



JAIN AHIMSA TIMES

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SAINTS



RELIGION AND HUMANITY - CHITRABHANU

A flawless diamond will show its best when set in real gold. If it is set in brass it will lose much of its luster. Religion is like a rare diamond. It is seen at its best when it is tempered with humanity. A religious man who is not humane at the same time does not do full justice to his religion.

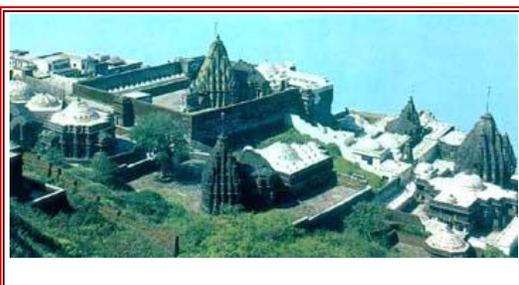
TEMPLES

DIGAMBAR AND SHWETAMBAR SECTS HOLD JOINT MEETING AT MADHUBAN, SAMMET SHIKHARJI AND DECIDE TO WORK TOGETHER UNITEDLY

It is reported that representatives of both, Shwetambar and Digambar sects met for the first time at Madhuban to chalk out steps to be taken to bring unity, harmony and mutual understanding amongst the two sects for the development of Sammet Shikhar ji.

The Chairman of Jharkhand State Digambar Jain Religious Board, Mr. Tara Chand Jain and the Chairman of Jharkhand State Shwetambar Religious Trust, Mr. Kanti Lal Kothari were present in the meeting. Mr. Tara Chand felt that it is the joint responsibility of both the sects to look after the development of Sammet Shikhar Ji and take care of the problems of law and order, electric supply, water supply and others. Both the sects have to work together hence-forth in an united manner. Mr. Kanti Lal Kothari wholly agreed with the views of Mr. Tara Chand on the urgent need for working unitedly and forgetting all the past differences. They discussed all the important problems facing the people at Madhuban and the inconveniences experienced by the pilgrims visiting the Sammet Shikhar Ji Teerth and hoped that all the current problems will be soon overcome with joint efforts from both sides. It was decided that the secretaries of both the Trusts at Madhuban, Mr. Kamal Singh Rampuria (Shwetambar) and Mr. Mahavir Prasad Sethi (Digambar) shall study all the problems jointly and submit an action report at the next meeting to be held after the elections at Ranchi on the 13th March, 2005. It was also decided to constitute "Samast Jain Madhuban Vikas Samiti" with representatives from both sides to look after the complete development of the place on a long-term basis.

JAIN SAMAJ DECIDES TO APPEAL BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT ON GIRNAR ISSUE



As the Gujarat High Court in its last decision had declined to order for removal of Dattatreya's statue at the fifth peak of Girnar hills and to issue a stay order to stop further construction at that place, the entire Jain community is highly disappointed and is feeling badly hurt. The court in its order has appointed a high level committee to collect all necessary documents and information and submit its report within a period of six months. The Jain community, being represented by the recently formed Action Committee has therefore decided to appeal for justice before the Supreme Court.

CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS SANCTION 50 AND 25 CRORES FOR GOMMATESHWAR MAHAMASTAKABHISHEKH-2006 AT SHRAWANBELGOLA

It is heartening to note that the Central Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 50 crore and the Karnatak Government has like-wise sanctioned Rs. 25 crore for the Maha-mastakabhishekh celebrations planned to be held at Shrawanbelgola early next year. It is expected that about ten lakh Jain devotees and tourists would participate in the celebrations. Elaborate arrangements are required to be made for the entire period for the celebrations, housing of all the devotees and other visitors, their transportation, medical facilities, roads, communication etc. Karnatak Government had this year displayed an extremely impressive tableau of Gommateshwar Bhagwan Bahubali during the Republic Day parade on the 26th January, 2005 and this item won the first prize. The State Government had assured at that time to extend all cooperation for the purpose of Maha-mastakabhishekh celebrations.

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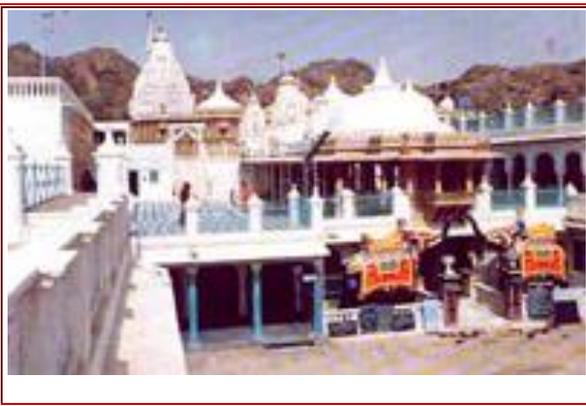


The Mohan Kheda Trust Mandal, managing authority of the Mohan Kheda temple complex declared on the occasion of Guru Saptami Centenary celebrations that an institution, called 'Guru Rajendra Suri Gyan Mandir' (temple of knowledge) would be built at a cost of Rs. 5 crore at Mohan Kheda temple Complex. One of the families of Mohan Kheda announced a donation of Rs. one crore one lakh for undertaking this project. A large number of devotees from far and near had collected to take part in the religious celebrations.

