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ACHARYASHREE MAHAPRAJNA'S MESSAGE TO GENERAL MUSHARRAF DELIVERED BY LOKESH MUNI 'LOKESH' AT NEW DELHI

ACHARVA MAHAPRAGYA NOMINATED FOR COMMUNAL HARMONY AWARD



"Pakistan and India have similar problems and worries. We only can fight poverty, illiteracy and diseases rampant in our region, if our region is peaceful. Your efforts towards strengthening world peace and creating a non-violent society are commendable. I hold the belief that the ensuing atmosphere of peace will help us diverting the enormous defense expenditures to resolve the above-mentioned problems. To deal with contending issues the idea of Anekanta or non-absolutism, which talks of relative viewpoints, as given by Bhagwan Mahavira, can help. Meeting and dialogue are the first steps in this direction."



April, New Delhi. The prestigious "Communal Harmony Award" will be given to Acharya Mahapragya, the founder of "Ahimsa Yatra" for His valuable contribution in the field of National Unity and Communal Harmony. According to the Foundation of National Communal Harmony, Govt. of India, this prestigious award for the year 2004 will be given to His Holiness Acharya Mahapragya at a grand function in the National Capital. This award is given for the unique contribution to the unity and communal harmony in the country.

The Award Committee, presided by Shri Bhairon Singh Shekshawat, the Hon'ble Vice-President of India, has chosen Acharya Mahapragya for this award for His remarkable work among several nominees. In this award Rs. 2 lakh and a memorandum are presented. The spokesperson of Ahimsa Yatra Muni Lokprakash Lokesh has expressed his joy and said that this award would certainly be the award to the great values of Indian Culture. This would surely motivate the workers of non-violence, peace and communal harmony. This is the award to moral values.

HOUSTON JAIN CENTRE CELEBRATES ARRIVAL OF TERAPANTH SAMANIJIS JAYANT AND SANMATI PRAGYA



Smanijis Jayant and Sanmati Pragya arrived in Houston on March 9th. The Jain Society of Houston welcomed them with a special morning program on 13th March. In an evening ceremony on the same day, they were saluted by a large group of followers of JVB Houston Inc.. The ceremony was marked by welcoming addresses from several people, including young children.

SHRI DEVENDRA DHAM TO BE INAUGURATED ON 22ND APRIL AT UDAIPUR

A memorial has been built at Udaipur in the memory of third Acharya of Shwetambar Sthanakwasi Shraman Sangh, which is now scheduled to be inaugurated on the 'Janm Kalyanak day' of Bhagwan Mahavir, the 22nd April, 2005. The entire complex occupying an area of more than 1,00,000 sq.ft. consists of the main block, depicting the inspiring events and memories, sthanak, library, Jain art gallery and a hospital. Revered saints, like Shri Ganesh Muni Shastri, Upadhyay Shri Ramesh Muni, Shri Mohan Muni, Shri Vridhi Chand Ji, Shri Subhash Muni and many other saints and sadhwi will grace the occasion by their holy presence. It is expected that Dr. Girija Vyas, Chairperson of National Women's Commission, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, Minister of Home Affairs in Raj. Government, Shri Raghav Jain, Minister of Finance in M.P. Government, Smt. Kiran Maheshwari, M.P. and many other distinguished guests will attend the programme.

TARUN SAGAR JI URGES PEOPLE TO STOP CONSULTING ASTROLOGERS AND TANTRIKS



Krantikari Digambar Jain saint Shri Tarun Sagar Ji maharaj advised a heavily-attended gathering of people from all communities at Pune to discourage the entry of astrologers and tantriks into their houses if they wanted to maintain peace in their homes and families. He was speaking on the closing day of ten-day Sanskar Mahotsava organised by 'Sakal Jain Samaj' of Pune. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Vilas Rao Deshmukh was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The programme was presided over by Shri Ramesh Chandra Agrawal from Bhopal. Many eminent persons from political parties, social and religious organisations attended the discourse of Muni Tarun Sagar Ji with rapt attention and were highly impressed by his revolutionary ideas. It is reported that the gathering at this discourse was the highest ever for any religious programme held so far in Pune city. The entire programme of sanskar Mahotsava running for ten days was telecasted on Sanskar channel.

