



JAIN AHIMSA TIMES

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SAINTS



SHRAMAN SANGH ACHARYAS RECONCILE DIFFERENCES

Entire Sthanakwasi Samaj is in high spirits on getting the news of reconciliation of differences amongst its top seers. The conflicting groups and their followers have accepted to work together. After the meeting with Shri Umesh Muniji Maharaj at Dewas, (M. P.) The Chairman of Shwetambar Sthanakwasi Jain Conference, Shri Kanti Lal Jain and his group announced the success of peace efforts.

The announcement of successful resolution of all the differences between Dr. Shiv Muniji, Acharya of the parent body of Shraman Sangh and Acharya Shri Umesh Muniji, nominated by Shri Roop Muniji has been welcomed by the members and the saint community of the sect. Amongst all Sthanakwasi Jain sects, Shraman Sangh is the biggest sect, constituted by over 1500 saints. Shraman Sangh was formed about 60 years back when several small Sthanakwasi groups joined and nominated Shri Atma Ramji as its first Acharya. Second saint to head Shraman Sangh was Acharya Shri Anand Rishiji and thereafter Shri Devendra Muniji headed the sect. After Devendra Muniji, Dr. Shiv Muni was unanimously declared as Acharya.

About five year back, some of the decisions of Dr. Shiv Muniji taken in the capacity as Acharya of the Sangh became highly controversial within the saint community. This led to separation by a small group of saints, who formed another group, led by Sri Roop Muniji "Rajat". Shri Roop Muniji nominated a veteran saint, Shri Umesh Muniji as Acharya of the dissenting group. Several delegations made repeated efforts for reconciliations but the internal politics of Sangh Members (Sharavaks) blocked all peace efforts. Saints were also too tired of negative media coverage and publicity of the whole issue.



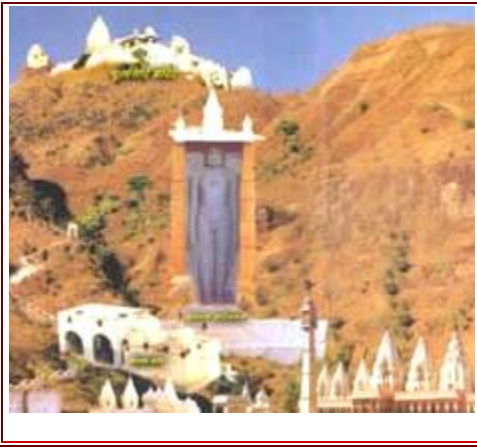
Taking lead, Dr. Shiv Muniji during his 2007 Chaturmas at Ambala issued fresh appeal to all the saints to come and work together. This initiative was welcomed by all and positive signals started appearing from other sides too. Everyone was looking for an honourable solution which could be acceptable to all. It was finally resolved that, "Umesh Muniji Maharaj will be designated as "Ganadheesh" of Shraman Sangh and everyone will accept the leadership of Dr. Shiv Muniji as the Acharya of the Sangh".

The members of Executive Committee of All India Sthanakwasi Jain Conference, Shri Kantilal Jain, Shri Sumati Lal Karnawat, Mumbai, Shri Paras Mal Chajjed, Shri Nemi Chand Chopra and Shri Kesrimal Burad played key role in facilitating peace dialogue.

We are grateful to Dr. Rajendra Muniji M. S. at Delhi for briefing Ahimsa Times on this issue. Dr. Rajendra Muniji, who is very popular in Sthanakwasi Samaj has also inspired the members of Sthanakwasi Samaj to build a Jain institution for research and education at Delhi. Response to this appeal has been very encouraging. Land has been identified & procurement formalities are being completed. The place will be known as " Navakar Teerth Atishay Kshetra". For any further information, please contact Ahimsa Times or call on 098-100-46108.

TEMPLES

MAHAMASTAKABHISHEK CEREMONY AT BAWANGAJA IN M. P. FROM 27TH JAN. TO 4TH FEBRUARY, 2008



The first Mahamastakabhishek ceremony of Bhagwan Shri Adinath, first in this century, is being held after 7 years. The ceremony is being held in the holy presence of Acharya Shri Vidyanandji maharaj and Upadhyay Shri Guptisagar ji maharaj at Bawangaja, Dist. Badwani, in Madhya Pradesh from 27th January to 4th February, 2008.

The idol of Bhagwan Adinath is 84 feet tall, one of the tallest in the world. The 'abhishek' will be held on 27th, 29th, 31st January and 2nd and 4th February with 1008 'kalash' on each of these days. It is expected that more than five lakh devotees from all over the country and abroad will participate in these celebrations. Discourses, religious and cultural programmes will be held on all the

days.

