

JAIN AHIMSA TIMES

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PREACHING OF JAINISM BY DR. JAY KUMAR UPADHYE IN CANADA

Dr. Jay Kumar Upadhye, Professor of Prakrit language at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University and Chairman of Astrology and Vastu-Architecture Department at Shri Kundkund Bharti Prakrit Research Institute, New Delhi visited Canada on the invitation from the Jain Society of Toronto to give a series of Lectures on Jainism and Jain Philosophy for a period of three weeks, on the occasion of 2600th Birth Centenary Celebrations of Lord Mahavir. He was specially honoured S.S. Jain Foundation and its President, Dr. Sulekh Chand Jain in the presence of thousands of followers of Jain religion. He has been invited to visit of different towns in the United States also to give lectures, present his research papers on Prakrit and Jainism and advise Jain institutions on Vastu in the construction of buildings and temples.

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS BY ACHARYA SHRI DR. SHIV MUNI



Following Saint of Shwetambar Sthanakwasi Jain Shraman Sangh are nominated to working committee by Acharya Shri Dr. Shiv Muni

Acharya: Jain Dharm Divakar, Dr. Shiv Muni

Upadhyay : Poojya Shri Manohar Muni Ji Maharaj, Poojya Shri Vishal Muni Ji Maharaj, Poojya Shri Mool Muni Ji Maharaj

Pravartak: Poojya Shri Umesh Muni Ji Maharaj, Poojya Shri Ramesh Muni Ji Maharaj, Poojya Shri Roop Muni Ji Maharaj 'Raiat', Pooiya Shri Kundan Rishi Ji Maharaj, Poojya Shri Indra Muni Ji Maharaj

Maha-Mantri: Poojya Shri Saubhagya Muni Ji Maharaj 'Kumud'

Mantri: Poojya Shri Suman Muni Ji Maharaj

ACHARYA HEMACHANDRASURI AWARD GIVEN TO PT. LAXMAN BHAI BHOJAK

Acharya Hemachandra Suri Award, instituted by Jaswanta Dharmarth Trust, of Rs. 51,000/- and golden idol of Acharya Hemachandra Suri were given to Pt. Laxman Bhai Bhojak for the year 2000 by Dr. Balwant Jani, Vice - Chancellor of the North Gujarat University. Pt. Laxman Bhai Bhojak is one of the few outstanding manuscriptologist, who even at the age of 85 years is still working on the manuscripts and has already handled approximately 5 lakh manuscripts. He has published various books and catalogues of the manuscripts . His skill in maintaining and reading of the manuscripts and scripts is extraordinary.

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR FIFTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VEDIC STUDIES

The fifth National Conference of the World Association for Vedic Studies (WAVES) is being organised at the Holy Shrine, Srisailam in Andhara Pradesh from December 28 to 30th, 2001 jointly with Sridevi Veda Vidyalayamu, Srisailam. The theme of the conference is "Vedic wisdom and Global Issues". Scholars are invited to contribute papers on the conference theme. Abstracts of the papers may be sent before 10th September 2001 to: Dr. C. L. Prabhakar, President, WAVES, Bangalore Chapter, 234, 11th B. Cross, 20th Main, J.P. Nagar 11 Phase, Bangalore 560 078, Phone 080-6592489. For Registration & other details contact: Dr. Shashi Tiwari, Secretary, WAVES India Branch, 54, Saakshara Apartments, A-3, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi - 110 063, Phone 0011-5585237, E-Mail: Sushit98@yahoo.com

RALLY AND MEMORANDUM TO PRIME MINISTER TO STOP FOETICIDE

A huge Rally, organised by women of Delhi, consisting of a large number of both men and women was conducted in the previous month against alarming number of foeticide cases taking place in hospitals and nursing homes, causing merciless

killing of the embryo, prior to its taking birth. The rate of these cases arriving at hospitals has been on a sharp increase with the recent promulgation of new law approved by the Government of India which legalises Sonography tests to determine the sex of babies before taking birth and abortion thereafter, which has given a big boost to these merciless and immoral cases of Foeticide. Though everyone knows that it is a heinous crime to resort to these operations, still Doctors in private hospitals and Nursing homes are doing a roaring business and there is no check or control to stop the menace. There are several Nursing homes, which have cropped up these days, in every part of the country, not only in large cities but small towns too which only indulge in the work of abortions. They are functioning more like slaughter houses than Nursing homes and are thriving on this inhuman, despicable, abominable and heinous criminal business. The commercial publicity given to get Sonography test done to determine the sex of the Embryo at the early stage of pregnancy, has reached a tremendous proportion.

