

Vol. No. 186

Ahimsa Times

January, 2016

The Only Jain E-Magazine

in
Community Service for 14 Continuous Years

World Over + 100000
Readership



*Silence And Self-Control Is
Non-Violence. (Lord
Mahavir)*

शांति और आत्म-नियंत्रण
अहिंसा है

AHIMSA & VEGETARIANISM

JAINS URGE BIHAR CM TO BAN NON-VEG ITEMS, LIQUOR AT PAWAPURI



Biharsharif : February 3rd 2016 : A day after Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das asked to ban open sale and consumption of non-veg items and liquor at Parasnath, a Jain pilgrimage centre in Giridih district, Jain religious leaders and organizations in Bihar urged CM Nitish Kumar to accord the same status to Pawapuri, where Lord Mahavir had attained 'Nirvana'

Pradeep Jain, Secretary of Jain Sangh said, "CM Nitish Kumar had promised to declare Pawapuri a holy city when he visited the place during his 'Parivartan Yatra' in 2012 but even after three years nothing has been done in this regard.

He further said, "Being the place of Lord Mahavira, Pawapuri is a very important place of pilgrimage for the Jains and open slaughter and sale of animals, birds and liquor should be banned here as well."

Head of Veerayatan, Sampragyaji, and president of Jain Temples Management Committee, Pawapuri, Sunil Suchantiji have also requested CM Nitish Kumar to impose restrictions on sale and consumption of non-vegetarian items and liquor in the vicinity of Jain temples at Pawapuri so that the religious sentiments of Jain community is not hurt.

ASSAM GOVERNOR ACHARYA APPEALS JAINS TO USE NON-VIOLENCE TO BRING PEACE IN NORTH EASTERN STATES



Guwahati: January 17th 2016: Governor Acharya appealed to the Jain community, which is known for their nonviolent way of living, to teach the lesson of non-violence for the betterment of mankind as a whole and to stem the ongoing violence in India's northeastern region.

While inaugurating the Panchakalyanak Pratistha Mahotsav at Neminath Nagar, Governor made these remarks. In his words, "If one wants to learn on how to live life, one should learn this from the Jain saints. The Jains have never used a sword to spread their religion, but have created a

unique identity by walking on the path of nonviolence," said the Governor. The Jain community has the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Saraswati. Despite being businessmen, the Jains have also become soldiers of nonviolence across the country. They always do punya (holy) works. My appeal to you is that please contribute towards finding out the reasons behind the violence in the Northeast and to solve it," he said.

He said the ideals of Jainism and their way of living can go a long way in solving the problems of India's Northeast that has remained violent for different reasons for the last several decades.

The seven-day-long Sri Panchakalyanak Pratistha Mahotsav was organized by the Digambar Jain Panchayat, Guwahati to mark the diamond jubilee celebration of the Sri Digambar Jain Temple. The first Panchakalyanak was organized in the temple in 1965.

Thousands of people thronged Neminath Nagar from different parts of the country to take part in the holy celebrations, which was also graced by Digambar Jain Saint Sri 108 Punyasagarji Maharaj. Hundreds of women of the community took part in the kalash procession or ghat yatra traversing some areas of the city before entering the holy Neminath Nagar. Lok Sabha MP from Guwahati Bijoya Chakravarty also visited the Mahotsav.

PROTECT ALL LIVING BEINGS: MANEKA



Ballari: January 4th 2016: Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi has exhorted the people in general and the Jain community in particular to follow the 'live and help others live' policy to protect the nature. Addressing a State-level convention of Jain community, organised by the Karnataka unit of the Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana, she underlined the need for the community to donate liberally for setting up animal rescue centres and 'goshalas', take up tree plantation, raise voice against cow slaughtering and any kind of cruelty to animals and living beings.

She said, "Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu is the cruellest act on bulls and it should be banned. Use social media to create an opinion against Jallikattu and mount pressure on the Prime Minister to prevent it". Ms. Gandhi said that she

was shocked to hear reports about cattle trafficking in Hagari Bommanahalli in Ballari district.

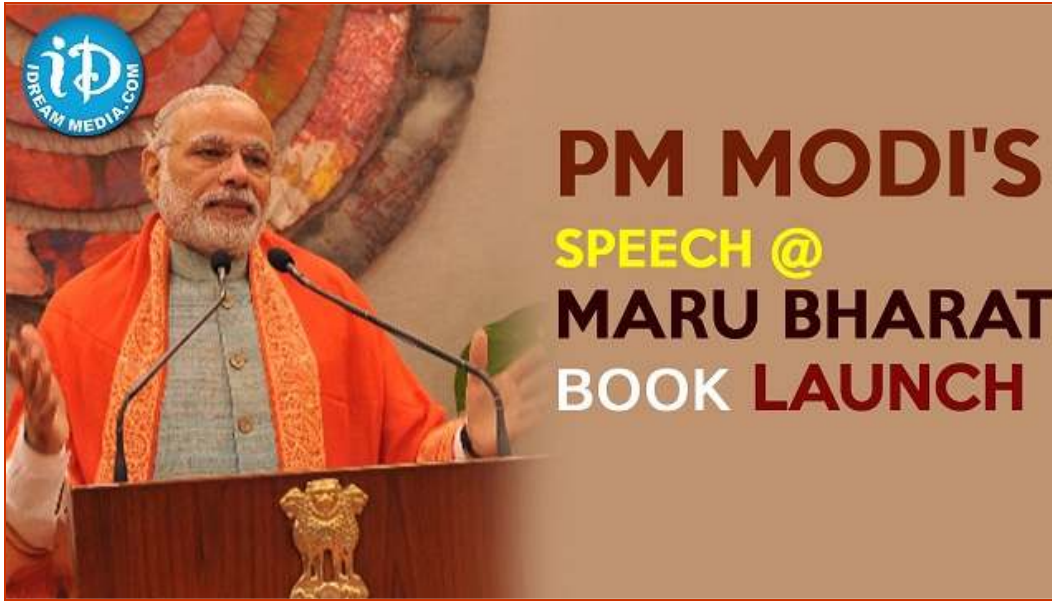
She was doubly shocked to know that the people, including Jains, were mute spectators to it. Ms. Gandhi called upon the people to oppose it and seek a ban on it. Being vegetarian is not enough. There is need to protect animals and all living beings, which were created by God. Ms. Gandhi expressed concern over the Jain community entering into leather industries and other ventures and urged them to avoid it.

Shantilal Mutha, Founder President of BJS, underlined the need for providing opportunities for the youth to become successful entrepreneurs. Narendra Baldota, Chairman and Managing Director of Baldota Group, B. S. Anand Singh, Vijayanagar MLA, Gautam Bafna, President of the State unit of BJS were present at convention.

JAIN SAINTS

PM NARENDRA MODI RELEASES JAIN ACHARYA'S 300TH BOOK 'MARU BHARAT SARU BHARAT'

Mumbai: January 10th 2016: Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book titled "Maru Bharat Saru Bharat" written by Jain Acharya Ratnasundersurishwarji Maharaj through video conference. Addressing the book release function organized by Sahitya Satkar Samiti of Ratnatrayee Trust held in Mumbai, the Prime Minister lauded the works of Acharya Ratnasundersurishwarji Maharaj and said penning 300 books was not a small achievement. Several aspects of life have found their reflection in the works of Maharaj Saheb.



The Prime Minister said that these books resonate his "divya vani" which reflects the urge to give back to the society and that 'rashtra (national) dharma' is above every dharma(religion). The Prime Minister lauded the role of saints and said it is India's heritage that has given saints who have led the society towards Nation building.

Acharya Vijay Ratna Sundarsurishwara was born on 5th January, 1948 at Depla (Near Palitana, Gujarat). In spite of being a religious saint, he wrote many visionary books for the socio

cultural upliftment of the individual as well as society at large. Till today he has written 300 books in while travelling the length and breadth of India on foot covering lakhs of kilometers, informs official website. Many of his books have been translated into various languages such as English, Hindi, Marathi, Urdu, French etc. and more than 60 Lac copies of his books are spread throughout the nation, adds the website.

He has also been presented with the most coveted "Golden Book of World Records Award" for most number of books authored by a person. He gives lectures on morality and spirituality based personality development. Being a Jain saint, author follows very hard rules and regulations. He walks bare foot and has not taken bath since 1967, when he adopted sainthood which is called "Diksha". He does not eat and drink after sunset till sunrise, adds the website.

Acharya Vijay Ratna Sundarsurishwara was born on 5th January, 1948 at Depla (Near Palitana, Gujarat). In spite of being a religious saint, he wrote many visionary books for the socio cultural upliftment of the individual as well as society at large. Till today he has written 300 books in while travelling the length and breadth of India on foot covering lakhs of kilometers, informs official website.

Many of his books have been translated into various languages such as English, Hindi, Marathi, Urdu, French etc. and more than 60 Lac copies of his books are spread throughout the nation, adds the website. He has also been presented

with the most coveted "Golden Book of World Records Award" for most number of books authored by a person. He gives lectures on morality and spirituality based personality development. Being a Jain saint, author follows very hard rules and regulations. He walks bare foot and has not taken bath since 1967, when he adopted sainthood which is called "Diksha". He does not eat and drink after sunset till sunrise, adds the website.

Acharya Ratnasundersurishwarji Maharaj thanked the Prime Minister for addressing through video conference from New Delhi and said that "Families have values and the countries have culture". The function held in Mumbai was attended by Jain seers and people from all walks of life.

MAITRI PRABH SAGARJI MAHARAJ THREATENS SANTHARA IF MEAT EXPORT NOT BANNED



Meerut: December 31st 2015: Saint Maitri Prabh Sagarji has threatened to accept 'santhara' if ban on meat exports is not imposed. In a letter to district magistrate, the Muni Shri Maitri Prabh Sagarji has informed the administration about his decision to begin fast soon.

According to the saint he has been continuously protesting against the policy of meat export. But till now nothing has been done except false assurances against slaughter houses running in the country. "Now I have no other option but to opt for santhara as I am being fooled by the district administration as well as the government into believing that such exports would be banned." He has sought the administration's permission to protest at Bhainsali Ground from January 9 in Meerut.