JAIN SAMAJ DIVIDED OVER 'SAPTRANGI ABHISHEK' AT BAWANGAJA

The proposed 'saptrangi abhishek' of the Digamber Jain Samaj at Bawangaja in Barwani district scheduled this month, has landed in a row with a section of the Jain Samaj apparently expressing their opposition over the 'abhishek' on the plea that it will pose danger to the statue. A number of distinguished persons from the Samaj said that 'abhishek' may inflict damage to the historical statue of lord Adinath, hence it should be stopped.

The 'saptrangi abhishek' of lord Adinath at Babangaja, the Jain religion's one of the most sacred places in the country, is organized every 12th year. Last time also because of some controversy, the 'abhishek' could not take place and now it is after 17 years that the Digamber Jain Samaj has planned 'saptrangi abhishek' from January 20 to February 4 this year. However, going by the whale of protests from a section of the Digamber Jain Samaj, the proposed 'abhishek' seems to have run into rough weather. While describing the 'saptrangi abhishek' as against the religious text, the Samaj youths have threatened an agitation in this regard.

So far the 'abhishek' of 84 ft height of 'Bhagwan Bahubali' is being performed through water. However, this year, the Babangaja Barwani Committee has decided to perform 'saptrangi abhishek' which will comprise of sugarcane juice, milk, curd, coconut, water, honey, sandalwood and saffron. All these materials will be rubbed on the statue of Bahubali and it is feared that with the apply of these material, it will lead to development of germs on the statue. Rohit Dhanote, president, Digamber Jain Yuva Sangathan said the idol of lord Adinath is a symbol of the Jain religion's faith and since ancient times 'abhishek' has been performed on the idol of lord Adinath only through water and 'panchamrit'. Some people are trying to break this tradition which is against the religious text, he said. Other people associated with the association said since this historical statue is already facing erosion and undergoing cement treatment for its preservation, the 'saptrangi abhishek' will only cause damage to the statue. Panchkalyanak Pratishtha Mahotsav and the 'saptrangi mahamastabhishek' of lord Adinath at Babangaja in Barwani district is scheduled to be organized from January 20 and it will continue till February 4. A large number of high-profile dignitaries including the President of India, the Prime Minister, Governors of various states, chief ministers are scheduled to participate in one of the biggest religious congregations of the Jain Samaj. About seven lakh people from various parts of the country and abroad are expected to participate in this religious event.

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BHAGWAN MAHAVEER SWAMI MAHAMASTKAABHISHEK-2008 AT UJJAIN

The first Mahamastkaabhishek of Lord Mahavir will take place on 26th January 2008 at Shree Mahaveer Tapobhumi, Pipplaya Radho Mor, Ujjain - Indore Highway, Ujjain This upcoming Jain siddha khetra has 21 feet long standing statue of Bhagwan Mahavir. The Mahamastakaabhishek program shall be performed in the benign presence of Munishree Pragyasagarji Maharaj (Diksha Guru Acharya shree Pushpdantsagar Maharaj) and Guru bhai of Krantikari Munishree Tarunsagarji. The ceremonial function shall start from 9.00AM onwards till late about 3.00 PM. The programme shall be live telecasted on " SANSKAR CHANNEL " from 10 AM Onwards. For further assistance contact : Manager Tapobhumi : 0734 - 2508103, Sh. Mahesh Jain, Ujjain : 94 250 92240 .Sh. Ashok Jain, Ujjain : 94 250 92268. For further details on visit at : www.pragyasagar.com Courtesy: Chief programme co-ordinator , Ajit Jain, E-Mail : ajit@dcpl.net

SECOND DIGAMBAR JAIN MUTT AT ARIHANTHAGIRI - TIRUMALAI IN TAMILNADU

Tirumalai popularly called as Arihanthagiri among the people is a Jain pilgrim centre having a history of over 2,300 years. It is said that the last Shrutakevali Sri Bhadrabahu Muni along with his 8,000 disciples had visited this place. a bhattarakhapeta has been established here since 8-2-1998 with Swasti Sri Dhavalakeerthi Bhattarakha Maharaj as its chief pontiff. Various schemes have been undertaken here with an intension of propagating Jainism. The most important among them is the Acharya Akalanka Vidyapeetha Gurukula. You are here by requested to donate generously to the projects and be a part of it. The donations can be sent either by money order, cheque or demand draft to: Acharya Akalanka Vidyapeetha Gurukula, Srikshestra Arihanthagiri, Digambara Jain Muth,Tirumaial - 606907 Polur Taluk, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu, India.

