



JAIN AHIMSA TIMES

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Volume : 35

Issue No. : 35

Month : June, 2003

PRESIDENT VISITS PAWAPURI, NALANDA JAL MANDIR



May 2003, President A P J Abdul Kalam, like a dedicated "upasak" of Lord Mahavira, offered puja at the famous Jal Mandir here on Friday. The temple priest, conducted the puja for him, chanting "Namō Siddhanta, Namō Arihanta...".

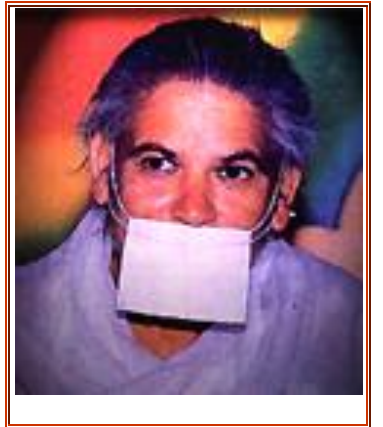
The three helicopters carrying the President and his team landed here amid tight security. He drove straight to the famous Jal Mandir, where Lord Mahavira attained "nirvana". Kalam also undertook the traditional "parikrama" of the temple while chants of religious shlokas rent the air. Kalam was visibly impressed to see the pond in the middle of which the temple is located. He also inquired about the "lotus" flowers spread all over the pond. Later, he went to another

Mahavira temple, popularly known as "Gaon Mandir". According to the Jain belief, Lord Mahavira delivered his last sermon at this temple. Kalam took blessings from Sadhvi Gyanmati Mata Ji here. While thanking the President for visiting the place, Gyanmati Mata Ji told Kalam, "Like Lord Mahavira, you are also a strong-believer in non-violence and universal friendship. We are proud of you." The Pawapuri Temple Management Committee chief, R Bahadur Singh, presented him a replica of the Jal Mandir and some selected books on Jainism. Kalam also made a brief speech before the Jain "munis". In his five-minute speech in English, he said, "when I was entering the Jal Mandir premises, I was recalling Lord Mahavira's great philosophy." He lauded Lord Mahavira's messages of non-violence, peace and universal brotherhood.

CONTROVERSY ABOUT ACHARYA POSITION IN SHRAMAN SANGH OF STHANAKWASI SECT



A serious controversy has arisen recently about the issue of Acharya position in the Shraman Sangh of Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect. Dr. Shiv Muni has been holding the position of Acharya for the last few years after the dev-lok of late Acharya Devendra Muni. Due to certain reportedly undesirable activities, he had to take disciplinary action in his capacity as Acharya against four saints, who were also office-bearers, including the Maha-Mantri (Secretary) of Shraman sangh, Shri Saubhagya Mini 'Kumud' and one Sadhvi and all five were expelled by him from Shraman Sangh. Saubhagya Muni, having felt highly offended, declared this act on the part of Dr. Shiv Muni as unacceptable and giving reference to the rules of Shraman Sangh, he constituted a



committee consisting of five saints, headed by Pravartak, Shri Roop Mini, 'Rajat' to look into the authority of an Acharya to expel the saints.

Many other saints, including Shri Suman Muni, Sukan Muni, Ratan Muni, Indra Muni, Sumati Prakash Muni, Madan Muni, Sahaj Muni, Vinay Muni 'Vageesh', Vinay Muni 'Bheem' and others have supported the action of forming new committee. Subsequently, Dr. Shiv Muni expelled two more saints, Pravartak, Roop Muni and Shri Sukan Muni. Shri Roop Muni on behalf of Shraman sangh has issued a circular nominating Sri Umesh Muni as the new Acharya and Shri Vishal Muni as Yuvacharya. The unfortunate controversy is still going on. (Dainik Bhaskar)

SHRI NIRMAL CHAND JAIN TAKES OATH AS GOVERNOR OF RAJASTHAN



The newly appointed Governor of Rajasthan, Shri Nirmal Chand Jain took oath of his office on the 14th May, 2003 at a oath-taking ceremony at Raj Bhawan in Jaipur. The oath was administered by the Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court, Shri Anil Dev Singh. Prior to taking the oath, Shri R.K. Nair, Chief Secretary read the Order of appointment issued by the President, requesting him formally to take the oath. Shri Nirmal Chand Jain has been a leading advocate of Madhya Pradesh High Court. He was also elected as Member of Parliament from Sivni constituency in March, 1977. He worked as Member of 11th Finance Commission from 1998 to 2000. He has been President of Digambar Jain Panchayat, Jabal pur. He has traveled to many countries, including Japan, America, North Korea, France, England, Thailand and Hongkong. Jain community from the whole country has been happy on this appointment and conveys its congratulations to him.