According to the administration, there is no problem with a peaceful protest, but nobody should be allowed to take any step that would put one's life at risk. For the last two years, no new licence are issued for slaughter houses in the district. Saint is assured that his apprehension would be communicated to the Government. However, if he is adamant on performing santhara, we have to try and dissuade him.

INDIAN MILLIONAIRE GIVES UP EVERYTHING TO BECOME A MONK

January 13th 2016: For renouncing his prosperity to be a monk, Indian businessman Bhanwarlal Raghunath Doshi is making headlines. The 'plastics king' of Delhi recently gave up his 600-crore business empire to become the 108th disciple of Jain guru Shri Gunratna Surishwarji Maharaj.



Doshi's conclusion was not an impulsive one: Jain lectures have been bringing him to spirituality since 1982. But his family a daughter, two sons, plus his wife were consistently unwilling to let him go. They eventually relented this past year, letting Doshi to carry through his longtime fantasy of being a monk. His initiation into monkhood happened in Ahmedabad, in an extravagant ceremony. The one million square foot site was especially decorated for the occasion, with a 'samyam jahaz' (boat of restraint) theme. A whopping 150,000 people attended;

7,000 of them arrived from out of town, and 500 hotel rooms were reserved to adapt them.

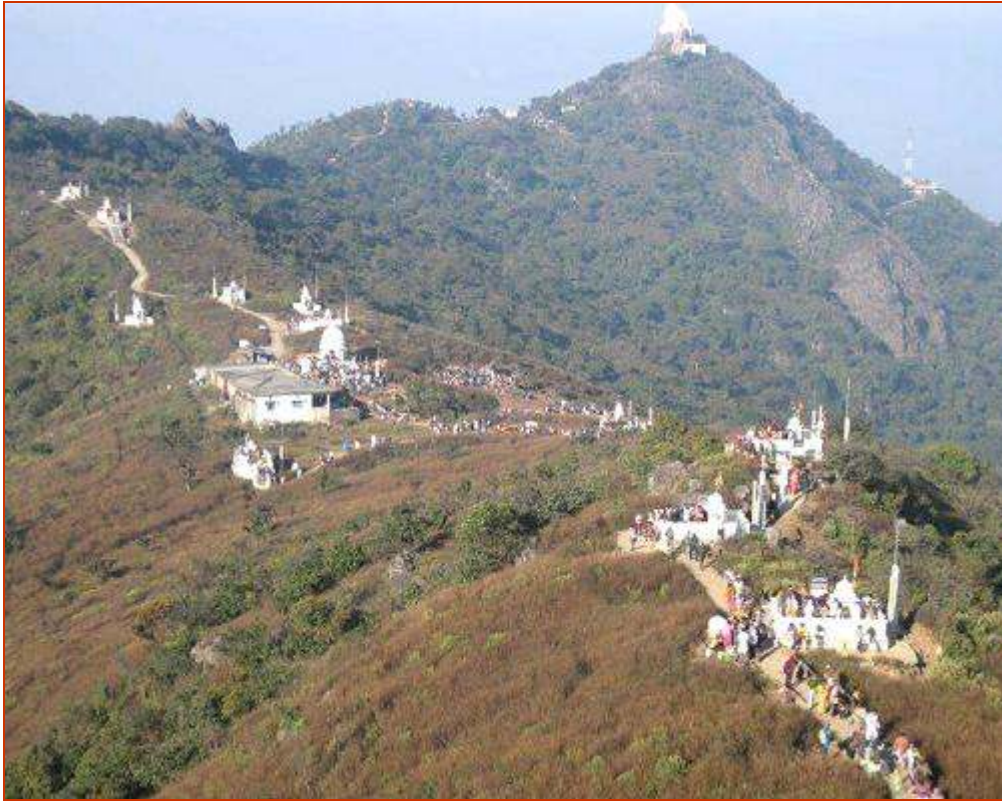
Himself entered the place dressed in garments that was glamorous, but lose his grand dress during the service for simple cotton garments. Doshi's initiation was followed by a seven-kilometre procession, consisting of nine camel

carts, 12 chariots, nine elephants, 1000 monks, and musicians. Several notable characters attended the occasion, including top Indian industrialist Gautam Adnani.

A total of 100 crore rupees was spent on the event. Car keys and cash, gold coins were thrown into the group during the procession. Doshi, who's originally from Rajasthan, refused to join his father's textile company in 1970s. He borrowed 30,000 rupees from his dad to begin his own plastic trading company in Delhi. After four decades of success, growth, as well as a lavish lifestyle, Doshi has given it all up for a life of austerity. He should wear clothes that is simple, walk barefoot, and must never cut his hair. Rohit, who has an MBA degree from the united kingdom, included that his dad does not find value in formal schooling. Rather he considers that "the only actual path is the path of moksha (salvation).

JAIN TEMPLES

TWO GIGANTIC TEMPLES COMING UP IN SHIKHERJI



Ranchi: January 20th 2016: Parasnath (Shikherji) will soon have the biggest Jain temples in the world after the construction of two temple complexes worth more than Rs 800 crore each. It is expected that the construction will be completed in 2018. Both the temples will be earthquake-resistant and constructed with red stones and makrana marbles that are being brought from Rajasthan.

Conceptualised by 108 Shri Kritesh Surishwarji Maharaj of Shwetambar sect, the temple complex to be built in Madhuban township (also known as 'taleti teerth') will have over 30 individual temples dedicated to 24 Tirthankaras. "The total complex is spread over 1,10,600 sq ft and the entire edifice is being constructed out of the famous Makrana marble from Rajasthan. The Shvetambar temple

complex has been so designed that it will be visible to the devotees from the front entrance. The main temple will house an 18 inch idol of Mahavira Tirthankara, Chiselled out of precious stones.

The main idol along with the idols of the other Tirthankaras will be plated with 24 carat gold. The temple complex which will be laden with Makrana marble is scheduled for completion in 2017. The other Digambara sect temple, being constructed by Gunayatana Nyas under the guidance of Munishri Premsagarji Maharaj, has also set an ambitious date of 2018 to finish the construction. The red sandstone temple complex, which has a 22 ft deep basement complex and will rise 108 ft above the ground, is designed to withstand earthquake measuring up to 8.5 on Richter scale. According to sources, over 400 artisans are working non-stop, both on and off site for the past four years.

The temple complex will entirely be made of red sandstone sourced from Bayana in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. Apart from the scientific design of the temple, we are also planning to utilize 3D projection through laser lights to recreate the human journey through 14 Gunasthans (14 stages of spiritual development). Devotees from all religions and sects will be welcome to pay their obeisance to Mahavira and the other sages.

JAINS WANT BETTER DEAL FOR PALITANA



Ahmedabad: January 7th 2016: A delegation of Jain community met Chief Minister Anandiben Patel to discuss the problems of lack of civic facilities in Palitana. Palitana is in the list of one of the pilgrimage spots of Gujarat Pavitra Vikas Yatra Dham. The delegation presented the issues before the CM such as irregular supply of potable water, illegal encroachment on the Taleti Road, menace of pigs and water mafias, disturbed law and order situation by giving facts and figures.

Palitana is one of the pious pilgrim place of the Jain community and lakhs of Jains from India and abroad visit this place every year. According to members of the delegation, inactiveness of the local municipal body in providing basic civic facilities raised the concern of the Jain community to retain the sanctity and piousness of Palitana. The CM gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured to take immediate action to set up a Police Post at Taleti Road and to widen and properly maintain the road connecting Palitana with Songadh and Vallabhipur.

GUWAHATI DIG. JAIN TEMPLE HOLDS SEVEN-DAY LONG WORLD PEACE YAGNA



Guwahati : January 25th 2016: The seven-day long World Peace Yagna organized on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee of Sri Digambar Jain temple at Guwahati. Assam Governor P. B. Acharya inaugurated the Yagna on January 17 and it witnessed participation of lakhs of devotees from other northeastern states and different parts of the country. The Panchakalyanak Mahotsav and the World Peace Yagna was held under the guidance of Jain saint Sri Punya Sagarji Maharaj, who had arrived in Guwahati after crossing a distance of over 720 kms from Barsoi in Bihar. Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi also participated in the Mahotsav. General secretary of the Reception Committee, Kishore Kumar Jain said that several colourful procession like Ghat Procession were organized during the Mahotsav. Several cultural programmes were organized during the Mahotsav which included Kavi Sammelan by hosted by famous poet, Sri Chandra Sen Jain of Bhopal and other distinguished celebrity poets from different parts of the country.

LAHORE JAIN MANDIR WILL NOT BE DAMAGED: ETPB



Lahore, Pakistan: January 8th 2016: Evacuee Trust Property Board Chairman Siddiqui Farooq has assured a delegation of the Hindu community that Jain temple would not be damaged during the construction of the Orange Line Metro Train.

Prior to the meeting at the ETPB Board Office, the Hindu community had demanded the government not to damage the Jain Mandir building, which came in the proposed route of OMT.

Chairman Siddiqui Farooq said that the Prime Minister and the Punjab CM believed in providing

full rights to the minorities, adding that the Punjab CM ordered to save 'Jain Mandir' at any cost.

He informed the delegation that location of Jain Mandir was taken into notice while OMT route was being decided. "The CM had ordered the relevant authorities to save the temple from any damage," he added.

THREE HELD FOR STEALING IDOLS FROM JAIN TEMPLES



Gurgaon: January 20th 2016: The Gurgaon police has busted a gang involved in stealing precious idols from Jain temples across the country, including the city. Some of the stolen 'ashtadhatu' (alloy of eight metals) idols are believed to be more than a century old and worth crores of rupees in the international grey market, the police said.

Three persons, including a Ghaziabad-based scrap dealer have been arrested. Two of the arrested gang members were identified as Sagar Choudhary and Saiful, both

from West Bengal. The scrap dealer from Ghaziabad has been identified as Mohhamad Irsad. He had bought a stolen silver umbrella from the accused for Rs. 50,000. The police said it is a seven-member gang and five of the members, including the mastermind, are still at large. The absconding members are from Bangladesh.