JAINS HURT BY APATHETIC CONDUCT OF RAJASTHAN GOVT. ON KESARIA JI TEMPLE ISSUE

Shri Kesaria ji, near Udaipur in Rajasthan has been a holy pilgrimage center for the entire Jain community and it has been in the sole custody of Jains. Its ownership of late has fallen into controversy amongst local Hindu pandas, nearby adivasi community and the Jain community. As a result of this controversy, the number of Jains has got reduced to less than 10% and the matter had been moving in the courts of law. In a recent decision of the Supreme Court, the custodianship of the temple and its premises was to be handed over to the Jain community by the State Government, which had earlier been held with the Devasthan Department. The State Government has however, little interest in transferring the ownership from Devasthan Department to Jain community and the matter has been lying in the cold storage for long. It is now for the Jain community at large, to muster strength and show unity to take up the matter seriously with the State Government so that the holy teerth can regain its glory and popularity and maintain its heritage value.

CONFERENCES & CEREMONIES



JAIN TRADERS (JITO) RAISE RS. 540 MILLION TO TRAIN IAS ASPIRANTS

Mumbai: In an unexpected move, 36 leading Jain businessmen from India and abroad donated Rs 540 million to set up five academies to train students for the civil services examinations. The donations — each amounting to Rs 15 million - were made following an appeal by Jain spiritual leader Munishri Navapadam Sagarji Maharaj at the Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO) fair at Mumbai. One of the JITO organisers, Girish Shah, said the money collected would be utilised to set up five training academies to prepare students for the prestigious Indian Administrative Services. Admissions will not be restricted only to Jains but deserving students from all sections of society shall be admitted. He added that the first such institute is already functional in New Delhi. The new academies shall be set up by July this year in Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Indore and Chennai.

The JITO Triple Grand Event, comprising Multi-Product Trade Fair, International Business and Industry Conference and Jain Pavilion, is being held at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, Goregaon. Speaking at the inauguration of a four-day trade fair organised by Jain International Trade Organisation, its President Hemant Shah expressed the desire that every young Jain should be economically empowered so as to employ 1000 individuals each. Stressing on Jain unity, he appealed that the Jains should overcome obstacles that may come in the way of their unity, under the banner of JITO.

Munishri Navapadam Sagarji Maharaj, who was instrumental in inspiring devotees for the formation of JITO, gave an example of a Jain collector of Vadodra, who saved the lives of thousands of animals, preventing their slaughter, by making a statement that they are diseased. He said that JITO is the amalgamation of philanthropy, universal brotherhood and the welfare of all living beings. Munishree, who does not like his name or photograph to be carried by the media, said that Ratan Tata has expressed pleasure that Jains are coming together under one banner and described the unity as the ocean of philanthropy.

JAIN DOCTORS' INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (JDICON 2008)

National Jain Doctors' Federation is organising the fourth Jain Doctors' International Conference (JDICON 2008) on Saturday-Sunday, 16 & 17 February 2008 at Shanmukhanand Auditorium, Sion, Mumbai. JDICON 2008 will be hosted by Jain Doctors Federation, Mumbai. The Theme of the conference is "BETTER IDEAS FOR BETTER TOMORROW". Eminent national and international faculty will address various subjects related to better health, environment, Jain health concepts and philosophy etc. Prominent global key note speakers, chief guest and industrialists will also grace the occasion. This will be a golden opportunity for all the Jain doctors and medical students to come together on one platform and strengthen the bond of friendship. Registration forms will be available at the conference secretariat address as below -- Dr. Bharat J. Parmar, chairman JDICON2008, 29, Murad Mansion, 2nd floor, 487, S. V. P. Road, Opera house, Mumbai-400004, INDIA. E-Mail: drbharatparmar@rediffmail.com, Tel. 02223888947, 23866782, 9820070580, 9820148131. The registration fees are Rs. 750/- for delegates, Rs. 400/- for spouse and Rs. 400/- for medical students. According to organisers, JDICON2008 will be a memorable conference, full of knowledge, unique delegate kit, well organised with best of comforts and hospitality, there will be breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner on both days included in the registration fees. Also, free accommodation of dormitory type may be available to early birds on request.. For further information contact Dr. Ravindra Gandhi on Phone: 9890172441. Raviraj Hospital, Shahapur-421601, E-Mail: gandhiji40@yahoo.com, gandhiji40@hotmail.com, gandhiji40@gmail.com

JAIN DOCTORS CONFERENCE ORGANISED AT, JABALPUR

On the 23rd of Dec, 2007, Jain Doctors conference was organised at D.N.Jain Boarding college, Jabalpur in the holy presence of 108 Upadhyay Shree Gyansagarji Maharaj. The host of this programme were Dr. Chhatrashal Jain, Bombay Hospital, Jabalpur & Shree Chaturmaas seva samiti, Jabalpur. The chief aim of this conference was to throw light on the various practices in Jainism & their scientific significance. The conference began with the manglacharan & aarti of Upadhyayshree, followed by the introductory speech by the chief host, Shree Dr. Chhatrashal Jain. The research papers on various topics like 'Jain-kitchen', 'Jainism & environment', 'Jainism & female infanticide', 'vegetarianism is scientific' & 'sanlekhna: scientific views' etc. Dr. Smt. Sadhna Jain, Dr. Sanjay Jain, Dr. Nalini Jain, Dr. Rajbali Jain, Dr. Rajiv Jain, Dr. Chhatrashal Jain & Dr. Amit Prakash Jain presented their research papers on the above topics. After this Upadhyay Shree addressed the conference & highlighted the scientific aspects of Jainism. Some 200 hundred doctors of the city were present in the programme.