DIGAMBAR JAIN SAINTS PROCEED FOR BADRINATH, THE ASCETIC GROVE OF BHAGWAN ADINATH JI



Upadhyay 108 Sri Nayan Sagar Ji and Kshullak 105 Sri Samarpan Sagar Ji Maharaj belonging to Digambar sect commenced their vihar on the 3rd May, 2003 from Saharanpur for Badrinath, located at a height of 10, 500 feet. Badrinath happens to be the ascetic grove (Tapo-bhumi) of first Jain Tirthankar Shri Adinath Ji.

The only other Jain Muni, who has travelled to Badrinath in the past is Acharya Sri Vidyanand Ji, 31 years ago. News courtesy: Jain Gazette, May, 2003

BHAGWAN MAHAVIR JAIN CHAIR ESTABLISHED AT SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY, KOLHAPUR

According to a circular of Higher & Technical Education Dept. of Maharashtra Government, the famous Shivaji University of Kolhapur is going to establish 'Bhagwan Mahavir Jain Chair'. The Education Dept. has granted Rs. 25 Lakhs to Shivaji University for this purpose. This is the result of the demands made by Dakshin Bharat Jain Sabha and the interest shown by ex-Chief Minister Shri. Vilasrao Deshmukh and Chief Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde. Vice Chancellor Mr. Takwale is very much interested in this project and he has appealed the Jain community to take interest in the project. It should be noted that Kolhapur, where Shivaji University is situated, is a major Jain center in India from ancient times. (For details, please visit marathas.tripod.com/kolhapur.html)

CHHATISGARH NOT TO HAVE ANY NEW SLAUGHTER HOUSE, DECLARES C.M.



January 2003, Shri Ajit Jogi, Chief Minister of Chhatisgarh declared at a function arranged to celebrate Mahavir Jayanti that his State did not want to earn such revenue, which was by killing of animals. He said that it had been decided that no permission will be given hence-forth to start new slaughter houses in the State. He added that a State Gou-Seva Commission has been established and Dr. Harish Joshi and Sri Lok Nath are being honoured with Gau-Raksha Award. Besides, a Jain University will be established soon in Chhatisgarh. An impressive exhibition of Jain architecture was set up on the occasion.

DR. MAHENDRA BHANDARI NOMINATED VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dr. Mahendra Bhandari, Director, Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medicine, Lucknow has been nominated by Shri Vishnukant Shastri, Governor of Uttar Pradesh as the first Vice-Chancellor of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj Medical University. Dr. Bhandari hails from Jodhpur and is a highly learned, proficient, dedicated and disciplined professional in his field. He had been awarded earlier by 'Padamshree' by Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, erst-while President of India.



PROFESSOR OM PRAKASH AGARWAL HONOURED WITH BRAHMI AWARD

On the occasion of 79th "Piyush Parva" Mahotsava of Acharya Sri Vidyanand Ji Maharaj belonging to Digambar Sect, Prof. O.P. Agrawal from Lucknow was honoured with coveted Brahmi Award on the 22nd April, 2003 for his unique contribution to Jain literature, art and culture, archeology and study of ancient manuscripts and archives. The award was given by Trilok Institute of Advanced Studies and Research. Shri Agrawal is an international authority on these subjects. The award consisted of a cash prize of Rs. one lakh. Jain Gazette, 15th May, 2003.