As many as 25 Lord Mahavir idols, believed to be worth a total of Rs. 4 crore, have been recovered from Ghaziabad and Faridabad on information given by the arrested persons. The gang had stolen 46 idols from a Jain temple at Seikhopur in Gurgaon in December 2014. Their latest heist was at a Jain temple in Sikar, Rajasthan, on December 15, 2015. Immediately after the theft was reported at the Gurgaon temple, police commissioner has formed a special investigation team for the probe.

LUCKNOW DIGAMBER JAIN TEMPLE BURGLED BY MISCREANTS

Lucknow : January 25th 2016: Unidentified miscreants burgled famous Digamber Jain temple in Indira Nagar locality of Ghazipur police station area and decamped with valuables including cash and jewellery adorned at the deities. The theft exposed police laxity and stirred the religious sentiments of the followers who used to visit temple to offer puja. The pujari got to know of the theft when he reached the temple to do cleaning work and prepare the temple for puja. Police teams reached the place along with field unit consisting of dog squad and finger print experts. No clue about the miscreants could be traced however. The police are scanning the footage of the CCTV cameras installed in the area and hope the miscreants would be arrested soon. Among the visitors offering puja are senior bureaucrats and local politicians. A case has been registered.

NEGLECT TAKES ITS TOLL ON JAIN RELICS IN EAST GODAVARI

January 4th 2016: East Godavari district is among the few districts in the State where the historians have found rare traces of Jainism.



According to the history, Vardhamana Mahavira, who was on a mission to propagate Jainism, took out a 'Padayatra' from Sravasthi and visited the Godavari region before culminating his campaign at Machilipatnam way back in the period nearing 500 BC.

Though a good number of idols and relics of Jainism were spotted in different parts of the district, no concrete steps have been taken so far to preserve them under one roof. As a result, the statues, bricks and utensils are remained scattered in the rural pockets.

In some areas, there is no shade to the idols, as they are placed on the premises of local temples of the Hindu faith. However, in places where the prevalence of Jain population is there, small temples were constructed and annual events were being celebrated.

Turpupolam village near Draksharama, Vegayammampeta, Kuyyeru and Vella villages near Ramachandrapuram, Seetammavari Metta near Tetagunta, Neudnuru, Aryavatam, Pedabrahmadevam, Chebrolu, Pithapuram, Kajuluru and Seela were the villages where the idols and relics were spotted in good shape. Jalluru, Gummileru, Indrapalem, Kanupuru, Ateyrapuram and Tatipaka too were the places where the villagers spotted the relics of Jainism long back.

"The prevalence of Buddhism and Jainism were noticed in East Godavari district. As compared to the relics of Jainism, Buddhist sites are in a better shape here. Ironically, no one is taking care of the relics of the Jainism, which are in a dilapidated condition now," observes Merapala Narayana Rao, a school teacher and Buddhist scholar from Tuni. Temples were built for placing the historic idols at Arthamuru, Aryavatam, Jalluru and Sivakodu villages by the local Jain community representatives.

GOVT. TO PROTECT JAIN TEMPLES AT ZAWAR ZINC MINES



Udaipur: January 3rd 2016: After years of neglect, the State Archaeology Department may take up a proposal for the protection of heritage temples at Zawar, a settlement situated some 40 kilometers away from Udaipur. Carbon-14 dating has revealed Zawar as the site of 'the earliest dated zinc mines in the world' estimating that mining took place there as early as 2,000 years ago.

A proposal has recently been sent by the local office to the Director of Archaeology Department to take two Jain temples of importance for protection. These are Digambar Aadinath and Parshavnath temples

having stone inscriptions claiming these to have been built in the 15th century. Ramanath, a Hindu temple here is already under the protected category, however, there are many big and small temples in the complex which despite having antiquarian value have never been given importance further causing their decay. Zawar contains a number of temples that were built between the 15th and 17th centuries CE. What makes these temples interesting is that their emergence coincided with Zawar's increasing importance as for the mining and smelting of zinc. Zinc smelting is described in four South Asian alchemical texts ranging in date from 500 BCE to the late 13th century CE.

The temples in Zawar have never been the subject of scholarly investigation, perhaps because of the tendency to focus on royal patronage at state religious centers. The town is located along the Gomati River, some forty kilometers from the city of Udaipur. Tribal groups such as the Bhils and the Meenas have traditionally inhabited the area, at the southern reaches of Mewar. According to historian, "traces of pilgrimage both to and from Zawar mark the site as an important Jain centre from the end of the 14th century into the 17th century. Once settled at Zawar, the Jain community built temples and installed both Jain and Vaishnavite deities.

JAIN INSTITUTIONS

NEW DELHI : APEX JAIN INSTITUTION IN CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi promoted and the only institution of Jain Samaj , which is represented by all the four prominent Jain Sects is today facing its identity crisis. While Jains were celebrating 2500th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Mahavir in 1975, Mrs. Gandhi gifted one of the finest piece of five acre land in New Delhi to the our community and suggested that, we should raise a memorial of Bhagwan Mahavir on this land.

Further, at the instruction of Mrs. Gandhi, the Government also contributed financially for the development of proposed "Bhagwan Mahavir Memorial".



In the name of the Bhagwan Mahavir Memorial the community constructed a good looking building complex with few rooms. For some reason or other, nothing of the sort expected by Mrs. Gandhi could be established. Currently the building has Pictures / Photographs of its Trustees hanging on its wall. But there is no sign of Bhagwan Mahavir anywhere. Today, the BMM is also facing financial crisis in the absence of any activity and regular application of building complex.

For all these years, little was known about the existence of this Bhagwan Mahavir

Kendra and its affairs to the Jain community at large. A small group of Jains controlled and managed this prestigious institution with periodical meetings etc. Recently, some cracks have surfaced amongst the members of Governing Council with regard to constitutional amendments, management, funds, expenses, accounts, membership, discipline, control, bank accounts etc. Rival Groups are contesting and competing to re-assure their command and control over one of the most expensive piece of land gifted to Jain community by Mrs. Gandhi.

It has surfaced that, many serious issues need to be resolved at this place. Questions have been raised regarding the legal validity of the amendments carried out in the original constitution of Bhagwan Mahvir Memorial Samiti by the Governing Council. Some of the expenses made by Samiti also need to be documented. Annual accounts and audits are irregular. Membership Register needs up-dation. Criteria of nomination of members, new membership and inheritance of membership needs to be looked into from constitutional point of view. Qualification for Governing Council members is an also issue to be resolved. Non compliance of constitutional provisions in earlier years is also a matter of concern. Documentation of some artifacts lying at BMMS also needs attention. Proposal and purpose to construct new building is also hanging for over a decade.

In-spite of all the above, it will not be in the over all interests of the community to aggravate the differences amongst the members of the Governing Council. Issues must be resolved harmoniously shunning individual point of view. Jaina principles of "Anekantvad" must be accepted in practice. To resolve a core group of community leadership from various forums and sects can sit together and settle their differences without outside intervention.

The suggested group may consist of Patriarch and Honoured Community Leaders like Mrs. Indu Jain, Mr. Nirmal Sethi, Mr. Subhash Oswal, Mr. Nem Nath Jain, Mr. Samveg Lalbhai, Mr. Jitendra Rakyan, Mr. Raj Kumar Jain, Mr. Mangi Lal Sethia, Mr. Kamal Dugar, Dr. Manu Chanderia, Mr. Prem Jain, Mr. Ashok Domadia, Mr Dilip Gandhi, Mr. Pushp Jain etc. If acceptable to all, the name of Dr. Lokesh Muni can also be added as now-a-days , he is very strongly representing the Jain Community in National, International and Governmental forums.

Lately, it has come to knowledge that, some members are calling meetings to workout suitable arrangement for settling the issues and provide the needful leadership in future. It is also noticed that, some members are raising some issues to divert the attention of senior leaders from the core issues. The crucial and fundamental issues to be decided relate to legality of amendments carried out in the constitution of BMMS, irregularities in the appointment of Governing Council Members, Membership Register, Non-Performance and Inefficiencies etc. Some community members have also gone for police action etc. about the affairs of the BMMS.

As the questions and doubts raised about the working of BMMS are serious in nature, we hope the concerned executives of BMMS shall come forward with responsible and to the point answers instead of raising frivolous controversies and counter questions. Avoid creating further confusion and go for rational dialogue. Lets hope wisdom prevails and community resolves all issues without outside interference.

JAINA STUDIES

RICE UNIVERSITY TO OFFER PROGRAMS IN JAIN STUDIES

Houston : January 22nd 2016: As the world celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day for his commitment, compassion and passion to non-violence, Jain Society of Houston took pride and honor to witness a historic signing ceremony on January 17, for the establishment of a full-time Bhagwaan Mahavir Post-Doctoral Fellowship for Jain Studies at Rice University. The signing ceremony was held in the main hall of Jain Society of Houston. Prominent individuals of Rice University, Houston Jain Community, officials of Jain Vishwa Bharati Meditation Center were in attendance.



The event itinerary included welcome, Namokar mantra prayer invocation on music, lamp lighting and document signing by Rice University and Jain community officials.

Rice University is an elite, prestigious and 104 year old University with a beautiful campus near the heart of the City of Houston and next door to the world famous Texas Medical Center. There are no course offering in Jainism at present at any university in Houston but that is going to change soon with the hiring of a full time Jain scholar with a PhD and proven track record of leadership and publications.

This historic collaboration which is cost shared 50:50 % between the Jain Society and Rice University

will open its doors for the Jain Studies course in Jainism's philosophy, history art, culture and its contribution to the

world. The scholar will create a platform for discussion, learning and awareness of Jainism and will offer classes in Jainism each semester. In addition, the scholar will also do research, organize seminars and publish papers and books. Another unique feature is that the scholar will also actively interact with the Jain community in Houston and will facilitate the learning of our own tradition about Ahimsa, Anekant and Aprigraha; the 3 jewels of Jainism.