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PROGRAM ON WORLD RELIGIONS IN NEW JERSEY "UNITY IN DIVERSITY"



New Jersey will host seminar 'World Religions in New Jersey: Unity in Diversity' on March 08 and 09, 2008, at the Millburn Free Public Library, Millburn (about 15 miles north of Edison). This program has been sponsored by several religious and interfaith centers. For more information.

There is an increasing interest in learning about other cultures and religions for our well being and quality of life. This program will be beneficial to students, young professionals, employees of most organizations, volunteers, and those who frequently communicate with people from different cultures including community &

religious representatives, teachers, sales persons, businessmen, nurses and health care professionals.

The presentations will describe the basic beliefs of major religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, and Sikhism; as well as the oriental philosophies of Shinto, Taoism and Confucianis, overview of world religions and a question answer session with a panel of representatives from major faiths. For more information contact Mr. Naresh Jain, E-Mail : njain52253@aol.com



V. R. GANDHI MEMORIAL FUNCTION AT UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI

An intellectual meet of Jainology students was arranged at lecture complex of University of Mumbai on 1st December 2007. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Minal Katarnikar, adjunct reader in Jainology course, Department of philosophy, University of Mumbai. The chief guest of function was Sri Pravin C. Shah, Chair person, VRG Scholarship committee, JAINA of U.S.A. The persons on the dais were Dr.Bipin Doshi, Shri Mahesh Gandhi, Pritiben Shah from Ahmedabad and Sri Prakash Zaveri, president of Jaina Alumni Association of Mumbai. Dr. Minal Katarnikar welcomed all the speakers and invitee of the function. Dr.Minal Katarnikar gave brief Idea about the VRG scholarship and some glimpses of life of Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi. Sri Pravinbhai gave full information of the life of Virchand Gandhi, His memorable and price-less service to the Jain community in the world. Sri Pravinbhai gave three distinct points in his lecture 1) Regarding VRG Scholarship 2) Memorial in his remembrance at Mahuva and 3) VRG stamp to be released in India as well as in Canada and U.S.A. Dr.Bipin Doshi spoke for VRG as well as gave new ideas of convention held in U.S.A.

Sri Mahesh Gandhi spoke about the stamp release and in general for VRG life. Pritiben has done M.Phill on VRG and she narrated some specific points about VRG like the fight in British parliament. The host of the function was Dr.Bipin Doshi, Trusty and Secretary of Jain Academy Education Research Centre Promotion Trust, Mumbai. (Courtesy: Pravin C. Shah, Chair person, JAINA Shri V. R.Gandhi scholarship & Memorial Committee). Courtsey: Pravin C. Shah E-Mail: pravincshah2k@yahoo.com

INTER-RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

In order to promote unity amongst different religions and devise means for environment protection through the adoption of religious concepts, a conference of various religious leaders was held at New Delhi in Sushil Muni ashram in defence colony on the 4th Dec. 2007. Leaders and saints belonging to various religious sects , like Digambar Jain, Shwetambar Jain, Buddhist, Hindu,. Muslim, Sikh and Christian sects took part in the proceedings and presented their views. Addressing the conference, Acharya Shri Vidyanand ji of Digambar sect said that religion is like a factory to produce ideal citizens. Love for each other amongst the nations as much as amongst neighbors in bringing them together at one forum can go a long way in the protection of global environment. He mentioned that Acharya Sushil Muni, with whose inspiration, this ashram was built, had dedicated himself to the cause of ahimsa and unity amongst all the religions, which could eventually lead to protection of environment.

Buddhist leader, Dalai Lama in his speech stressed the need to revive the age-old culture of following concept of ahimsa, which only build a strong and powerful nation. Eminent sadhwi Dr. Sadhna Ji expressed the need to protect the mankind from both internal and external pollution by inculcating the principles of Jainism. Others who spoke on the subject included Acharya Shri Sundersuri ji maharaj of Jain shwetambar murti-pujak sect, Acharya Shri Man Mal ji, Jagadguru Shankaracharya of Dwarkapeeth, Diwan of Ajmer Sharif Dargah, Lama Job Jung, Jathedar Richpal Singh, Swami Pragya nand ji, Mahamandaleshwar Sarvanand ji, Raghavanand ji and Dayanand ji,Sant Rajendra singh, Fr. Karm Masih and Dr. A.K. Merchant. The conference gave ample scope to discuss the subject on environment protection through respective religions of the participants and was an overwhelming success in promoting religious amity, feeling of tolerance toward each other, mutual unity and cohesion among different religions.