Unfortunately, the Government also seems to be sleeping over the whole issue and it has to be woken up from its deep slumber. In fact the Government has encouraged this inhuman trade by passing laws which give rise to mass killings, and that too at a time when 2600th Birth Centenary of Lord Mahavir is being celebrated all over the country. Such a law has not only reduced but nullified the rights of women in the country about which our law-makers have been talking so eloquently inside and outside the Houses. Such heinous laws must be condemned by all right-thinking citizens of the country, who believe in truth, ahimsa, ethics and moral values. The wrong decision taken by the Government, for whatever reasons, must be united opposed tooth and nail everywhere.

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The Rally at Delhi was conducted with great passion, zeal and enthusiasm. It ended up with the handing over of a Memorandum at the office of the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpai, requesting him to immediately withdraw the immoral law, which has been wrongly promulgated and to come out openly declaring that Foeticide is the greatest sin, which should never be encouraged. The participants of the rally took a solemn oath to propagate the message of wrongful Foeticide, educate them against the despicable crime and work sincerely to stop the merciless and criminal act.

Such rallies are being conducted in various parts of the country. One such big rally was recently carried out with a great degree of gusto and enthusiasm at Bhilwara in Rajasthan, in which hundreds of women took part, chanting

slogans against the heinous crime and condemning the doctors and nursing homes carrying out this business in the town. Mrs. Manju Pokharna, an active social worker led the entire procession, which ended up at the Collector's office and handed over to him a Memorandum for onward transmission to the Chief Minister of the State.

DELHI MEDICAL ASSOCIATION COMES OUT AGAINST LEGALISATION OF FOETICIDE

The Delhi Medical Association, a large body of Allopathic Medical Practitioners and Surgeons from Delhi and around, has requested all its members to keep away from committing the dreadful sin of Foeticide in case of girls.

Dr. Vinod Kumar Monga, President of the Association has recently issued a Statement in the Press, saying that Doctors carrying out Ultrasonic tests should rather abstain from the immoral act of Foeticide. He has also requested the members of every family, particularly, mothers and sisters not to be partners in this criminal act and to openly boycott and condemn such women who indulge themselves, or encourage such practices.

13TH SUMMER SCHOOL ON PRAKRIT LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology Delhi, conducts every year a Summer School on Prakrit language and literature for three weeks. This year students from all over India applied for the same and twenty five students were selected and attended the school conducted by the competent scholars of the Institute and other Universities. The valedictory certificates were given to all the participants by Dr. Sompal Shashtri of the Planning Commission.

IMPORTANT DECISIONS TAKEN BY SHRI BHARATVARSHIYA DIGAMBAR JAIN MAHA-SABHA

An important meeting of the Executive Committee of the Maha-sabha was held on 28th and 29th July, 2001 at Lucknow under the Chairmanship of its national President, Shri Nirmal Kumar Jain. Several significant issues of current interest were discussed at the meeting. Some salient points discussed and decided included repair and renovation of old Jain temples and pilgrimage centers and honoring dedicated persons of the society.

KOTA OPEN UNIVERSITY RENAMED AS BHAGWAN MAHAVIR OPEN UNIVERSITY



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As already informed in the previous issue, the Open University at Kota has been renamed as Bhagwan Mahavir Open University on the holy occasion of 2600th Birth Centenary of Lord Mahavir. The Minister of Urban Development, Shri Shanti Dhariwal at a function organised in his honour recently

Udaipur announced that renaming of the Open University at Kota has been effected. Many roads and colonies in different towns will be named after Bhagwan Mahavir and sale of meat or wine will be totally banned in the premises within a range of 500 meters around any Jain pilgrimage Centers in the State. As informed to the viewers earlier, approval has been given on 21 points by the State Government for promoting Ahimsa and spreading the message of Lord Mahavir. These include putting up hoardings depicting the Lord's messages and naming roads, schemes and colonies behind his name.

ANCIENT JAIN IDOLS STOLEN

Jain idols worth several lakhs of rupees in the international market were stolen on 13th August at the Government Archeological museum at Dharwad, Karnataka, India. This news was disclosed to the press by the Director of the museum Dr. Raghunath Bhatt. The stolen idols include the idols of Goddess Jwalamalini, Bhagawan Bahubali, Jaina Barma and idols of Tirthankaras in the Kayotsarga and Padmasana postures. All these idols belong to the 17th and 18th century.