CONFERENCE FOR "RELIGIOUS SOLIDARITY IN THE MIDDLE OF COMMUNAL VIOLENCE" AT NEW DELHI FROM DECEMBER 7 - 10, 2003

A conference "Religious Solidarity in the Midst of Communal Violence" is being organised at Delhi from December 7-10, 2003. The opening session is expected to be addressed by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the President of India, who will speak on this important theme. H.H. Dalai Lama is also requested to give the valedictory address. The events will be held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, as well as in the Chinmaya Mission and the India International Centre. The purpose of the Conference is to:

"Invigorate the consciences of all Indian People regardless of religion or ethnicity regarding the need for mutual respect and harmony, Leave a legacy of spirited groups in every state, and within every religious and spiritual community who will speak out with a united voice against intolerance, prejudice, violence and injustice, Affirm the spirit of the Indian people, particularly in times of stress and communal violence and inspire groups at the community level to work together for social and economic justice, harmony and peace". The Chicago Organizing Committee has made a commitment to raise \$15,000 in support of the conference. These funds will be used toward bringing 600 participants from throughout India to exchange ideas and resources to create inter religious dialogue and engagement within India. The conference is also supported by Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions (CPWR) whose board approved a memorandum of understanding and whose staff is assisting the organizing committee with planning and communication and will participate in the event. CPWR will handle the funds on behalf of our US Committee. Donations are tax deductible and checks may be sent to: CPWR, 70 E. Lake Street, Ste. 205, Chicago, IL 60601, USA. For more information www.cpwr.org

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FABULOUS AMOUNTS BEING SPENT ON TEMPLE PRATISHTHA

Do you think it was necessary to spend 20 crores for the pratistha of a Jain temple at Pune? When we have many temples in Tamilandu, Karnataka and some other states which are 1000 years or more old and no one is taking care of them, they are in dilapidated condition and some of them are in the field, farm, road, even some on sewage line. What are we doing, where we are heading to? For whom are we spending so many crores? Who is benefited? Some people spend money for name, fame, mala, chaddar, and some to get atrimonial benefit for their son and daughter. We have all made business out of temple spending. Can we now spend money fruitfully for social development and to save our old cultural heritage? Instead we are blindly making new and newer temples and old are going to dogs. But what we need today to understand is -- we need to grow up, other-wise our next generation will not have any interest in such temples and we will be big loser, and we will be so less in population that will remain on fingers. For details, please contact: jains_raj@yahoo.com

CHIEF MINISTER MAYAWATI INAUGURATES JAIN MUSEUM AT MATHURA



Ms. Mayawati, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh inaugurated a Jain museum on the 14th May, 2003 at Mathura, the historic and ancient town of the country. The function was organised by Digambar Jain Samaj.

ANCIENT IDOLS FOUND AT SHRAVASTI BY ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

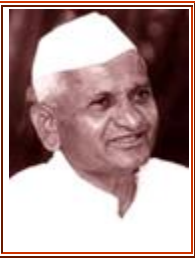
While carrying out cleaning and development work at the birth place of third Jain Tirthankar Sri Sambhav Nath Ji at Shravasti in Bihar by the Archeological Survey of India for the last two months, remains of four ancient temples have been found. These temples have six idols, one of which is that of Bhagwan Mahavir in Padamasan position. Earlier also, idols of different Jain deities have been recovered in this area which have been placed in Lucknow museum. News courtesy : Jain Gazette, May, 03.

SAHU RAMESH CHAND JAIN RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF ALL INDIA DIGAMBAR JAIN TEERTH-KSHETRA COMMITTEE



At a general body meeting of the All India Digambar Jain Teerth-Khetra Committee held at Shri Mahavir Ji on the 18th May, 2003, Sahu Ramesh Chand Jain was re-elected as Chairman of the Committee. Amongst those present on the occasion were Sarva Shri R. K. Jain from Mumbai, Shikhar Chand Pahadia from Mumbai, Madan Lal Ji Benada from Agra, and Babu Lal Ji Chhabra from Lucknow. News courtesy: Jain Gazette, May, 2003.