FIVE DAYS PREKSHA MEDITATION CAMP

Meditation Camp organised by Terapanthi Sabha Delhi held at Adhyatma Sadhana Kendra from 24th to 28th December, 2007. A five days Preksha Meditation Camp was organised under the auspicious presence of Muni Shri Sumermalji "Ladnun" under the direction of Swami Dharmananda. Sri Dhanpat Dunia secretary Terapanth Sabha Delhi welcomed Munishri and the participants, who were 74 in number. Shri D.R. Mehta, retired I.A.S. and Chairman, SEBI.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS



NATIONAL AWARD TO SMT. SUSHILA BOHRA FOR HER SERVICES TO THE BLIND

Smt. Sushila Bohra belonging to Jodhpur in Rajasthan, an eminent social figure and Jain devotee, having been awarded earlier with several awards for her unstinted and dedicated services to the blind people has now been honoured with Sarojini Trilok Nath National Award for the year 2007 by the National Association of the Blind. This award was given by the chief guest at a simple ceremony by General O.P. Malhotra.

The award consists of a cash grant of Rs. 50,000 and a letter of appreciation. She has been working selflessly for the last 30 years in the service of blind people of Rajasthan, particularly for their education and rehabilitation. She has set up with public support a residential school for the blind people named, 'Netraheen Vikas Sansthan', which provides all necessary facilities under one roof for their boarding, lodging, medical help, recreation, play grounds and their education up to post-graduation level, so as to obtain degree from an university. The students are also trained to operate computers with the help of special hardware and software obtained as donation from USA with the help of an N.R.I. The State Government has awarded the best service institution of the year 2007 award to this institution, which was given by the then Governor of Rajasthan, Mrs. Pratibha Patil. Financial support from donors is welcome.

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PADAM BHUSHAN AWARD TO SHRI D. R. MEHTA ANNOUNCED ON EVE OF REPUBLIC DAY

Shri D. R. Mehta, retired I.A.S. and Chairman, SEBI was honoured with Padam Bhushan award on the eve of Republic day, the 26th January, 2008 for social service. He has dedicated his life in the service of disabled people not only in India but in many other countries by providing artificial limbs to them. He is the founder and chief patron of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur, an institution built by him for helping disabled persons, which has received national award for the best institution working in the field of rehabilitation of the disabled from Ministry of Justice and Empowerment and Mahaveer award for the philanthropic services and welfare of the handicapped. Besides providing comprehensive services to handicapped people, in the country, Shri Mehta has been regularly

organising camps in different countries for providing Jaipur foot fittings. So far, such camps have been organised in 21 countries, providing foot to over 16,000 persons. More than 3.2 lakh people have been benefitted by his services. The Samiti has also been distributing gadgets like calipers, tricycles, crutches and hearing aids and has performed corrective surgery to more than 6000 disabled people in the country. Trustees and members of Ahimsa Foundation convey their hearty congratulations to Mr. Mehta for his well-deserved award.

PREM BHANDARI, MEDIA CHAIRMAN, RANA FELICITATED IN RAJASTHAN

Mr. Prem Bhandari, resident of California and Media chairman of Rajasthani non-residents association in America (RANA) was recently honoured profusely and felicitated at Sadri in Rajasthan by a non-political social organisation, 'Rashtriya Ekta Manch' and the local citizens for his valuable support and financial assistance to a muslim family for arranging marriage of two girls in the family.

The father of the girls, not being able to arrange marriages of his daughters due to extreme poverty, had decided to sell both his kidneys. Prem Bhandari, On knowing about the situation, readily came forward and undertook the responsibility of marriage of both the girls and thus save the father from dying in the event of removal of both the kidneys. This was a true case of selfless service and promotion of unity among religions and Mr. Bhandari deserves to be congratulated for his act of kindness, said Mr. T. Kansara, President of Rashtriya Ekta Manch. Mr. Bhandari, mentioned that he had not done any great favour or benefaction to the family, rather it was just a gift of God. He was simply a medium. He added that human-beings

did not have any caste, creed or religion but he, who performs self-less service to humanity, is the one to be worshipped. To love all beings is the true religion of a man.