Urvashi Jain, President of the Jain Society of Houston welcomed all the guests and then Dr. Sulekh Jain (Past President of JAINA and Chairman of International School for Jain Studies in USA), Professor Sonia Ryang, (Director of Chao Center for Asian Studies at Rice University), Professor Jeffrey Kripal (Chair Professor in Philosophy and Religious Thought at Rice University) in their remarks touched upon the significance of the gift from the Jain community and how the Post-Doctoral fellow will not only do research and teach a course in Jainism each semester but will also share the richness and philosophy of Jainism to many other disciplines, departments and centers within Rice University. Currently Jains in USA have already established Centers for Jain Studies at 10 universities including two fully funded Chairs at Florida International University and at University of California at Irvine.

The historic signing ceremony couldn't be what it was without the time, dedication, and efforts of our volunteers and sponsors, as well as the generous matching contributions from Chao Center at Rice University. We'd like to wholeheartedly thank all of the individuals who played a role in the establishment of this program. Source: Dr. Sulekh C. Jain.

CONFERENCE AND SEMINARS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE & JAIN PHILOSOPHY

Mumbai: An international conference on Science and Jain Philosophy was organised by Jain Vishva Bharati University, Ladnu jointly with IIT-Bombay from 8th to 10th January 2016 at IIT, Powai, Mumbai. The objective of the conference was to interpret and use Jain philosophy, principles and practices for welfare of entire universe which includes all living beings- humans, animals, plants, etc.



The conference was inaugurated by Padma Bhushan Justice Dalveer Bhandari of International Court of Justice, Hague, the Netherlands. Hon'ble Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science and Technology and Deptt. of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, delivered Key Note address. Prof. Muni Shri Mahendra Kumar was the main motivator for this Conference.

Multi cultural religious delegates and faculty from 15 countries comprised of 25 Vice-Chancellors of different universities, Religious heads, Scientists, Professors, Doctors, Academicians, Scholars presented their view points. The delegates included Central Minister, Supreme Court and High Court Judges, UNO, World Bank, FAO Officials from San Jose, Sri Lanka, Munich, North Carolina, Kyoto, Guam, ISRO, BARC and other top Indian Institutions. The total number of participants exceeded 800.

The paid registrations had to be closed 7 days before the event. During the event 104 papers were presented at main and several parallel sessions. In view of overwhelming response, it has been decided to undertake further research by the three organisers for universal peace and prosperity and to hold next similar conference at Kolkata in 2017. At the end Chancellor of the JVBU summed the event as Tsunami of Knowledge for welfare of every one. For the further information about the conference contact Mr. V. C. Kothari, Mobile : 09820879870, E-Mail : vckothari@yahoo.co.uk

Grand Interfaith Conference was organised at Ganga Sagar Mela with the support from UNICEF and Global Interfaith WASH Alliance. In the Interfaith Conference eminent religious leaders from all faiths took part and took the oath to make Bengal Clean so that common people can be encouraged to create clean and hygienic environment. Ganga Sagar Mela is a religious celebration organised in 24 sea island divisions' of West Bengal, India on Makar sankranti every year. This festival is celebrated as Green and Clean Mela this year.



We must respect other cultures and beliefs. Swamy Chidananda Saraswati said that today eminent spiritual leaders have gathered on

He said that for health and meditation both internal and external environment should be clean. Mahant Gyandas Ji Maharaj, Founder President of Mahabodhi International Center Leh Laddhak Bhikshu Sangsena Ji, Mahamandaleshwar Harichetna Nand Ji, President of All India Imam Sangathan Imam Umer Illiyasi Ji, Founder of Toshidul Muslim Trust Maulana Dr. Saeed Kalbe Sadiq, WASH head in India Mr. Su Koats, Advocacy and Communication Head of UNICEF Miss Calrolin De Duk, Chief Field officer of UNICEF Mr. Asadoor Rehman expressed their views on the occasion.

Hubballi : January 12th 2016: Addressing presspersons BJS State President Goutam Bafna, Hubballi unit President Sandeep Jain and Dr. Bangarshettar said that the surgeries would be completely free and the plan was to extend the benefit to as many patients as possible. Dr. Bangarshettar said that over 300 patients from different places of north Karnataka had registered and they were expecting close to 500 patients for the camp. The camp has been organised by the Bharatiya Jain Sanghatan.



Larry Weinstein and Barry Citron, plastic surgeons from New York, will attend with their team on January 14 and 15 to conduct a free plastic surgery camp. The camp will be held at Ashoka Hospital. They will be assisted by

plastic surgeon Ravindra Eligar and consulting orthopaedic and spine surgeon Ashoka V. Bangarshettar of Hubballi.

Mr. Bafna said that the organisation had conducted a free plastic surgery camp in Hubballi earlier too. He said that Dr. Weinstein and his team had conducted plastic surgery camps in Maharashtra in association with the Pune wing of the BJS. Dr. Bangarshettar said that alternative plans would be chalked out if more number of patients turned up for the camp. The participants would also be sensitised about the various government schemes under which they could get free treatment in different hospitals.

MURARI BAPU ORGANISED WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI

New Delhi: Ram Katha preacher and famous saint Morari Bapu has initiated the flame of peace by organising World Peace Conference at Rajghat, New Delhi where Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christianity, Buddhist and Jain religion saints came together for the cause.



In the conference Hindu Saint and prominent religious leader and Haridwar Bharat Mata Mandir Head Satymitranandji Maharaj, Buddhist Saint Prof. Sam Dhong Rinpoche, former prime minister in exile and currently chancellor, Sanchi University of Indic and Buddhist University, Sanchi, MP, Founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni, Chief Jattedar Akal Thakht Gyani Gurubachan Singhji, Maulana Gulam Muhammad Vastanvi, Father Dr. D. M. Thomas, Chairpersom of Global Freedom Network Mr. Andrew Forrest gave the message of world Peace and Harmony in the conference.

Saint Murari Bapu on the occasion said that this place and dialogue both are perfect. World needs peace and the saints have the responsibility to come together and raise the issue at every level. Shri Morari Bapu emphasised the basic tenets of preaching-Truth, love and compassion, the need of the day, both at individual levels and at all levels of life. When started at individual level, then the community benefits and has a ripple effect at national and international level.

Acharya Lokesh Muni said that Morari Bapu is the perfect person to start a peace initiative. He said we have to push the education system to produce peace of mind in students.

Hindu Saint Satymitranandji Maharaj said all religions teach human welfare and establishment of world peace. We respect nature and rivers as deity and peace what's we aspire in every quote of Hindu religious scriptures. Bapu is really a brand Ambassador of peace.

Chief Jattedar Akal Thakht Gyani Gurubachan Singhji, Eminent muslim scholar and social reformer Ghulam Mohammad Vastanvi, Gyani Gurbachan Singhji, Dr M D Thomas, Chairpersom of Global Freedom Network Mr. Andrew Forrest and many foreign delegates addressed the Conference.

JAIN AND BUDDH RELIGION PREACH NON-VIOLENCE - DALAI LAMA

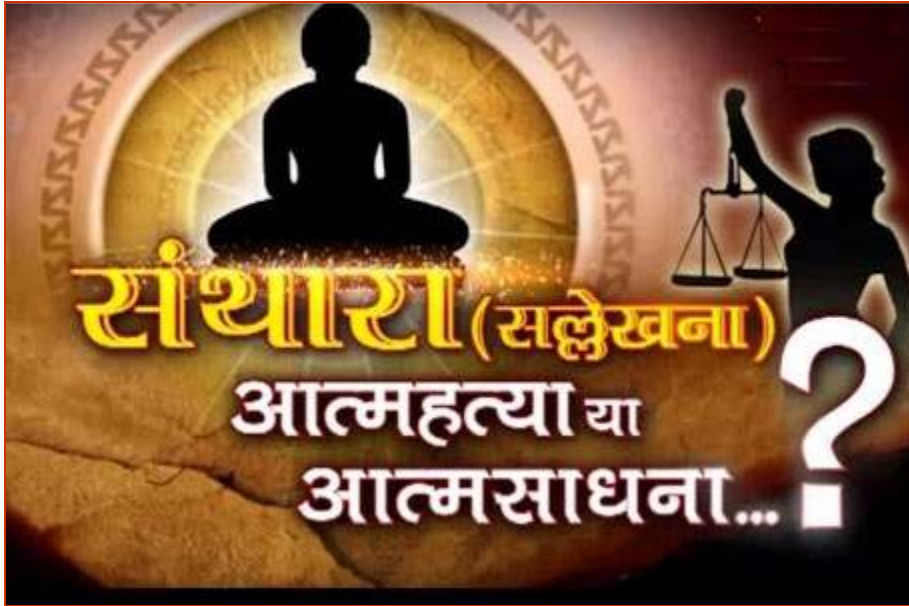
New Delhi: Unity of Jain and Boddh religion was seen at the 80th birthday celebrations of internationally famous spiritual leader H. H. Dalai Lama. On the occasion Ex-Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh, senior Bhartiya Janta Party Leader Shri Lal Krishna Advani, Jain Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni, Lt. Governor of Delhi Mr. Najeed Jung, Ex- Finance Minister of India Mr. P. Chidambaram, senior jurist S. Nariman, Shri Ram Jetmalani, Ex- Foreign Secretary Shri Shyam Saran, Film Actress Mrs. Sharmila Tagore greeting H.H. Dalai Lama expressed their views on

the occasion. Grand celebrations were organized by friends and well-wishers of H. H. Dalai Lama on his 80th birthday at hotel Oberoi, New Delhi.