MAHARASHTRA MINISTER SURESH JAIN FILES CASE AGAINST ANNA HAZARE, THE ANTI CORRUPTION CAMPAIGNER



June 2003: Suresh Jain, minister of Food and Civil Supplies in Maharashtra Government, filed a defamation case in a court in Jalgaon against anti-corruption campaigner Anna Hazare for leveling corruption charges against him. Last month, Anna Hazare had made corruption charges against four ruling party ministers, including Suresh Jain, who had sent legal notices challenging him to provide evidence on the allegations. Making counter-allegations, Jain has claimed he has received numerous complaints of corruption against Anna Hazare and his team of activists.



MRS. SHARDA JAIN FILES RELIEF PETITION AGAINST HER EXPULSION



May 2003: Mrs. Sharda Jain, prime accused in the murder of Congress councilor Atma Ram Gupta, has challenged before Delhi High Court her termination as an MCD Councillor. Justice S. K. Kaul issued notice to MCD on Mrs. Sharda Jain's petition, seeking cancellation of the resolution by which her seat in Keshavpuram has been vacated. She has alleged that the termination of her MCD membership was illegal and requested direction for the jail authorities to arrange for her to attend the meetings of the MCD till she is released from judicial custody.

9TH CENTURY JAIN SCULPTURE FOUND NEAR KAMUDHI



Madurai : In a recent exploration at an Ayyanar temple near Kamudhi, the Department of Archaeology, Madurai, has discovered a ninth century A.D. Jain Thirthankara sculpture. According to a communique from its Assistant Director, C Santhalingam, the sculpture was located in the vicinity of the temple, two km west of Kamudhi. The two-feet high sculpture in the Arthapariyanka asana is slightly damaged in left cheek and ear. Its face is oval-shaped with well-proportioned features and is seated on a square pedestal. A halo is shown behind the head and above it the carvings of triple umbrella and the branches of Ashoka tree are found. Two attendants standing on either side carry 'chamaras'. The release also stated that archaeological officers from Madurai visited the temple last year and found two inscriptions engraved on a slab in "vatteluthu" script dating back to the 10th century A.D. These inscriptions reveal the existence of Arikesai Ishwaram, a Siva temple, since early Pandya period. Maravarman Arikesari, a contemporary of Thirugnana Sambandhar (the first of the Thevaram trio), ruled the Pandya kingdom between 650 and 700 A.D. King Arikesari embraced Saivism and shed the Jain faith. It is learnt that the Siva temple was ruined and Ayyanar temple gained influence later. According to

the iconographical features, it can be concluded that the sculpture belonged to the 9-10 century A.D. This indicates that Jainism flourished upto the 10th century even after the revivalist movement of the Saiva saints during the 7th century AD, Santhalingam said. News courtesy : Mr. Mahavir Sanglikar, msanglikar@yahoo.com

SU-JOK THERAPY CAMP ORGANISED FOR TRAFFIC COPS BY MUMBAI JAIN CHARITABLE TRUST



May, 2003, Under the leadership of Dr K P Jain, an ayurveda practitioner of Mumbai, a camp was organised to introduce Su-Jok therapy to Mumbai Traffic Police. A large number of Policemen attended this camp at Byculla that promised a cure for work-related ailments. Su Jok, a relatively new type of therapy from South Korea, apparently concentrates on certain 'nerve points' on the feet and hands to give relief from myriad ailments like paralysis, bronchitis, indigestion and even infertility. At the camp, practitioners of this therapy, which is similar to acupressure, sought cures for rheumatic legs, coughs, high blood pressure and other health problems. The therapy, discovered by a South Korean practitioner of acupressure and acupuncture, Park Jae Woo in 1984

is yet to catch on in India and is therefore mostly untested here.

Though similar to acupressure, Su Jok practitioners say unlike acupressure where therapy is applied on the whole body, they concentrate on the 'nerve points.' The therapy is also cheap, claims Binita Nagpal, a practitioner whose tools of the trade include peppercorns, peas, rajma beans, methi seeds and surgical adhesive tapes. The peppercorns pressed on to sections of the thumb with sticky tape cure ailments of the eyes, nose and throat. For less chronic cases, two sittings are enough to provide relief, she said. Su Jok practitioners believe every organ in the human body is connected to 'pressure points' on the hand. Stimulation of the points can cure most diseases of the organs, said Dr K P Jain, an ayurveda practitioner and one of the camp's organizers

DR. J. K. JAIN AND OTHER LEADERS PROPOSE TO LEAD A PEACE MISSION TO PAK



May 2003 - Former Member Parliament, Dr J.K. Jain and some other leaders have proposed to lead a peace mission to Pakistan, under the banner of People's Initiative for Peace with Pakistan. Basically, the idea is to promote individual level contact between the two countries. The proposed delegation will include popular leaders who are known for their integrity and also enjoy the confidence of the people in Pakistan.