MISCELLANEOUS



CONTAMINATED "PARAD" DANGEROUS TO HEALTH

NEW DELHI: Ancient Vedas considered it the most pure and auspicious metal. And this combination of mercury and silver called "parad" is now used for making beads and idols of gods and goddesses as it is considered very sacred. However, contaminated parad is said to be exposing people to the threat of mercury poisoning even inside homes. The main culprit is tin which when used with mercury does not bind allowing it to "leach". Tests conducted by non-government organisation Toxics Links have revealed that contaminated parad is sold openly in Delhi markets and can even be bought online. says Prashant Pastore of Toxics Link: "Through our research, we found that tin unlike silver (that is traditionally used for making parad) does not have the capacity to bind mercury allowing it to leach. In the parads that people keep at home and worship in temples we found high amount of tin (74.8 per cent), mercury (24.9 per cent) and trace of metals including iron, silver, nickel, aluminum and antimony." "Most claims made by various sellers of providing pure form of mercury with a mixture of silver is found to be wrong. Parad now have a large amount of tin and 25 per cent of it is mercury.

What makes the situation dangerous is the fact that this combination is available easily. Also, both buyers and the sellers are seemingly unaware of the negative effects of the metal. There is, however, no paper that confirms that silver completely stops mercury from leaching," adds Mr. Pastore. Mercury is a highly toxic metal and can be consumed via food, inhaled or be absorbed through the skin. Courtesy: Bindu Shajan Perappadan.

NOW A PROSTHETIC HAND WITH WHICH ONE CAN WRITE, EAT AND EVEN DRIVE A CAR



Bangalore: Everyone is familiar with the Jaipur foot, a remarkable innovation where an artificial foot is tailored to suit the Indian lifestyle. Now at the recently organised Jaipur limb camp, at Delhi, a multi-purpose prosthetic hand has been provided with which one can write, eat and even drive a car or ride a bicycle without much difficulty. At the camp, a beneficiary gleefully demonstrated what he could do after being fitted with the Jaipur limb. He jumped, ran and even danced on stage. Addressing the gathering, he said: "I am no different from normal people.

I sometimes forget that I have an artificial limb. The camp was organised by Rotary Bangalore, Peenya, in association with Sri Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayatha Samiti, Jaipur and supported by Rotary International District 1250 and 1130. Twelve sample pieces of the prosthetic hand were donated by the U.K. Rotary Club. Participants were provided free board, lodging, calipers, walkers, tricycles, wheelchairs, as well as surgery, if needed. The aim was to reach out to the disabled everywhere.

CHANDRASWAMI (JAIN) AWAITS COURT NOD TO GO ABROAD



Chandraswami, once a powerful Political Guru, known to be close to former prime ministers, is blaming his stars for not being able to travel abroad for the past 12 years. But he is keeping his fingers crossed for a court order for traveling abroad. Swami has zeroed in on four places among the 118 countries, he has already visited. "I will visit the United Kingdom, France, Mauritius and Dubai to meet my friends and followers there. Chandraswami, now 57, had access to top politicians, like P V Narasimha Rao and Chandra Shekhar at the height of their power and influence.

Originally called Nemi Chand Jain, Chandraswamy is facing trial in 11 cases of violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and the stipulated penalties on him could well run into millions of rupees. He was even charged in what was called the St Kitts case that sought to show that another former prime minister, V P Singh had stashed away wealth in a bank in the tiny Caribbean island by allegedly forging the signature of his son, Ajeya Singh. But the charges could not be proved in court. According to him, Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi is a prospective prime minister. Modi stood up in this

election on his principles and proved to the world that even when his party had forgotten the principles, he still stood by them and this is where he got the political mileage and could be a strong contender for the post of PM.

ABDUCTED BOY, MIHIR JAIN OF JAIPUR TRACED



Jaipur, Jan 18: Mihir Jain, an 11-year-old schoolboy, who was allegedly kidnapped about a week ago, was found later at the Jaipur Highway. He was recovered from a hideout of abductors near the express highway. Mihir, son of a jeweller Rakesh Jain, was forcibly taken into a van by some four persons as soon as he alighted from school auto outside his house on January 11. Special Operation Group of Rajasthan police had since been handling his case. Mihir is a sixth-standard student.

JAIN FAMILY OF 180 MEMBERS

At a time when the joint family tradition has become a thing of the past and where nuclear families thrive, the 180-member Narasinganavar Jain clan in northern Karnataka is an exception in modern India. As one of the largest joint families in Asia, with its lineage dating back to the 16th century, the Narasinganavar clan has defied all odds to live as a contented lot under one roof at Lokur, a placid hamlet about 20 km from Dharwad and 400 km from here. The family's ancestors hail from Hatkal Angada village near Miraj in Maharashtra. At 90, Tammanna Jinappa is the oldest, while his brother Bhimanna, 75, is the patriarch, presiding over the fortunes of the grand family comprising 60 children, 50 women and 70 men.

Rooted to the soil, with farming as its main occupation, the clan is self-reliant and self-sufficient in meeting its needs by harvesting grains such as wheat, maize and corn for consumption and generating income. Besides cultivating cotton, sugarcane and oilseeds, the men are involved in growing a variety of vegetables, including potatoes and onions on their 280 acres of farmland. Living a frugal life, the joint family is financially sound and debt free, with an annual income of Rs.0.8-Rs.1.2 million depending on the monsoon and the market rate for the farm produce. The annual expenditure, largely on farm labour and machinery, is judiciously limited to Rs.1 million.