TEMPLES

MUKTI-DHAM TEMPLE AT NASHIK SHOWS BHAGWAN MAHAVEER'S IDOL WEARING DHOTI



It is indeed a matter of embarrassment for the entire Jain community of Nashik that the idol of Bhagwan Mahaveer has been shown wearing a short dhoti in a Hindu temple, named as Mukti-Dham, built few years ago at Nashik in Maharashtra. It appears that no one from Jain community has ever cared to point out this error to the management of the temple. The temple carries idols of many gods and goddesses in a gallery, apart from the idols of Rama and Krishna in the main hall. The temple is being attended by hundreds of people every day and such a depiction gives erroneous message to all the visitors. It is high time that Nasik-based Jain community should care to look into the matter and get the mistake corrected.

RS. 75 CRORES EARMARKED FOR MAHAMASTAKABHISHEKA

The devotees and tourists for the the world renowned Mahamastakabhisheka at Sharavanabelagola early next year will be provided with best facilities, if the budget 2005-06 proposal has its way. Finance Minister Siddaramaiah has allocated a whopping Rs 75 crore to provide better amenities to lakhs of people who congregate at the venue. The government also intends to give a fillip to tourism industry by celebrating it in a grand way. Besides, the government has earmarked Rs 10 crore for preparatory activities to celebrating "Suvarna Karnataka", golden jubilee of formation of Karnataka

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PROGRAMME OF MAHAMASTHAKABHISHEKHA CELEBRATIONS

Shravanabelagola (Hassan District, Karnataka), The first Mahamasthakabhishekha of Bhagawan Bahubali of the 21st century will be held from 22nd January to 19th February, 2006.

His Holiness Karmayogi Swastisri Charukeerthi Bhattarakha Swamiji the pontiff of Shravanabelagola disclosed it and added that Acharya Sri Vardhamansagar Maharaj who graced the previously held Mahamasthakabhishekha in 1993 will grace the present Mahamasthakabhishekha also.

DETAILED PROGRAM

- January 22nd, 2006: Inauguration of the Mahotsav
- January 22nd onwards, different functions, programmes and aradhanas.
- February 4th: Panchakalyana begins.
- February 8th: First Mahamasthakabhisheka with 108 Kalashas.
- February 9th: Mahamasthakabhisheka with 504 Kalashas.
- February 10th: Mahamasthakabhisheka with 1008 Kalashas.
- February 11th: Sarvathobadhra Aradhana to 24 Tirthankara's at Bhandara Basadi.
- February 12th, 13th: Mahamasthakabhisheka with 1008 Kalashas.
- February 14th: Mahapooja to Sahasrakoota Jinabimba.
- February 15th, 16th: Mahamasthakabhishekha with 1008 Kalashas.
- February 17th: Jinavani Mahapooja.
- February 18th, 19th: Mahamasthakabhisheka with 1008 Kalashas.

The Mahamasthakabhishekha celebration is held as a symbol of world peace and coexistence. Lakhs of devotees of Bahubali, acharyas and eminents from all over the world will participate in this historic event. It is expected that 25 lakhs of people will attend the Mahamasthakabhishekha. The arrangements are being made for 10,000 people to witness the event from Indragiri and 3 lakhs from Chandragiri hills. It may be recalled that the Masthakabhishekhas were held in 1953, 1967, 1981 and 1993 in the post independent period. The dignitaries such as Indira Gandhi the former prime minister of India, Shankardayal Sharma the former president participated in the events. It is to note that Manmohan Singh, the prime minister of India and Smt.Sonia Gandhi the A.I.C.C. president are expected to witness the Mahamasthakabhishekha. For more news updates please visit : www.jainheritagecentres.com

AWARDSACHIEVEMENTS

MAHAVIR MAHATMA AWARD PRESENTED AT NEW DELHI



Shri Shivraj Patil, the Home Minister, Government of India, conferred Awards for 'Oneness of Mahavir and Mahatma' to noted singer A R Rahman, Dr Daisaku Ikeda of Soka Gakkai International of Japan, Tushar A. Gandhi of Mahatma Gandhi Foundation and other eminent personalities for excellence in the field of human welfare and spiritual enlightenment. Spiritual Guru Sri Sri Ravishankar alongwith Defence Minister Pranab Mukherji and Mr Patil launched the Forum on behalf of which awards were conferred.