In a statement, Dr. J. K. Jain hailed the latest peace initiative taken by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, which was well responded by Pakistan Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali. The proposed initiative is aimed at strengthening the peace initiatives taken by the leadership of the two countries, added Dr J.K. Jain, who had also met recently the visiting Pakistani parliamentary delegation. www.paknews.com



RENOWNED JAIN SCHOLAR AND ARCHEOLOGIST SHRI NIRAJ JAIN TO DELIVER TALKS AT LONDON

Shri Niraj Jain of Satna (M.P.) will be the key-note speaker of the seminar organized by world famous Pitter Sugal at London on 13th June 2003 on the Indian Archeology. His topic is Contribution of Jains in the development of Indian Idol Art. Bhartiya Vidhya Bhawan of London has also organized three lectures of Shri Niraj Jain on the topics of Importance of Sacrament in Ramayana, Aparigrah & Anekant. Jain community of London has also organized pravachana of Shri Niraj Jain. News courtesy: Mr. Sudhir Jain, E-Mail : mrsudhirjain@yahoo.com

MR. DIPAK JAIN JOINS THE BOARD OF UNITED AIRLINES



May 2003: CHICAGO: Indian American Dipak Jain has been appointed to the board of directors of United Airlines, the world's second largest carrier. Mr. Dipak Jain is the dean of the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. United Airlines operates more than 1,500 flights a day on a route network that spans the globe. Mr. Dipak Jain has been a member of the Kellogg School faculty since 1987 and was appointed dean in 2001. He is also a visiting professor of marketing at a number of colleges and universities around the world. He serves on the boards of directors of Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, John Deere, Hartmarx Corporation and Peoples Energy.

BHANU JAIN OPENS ELECTION CAMPAIGN TRAINING INSTITUTE IN MADHYA PRADESH

June 2003: To make available qualified election campaign professionals Bhanu Jain, who is a congress man has opened a Election Campaign Training Institute at Chhattarpur in Madhya Pradesh which will train the young people in the art of canvassing. According to Mr. Jain who is 61 year old and once actively involved himself with congress party feels, in the changing times it has become essential to seek professional help to win elections and therefore, there is tremendous scope for his institution. According to Mr Jain his students will be able to handle every type of campaign be it running door-to-door campaigns, organising public meetings or rallies, raising slogans, or welcoming national leaders. The institute since its opening has trained about 900 men and 100 women.

BHOJ-SHALA IS FOR JAINS: JAIN SAMATA VAHINI, JODHPUR

Jain Samata Vahini, Jodhpur, which had earlier claimed that a Jain temple existed at the disputed site in Ayodhya, on Monday demanded handing over of the controversial Bhoj-shala-Kamal Maula mosque structure in Madhya Pradesh to the Jain community claiming the monument was a "Jain Chaitya-Sthal" and not a Hindu temple. "The monument called Bhojshala was one of the several Chaitya-Sthals constructed by Raja Bhoj during his rule between 1000 AD and 1053 AD under the influence of a Jain Acharya " the outfit's National General Secretary Sohan Mehta and chief Spokesman Kailash Raj Singhavi claimed in a statement here. The executive committee of the Vahini, which held its meeting presided over by former Rajasthan High Court Judge S R Bhandari here on June 6, demanded immediate handing over of Bhojshala to Jain community, the statement said.