FIFTEEN FEET IDOL OF CHANDA PRABHU JI INSTALLED AT TIJARA NEAR ALWAR

An unique granite idol of 8th Teerthankar, Bhagwan Shri Chanda Prabhu Ji, measuring about 15 feet in height and weighing 45 tons has been installed on a 5 feet pedestal at the Parshwanath Digambar Jain temple complex in Dehra Tijara village near Alwar in Rajasthan. The entire work has been accomplished with the cooperation of Jain community and the inspiration of eminent saint, Shri Gyansagarji Maharaj. The idol in its original form is said to be recovered during excavation work about 50 years ago, the installation of which has been made possible only now on the 14th February, 2005. Vice-President, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Many Digambar Jain saints, arhats, scholars, devotees and eminent persons from Jain community were present on the occasion. Rituals, worships and celebrations were held for seven days, from 13th to 19th February, 2005.

COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR TEACHING JAINISM OFFERED BY NAKODA TEMPLE TRUST



The managing trust of famous Shwetambar Jain pilgrimage centre at Nakoda in Rajasthan is now offering elaborate educational facilities to those persons, who intend to undergo four year and six year courses in Jainism. The objective of providing these courses is to prepare scholars who can undertake teaching of Jain philosophy and other related subjects in various Jain institutions in the country. Learned and devoted teachers have been arranged for teaching and Jain saints are also invited from time to time to give lectures and discourses to the learners. Presently, 150 students are on the rolls in the age group ranging from 18 years to 25 years.

They belong to Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and other states. All the facilities, including tuition, boarding and lodging, transport, library, stationery, books, dresses etc. are provided free of cost to all the students by the Nakoda Trust. An exclusive building complex, named "Gyan Mandir" has been established, providing necessary facilities for class rooms, seminar halls, meditation rooms, hostel, kitchen, games and sports. A separate Jain temple having four sides, with idols of Teerthankars on each side has also been built on the campus. The course curriculum includes Jain philosophy, study of Jain Agams, Prakrit and Sanskrit, theory of karma, Jain history, art and culture, Jain rituals. The medium of instruction is Hindi.

RECENT STUDIES CONFIRM THAT RISHABH DEV JI AND SHIVA WERE ONE AND SAME



It is now being increasingly believed that the first Jain Teerthankar, Shri Rishabh Dev Ji and the Hindu God, Shiva or Mahadev were one and the same. Many points of resemblance have been brought out by Jain scholars and researchers in the past, such as both have the same mark of an ox under the feet and both had their place of spiritual contemplation and austerity at Mt. Kailash. Further, Mahadev was known to carry a trishul and he had destroyed the evil spirit, called 'Andhakasur' whereas Rishabh is known to carry a 'ratna-traya', a combination of three jewels, each one representing Gyan, darshan and Charitra. These three jewels were used by him to get rid of his karma and purify the soul. Late Pandit Hiralal Jain, Siddhant Shastri, is supposed to be an authority on Jain philosophy, its Jain history and culture. He had made several observations during his research studies and these have now been made available by his son, Shri Devendra Jain which have been published in Jain Gazette of the 3rd March, 2005.



According to Pandit Hiralal Jain, a stone statue in padmasana posture of size, 2'x1.5' was obtained by him, which resembled both Rishabh Dev Ji and Mahadev Ji. The statue had a trishul on the right and a human skull on the left. Under the feet of the statue, an ox is shown, whose horns are in the shape of a half moon. In either side of the foot mark, a male and female devotee (representing a shrawak and shrawika), praying with both hands folded, are shown. The hair on the head of the statue looks like a bunch. In one of the Jain epics also, arihants are described as possessing three eyes and carrying a three-pronged weapon (trishul). All these similarities and descriptions in our agams go to affirm that the two are one and the same.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

'MAHAVIRA-MAHATMA AWARDS' FOR PROMOTION OF PEACE ANNOUNCED

With a view to propagate the ideals of non-violence epitomised by Lord Mahavira and Mahatma Gandhi, three organisations have jointly announced annual awards to be presented to nearly 400 individuals and organisations for promotion of peace and social harmony. The 'Mahavira-Mahatma Awards', instituted by the Times Foundation, All India Anti-Terrorist Front and Bharatiya Jain Sangathan, will be presented at international, national, state and district levels in April. While addressing a press conference on March, 7 at Chelmsford Club, New Delhi, Mrs. Indu Jain said "We want to bring recognition for those who work steadfastly for promotion of harmony in society and can serve as role models for others. The emphasis will be on honouring youth and women". AIATF Chairman M S Bitta said "anyone who has worked for peace and harmony through his chosen field may be nominated for the awards, irrespective of whether he is an actor, a businessman, a spiritual leader or a social worker". The last date for receiving nominations is March 20, he added. In the first year, the awards will be presented at 367 districts in 27 states and Union territories of the country, besides at national and international level, said BJS National President Shantilal Muttha. While the national-level function will be held in Delhi on April 17, the district-level programmes will be organised on April 22 which is celebrated as 'Mahavir Jayanti'. Though most of the awards will consist only of a memento and citation, some organisations had announced cash prizes for winners in a few districts and states.

JUSTICE D. K. JAIN TAKES OVER AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT



Ahimsa Foundation on behalf of its trustees, advisory Council and all its members wishes to extend hearty congratulations to Justice D. K. Jain for taking over as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana.