H. H. Dalai Lama on the occasion said that Jain and Buddh religions are twins of same mother. Both Jain and Buddh religion gives the message of non-violence, peace and harmony. H. H. Dalai Lama sharing his three commitments emphasized the need to establish mutual trust, brotherhood and harmony in the society. He said his first commitment is towards Indian Culture, second towards inter-religious harmony and third towards Tibet. He said that ancient Indian knowledge shows us the methods to achieve human welfare. He appreciated the fact that people of different religions live with harmony in India. He also said that Tibetan culture is a culture of peace and non violence that can be of real value to the rest of the world. Therefore it is important to keep it alive. Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni greeting H. H. Dalai Lama on the occasion said, that, Dalai Lama is an idol of simplicity and ingenuity. Acharya Lokesh said that Bhagwan Buddha and 24th Thirthankar of Jain religion Bhagwan Mahavir are contemporary.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS ON SALLEKHANA

The right to "die with dignity," which sometimes entails euthanasia or "mercy killing" is being discussed internationally. A number of countries have legalized euthanasia with certain conditions. A few more countries are considering that the right to die be included in their constitutions. On the medical front, every day the number of people suffering in hospitals and kept alive on life support systems are increasing. This also enhances the suffering of families as it involves huge economic costs as well as psychological problems. This complex issue is indeed very sensitive as any solution proposed is prone to abuse and controversy.



In recent court deliberations on the subject, the Rajasthan High Court has equated Sallekhana with suicide, prosecutable under section 309 of the Indian Penal Code. This verdict has been stayed by India's Supreme Court. These actions have aroused serious concerns in the Jain community, which has united and joined hands to explain that the concept and practice of Sallekhana is based on the principle of ahimsa and is an integral part of their religious practice. Their claim is that Sallekhana is a process directed towards the conquest of fear of death, leading to peaceful death and a progressive step towards liberation. It is not suicide, which is differentiated by the scriptures also.

This raises a host of fundamental questions: 'Should choosing to die be treated as suicide? Under what conditions? Universally? Should suicide laws be applied to practices like Sallekhana-Santhara at all? What happens when religion allows a person to give up food and water and walk through the transition of death? Does the state have the right to intervene?' According to Jains, the question to be asked is, 'who wants to die crying, or in pain or accidentally or even by committing suicide, the most horrifying act? In contrast to the position taken in the contested decision of the Rajasthan High court, many researchers and regulators from western world are talking of euthanasia and of promoting Sallekhana as an ideal way to assist patients during their last moments of life, where it has come to be regarded as an integral part of providing palliative care to the terminally ill.

In this context, the International School for Jain Studies (ISJS) is organizing three international seminars on various aspects of Sallekhana at three different places.

1. University of Madras, Chennai (18-19th Feb. 2016): Religion/Faith based perspectives University of Madras is one of the prestigious universities among Indian universities for humanities.

The following topics are marked for discussions and presentations:

I. Jain religion:

- a. Definitions of Sallekhana, Samadhimaraṇa and Santhara and doctrine in both Shvetambara and Digambara texts and practice. This will include investigation of motivations, types, milestones recognized in the process, duration of the final fast, and other issues.
- b. Method of observance including who and when one can start this observance and who authorizes the same,
- c. Is the practice one way or reversible?
- d. Case studies from families with member/s who observed this practice as well as reflections from neighbours,
- e. Field survey of those who observed this practice in last 50 years.

II. Perspectives on death in other religions (Hindu, Buddhist, Sikhism, Christianity, Islam). Their approaches will be compared and contrasted with Jainism. Specific sub sects of the practice in these religions will be examined.

2. National Law University, Delhi (26-27th Feb. 2016)

National Law University, Delhi, is a specialized law university and one of the most prestigious law school of India offering courses at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Here we discussed Legal, jurisprudential, social-political-economical perspectives of Sallekhana. In which following topics cover:

A. Legal and Jurisprudential perspectives:

- a. IPC Sections 306 (attempts to commit suicide) and 309 (abetment to suicide),
- b. Colonial-era criminal laws vs. Indian Traditions and modern trends,
- c. Constitutional precedents, like right to life and death; religious freedom of minorities and Articles 21, 25, 26, 29 of the Constitution of India,
- d. Perspectives from the judicial systems.

B. Social-political-economic perspectives:

- a. Moral and ethical considerations, risks/gains, and dangers/benefits; social and individual perspectives,
- b. Economic and marketing angle,
- c. effect of religious and ethnic diversity and approaches towards life and death in the globalized world,
- d. the contrast Killing others vs. Santhārā,
- e. Establish a code to differentiate it from suicide.

3. Teerthanker Mahaveer University, Moradabad (5th March, 2016)

Here we discuss the Medico perspective of Sallekhanā, in which we cover following topics:

- a. Applicability of the practice: Who and when one can start the practice? What are the benefits and pitfalls?

- b. Applicability of the practice to solve some medical problems like reducing the pain and suffering of patients as preventive system, its usage in palliative care and patient care in general, as well as strategies to seek involvement of the family, medical practitioners and nursing/administrative staff as well as religious leaders in the decision making process,
- c. Psychological distinction between the mental state of a person with suicidal tendency and a person going through the process of Santhārā,
- d. Stretching life vs. Quality of life,
- e. Mental conditioning through lifelong practice of selfcontrol, fasting, penance etc.

Contact for further details: Mr. Sushil Jana, E-Mail : iss.isjs@gmail.com

AWARDS AND HONOURS

MS. INDU JAIN HONOURED WITH PADMA BHUSHAN BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

January 26th 2016: Ms. Indu Jain has been awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government Of India in January 2016 .She is also the guiding force behind The Oneness Forum, formally launched by the President of India in 2003. The Forum recently awarded the Mahatma-Mahavira Awards to outstanding individuals from all of walks of life and is involved in several activities that seek to bring, and highlight, a sense of Oneness in the world.



Ms. Indu Jain is Chairperson of The Times Group. In her capacity as Chairperson of The Times Group, Ms. Indu Jain has since infused new energy into the growth of India's largest media house. The Times Foundation, which she founded and carefully guides, has garnered international acclaim for its, often pioneering, activities in the field of development. A humanist to the core, under her direction, The Times Foundation runs Community Services, Research Foundation and Times Relief Fund for disaster reliefs like floods, cyclones, earthquakes and epidemics. Her championing of women's causes is also well known. She actively supports women's rights and the

encouragement of entrepreneurship.

Ms. Indu Jain is also founder President of the Ladies wing of FICCI (FLO). A patron of literature and culture, she is Chairperson of the Bharatiya Jnanpith Trust, which awards India's most prestigious and highest literary award, the Jnanpith award and supports endeavours in the field of literature in every major Indian language.

She addressed the United Nations in 2000 at the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders, a speech in which she stressed the need for oneness among faiths and went on to chair a special session of the conference.

Spreading the message of Peace Within First, Indu Jain spearheads a movement to spread the principles of peace globally. Ms. Indu Jain belongs to the Sahu Jain family and is the current Chairperson of India's largest Media Group, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd., which owns the Times of India and other large newspapers. Ms. Indu Jain was married to Ashok Kumar Jain by whom she had two sons, Samir Jain, Vineet Jain and a daughter. Her husband died on February 4, 1999 in Cleveland, United States at age of 65, following a heart transplant on January 10.

Members, Patrons and Trustees of "Ahimsa Foundation" Congratulate Ms. Indu Jain on being bestowed the most prestigious honour by the President of India for her outstanding business accomplishments and her contributions for the humanity at large. May God bless her with long and healthy life.

ASHOK KUMAR KOTHARI HONOURED WITH DELHI RATAN AWARD



Mr. Ashok Kumar Kothari, the Chairman of Ratantray Foundation, New Delhi was conferred the prestigious Title-DELHI RATAN in a Grand Ceremony hosted by The All India Conference of Intellectuals in the presence of numerous State Governors, State Ministers and Chief Election Commissioner at India Habitat Center, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

Earlier also Mr. Kothari has received numerous awards for his social work for Jain Community. He is recognized as prominent member of Jain Community in Delhi. He is associated with several organizations working for the humanity at

large. He was born on 7th July, 1968 in Beawar, Rajasthan. Currently he is residing in New Delhi and manages business offices in India and China.

ANIL JAIN TAKES OVER AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POWERGRID



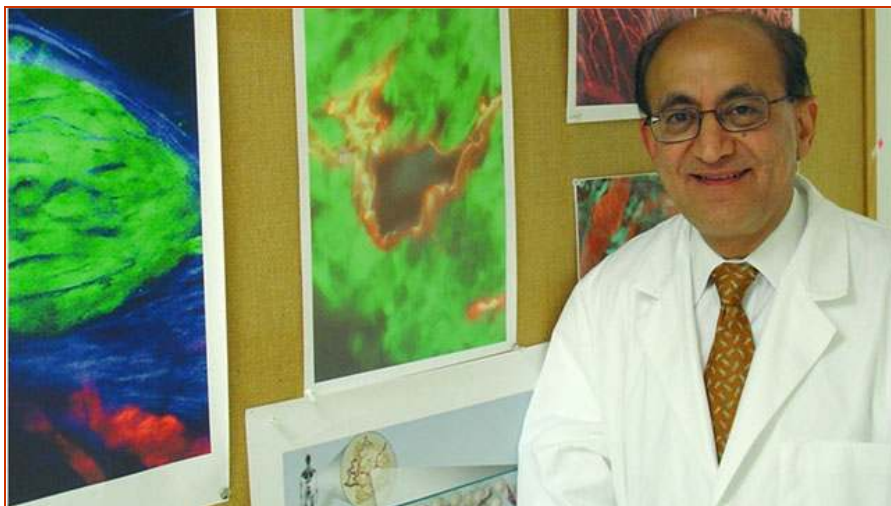
Jammu: January 8th 2016: Mr. Anil Jain has taken over the charge of Executive Director Northern Region Transmission System -II of Power Grid.

He shall be responsible for all Central transmission projects in the States of J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and UT Chandigarh. Mr. Anil Jain is a competent professional with over 35 years of extensive experience in Project Management, Distribution Management and Telecom operations in Power Sector.

He is rated as one of the best professionals in Power Grid. Prior to joining as Executive Director NRTS-II, he was functioning as Head of Monitoring Group of Power Grid at its Corporate Center in Gurgaon.