Devout Jains, the family consumes daily about 50 kg of maize, 20 kg of wheat flour and 40 litres of milk, drawn from its huge dairy. Though individual families share different rooms with porticos, all the members converge on the spacious dining hall for meals. Many of them also gather in the common hall upstairs to watch television. The grand family has about 100 votes. In the gram panchayat polls, the family calls the shots in choosing the candidate. The 35-year-old stone mansion is a treasure-trove of antiques, artifacts and collectors' items left behind by successive generations over the last four to five centuries. Courtesy: Mahavir S. Chavan.

JAIN STUDY CIRCULAR NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB SITE

The quarterly Jain Study Circular was started in USA by Jain Study Circle about 29 years ago with the purpose of providing some basic knowledge of Jainism to the Jains in US and Canada. Up until December 2007, the Jain Study Circular had a print edition and it was also posted on the website www.jainstudy.org. Now the print edition has been suspended and Dr. Sulekh Jain has kindly agreed to help in informing the Jain community about the posting of the new issues on our website in the future. As the write-up indicates, any individual or institution can freely download and post the material published in Jain Study Circular with due acknowledgment to the Jain Study Circle. The issues of past ten years or so are in the archive of www.jainstudy.org. January 2008 Issue has been posted on the website: www.jainstudy.org. The present issue contains the following articles:

Quotations From Scriptures - a logical and systematic presentation of the sophisticated features of the Jain concept of reality by Acharya Umaswati in Tattvaarth Sutra. Quotations from the fifth chapter of Tattvaarth Sutra have been presented in this issue.

'Foundations Of An Ideal State Of Mind' by Dr. Pradyumn Kumar Jain. This article brings out the subtle distinction between the Jain concepts and modern psychology as far as attaining peace and happiness in life is concerned.

Religion & Society – The article 'In The Mirror Of Memories', Mrs. Raj Kumari Begani has presented a true story, which brings out some undesirable aspects of our religious practices.

Straight Talk – The insightful thinker, Mahatma Bhagwan Din, presents a genuine religious system as opposed to antiquated, delusive and pretentious religion in the article 'Facets Of True Religion'

Please enjoy some parallels between the scientific approach and the system adopted by Jainism to unravel reality in the article 'Jainism And Modern Science: A Comparative Study' by Duli Chandra Jain.

The column 'Observations & Views' contains the articles: articles 'Vegetarianism On The Rise' and 'Some Observations On Religion'. The issues of past several years are contained in the archives of www.jainstudy.org

All are welcome to visit the website of the Jain Study Circle to study, copy, e-mail and/or print the material on our website. Comments and suggestions would be appreciated. (Courtesy: Shri Duli Chandra Jain)

DIKSHA CEREMONY

1. Mumukshu Nupur Jain, aged 19 years, daughter of Shri Narendra Jain of Baraut in Uttar Pradesh accepted Jain diksha on the 29th November, 2007 at Jaipur in the Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect. The diksha was organised in the holy presence of Acharya Shri Gyanesh. She has studied up to B.Com. and learnt various sutras and agams.

2. Mumukshu Sonal Mehta aged, 18 years, daughter of Shri Amolak Chand ji Mehta of Beawar in Rajasthan accepted Jain diksha on the 29th November, 2007 in the holy presence of Acharya Shri Gyanesh. She has studied up to 12th Std. and learnt various sutra from Agams.

DIKSHA INVITATION

On behalf of my friend Shri. Bakulbhai Shah, Pune - India, it gives me great pleasure to inform that you are cordially invited to attend Diksha Mahotsava of Baal Mumukshu Chi. Deepenkumar (Age: 12 years), on Sunday - January 27, 2008 Followed by Swami Vatsalya at all 3 times on January 26 and 27, 2008. Detailed invitation card is attached herewith. Please do remember to visit this site and have a look at religious achievements of this BAAL MUMUKSHU at such a young age. Kalpesh C. Desai - On behalf of Shri Bakulbhai Shah, E-Mail : bakulbhai_shah@yahoo.com

COMMENTS FROM READERS

STOP KITE-FLYING; SAVE BIRDS



Respected Shabana Azmi ji, This has reference to news, published in Hindustan on dated 12.01.2008 regarding the function of flying of 20,000 kites which will be organized by Dharam Sajjan Trust at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur on 14.01.2008 in presence of you and your family in the memory of respected Shri Kaifi Azmi ji. The trust wants to give a message of humanity and message for dedication towards country but for all these, what is the mistake of these god gifted beautiful birds which will be killed by the flying of 20000 kites in the sky? Madam, you are a good social activist of our country, at least you can better understand about the matter. I am sending following pictures of birds injured by kites. We should not interfere in there freedom. God has gifted them sky for fly, not earth. Makar Sakranti is a religious festival. As per our holy religious books and religious saints / gurus, we should remember to our god on this holy day and we should donate to poor and needy persons but not kill to any bird even a small ant. Our Indian culture also does not allow the killing to others.