Fifty-seven years old Justice Jain succeeds Justice B K Roy as Chief Justice, the official sources said here. Starting his career as an advocate in August 1974, he was appointed as Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court in March 1991 and was made a permanent judge from January 1992. Justice Jain, whose transfer was recommended by the collegium of Supreme Court Judges headed by the Chief Justice of India sometime back, had to wait for the promotion as the transfer of then Chief Justice B K Roy out of Punjab and Haryana High Court got mired in controversy. Justice Roy was first transferred to Patna High Court as Chief Justice but the Government objected to it saying he could not be transferred to the Court where he started his career. Later, he was transferred to Gauhati High Court but the President wanted the collegium to take the view of Justice Roy before effecting the transfer. After the formalities were completed, Justice Roy was transferred as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court.

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

JAIN MAHASABHA DELHI FELICITATES GOVT. HONOURED JAIN CELEBRITIES



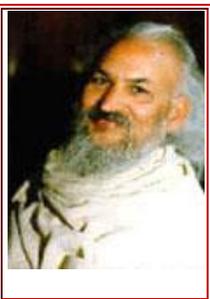
Prof. Ratan Jain, Secretary General, Jain Mahasabha organised a magnificent evening on 7th March, 2005 at India International Centre, New Delhi to felicitate the recognition and awards conferred by Govt. of India to the distinguished Jain professionals, Dr. V. S. Mehta from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Dr. Ravi Kasliwal from Escorts Hospital and Mr. A. K. Jain, IPS and IG Police. The detailed news and profiles of the awardees was covered in our previous issue of Ahimsa Times (February, 2005 Issue). Unlike a customary Jain Samaj programme, this event was conducted by Prof. Ratan Jain in an extremely professional way. The guests list was short but involved all important and dedicated activists of the community. The guest list included Mr. V. S. Jain, Chairman, Steel Authority of India Ltd., Mr. Rikhab Chand Jain, Chairman, TT Group, Mr. C. P. Jain, Chairman, N. T. P. C., Mr. K. L. Jain, Member of Telecom Commission, Mr. Gyanchand Daga, Finance Director, SAIL, Mr. S. K. Jain, Director, BHEL, Mr. A. K. Jain, DDA Commissioner, Mr. B. K. Jain, DDA Town Planner, Mr. D. C. Jain (IPS) from CBI, Ms. Simmy Jain, Joint Commissioner, Customs, Mr. Sanjay Jain, from Railway Ministry, Mr. Sanjeev Jain, Metropolitan Magistrate, Mr. V. K. Jain, Registrar, Indraprastha University, Mr. J. K. Jain, Delhi Municipal Corporation, Mr. Ranjeet Kastia, Director, HFCL, Dr. Madhu Jain, Director, K.G. Hospital, Mr. Lalit Nahta, Leader of Khatargachh Sect, Mr. M. P. Jain, from Mahaveer Kendra, and several others.

To begin the programme, Prof. Ratan Jain introduced all guests before formally welcoming the awardees. This was probably the first time that in a Jain Samaj event, every guest present in the auditorium was individually introduced. While addressing the gathering, Mr. A. K. Jain, IPS, Inspector General of Police (SPG), awardee of President's Medal said that there is no alternative to honesty, hard work and efficiency. He added that the Govt. executives, irrespective of their caste and religion should provide justice to his position and maintain discipline. Mr. Arun Kumar Jain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs suggested that Jain Samaj should do away with mini-tiny disputes and differences and contribute for the development of society. Dr. V. S. Mehta, the renowned neuro-surgeon from AIIMS and awardee of "Padamshree" said that recognition in itself is not important but what is important is ability to deserve it. He said doctors at least should not join the crazy race of money making. Dr. Ravi Kasliwal, the renowned heart surgeon from Escorts Hospital, New Delhi and recipient of Dr. B. C. Roy National Award, in his address suggested that the Jain members should set an example by changing their life style and lead a simple, honest and devoted life.

DIKSHA CEREMONY

A grand ceremony of Jain Diksha of twin sisters at Bhayandar (Mumbai suburb) took place on the 27th Feb 2005. It was performed in the holy presence of Acharya Shri Kalapurna Ji Maharaj. One of the most historic part of this ceremony was that Maharaj Shri Mahabodhi Suriiji acknowledged it being the first Diksha of "twins" in the recent and known past. Courtesy: Nitin Shah, E-Mail : info@infy-tech.com Km. Prema Kumari Jain, belonging to Parlu village in Barmer Dist. of Rajasthan was accorded Jain Bhagwati diksha in Shwetambar Murti-Pujak sect by Shri Raj Tilak Vijay Ji maharaj in the presence of a large number of saints and sadhwis and thousands of devotees and followers coming from different places. The programme was arranged at Jain Shwetambar Parshwanath Bhairu Bagh Teerth, Jodhpur on the 12th March, 2005. Earlier, celebrations were being held for the last few days, which included an impressive procession of mumukshu Prema Kumari sat gracefully on a well-decorated elephant, waiving to the people scattered all round. Km. Prema has been renamed after her initiation as Sadhwi Surabhi Ratna.