DR. RAKESH K. JAIN HONOURED BY BARACK OBAMA

January 17th 2016: Dr. Rakesh K. Jain has been conferred with prestigious science award from the US President Barack Obama for his contribution in field of science.



This recognition is for his outstanding contribution in the field of Science, Dr. Rakesh Jain is an IIT-Kanpur alumnu. He is a Professor of Tumor Biology at Massachusetts General Hospital in the Harvard Medical School. This annual award is given to distinguished persons who have made outstanding contributions in the field of Science, Engineering and Mathematics.

Dr. Jain has been regarded as a pioneer for revealing the barriers to the delivery and worth of molecular and nano-medicines in tumors, evolving new strategies to overcome the barriers. Earlier also he has received numerous awards for the work done by him on Tumor Biology and

research on the link between the Tumor Blood Vessels along with improving the effects of chemotherapy and radiation treatment. According to the White House announcement made last month the President stated that Science and Technology are fundamental to solving some of our nation's biggest challenges. The knowledge produced by these Americans will help in carrying out our country's legacy of innovation forward and will help countless others present around the world. Jain is an active member of three branches of the US National Academies, The National Academy of Medicine and National Academy of Engineering as well as the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR CHAMELI DEVI JAIN AWARD



New Delhi: January 15th 2016: Nominations have been invited for the Chameli Devi Jain Award for an outstanding woman mediaperson for 2015-16.

First given away in 1982, the award recognises outstanding woman journalists, who have made a difference through writing with depth, dedication, courage and compassion.

In selection process, other things being equal, preference is given to small town/rural and Indian language journalists. Journalists in the print, broadcast and current affairs documentary film media are eligible, including photographers, cartoonists and newspaper designers.

SP JAIN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT RECOGNISED FOR GLOBAL INGENUITY, INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY



Bangalore: Febtruary 3rd 2016 : Deans Conference, AACSB International (AACSB), the global accrediting body and membership association for business schools, recognised the S.P. Jain Institute of Management & Research (SPJIMR) among a sampling of 30 innovations that represent how business schools are innovating and diversifying the business education environment.

Thomas R. Robinson, President and Chief Executive Officer of AACSB International declared, "It is my pleasure to recognise SPJIMR for its role in spearheading ingenuity within the business education landscape. As AACSB celebrates 100 years of improving quality management education worldwide, it is important for those within and outside of the industry to be reminded of the vision, leadership, and innovative thinking business schools bring to the

table.

Through our 'Innovations That Inspire' recognition, SPJIMR stands as a testament to how business schools are driving positive impact within their communities and society at large, through their groundbreaking practices and continuous focus on excellence."

NEW BOOKS

GUJARAT CM LAUNCHES BOOK OF JAIN SAINT RATNASAGAR RAJENDRA SURISHWARJI



Ahmedabad: January 3rd 2016: Gujarat Chief Minister Mrs. Anandiben Patel launched the book 'Hasya Ni Sathe Param Rahasya' written by Ratnasagar Rajendra Surishwarji at K. J. Somaiya ground in Mumbai and took blessings of Jain saints. On the occasion, Mrs. Patel praised role of Jain literature to protect traditions and social values.

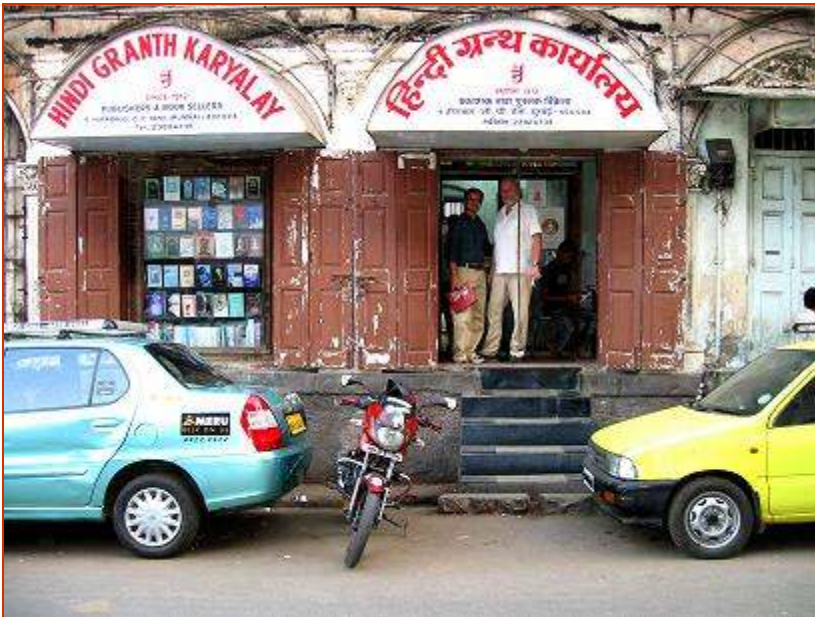
Talking about Jainism, CM stated that Jainism explains the philosophy of life. She added that this must be the only religion in the world that simultaneously talks about non-violence and bravery. About 20 doctors from France and Switzerland have come to Gujarat to study the secret of health of Jain Munis. They are gathering information from Ahmedabad, Junagadh and Palitana, Mrs. Patel said.

While talking about the importance of books in overall development of children, Mrs. Patel shared that the state government is encouraging school children to read books containing national pride, essence of life and social conscience. She said that books on the life and works of our great people are distributed among children.

NEW TRANSLATION OF CLASSICAL JAIN TEXTS

With the inspiration of the indefatigable Acharya Vidyananda, Vijay Kumar Jain has begun translating and publishing a new series of Hindi + English translations of some of the most important Jain texts.

This is a welcome development as more and more Jains prefer to read their sacred books in English these days. In the past two decades or so, many publishers have come forward to publish Jain texts in English. Hindi Granth Karyalay, Radiant Publishers and many others are now publishing new Hindi and English translations of important Jain texts. Translators like Dr. Jaykumar Jalaj, Jagdish Prasad Jain Sadhak and Manish Modi are presenting accurate reader-friendly translations of important Jain texts.



These modern translations differ greatly from the earlier translations. With some exceptions, earlier translations assumed the readers' familiarity with the subject and conveyed things in a manner that only those proficient in the doctrine could comprehend. Modern translators have translated Jain texts in a reader-friendly manner to enable readers to access the sublime teachings of the Jinas on their own in the language they feel most comfortable with.

Here is a series of Hindi and English translations by Vijay Kumar Jain.

Tattvarthasutra : By Acarya Umasvami, Sanskrit text + Hindi translation + English translation, Hindi & English translations by Vijay Kumar Jain.

Samayasara : By Acarya Kundakunda, Prakrit text + Hindi translation + English translation , Hindi & English translations by Vijay Kumar Jain

Purusharthasiddhyupaya : By Acarya Amritacandra , Sanskrit text + Hindi translation + English translation Hindi & English translations by Vijay Kumar Jain

Dravyasamgraha : By Acarya Nemicaandra, Prakrit text + Hindi translation + English translation, Hindi & English translations by Vijay Kumar Jain.

Ishtopadesha : By Acarya Pujiyapada, Sanskrit text + Hindi translation + English translation, Hindi & English translations by Vijay Kumar Jain.

Svayambhustotra: By Acarya Samantabhadra, Sanskrit text + Hindi translation + English translation, Hindi & English translations by Vijay Kumar Jain.

Aptamimamsa : By Acarya Samantabhadra, Sanskrit text + Hindi translation + English translation, Hindi & English translations by Vijay Kumar Jain.

For further details : Hindi Granth Karyalay. E-Mail : jainbooks@aol.com

DIKSHA CEREMONIES

MORE YOUNG JAINS GIVING UP THE GOOD LIFE FOR DIKSHA

Mumbai: January 19th 2016: The eight diksharthis taking diksha in Mumbai are all inspired by Namramuni Maharaj Saheb for enlightening their inner souls. They have been under his guidance since four years, learning the ways of an ascetic life.



Born in the lap of luxury, life for 22-year-old Juhu resident Akhil Doshi was one big party till the day he decided to renounce it all and become a Jain monk. Akhil is one among eight young members of the Jain community who will renounce the world and take diksha on February 14 during a grand function in the country's consumption capital of Mumbai.

Though the transition could seem drastic to others, Akhil says he has found his calling and inner peace. I was raised with all the comfort that one can ask for, but even in the midst of having everything, I realized that, in reality, I had nothing. The shallowness of the most vibrant materialistic pleasures stood as a stark truth in my face. It is these luxuries that make us forget who we are and consume our entire lives. It is an unending race

towards futility," said Akhil.

"My life was full of materialistic things - going for movies, shopping and meeting friends. One day I happened to accidentally listen to an audio CD of Gurudev and since then began to question myself and what my life was about. Then came a day when I made up my mind to give up everything," said Ghatkopar's Pooja Vegda (35), a doctor who has offered skin treatment to several celebrities.

Two more women from Ghatkopar-Tanvi Desai (24), a chartered accountant (CA), and lawyer Mona Fofaria (30) - will also give up their successful careers and "pampered lives", and so will Borivli's Shreya Shah (26), a textile designer.

The other four diksharthis who will join them are not from Mumbai. Like Akola's Kinjal Doshi. Kinjal (21) had an "exceptionally clear idea" about what she wanted to do since her ninth grade. She studied hard, scored 92% in her SSC exam and completed her HSc in Science. All this to pursue her dream of a successful career. But her "far-sightedness seemed too short" when she decided to take diksha. Jigisha Doshi (22) from Kolkata, too, decided on renouncing the world after her HSc in Commerce.

Rajkot's Mitul Mehta (24) was in his second-year engineering when the idea of a spiritual life grew roots in his mind when he attended a shibir by Maharaj Saheb. By the time he entered the final year of college, his mind was made up to pursue another, "higher life". "I had a flowchart for everything - my life, education, work. But all these things didn't make sense to me once I realized that the life I was dreaming of is futile," said Mitul, an only son. His parents have been supportive of his decision and say it will also help them walk the spiritual path too. A varshidan yatra, following which they will take their final diksha, will see them dispose of their worldly belongings such as jewellery, clothes and cash in public along the route.

