Jain Shraman Sangh, breathed her last and left for her heavenly abode at Jodhpur on the 20th January, 2003 after a short period of santhara. Her body was taken through the city of Jodhpur in a Baikunthi, prior to her cremation on the next day in which a large number of devotees from the town and near-by areas had joined.

3. Aryika Shri Suprabhmati Mata Ji, aged 75 years, disciple of Jain Digambar saint, Shri Suvidhi Sagar Ji breathed her last and left for her heavenly abode on the 16th December, 2002 at Nandanvan near Nagpur in Maharashtra. She had obtained Diksha just a few days earlier on the 13th December. Prior to her diksha, she as Dr. Pramial Jain, a Gynecologist by profession had been connected intensively with religious, social and humanitarian activities.

#### **DONATION APPEAL FROM MAHAVIR FOUNDATION, LONDON**

**Mahavir Foundation, a London-based Jain organisation comprising some 500 members, has commenced its project to build a first Sikhbandhi Jain temple in London. The details of the project are/will be posted on the Ahimsa Foundation website or are available from me on request. The project was officially launched on Sunday 26th January - India's Republic Day. The launch was attended by some 200 community leaders, and invited well wishers. Our President, Dr Vinodbhai Kapashi, explained the project and appealed for support throughout the duration of this project. We were overwhelmed with spontaneous donation pledges in excess of £ 100,000 made that morning. We still have long way to go. We urgently need further finance for this project. Most of the finance will come from the Jains in London and UK. However, we would appreciate any financial and other help from Jains all over the World. If you wish to help or require any further information, please contact me on [smehta@ntlworld.com](mailto:smehta@ntlworld.com). Surendra Mehta, Vice-President - Mahavir Foundation**

4. Ganini Aryikaratna Shri Manogyamati Ji Maharaj, disciple of Acharya Shri Vardhman sagar Ji Maharaj attained her heavenly abode at Udaipur. She had been under 'santhara' (abstinence from food till death for several months).

5. Muni Shri Samadhinandi Ji Maharaj, disciple of Acharya Shri Padamnandi Ji Maharaj belonging to Digambar Jain sect left for his heavenly abode after a short period of illness on the 24th December, 2002 at Nagpur. He was 76 years old. His cremation was held in the holy presence of his mentor and Guru, Acharya Shri Padamnandi Ji, Muni Shri Suvidhi Sagar Ji Maharaj and thousands of followers and devotees. Prior to his taking Diksha, he was a leading figure in all religious functions and was a staunch devotee of Digambar Saints. (Courtesy: Jain Gazette: 9th January, 2003).

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