NEW DELHI'S PRIME ROAD NAME AFTER ACHARYA SUSHIL MUNI



To recognise the services of Acharya Sushil Muni the Delhi Government has named a prime intersection of New Delhi as "Acharya Sushil Muni Chauraha". The ceremony was attended by several prominent members of Jain Samaj, politicians and others. Sh. Haroon Yusuf, Hon'ble Minister of Transport and Power, NCT of Delhi, inaugurated the stone of "Acharya Sushil Muni Chauraha". The Guest of honour Smt. Krishna Tirth, M.P., Sh. Puran Chand Yogi, M.L.A. and S. Manjeet Singh Khanna, Dy. Chairman, Karol Bagh Zone, graced the occasion. Credit for this goes to Mr. Mulkh Raj Jain, President of Vishwa Ahimsa Sangh. Speaking of the occasion Sh. Haroon Yusuf congratulated the people of Delhi in naming the cross road of Shankar Road and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Road after Acharya Sushil Muni Ji so that anybody passing through this chowk shall feel enthused in imbibing the preaching of Muniji in their lives. Acharya

Shriji worked for peace and non-violence through out his life. The contribution of the World-renowned Jain Muni Acharya Sushil Kumarji in the field of environment, non-violence, world peace and vegetarianism cannot be expressed in words. Acharya Shriji has created a land mark by his commendable contribution.

JAIN DOCTORS MEET AT BOMBAY TO DISCUSS MEDICAL ETHICS

Jain doctors coming from six different countries and 22 states collected at Terapanth Bhawan, Mumbai for the second International Conference of Jain doctors on the 8th and 9th January, 2005. The conference was inaugurated by Ms. Indu Jain, Chairperson of Times of India Group. She delivered an inspiring address, She asked the medicos to work for the sick and needy people and adopt ethical practices in their noble profession. Dr. Farukh Advadia, an eminent physician threw light on the subject of 'ethics in medical profession' and emphasized that the emphasis in Jain scriptures was also on the need for use of ethical practices and morality in medicine. It was therefore the duty of all the doctors to work for human welfare and adopt truth, non-violence and justice with their patients. Padam Bhushan Muzaffar Hussain who was present on the occasion, also addressed the gathering. One of the delegates, Dr. Nitin Shah from USA talked on cruelty in medical research and need for adopting practices and procedures which do not involve cruelty and killing of animals. Several other doctors exchanged their views and took active part in discussions. The conference on the whole was a great success to convey the message of truth and non-violence amongst doctors.

ESSAY COMPETITION BEING ORGANISED BY K. J. SOMAIYA CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN JAINISM

To commemorate Mahavir Jayanti, the K.J. Somaiya Centre for Studies in Jainism has organized an essay competition. The title of the essay is: 'The Relevance of Mahavir's Values in Modern Times'. The essay competition is open to all. Anyone may participate in it. The essay must be the participant's original contribution. The essay should not exceed 2000 words. The essay may be written in any one of the following languages: Hindi, Marathi, English or Gujarati. The participants must submit their essays latest by 10th April 2005 at the K.J. Somaiya Centre between 11.30 am 4.30 pm. The essay should either be typed, or written in legible handwriting. The participants should write their name, address, phone number, age & academic qualifications on the first page of the essay. The prize will be given on 22 April 2005, Mahavir Jayanti at the K.J. Somaiya Institute. The prize, of gift pack of books worth Rs. 1101.00, is sponsored by Hindi Granthalaya, 9, Hirabaug, C.P. Tank, Mumbai 400004. For details, please contact: Professor Dr. Geeta Mehta, Director, K.J.SOMAIYA CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN JAINISM, Cabin 6, 2nd Floor, Management Institute Building, Vidyavihar, Mumbai 400077 Telephone: 91 (22)25027210/25027211. E-Mail : jaincentre@somaiya.edu.

ANNUAL DAY CUM CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF AHIMSA WOMEN'S POLYTECHNIC

Ahimsa Women's Polytechnic, Shankar Road, New Delhi, a reputed institute for vocational training was established in 1985 with the blessings of Acharya Sushil Kumarji Maharaj, who worked for the holistic development and self-dependence of women. AWP is providing career oriented vocational education in Diploma Courses and Certificate Hobby Courses. AWP celebrated its Annual Day Cum Convocation Ceremony on 11th March, 2005. Sh. B. K. Gupta, Special Commissioner of Police (Security), New Delhi a personification of emancipated manhood inaugurated the event by lighting the traditional lamp. Highly honoured and elevated guests of honour, Sh. Madho Jain, Life Trustee and Sh. Raman Bhai Daga President Siddhachalam USA, graced the occasion with their august presence. Diplomas were awarded to the toppers by the distinguished chief guest. Shri Mulkh Raj Jain, President and S. Manjeet Singh Khanna, Dy. Chairman, Karol Bagh Zone MCD, addressed the gathering and welcomed the honoured dignitaries. The students of the Institute presented a cultural bonanza on the occasion. As per the Indian tradition the ceremony commenced with the veneration of the Omni present - The Namokar Mantra and Guru Vandana.

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JAINA DHARMA KA ITIHAS in 3 Volumes (Hindi), By Prof. Kailash Chand Jain, 2005 220 x 145 mm 1084 pp in 3 vols. + 4 maps, Hardcover Rs. 1650. This is a superlative work on the history of Jainism and has been written insightfully with scholarly thoroughness. The work has been divided into three sections. Section One deals with the historical evidences supporting the existence of Tirthankara Parsvanatha some three centuries before Mahavira. Mahavira's Era is examined minutely. Section Two carries out an historical survey of the Jaina religion. A detailed study is made of its expansion and spread linking it with favourably inclined rulers. Jainism expanded in leaps and bounds during the time when the Mauryans ruled Magadha and Kharavelas ruled Orissa.