MISCELLANEOUS

CENSUS DATA SHOW JAINS OUTLIVE OTHERS

Ahmedabad: February 4th 2016 : Census 2011 data has revealed that Jains in India have the highest percentage of members in the above-70 age group, among major religious communities. Also, the percentage of above-70 Jains in Gujarat (6.66%) is higher than the community's national average (5.55%). While Muslims had the lowest percentage of community members in the above-70 age group, both all over India (2.74%), and in Gujarat (2.95%), the percentage was higher in Gujarat than across India.



The general percentage of the populace in the above-70 age group in Gujarat is 3.52%, less than the national average of 3.62%. The percentage of people in the same age group among Jains in the state is almost double the state average. The Christian community in the state is the closest with 4.08% population above 70 years.

The Jain lifestyle has even caught the attention of Societe de Formation Therapeutique du Generaliste (SFTG) (Society of Therapeutic Education of General Practitioners) in Paris, France, and Institut universitaire de medecine de famille (Institute of Family Medicine), in Lausanne, Switzerland. A team of 20 doctors from the institutes visited the state recently and interacted with Jain monks and experts to learn about Jain diet, way of life and concept of health. Jitendra Shah, director of LD institute of Indology, said, "I feel that simple lifestyle coupled with rules has led to increase in lifespan of Jain community members. They stay away from unhealthy habits and even stop eating at night after a certain age. This helps them to reduce various stomach related disorders. The religion has a number of ethos such as respect to life, vegetarianism and practices like always consuming filtered water among others, that have played a major role in increasing longevity." Meanwhile, Dr Hanif Lakdawala, a practising doctor and a social activist, said that the reduced life span among members of minority communities is directly related to poor health services and poverty. Majority of the population stays in slums with unhygienic conditions. "The low literacy rate among the community leads to late detection of diseases, delayed treatment and early casualties."

BOMBAY HC STOPS RELEASE OF WATER FOR JAIN FESTIVAL



January 19th 2016: In view of water scarcity in Maharashtra, the Bombay High Court has restrained the state government from releasing water from Gangapur dam in Nashik and nearby reservoirs during the Mahavir Jain festival at a twin-pinnacled peak in Nashik district from February 11 to 16.

The direction was given by a Bench headed by Justice Abhay Oka on a petition filed by HM Desarda, a professor from Pune, who apprehended that the government may release water from the dams during the forthcoming religious festival just as it had done during

the Kumbh last year.

Mangi-Tungi is a prominent twin-pinnacled peak located near Tahrabad about 125 km from Nashik. Mangi at 4,343-ft height above sea level is the western pinnacle while Tungi, standing 4,366 ft high, is on the eastern side. The court also directed Maharashtra government to declare its water policy during the next hearing of the petition on February 29.

BRITISH COUNCIL TO PARTNER WITH JAIN UNIVERSITIES



Bengaluru: February 2nd 2016: As part its Generation UK Programme for this year, the British Council has partnered with Jain University.

Under the programme, students from the UK will spend two to four weeks in India and engage in various activities ranging from cultural immersion, placements, internships, teaching assistantships etc. Jain University has been selected under this initiative in Bengaluru.

Applications for the programme start in June-July," said Leighton Ernsberger,

assistant director, Bengaluru and Skills, British Council India. He was speaking at a press conference.

JAIN UNIVERSITY TO HOST 'MY COUNTRY RUN 2016'



Bengaluru: January 19th 2016: JGI-Jain University has announced the launch of 'My Country Run 2016', which will see thousands of runners stream through the picturesque Cubbon Park as they compete in the 5k and 10k events on January 31. The Sree Kanteerava stadium will be the hub of the activity as the races, which begin from 4pm, start and finish at the venue.

According to spokes person, they have had an enthusiastic response so far as more than 3,000 people have already registered for the race. The first prize of Rs 1 lakh has attracted many elite

runners, including athletes from Ethiopia and Kenya. "Some of them are staying back after competing in the Mumbai marathon," he said. Athletes who have finished the 10k in less than 60 minutes will fall in the elite category.

The proceeds generated from the race will go towards supporting the 30-35 athletes from below-poverty-line families, which are being looked after by the Jain Group. The money will be used to give them foreign exposure. UV Shankar, Director of Sports, Jain University, said the race will be an annual event. "The idea is to get everyone (men, women and kids) on one platform." The total prize money is Rs. 5.35 lakh with Rs. 1 lakh for the winner of the elite race. The registration fee is Rs. 1,000 (Rs. 800 for students) for Open 10K and Rs. 700 (Rs. 600) for the 5k race. For online registrations, log on to www.mycountry.run

SANGEETA JAIN ASSAULTS MOTHER-IN-LAW, DISTURBING CCTV FOOTAGE LEADS TO ARREST



Bijnore: January 12th 2016: In CCTV footage from a home in Uttar Pradesh, an elderly woman is seen cowering in her bed as she is slapped, kicked, choked and beaten with a brick. Her attacker is her own daughter-in-law.

Sangeeta Jain was arrested for attempted murder after the video of her vicious assault on her 70-year-old mother-in-law Rajrani Jain went viral on social media. The camera had been secretly installed by her husband. The disturbing visuals are from January 5, when only the two women were inside their home in Bijnore.

Sangeeta is seen mercilessly beating the older woman, trying to strangle her with a cloth, dragging her by her hair and slapping her repeatedly. She pauses only to get a brick and then starts raining fresh blows, jumping on the bed in what appears to be a frenzy. Throughout the assault, her mother-in-law clings to her quilt for dear life.

Her son Sandeep has been married for seven years to Sangeeta, who recently filed dowry harassment and marital rape cases against him. A divorce is now in process. "She was always like this. She used to attack us all - my parents, me..." Sandeep Jain told reporters. I waited for a year and then thought of installing a CCTV camera to expose her.

DEV LOK GAMAN

LAST RITES OF JAIN SEER AACHARYA SHRI NAVRATNA SAGAR SURISHWARJI.PERFORMED

Ujjain : January 31st, 2016 : Members of Shwetambar Jain Community kept their shops and business establishments closed on 30th January to mourn the death of Acharya Shri Navratna Sagar Surishwarji. Shops of Jain community located at Daulatganj, Fawara Chowk, Patni Bazar, Sarafa Bazar and other places remained closed. Dead body of the seer was bought to Indore airport and then devotees of seer took the body through road via Ghatabillo to Bhopawar. Last rites of the seer were performed at Bhopawar in which thousands of community members participated.

CONDOLENCES: SHRI SODAN SINGHJI KOTHARI



Sh Sodan Singhji Kothari left for heavenly abode on 10th January at Beawer, Rajasthan. All his life, while in business, he dedicated most of his time for religious and social services. He was known for community service both in Delhi and Rajasthan. He was recipient of several honours and awards for his philanthropic services. He was Grand Father of Sh. Ashok Kothari, an international business tycoon known for his services to the humanity. In his memory, Shaanti-Jaap / Condolence Meeting was held at Jain Sthanak, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, New Delhi on Sunday 10/01/2016, which was attended in large number by the members from different communities and business associates. The condolence meeting was also addressed by Dr. Acharya Lokesh Muni and Maharaj Saheb Shri Vivek Muni.

View this blog for recent tax & financial information / articles www.anilkumarjainca.blogspot.in

DISCLAIMER - Although AHIMSA TIMES NEWS uses its best efforts to ensure the accuracy of the content on the site, sometimes, errors, mistakes or inaccuracies may creep in inadvertently. We make no guarantees as to the accuracy, correctness or reliability of the contents. We may also change the content of this site, at any time, without prior notice. In no event shall Ahimsa Times be liable to anyone for any damages of any kind arising out of or in connection with the use of this service. You agree to indemnify and hold Ahimsa Times harmless from any and all

claims, liabilities, damages, costs and expenses including lawyer's fees, arising from any use of any information from this. We also request all over readers to inform us of any inaccuracies, omissions and errors etc. noticed by them so that necessary corrections can be timely incorporated.