ALL BRITONS COULD BE VEGETARIAN BY 2047

All Britons could be vegetarian by 2047 as 2,000 people a week stop eating meat, a study claimed yesterday. Already 40 per cent of Brits avoid eating meat at least once a week with six per cent of the population totally vegetarian. Jan Walsh, of the Consumer Analysis Group which did the research with Safeway, said: "To think that we could all be vegetarians by 2047 will come as a shock for some people, but it seems like we will be entering an age where the nation as a whole has finally begun to understand and respect the environment." She added: "You can almost imagine that in the future it will be the norm to be vegetarian and people will have to consciously opt to eat meat, rather than the other way around." For full story, E-Mail : evu-secretariat@skynet.be , www.mirror.co.uk

NEW DIGAMBAR JAIN TEMPLE CONSECRATED AT HASSAN

A magnificent new Jain temple of Bhagwan Mahavir has been built at Hassan in Karnataka by Digambar Jain samaj. Its inauguration and panch-kalyanak were carried out during the month of April under the holy presence of His Holiness Shri Devendrakeerehi Bhattarak Mahaswami Ji of Huncha Jain Math.

DEMAND FOR REMOVING OBJECTIONABLE SCENES FROM KANNADA FILM, ABHI

A newly-released Kannada film 'Abhi' is reported to contain objectionable scenes and derogatory remarks against Bhagwan Bahubali (Gomateshwar). Various Jain organizations and individuals have strongly protested against the film and have demanded from the producer and distributors that all such scenes and song sequences which hurt the sentiments of Jain community should be removed from the film immediately. The Kannada Film Censor Board has also been condemned for not caring to review the film carefully. Courtesy: Jain Heritage Centres News Service.

BOOKS PUBLISHED:

"**Jainatva Kee Jhankee**" by Upadhyay Amar Muni. Published by Kushal Printing Press, Agra. Cost: Rs 18. It is a beautiful book which gives a bird's eye view of Jain religion. It deals with the following topics: Dev, Guru, Dharma, Tirthankar, Donation, Food, Sadhus, Jain Jeevan, Hinsa and Ahimsa, Dharma and Astikta, Anekantwad (Syadvad), Ishwar Jagatkaarta Nahi (God is not the Creator), Avtarwad Vs Uttarwad, Karmawad, Atma, Jatiwad (Racialism), etc. It is in Hindi. It is also available in Gujarathi, Marathi, Kannada and Tamil.

"**DICTIONARY OF THE PRAKRIT LANGUAGES**" With Special Reference to Jain Literature - Volume One and two. Prakrit - Sanskrit - English, Eds. AM Ghatage, GB Palsule, Kamalkumar Jain & others, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune; 1st edition 1996, Hardcover edition 1996, Vol I: 360 pages; Vol.II: 472 pages.

Vol.I: Rs. 800.00 and Vol.II: Rs. 1400. This set of Dictionaries has been prepared by the staff of the Prakrit Dictionary Department, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune with financial support from: Shri NK Firodia (Pune), University Grants Commission (UGC) and Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

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ENTRY FORM

"**JAINBADRI (SHRAVANABELGOLA) KE BAHUBALI TATHA DAKSHIN KE ANYA JAIN TIRTHA**", Hindi, By Surendranath Shripal Jain; Foreword by Sarojini Jain, Preface by SwastiShri Charukirti Bhattarakji, Photography by Mahendra Visaria, Gopal Bodhe, Sameer Chawda, Jain Publicity Bureau, Mumbai; 1st edition 1953, 2nd paperback edition 2003; 73 art pages, Price: Rs. 250.00. This is a very well researched Art Book on the Jain Tirtha Shravanabelagola and its surrounding areas. The book was originally written as a scholarly travelogue. It has 60 pages of breath-takingly beautiful full-colour photographs and is printed on deluxe art paper.