In the Kushana era, the master craftsmen, merchants and working class of Shurasena (Mathura) were greatly influenced by Jainism. The era between the 9th and 12th centuries was a period of unprecedented growth for Jainism. In the North, Pratihara, Parmara and Chauhan rulers favoured Jainism. In the South, the Chalukyas, the Rashtrakuta and Ganga kings supported Jainism. Hence, this period may be termed as the golden era of Jainism.

A large number of Jaina temples and idols were built and consecrated at that time. The contribution of some famous Jaina monks, nuns and lay followers is also explained. The genesis of sanghas, gacchas and jñatis is also closely examined in this section. It is interesting to see that the author has also attempted to examine the roots of the gotras still prevalent in the Jaina community today. Section Three deals with medieval Jainism. During Muslim rule, Jainism continued to flourish in pockets. This book presents a special article by noted historian Dr.A.H. Nizami on the impact of Muslim rule on the Jaina Dharma and Jaina monkhood, especially the establishment of the Bhattaraka tradition in South and Western India. The following article by Dr. Surendra Gopal describes the social and economic status of the Jaina community in the medieval era. Articles by Dr. S.S. Nigam and Dr. Prakashchandra Jain throw light on the life and times of the Jaina community of that time. The author has taken great pains to stick to a non-sectarian approach. The author, Prof. Kailash Chand Jain is a distinguished historian who has published works such as "Pre-History & Proto-History of India" "Jainism in Rajasthan "and others. To order the book, please write to E-Mail : manish.modi@mtnl.net.in Hindi Granth Karyalaya, 9, Hirabaug, C.P. Tank, Mumbai 400004.

NISHITHA SUTRA in 4 Volumes (Prakrit), Ed. by Amar Muni & Kanhaiyalal Kamal, Introduction Dalsukh Malvania, Preface in English by B.B. Raynade 2005 220 x 144 mm 1802 pp in 4 volumes, Hardback Rs. 1200 for the set. After the Nirvana of Mahavira, his Sangh was headed by the ganadharas, who composed the teachings of Mahavira and established the basic corpus of the Jaina canon. Later post-canonical writing added more value and sense of perspective to the already impressive body of Jaina literature by writing detailed bhashyas and curnis on the original scriptures. These works are crucial for the study of the original scriptures as they present an analysis of the thoughts of the original authors who composed the canon.

The Nishitha is a very important Agama of the Jaina canon. It is a veritable ocean of knowledge for the ascetic conduct. Thus it is centrally important to the Shvetambara ascetic as the authoritative work on Jaina monastic discipline throwing light on different aspects of the ideal conduct with respect to time, place and situations. An insightful introduction by Dalsukhbhai Malvania and a thorough well-researched English | To order the book, please write to : Manish Modi, Hindi Granth Karyalaya, 9, Hirabaug, C.P. Tank, Mumbai. E-Mail: manish.modi@mtnl.net.in

BOOK ON MEMORIES OF SUNEETA JAIN

Renowned literatureur Mrs.Suneeta Jain's book titled "Shabdkaya" was released by Dr. L.M Singhvi on 12th february,2005. The Book contains autobiographical references of Suneeta's life and explores various aspects through the telescope of Jainism - termed as attempt to display Digamber chetna, Padmshri Suneeta Jain was also earlier included in the book on Jain Literary Celebrities 'Vaishalik Kee Chhaya Mein' edited by Rajesh Jain & Mrs Prabha Jain. News courtesy Mr. Rajesh Jain, E-Mail : rajesh492003@yahoo.com

MISCELLANEOUS

MANEKA GANDHI APPEALS TO JAIN COMMUNITY FOR STOPPING THE INDISCRIMINATE USE OF ELEPHANTS IN THEIR RELIGIOUS PROCESSIONS - Smt. Maneka Gandhi, who has been assiduously working for the cause of animal care and protection for the last several years and has contributed immensely towards stopping slaughter of animals has now raised her voice against ill-treatment meted out to elephants. She has made a strong appeal to the entire Jain community, particularly Digambar Jains to stop the indiscriminate use and cruelty shown to elephants during various religious processions taken out by them. During these processions, very high degree noise is produced by loud speakers, bands, even some-times fire-works, which becomes unbearable by sensitive animals like elephants. Being dumb, they can not speak out their agony but their mental condition is seriously affected and many timed they go mad and they even die prematurely. These animals are not even given water or food and they have to starve for hours.

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They are even painted with harmful paints. Even according to Animal Protection and Cruelty Act, 1960, it is illegal to harass animals. She has urged the Jain community, which is supposed to believe earnestly in ahimsa and compassion, to show kindness to animals and refrain from ill-treating these animals and not to use them during religious processions.

VEGAN DIETS AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT: WHAT'S THE REAL EVIDENCE?