JAIN SAMAJ NEW MEMBERS

WE HEARTILY WELCOME FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED
WWW.JAINSAMAJ.ORG IN JANUARY 2016

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Ajay Jain, Swetambar, Naraina, Delhi, Marketing | 26. Kumar Mehta, Digambar, Sambalpur, Odisha, Others |
| 2. Sanjeev Kumar Jain, Digambar, Rohini, Delhi, Engineer | 27. Jethmal Jain, Swetambar, Andhra Pradesh, Business |
| 3. Kanti Lal Mutha, Swetambar, Pali Marwar, Rajasthan, Business | 28. Jainam Shah, Swetambar, Surat, Gujarat, Engineer |
| 4. Sunil Jain, Swetambar, Bangalore, Karnataka, Business | 29. Raj Lodha, Swetambar, Madhya Pradesh, Service |
| 5. Chutya Jain, Digambar, Kolkata, West Bengal, Service | 30. Mansi Jinesh Shah, Digambar, Maharashtra, Finance |
| 6. Jigar Shah, Swetambar, Nandurbar, Maharashtra, Marketing | 31. Shruti Shah, Digambar, Jhagadia, Gujarat, Arts |
| 7. Nilesh Jain, Digambar, Mumbai, Maharashtra, Law | 32. Darshan Siroya, Swetambar, Maharashtra, Student |
| 8. Piyush Agarwal, Swetambar, Kandhla, Uttar Pradesh, Engineer | 33. Manish Jain, Digambar, Madhya Pradesh, Finance |
| 9. Pratik Shah, Swetambar, Bhuj, Gujarat, Consultancy | 34. Ramesh Desrta, Swetambar, Rajasthan, Business |
| 10. Hemendra Shah, Swetambar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Service | 35. CA Mohit Jain, Digambar, Shahdara, Delhi, Consultancy |
| 11. Subhash Chandra Jain, Swetambar, Rohani, Delhi, Business | 36. Pritesh Nahar, Swetambar, Maharashtra, Engineer |
| 12. Vasant Dharwad, Digambar, Dharwad, Karnataka, Business | 37. Vaibhav Jain, Swetambar, Rohini, Delhi, Engineer |
| 13. Parasbhai Gandhi, Digambar, Rajkot, Gujarat, Consultancy | 38. Poonam Chheda, Swetambar, Maharashtra, Others |
| 14. Dipesh Sanghvi, Digambar, Mumbai, Maharashtra, Student | 39. Deepika Jain, Digambar, Rohini, Delhi, Others |
| 15. Amit Jain, Digambar, Surat, Gujarat, Arts | 40. Bhavana Singh Lodha, Swetambar, Telangana, Service |
| 16. Sanjaykumar Jain, Swetambar, G. T. Road, Delhi, Service | 41. Shreyans Lodha, Swetambar, Telangana, Consultancy |
| 17. Vikas Jain, Bagidora, Digambar, Rajasthan, Business | 42. Lokesh Jain, Digambar, Mumbai, Maharashtra, Politics |
| 18. Deepak Jain, Digambar, Bhawani Mandi, Rajasthan, Finance | 43. Prakash Shete, Digambar, Maharashtra, Consultancy |
| 19. Prakash Patildigambar, Dharwad, Karnataka, Business | 44. Gajendra Jain, Swetambar, Rajasthan, Consultancy |
| 20. Jatin Shah, Swetambar, Jetpur, Gujarat, Business | 45. Ramesh Jain, Swetambar, Rania, Haryana, Service |
| 21. Prakash Maloo, Swetambar, Barmer, Rajasthan, Business | 46. Piyush Jain, Digambar, Madhya Pradesh, Business |
| 22. Rajendra Maloo, Swetambar, Tamilnadu, Business | 47. Pramod Golchha, Swetambar, Jagoirad, Assam, Service |
| 23. N. Maloo, Swetambar, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, Business | 48. Surendra Jain, Swetambar, Rajasthan, Service |
| 24. Sanchit Jain, Digambar, Sardhana, Uttar Pradesh, Business | 49. Ravi Jain, Digambar, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, Business |
| 25. Sushil Jain, Swetambar, Greater, Haryana, Management | 50. Sajal Jain, Digambar, Amravati, Maharashtra, Student |

Place request to add your free listing in World's largest Jain Directory on www.jainsamaj.org

CLICK FOR MEMBERSHIP FORM

JAIN SAMAJ MATRIMONIAL CANDIDATES

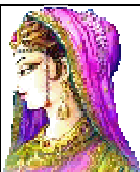
This Matrimonial Service is free for all Jain candidates

Click Online Individual Profile or Visit www.jainsamaj.org "Matrimonial Section" for details



BRIDES

1. Anila Sancheti, 29, Swetambar, Delhi, Industry
2. Ankita Mehta, 28, Swetambar, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Service
3. Alisha Mehta, 25, Swetambar, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Service
4. Neeti Jain, 26, Swetambar, Kota, Rajasthan, Others
5. Nikhil Doshi, 30, Swetambar, Mumbai, Maharashtra, Others



BRIDES

9. Kiran Yashasvi, 27, Digambar, Maharashtra, Engineering
10. Priya Singhai, 24, Digambar, Madhya Pradesh, Engineering
11. Surbhi Jain, 25, Digambar, Bhind, Madhya Pradesh, Arts
12. Priyanka Jain, 32, Swetambar, Madhya Pradesh, Divorcee

6. Shruti Shah,23,Swetamber,Ahmedabad,Gujarat,Medicine
7. Rupa Shah,43,Swetamber,Pune,Maharashtra,Others
8. Surbhi Jain,24,Swetamber,Chittorgarh,Rajasthan,Arts



GROOMS

1. Dinesh Kothari,43,Swetamber,Bhinmal,Rajasthan,Business
2. Kishor Kothari,52,Swetamber,Umbergaon,Gujarat,Service
3. Sumit Jain,31,Swetamber,Sirohi,Rajasthan,Business
4. Vipin Singhai,44,Digamber,Madhya Pradesh,Business
5. Ankit Shah,29,Swetamber,California,Usa,Computer
6. Aakash Navinchandra,23,Swetamber,Gujarat,Service
7. Harshal Deoda,25,Swetamber,Maharashtra,Engineering
8. Sanjay Jain,49,Digamber,Jaipur,Rajasthan,Others
9. Amit Kumar Choraria,27,Swetamber,Purnia,Bihar,Others
10. Amith Jain,27,Swetamber,Karnataka,Business
11. Prateek Bhansali,26,Swetamber,Jaipur,Rajasthan,Others
12. Mayank Jain,28,Digamber,Gujarat,Engineering
13. Ankit Gupta,30,Digamber,Gagan Vihar,Delhi,Engineering
14. Somil Seth,24,Digamber,Sagwara,Rajasthan,Medicine

- 13.Sakshi Jain,26,Digamber,Madhya Pradesh,Engineering
- 13.Tulsi Shah,25,Swetamber,Maharashtra,Computer
- 14.Varsha Jain,24,Swetamber,Bangalore,Karnataka,Service



GROOMS

15. Shreyans Pal Lodha,25,Swetamber,Telangana,Business
16. Ravi Agrawal,25,Digamber,Anand,Gujarat,Business
17. Sunil Jain,27,Swetamber,Jalore,Rajasthan,Business
18. Pooja Bhandari,24,Swetamber,Karnataka,Others
19. Sushobhit Jain,25,Digamber,Ghaziabad,Computer
20. Nipun Jain,29,Digamber,Muzaffar Nagar,Service
21. Vikram Mittal,32,Digamber,Rohini,Delhi,Service
22. Vibhor Jain,46,Digamber,Andhra Pradesh,Business
23. Deepak Sakale,32,Digamber,Sangli,Maharashtra,Service
24. Ankit Shah,27,Digamber,Gujarat,Engineering
25. Ravish Gandhi,34,Swetamber,Chhattisgarh,Business
26. Sagar Sancheti,29,Swetamber,Maharashtra,Engineering
27. Manoj Hiran,31,Swetamber,Maharashtra,Others
28. Harsh Sodagar,33,Swetamber,Maharashtra,Others

JAIN SAMAJ BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Welcome to New Members January, 2016

1. S V Enterprises,Mayapuri Phase-2,Delhi,Industry
2. Kalpesh Enterprises,Maharashtra,Exporters/Importers
3. Reliance Plast,Vasai,Maharashtra,Household Items
4. Mahavir Papad Shahada,Maharashtra,Food
5. Manish & Company,Jaipur,Rajasthan,Consultants
6. S Software Solutions,Uttar Pradesh,Computers
7. Bangalore Techno Chemical,Bangalroe,Karnataka,Trading
8. Spritual & Mental Hospital,Jaipur,Rajasthan,Medical
9. Swmi Real Estat,Nagpur,Maharashtra,Real Estate
10. Rituperitage,Jaipur,Rajasthan,Textiles
11. Perfect Diamonds,Chandigarh,Union Territory,Jewellery
12. Hotel Thomasvilla,Manali,Himachal Pradesh,Hotels
13. Precious Vacations,G. T. B. Nagar,Delhi,Air Charters
14. Esthell Homes,Chennai,Tamil Nadu,Real Estate
15. Surya Garh,Jaipur,Rajasthan,Hotels
16. Ekta Fresh Foods Pvt. Ltd., Anand,Gujarat,Food

17. J. B. Virtuals,Ahmedabad,Gujarat,Technology
18. Satkar Restaurant,Chhindwara,Madhya Pradesh,Food
19. Sadhana Traders,Ichalkaranji,Maharashtra,Food
20. Shah Elec & Elctro,Gujarat,Electricals/Electronics
21. Jain Associates,Alwar,Rajasthan,Consultants
22. Scientific Systems,Bhopal,Madhya Pradesh,Equipments
23. Arihant Generator Services,Govind Puri,Delhi,Equipments
24. Consulting Consultant,Gurgaon,Haryana,Services
25. Marriage Uana,Kolkata,West Bengal,Miscellaneous
26. Jv Properties,Jaipur,Rajasthan,Real Estate
27. Jain Computers,Manwath,Maharashtra,Technology
28. Personal Tutoring,Mehsana,Gujarat,Education
29. Powerkraft Inc.,Vadodara,Gujarat,Electricals/Electronics
30. Krishna Garments,Gandhi Nagar,Delhi,Textiles
31. Pravat Timbers,Kolkata,West Bengal,Exporters/Importers
32. Gram Bharti Vidhyalaya,Jaipur,Rajasthan,Education

APPEAL TO OUR PATRONS & READERS

We Earnestly Appeal To Esteemed Readers to Contribute for Ahimsa Times News Services. Ahimsa Foundation is registered under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 of India. All contributions can be sent to "Ahimsa Foundation" 21, Skipper House, 9, Pusa Road, New Delhi - 110005 or can be directly deposited in Bank under intimation to us. Bank Reference for Foreign Contributions - Account Number : 062-900-010-026-6527 (IFS Code PUNB0062900) Bank - Punjab National Bank, New Rajinder Nagar Branch, New Delhi- 110060. Bank Reference for Indian Contributories - Bank Account Number : 062-900- 010-024-8576 (SWIFT CODE : PUNBINBBISB), Bank - Punjab National Bank, New Rajinder Nagar Branch, New Delhi- 110060.

APPEAL TO OUR PATRONS & READERS



Advertisement Tariff - " AHIMSA TIMES"



MAIL YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS FOR FREE COPY OF "AHIMSA TIMES" AND OTHER JAIN CIRCULARS

REQUEST TO READERS

If you find any inconsistencies or errors in Ahimsa Times, please do inform so that we can affect corrections.

Editor

- Ahimsa Foundation –

Delhi Office : 21, Skipper House, 9, Pusa Road, New Delhi - 5, India

Phones : +91-11-2875-4012 & 13, 98-100-46108, E-Mail ahimsa@jainsamaj.org

Jodhpur Office : 44, Sardar Club Scheme, Air Force Area, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India

Phone : +91-291-267-0382, E-Mail : ahimsatimes@jainsamaj.org