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FIRST EVER CONVENTION OF JAIN WOMEN FROM NORTH EASTERN REGION

A Regional Convention of women from Jain community belonging to North Eastern regional states was held on 13th, 14th & 15th July 2001, at Gowahati. Hundreds of women from different states took active part in the programme. Smt. Kanchanlata Chhabra presided over the function. In her residential address, she threw light on various activities which are being taken up on the occasion of 2600th birth centenary of Lord Mahavir.

A Jain Quiz programme was arranged for women in which the participants took active interest and won prizes. A cultural programme was also arranged one evening. A family Directory of all Digamber Jain community named "Kul Vatika" in the entire region was released on the occasion. The programme was a great successful event.

BHAGWAN PARSHWA NATH MOKSHA KALYANAK

The Moksha Kalyanak of Lord Parshwa Nath was celebrated in the holy presence of Shri 105 Dhyan Sagarji Maharaj at Siddhkshetra Muttagiri on 26th July 2001. It was organised by the Vidarvbha Maha Sabha of Digamber sect. A large number of Jain devotees took part in the worshipping celebrations.

LORD MAHAVIR BIRTH CENTENARY COMMITTEE IN JHARKHAND

A high-powered committee, headed by Shri Babulal Marandi, Chief Minister of Jharkhand state was constituted to celebrate 2600th birth centenary celebrations for the whole year in the state and to spread the message of Lord Mahavir amongst all the people. The members of the committee included Shri Sahu Ramesh Chand Jain (Delhi), Shri Nirmal Kumar Sethi (Jaipur), Shri Basant Bhai Doshi (Bombay), Shri J. D. Jain (Delhi), Shri D. K. Jain (Delhi), Shri Ratnesh Kumar Jain, Shri

Rajendra Saraogi and Shri Raj Kumar Jain (Daltonganj), Shri Dharam Chand (Ranchi), Shri Ashok Kumar Pandya (Girdih), Smt. Rekha Jain (Ranchi), Shri Sampat Rampuria (Ranchi), Shri Sidh Raj Singhi (Ranchi) and others.

PASSING AWAY THROUGH SAMADHI MARAN

Kshullika Shri Antim Mati Ji, disciple of Acharya Shri Bharat Sagarji Maharaj took Samadhi at Sammet Shikharji, and breathed her last at the age of 68 years. She belonged to Godha family of Nawa, District Nagaur in Rajasthan.

Shri Bhanwar Lal Ji Dharmavat belonging to Bhinder town in Udaipur Division of Rajasthan took Samadhi and left for his heavenly abode at the age of 86 years. He accepted "Sallekhana" vow for taking "Samadhi" by Muni Shri Vinishchaya Sagarji Maharai.

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DIKSHA CEREMONY

Km. Maya Devi of Porsa village, Distt Murena (M.P.) was accepted to holy order as Aryika in the Digambar sect by revered saint Ganini, 105 Shri Vishudh Matiji Maharaj on 5th August, 2001.

DIGAMBER JAINS CELEBRATE DASLAKSHANA PARVA

The Jain community belonging to Digamber sect observed Daslakshana Parva with austerity on 2nd September at the end of ten days period of Paryushana Parva. The Kshamapana Diwas was observed at community level all over the country to beg apology from all living beings for any deeds, performed knowingly or unknowingly, voluntarily or involuntarily during the past year.

VOW TO SAVE ECOLOGY IN THE HIMALAYAS

The members of Chipko Movement in Tehri Garhwal region of Himalayas took a vow to save the trees and local flora and fauna from destruction at any cost, what so ever and resist any move by the Government to establish a 16 lakh kw Power plant there covering an area of 85sq. km.

LECTURE ON JAINISM AT LONDON UNIVERSITY

The 3rd Annual WCJA Lecture on Jainism will be delivered by Dr. John Cort on 14th March 2002 at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. The 4th Annual Jain Research Workshop will then be held on the 15th March 2002 at SOAS. Those interested may contact: Department of the Study of Religions, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Thronhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WCIH OXG, Tel. + 44 (0)20-7898 4760, Fax: +44(0)20-7898-4789, E-Mail: religions@soas.as.uk

LISTING OF VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT AROUND THE WORLD

Ahimsa Foundation has compiled a list of vegetarian restaurants around the world along with their addresses , telephone numbers etc. for the benefit of international travelers who wish with to eat vegetarian food but find it hard to reach the right place. The List will be continuously updated from time to time depending on availability of information. **To view the list please Click Here**



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