The claim that milk and meat are vital to children's development, which swept through the media earlier this week, originated from an American press release based mainly on a two-year study of 555 undernourished Kenyan children, completed in December 2000 and published in the Journal of Nutrition in November 2003. As usual, the original information evolved beyond all recognition as it moved from scientific paper to press release to sound bite: "There's absolutely no question that it's unethical for parents to bring up their children as strict vegans", proclaimed certain sections of the media. The scientific paper compared groups of Kenyan children given three food supplements: meat, milk and vegetable oil. Three measures of mental development were taken: Raven's visuo-spatial test, verbal meaning and arithmetic. On all three measures, the vegetable oil group beat the milk group and on two measures the vegetable oil group beat the meat group. But there is far stronger evidence than this that vegan diets support healthy development in children. In the UK a study of 39 vegan children found that "the growth and development of children reared on both vegan and vegetarian diets appears normal." In the USA, a study of 400 vegan children reached the same conclusion. Both these studies were carried out in the 1980s and the results should be well known to any scientist presuming to comment on vegan diets and child development. For further information on the benefits of a vegan diet for animals, people and the environment - both in Africa and in the West - see Plant Based Nutrition and Health or contact a Vegan Society spokesperson www.vegansociety.com

VEGETARIANISM CAN PREVENT HEART ATTACKS - DR. D. C. JAIN

Vegetarians in India are no longer confined to communities which abstain from eating meat for spiritual reasons. But Dr. D. C. Jain, head, department of neurology, Safdarjung Hospital, insists that a diet should include dairy products. This author of a book on vegetarianism based on medical facts, says, "Vegetarian food has dietary fibre which helps against constipation, colon cancer and piles. It has less cholesterol, prevents thickening of the arteries, heart attacks and other vascular diseases. It has antioxidants that prevent degenerative diseases like arthritis and Parkinson's disease." And if health factors are not reason enough for you to think twice before reaching for that mutton korma, digest this: "It has been found that human behaviour is altered by diet. If the diet is vegetarian, the mind remains serene and claims Jain, citing a medical study done in Gwalior. Anuradha Sawhney, chief functionary, People for Ethical Treatment of Animals, says: "More and more Indians are adopting vegetarianism because it is better for the animals, for themselves and for the planet. Also, more women are converting and that's great as there's a good chance that their children too will be raised as vegetarians." PETA promotes veganism that believes animals are not ours to eat - not even dairy products - wear, experiment or entertain. There may be some truth in the saying "one man's meat is another man's poison".

L. N. Modi of the Vegetarian Society of Delhi claims that among food, the pesticide conditions in meat is the sanitary conditions in slaughter houses. Modi organises compassion clubs in city schools, explaining the scientific reasons for vegetarianism being healthy. He claims that in one instance, after his lecture session, a principal announced that she was giving up non-vegetarian food. The effect is probably even greater when celebrities pitch in. Sawhney says, "When a celebrity talks, people listen. Many celebrities like, Mahima Chaudhary, Anil Kumble, Hemant Trivedi, Madhavan and Yana Gupta save the lives of more than 80 animals a year, simply by not eating them." Now that's food for thought.

SANSKAR TV CHANNEL BROADCASTS REACHES UNITED STATES AND CANADA

T. V Channel "SANSKAR" is now available for viewing in United States of America and Canada. Terapanth Acharya Shree Mahapragya's daily Pravachans are being telecasted through 'Sanskar' channel at Indian time 8.00 am to 8.30 am. Shortly a weekly programme on 'Preksha Meditation' will also be telecasted on this Channel. To subscribe to Sanskar in America and Canada, call on the Toll free no.1 888 898 0020. You can also contact by E-Mail : response@sanskartv.co.in News courtesy: Mr. Surendra Choraria, President - Jain Swetamber Therapanthi Mahasabha, E-Mail: mahadealer@vsnl.net

READER'S VIEWS

Subject: White paper on "Unity of Jain Samaj"

From: Ratilal Chandaria, E-Mail: rpchandaria@comcraft.com "Referring to your views as below I think all of us are fighting futile battle. None of the views pronounced by one and sundry would ever reach the Sadhus and Munijis as there is no dialog with them by the writers. More over this problems is going on for nearly hundreds of years and I don't think there is ever going or a solution on an emotional issue of faiths. We tried to muddle into this, but gave up. What is the therefore the point of these discussions by layman like us?"

Mr. Jasvant Mehta, E-Mail: jvmehta2000@yahoo.com "This is a very disturbing situation, but worst is, it is (unity) continuously on the decline, largely ego of our leadership as well as disturbing statements made by our Sadhu and Muniji. This situation will deteriorate if not checked immediately and corrective steps taken. Our youths are losing trust and faith in Jainism and so are our elders. This is one of the major reason why liberalism has entered Jain minds and we see nothing wrong in our children opting to marry non-Jains. Unless we unite and call ourselves Jains first and the last, we are heading for a disaster. Unless our Sadhu and Munis and Swamis, preached for unity, impress on our generations to call themselves as Jain and not different factions, we are in trouble and this would only bring decline of Jainism. It is of paramount importance that India has a united Jain organisation such as JAINA in North America. Our temples are built such that they represent "JAINS" and not different Jain factions. This is a wake up call, very timely, needs positive action, thinking and implementation of a United Jain front Worldwide especially in India otherwise, it want be long when we would lose our entire heritage as we are slowly witnessing so many examples of major conflicts of our ideology."

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH - MR. MANISH MODI

Manish Modi, 35, is the great-grandson of the renowned scholar and foremost Hindi litterateur Pandit Nathuramji Premi, the founder of Hindi Granth Ratnakar Karyalay, publisher of the Manikchandra Jaina Granthamala and one of the leading scholars n classical India. Manish runs the business founded by his grandfather in 1912.

Education: Manish has graduated in Commerce (Sydenham College) and Law (Government Law College) from Mumbai University.

Languages: Manish is fluent in Hindi and English, conversant in Urdu, Gujarati and Marathi, and speaks a smattering of Arabic, Italian and Punjabi. Over the years, he has acquired a working knowledge of Prakrit. He translates from Prakrit and Sanskrit to English.