"**Guardians of the Transcendent: An Ethnography of a Jain Ascetic Community**" Explores the many facets of what constitutes a moral life within the Terapanthi Svetambar Jain ascetic community, and examines the central

role ascetics play in upholding the Jain moral order. By Anne Valley, Published by University of Toronto Press, Year: 2002, Price: Paperback C\$27.95

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE IN PRAKRIT

The Digamber Jain Atishay Kshetra SHRI MAHAVIRJI, (in Rajasthan) through its Apabhramsha Sahitya Academy, is offering a correspondence course in Prakrit. The course commences from 1st July, 2003. It will include lessons on Prakrit, Sanskrit, Hindi and other languages and related subjects prepared by eminent teachers, research scholars and learned persons. Those interested may obtain application form and details from the Academy office. Apabhramsh Sahitya Academy, Digambar Jain Nasia Bhattarak ki, Savai Ram Singh Road, Jaipur - 302 004, INDIA

DIKSHA CEREMONY

Mumukshu Nikita Lodha and Preeti Jain were accorded Jain Bhagwati diksha on the 12th May, 2003 at Jodhpur in the holy presence of Kashmir-Pracharika, Sri Umraon Kunwar Ji 'Archana', Mahasati Sri Prem Kunwar Ji Maharaj and other sadhwis, belonging to Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect. The Diksha ceremony was preceded by Shobha-Yatra on the 11th May, taken out through the main streets of the town.



FORMER JAIN SAINT ARRESTED, TIGER SKIN RECOVERED

June 2003, after a raid conducted by Gujarat forest department and Gujarat Police at Duma village in Panchmahal district of Gujarat they arrested a former Jain saint after a tiger skin was recovered from his possession. The former Jain Muni explained to the police and forest officials that the tiger skin was gifted to him. However, the forest officials are doubtful about the possibility of a link between him and professional poachers. The former saint, who originally hails from Aghoi village of Kutch, has now settled down in Duma village after deciding to give up the life of a religious leader.

JAIN TEMPLES BEING LOOTED FREQUENTLY FOR LACK OF PROTECTION

Famous Jain temple and Teerth, Padamavati-dham located at Bedia town in Gujarat was looted on 4th April, 2003, removing ten expensive Ashta-dhatu idols of Jain Tirthankars, including those of Parashwa nath Ji, Chanda Prabhu Ji and Adinath Ji. These idols were estimated to cost about Rs. four lakhs. Cash collection box was also taken away by the culprits. Digambar Jain Muni, Sri Jay Sagar Ji, who was present in the temple tried to prevent the loot but the robbers attacked him, injuring him on the head. In yet another incident of similar nature, five idols of different tirthankars were removed by thieves from a Digambar Jain temple on 12th May, 2003 at village Nonera, falling under Itawa Police station in U.P. Out of five idols, four were made of marble and one of brass. Incidents of theft of idols from Jain temples has become a common feature in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh and in hardly in any of the cases, the authorities have been able to catch the criminals. The Government is also not able to provide necessary security to prevent reoccurrences of these events.

RENOWNED LINGUIST DR. A M GHATAGE PASSES AWAY AT PUNE

Renowned linguist Dr Amrut Madhav Ghatage, passed away on 8th May at Pune. Mr. Ghatage, 91, is survived by a son and a daughter. He was awarded the President's gold medal and bestowed with the title 'Prakrit Bhasha Pandit' in 1997 for his research in Prakrit language. Born in a village Hosur in Kolhapur district in 1913, Ghatage received his college education at Rajaram Collage, Kolhapur. He received a PhD in linguistics at Bombay University and then the Rockefeller Foundation fellowship to study Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali language. He was then called 'Editor of Sanskrit dictionary' by Deccan College, Pune, and published three parts of this dictionary. Ghatage was also invited by Bhardarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, where he was working as Editor of the proposed Prakrit Language dictionary. Three editions of this dictionary have been published so far. He also authored several books and research papers . News courtesy: Mr. Mahavir Sanglikar, E-Mail : msanglikar@yahoo.com

FASTING JAIN SADHVI NIRBHAVY VANI PASSES AWAY

May 2003: A Jain Sadhvi Nirbhavy Vani who was on santhara for the last 20 days, has passed away in the premises of a Jain Temple in Gohana town in Haryana district. After the death of 68-year-old Nirbhay Vani, thousands of people thronged the town to see her. Santhara is a rare event in the Jain tradition in which a Jain ascetic, decides to obtain Moksha (salvation) and stops eating and drinking water, waiting for death. Sadhvi Nirbhay Vani was initiated in Jain order at Pahrui Dheeraj, at

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Delh. She had had stopped eating foodgrains on July 26 last year.