For this reason, Pakistan govt. had also banned the kite flying and imposed a fine of Rs 1 lac for kite flying. You can see news cutting of our leading news paper 'Hindustan' dated 09.02.2007 for the same. Sunjay Jain, President, Vishwa Jain Sangathan ,Mob : 9312278313, E-Mail: vishwajains@yahoo.com

SAPTRANGI ABHISHEK

Dear friends,

Sadar Jai Jinendra -Please read the following scanned page of 'VEER' magazine, published by Akhil Bhartiya Digamber Jain Parishad, Delhi on the issue of 'Saptrangi Abhishek' in "Mahamastakabhishek at Bawangaja". A lot of Jain scholars and

leaders are opposing this new "Saptrangi Abhishek". Our Jain Community is spending a lot of money on Panch Kalyanaks and other religious functions. In this programme the organizers of the function will collect more than 10 crore rupees after selling the 5040 nos. Kalash (the organizers have not declared in its advertisement that how will they utilize this money?) to the rich families of our society instead of selling the different lucky coupons of different amount among the medium earning jain families. Please think as the this matter is concerns to whole Jain Community. Sunjay Jain, President, Vishwa Jain Sangathan E-Mail: vishwajains@yahoo.com

BIRD FLUE IN WEST BENGAL/ MAD COW IN U.K/CANADA ETC.



Dear Sir,

Since last few years the world is suffering from animal flue i.e. some time mad cow and some time bird flue and this diseased spreads in other animals too if the diseased live animals are not killed. Accordingly lakhs of animals and birds are killed every year by way of burning, shooting and slaughtering even with cruel methods. According to Jainism it is a severe violence in the live history. Any how, if we presume that such problem if occurred in a country of Jain ideology, then how the government of such country can save these diseased lives who are effecting to other lives too. There is no treatment for this disease except killing. Does Jainism permits such killings? and if no, then please find the way by contacting our learned Jain monks that how to stop such killings . Presently more then a

Lakh birds are likely to be killed in West Bengal, but no Jain Saint/ Jain group/ Jain society or Jain community has opposed it. Non-opposition represents that Jainism allow such killings in these circumstances . Hemendra Jain E-Mail : hemendra_in@yahoo.com

रात्रि शादी निषेध

आहवान, अपील और आवश्यकता भी.....

सामाजिक संगठन, एकता एवं संस्कार ।
सामाजिक विकास के है ये आधार ॥

॥ कार्यक्रम ॥



बारात द्वारचार	: प्रातः 9 से 11 बजे
वरमाला एवं भोजन	: प्रातः 11 से 3 बजे
फेरे	: सायं 3 से 4 बजे
दुल्हन विदाई	: सायं 4 से 6 बजे



दिन की शादी उत्तम तप है, याद रखो यह मन में ।
तीर्थकर का पुण्य बरसता हरदम उस आंगन में ॥

आधुनिकता के विलासितापूर्ण युग में जब समाज संस्कारहीन होता जा रहा है और अशान्ति बढ़ती जा रही है। ऐसे परिपेक्ष्य में जैन समाज अपनी धार्मिक पहचान, अहिंसक जीवन शैली, दिन के भोज व छान के पानी को कर्तव्य मानकर आचरण में लाएँ जिससे प. पू. उपा. श्री 108 ज्ञान सागर जी महाराज के पावन सानिध्य में संकल्पित जैन समाज गुरु भक्ति व सजगता का प्रमाण देकर गौरवान्वित होता रहे।

दिन की शादी करके देखो, सुख ही सुख बरसेगा ।
उपा. ज्ञान सागर जी का आर्हर्षिवाद सदा महकेगा ॥
धार्मिक संस्कारों से गृहलक्ष्मी का जब होगा प्रवेश ।
सब सुख बरसेगें, जीवन में कभी न होगा क्लेश ॥

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संजय कुमार जैन- अध्यक्ष
विश्व जैन संगठन पंजी.

(धार्मिक एवं समाज सेवी संस्था)

“दीक्षा कुँज”, 9/1976, लेन नं० 4, कैलाश नगर, दिल्ली-31
दूरभाष : 9312278313, 9213691505

DEVLOK GAMAN - SRI SAURABH MUNI

On 30-12-2007 Sri Saurabh Muniji M. S. Disciple of Dr. Shivmuni of Sthankwasi Sect left for heavenly abode after prolonged illness. Last rites were conducted at Ahemadnagar in presence of hundreds of devotees.

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