Some of his translations: Gathas 1 - 108 of the Samayasara (Prakrit - English), Chapter 6, Asrava of the Tattvarthasutra (Sanskrit - English), Mahavirashtaka Stotra (Sanskrit - English), Uvasaggaharam Thottam (Prakrit - English)

Edited: Jijñasa - 1, Jijñasa - 2 (English) [by Shri Ramesh Ojha, Jijñasa - 1, Jijñasa - 2 (Hindi) [by Shri Ramesh Ojha], "Abhyudaya Se Nihshreyas" [Hindi - English]

Film Projects: Recently interviewed by Jamie Catto, award winning film director of "One Giant Leap", on his next film "Duality".

Consulting Jain scholar: "Samyaktva" a film on Jainism produced by Tempest Films.

Currently: Proof-reading "Alpaparicita Saiddhantika Shabdakosha", Reprint of the first edition compiled & edited by Acarya Anandasagar in 1958.

Hobbies: Manish loves learning languages, reading and writing. His hobbies are reading, swimming and cricket.

Some published articles: "The Twelve Contemplations". Jain Study Circular, New York, "The Eleven Pratimas". Jain Study Circular, New York, "An English Adaptation of the Mahavirashtaka Stotra". Jain Study Circular, New York, "Self Publishing". Jain Spirit, London, "Jainism on the Internet". Times of India, Mumbai, "Redefining Jainism in the 21st Century with Special Reference to Jainism". Abhyudaya Se Nihshreyasa, Mumbai, "Samatadhari Sadhaka". Pushpavarta, Indore.

Lectures: Manish has delivered the following academic lectures: "International Conference on World Peace", Ahmedabad, 2003-2004, "National Seminar on Karma Siddhanta", Mumbai 2002, "Pandit Nathuram Premi Rashtriya Avadana Sangoshthi", Gwalior, 2004.

Awards won: Gold medal from Acarya Vidyananda ji, 2001, S.K. Muranjan Prize for his essay on Company Law which was adjudged the Best Essay, 1994, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust Scholarship, 1987 - 89.

Posts held: Member, Reception Committee, International Conference on World Peace, (2003 -2004), Member, Managing Committee, Madhya Pradesh Jain Mitra Mandal, (1989 - 1994), Community Service Director, Rotaract Club of Central Island, Dist. 3140, (1992-1993)

He has been a Moderator of : Jainlist@yahoogroups.com, the largest Internet-based Jaina, discussion group (2000 to now); also, Moderator & sole contributor: JainandIndology@yahoogroups.com, reviewing the latest publications in Jainism, Sanskrit and ancient Indian wisdom (2004 to now), hindibooks@yahoogroups.com, reviewing the latest publications of Hindi and Urdu literature (2004 to now)

Philosophy: Manish is proud to be an Indian, and would like to propagate India, Indian values and especially Jainism in this lifetime through distributing scriptures and relevant literature. Manish has been brought up in a profoundly literary and religious atmosphere. He is known for ethical and non-sectarian approach to Jainism.

Postal Address: Hindi Grand Karyalay, 9, Hirabaug, C. P. Tank, Mumbai 400004 India, E-Mail: manish.modi@mtnl.net.in, Web: www.hindibooks.8m.com

LETTER FROM READERS

Meat out, Join Veggies

Sandeep Kumar Jain, Ludhiana E-Mail : jeevdaya@rediffmail.com March 20th will be celebrated as Meatout day all over America and in Two Dozen other countries. I request you to Kindly spread the following information to your readers all over world. The Meatout Organisation has also brought very thought provoking Posters, which can be downloaded from the website given at the end. Kindly publish these on 19th or 20th March, 05.

March 20th also marks the 20th Anniversary of Meatout, Initially started in few states of America but now observed in all its 50 states and about Two dozen other countries including India. It is worlds' Largest Grassroots diet Education Campaign. Meatout is Healthy, Compassionate Message that will reach the Millions of People this month. Meatout pledge helps the signatories to receive 'Meatout Monday'-a colourful Weekly Newsletter- to receive Vegetarian recipes, product spotlight, breaking nutritional studies and more. Switching each person to plant based eating habit Saves about 2000 animals. For more information click here or visit www.meatout.org.

Course Title: Jainism and Other Heterodox Systems Dilip Kumar Bobra, E-Mail : dkbobra@gmail.com Please find details of the course and plan to publish appropriately so. we can have most of students. Dilip Bobra.

Location: MTuWTh 12-2P, 251 DWINELLE, Instructor: WILEY, K L, Course Control Number: 79730

Units: 4, Session Dates: 07/05-08/12/05- Among the non-brahmanical renunciant communities that flourished in the area of the Ganges River, such as the Buddhists and Ajivikas, only the Jains have maintained an unbroken presence on the Indian subcontinent with a fourfold community of monks, nuns, laymen, and laywomen. Throughout the centuries, Jain teachings have emphasized the importance of nonviolence (ahimsa) to all living beings, which in modern times influenced the thinking of Mahatma Gandhi.

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the philosophy and social history of Jainism, including its principal schools and sectarian traditions, its monastic and lay communities, as well as ethics, ritual, and art. We will learn about the lives of Mahavira and other Jinas who, after attaining enlightenment, teach others the path to salvation (moksha). For further details contact Mr. Kristi Wiley, E-Mail : kwiley@berkeley.edu

REGRETTABLE

EXCESS LAND BEING RE-ACQUIRED BY GOVT. FROM THE ACHARYA SUSHIL MUNI GOSHALA AT GHUMANHERA, DELHI



March 1: The Congress-led Delhi government has got the go-ahead to take back 65 acres from an 80-acre cow-shelter in Harewali in north-west Delhi. This is one of the cow-shelters which were allotted tracts of land by the BJP-ruled Delhi government between 1993 and 1998. The government have already initiated acquisition proceedings.

According to Minister Raj Kumar Chauhan "The BJP government in Delhi had made these land allotments between 1993 and 1998 with an understanding that these shelters will keep certain minimum number of animals but these are not maintained and therefore re-acquisition proceedings have been started. They have excess land but keep less cattle. As per norms, every cow-shelter will get one acre for keeping 100 cows. These cow-shelters were given land at a token amount of one rupee for every acre of land.

Report on cow-shelters

The shelter against which action is being taken first is managed by Bharatiya Gou Vansh Raksha Samvardhan Parishad. This outfit had got the maximum land of 80 acres. Now 65 acres will be reclaimed. Officials say the shelter had a capacity of 1,500 cows but 1,262 were found. On record, however, the shelter had 1,413 cows. Next in line is the PFA Goshala in Bawana, which is managed by Ruthcowell Foundation. This shelter has 63 acres with a capacity to keep 2,800 cows. However, officials say they found only 1,068 while records showed 1,215. "We have already got orders for getting back 28 acres. Files have been moved for reclaiming another 20 acres," an official said. The cow-shelter at Sultanpur-Dabas in north-west Delhi, Shree Kishan Goshala, is managed by Surabhi Sodh Sanstha. They have 36 acres and a capacity of 850 cows. On record they had 691 and 694 were found. "They have 27 acres of excess land," the official said. The shelter at Rewla-Khanpur in south-west Delhi, named Manav Gosadan, is managed by Jain Samaj. They have 16 acres which can house 1,450 cows. Only 581 were found against 801 in the records. The government plans to take back 10 acres. The shelter at Surehra, near Najafgarh, known as Dabur Hare Krishna goshala, is managed by Jan Kalyan Samiti. They have 24 acres with a capacity to keep 2,000 cows but officials found only 506. About 19 acres may be reclaimed.

The Acharya Sushil Muni goshala at Ghumanhera in south-west Delhi is managed by Acharya Sushil Muni Foundation. They have been given 19 acres and had only 656 cows. They have 12 acres of excess land which needs to be reclaimed. Is not this unfortunate, on one side we are always trying for further allotment and at other places we have to vacate the available properties?

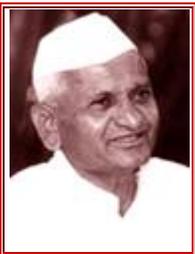
DISABLED SCIENTIST DR. S.K. JAIN ALLEGES DISCRIMINATION AT DELHI, IIT

Dr. S.K. Jain is a physically challenged Research Scientist working for Delhi IIT since 1990. Through a press conference he has informed about the discriminatory treatment against him. The authorities had dismissed him in 2000 and now refused to reinstate him despite the Delhi High Court nullifying the dismissal in 2002. He said the institute was using its autonomy as a means to harass him by sealing his office and denying him a salary for the past 18 months. Jain, whose spinal cord, speech and hearing are affected by polio, told a press conference: "I am not allowed to access my room at the institute". He has been associated with IIT Delhi since 1983 when he got his M-Tech and Phd degrees and was later selected by the University Grants Commission to work as a research scientist here under the disability quota. Jain alleged that trouble began for him in 1995 when he demanded that his office be shifted from the first floor of the IIT building to the ground floor. When his request was turned down, he demanded that a ramp be constructed to the first floor. When even this was ignored, Jain filed a case against the institute. He charges that the institute authorities retaliated by terminating his tenure in 2000 along with eight other scientists from other institutes despite his work being termed "exemplary" in IIT annual reports. In 2002 the court ordered that Jain's salary be paid in full along with all benefits, but the IIT allegedly showed no inclination to act upon the order.

Said Javed Abidi, executive director of the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People: "When I approached IIT governing body chairman M.G.K Menon, he brushed away the issue saying, 'IIT is a centre of excellence and not a home for the disabled'."

ASP (U.P. POLICE) A. K. JAIN SUSPENDED FOR MISBEHAVING WITH MINISTER

March 14, 2005 Taking a serious note of police "misbehavior" with state Urban Development and Parliamentary Minister Azam Khan at a function in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Government has suspended Mr. A. K. Jain, A.S.P., Uttar Pradesh Police and some other policemen. The suspension is the result of lapse in protocol and VIP duty during a function organised to lay the foundation stone of a Haj House on the bank of river Hindon in Ghaziabad.



INDICTED BY SAWANT COMMISSION, MINISTER SURESH JAIN RESIGNS FROM MAHARASHTRA CABINET

Maharashtra Minister for Higher and Technical Education, Suresh Jain, resigned from government following his reported indictment by Justice P. B. Sawant Commission, which probed corruption charges against him and social activist Anna Hazare. Jain, in his resignation letter, said he was quitting 'in view of the aspersions cast by the report' and to maintain dignity of the office. The Sawant Commission was set up after social worker Anna Hazare leveled allegations of corruption against Suresh Jain, who also made charges against Hazare.



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