The award consisted of a shawl, a memento and citation. The other awardees included Ms Martha Merchant from Bahai Community of India, Mr Brahmatejji of the Art of Living Foundation, Swami Nisarga from Isha Foundation, Ms Shulamith Ezekiel Malekar from Judah Hyam Synagogue, Dr Madhu Khanna and Mr Ranjit Makkuni from Sacred World Research Lab, Mr Nammann Ji from Oneness University and Ms Shashi Kumar Nair from Mata Amritanandamayi Math. Mr Daisaku Ikeda's son Hiromasa Ikeda received the award on his father's behalf. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was conferred the Bharat Shiromani Award by the

Home minister. The award was previously given to Mother Teresa.

Sri concluded the programme by explaining the essence of "MM": "If you tell a child MM, it is a brand of chocolate. For students, it is marks and music. For young people, it is money and marriage. For managers, it is management and marketing. For businessmen, it is money and market. For philosophers and historians, it is Mahavir and Mahatma.

MR. NARESH KUMAR SETHI NOMINATED CHIEF OF ALL INDIA DIGAMBER JAIN TIRTHKSHETRA COMMITTEE

Mumbai, after the demise of Sahu Shri Ramesh Jain, the position was lying vacant. Mr. Naresh Kumar Jain who is an Ex-IAS Officer, with tremendous administrative experience will look after the activities of Tirthkshetra Committee. Shri Naresh Kumar Jain is also president of Shri Mahaveer Ji Tirthkshetra Committee. This body is the supreme body of Digambar Jains in the country and represents over three hundred ancient temples and tirths.

SUNITA NARAIN GETS CHAMELI DEVI JAIN AWARD



New Delhi, March 29: Environmental journalist and editor of the magazine, 'Down To Earth', Sunita Narain was today conferred the Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Woman Mediaperson for being a "tireless crusader for environmental rectitude". At a function held at India International Centre, Narain was handed over a citation. The citation said that Down To Earth brought out by the Centre for Science and Environment, Delhi, "has been at the forefront of those who have brought environmental issues into the mainstream of national and household consciousness".

"Recent campaigns conducted by Down To Earth," the citation added, "have focused on air and water quality, pesticide and other toxic residues in the food chain, water conservation, especially through rainwater harvesting, and equitable and ecologically sound methods of waste disposal." Narain pointed out that environmental and ecological issues in rural and urban India had grown more complex over the years. "Down To Earth is not mainstream, neither is it as staid and boring as alternate media is supposed to look," she added. The award ceremony was followed by a panel discussion on "Who Rule Airwaves" in the context of the 1995 Supreme Court ruling that airwaves should not remain a government monopoly.

'VIDWAT - RATNA AWARD CONFERRED ON SHRI SATISH KUMAR JAIN OF DELHI

Shri Satish Kumar Jain, Founder-General Secretary of Ahinsa International has been honoured by Digambar Jain samaj with "Vidwat-Ratna Award" for his rich contribution to Jain literature, Jain art and Architecture and propagation of Jain religion in India and abroad. He has been visiting various countries from time to time, taking part in conferences and seminars and has been honoured on several occasions. He has been an adviser to Ministry of Forests and Environment for the last thirty years. He was declared 'Man of the Year-2003' by the Biographical Institute in U.S.A. His recent book, "Jainism, its literature, art and archeology and the Jains in global perspective" has been very well receive.



CONFERENCEEVENTS

RICH TRIBUTES PAID TO DEVKI DEVI ON BIRTH CENTENARY AT LUDHIANA

Ludhiana, The birth centenary of Devki Devi was celebrated on 13th March at Devki Devi Jain College for Women. On the occasion, a translation of Acharya Samrat Atma Ram, Bhagwati Sutra was also released. The book is translated by Amar Muni Maharaj. Subhash Sagar, son of film producer-director Ramanand Sagar, was the chief guest. Talking on the occasion, he paid rich tributes to Devki Devi. A Jain Journal, Atam Path, was also released. On the occasion, Mayor Nahar Singh Gill inaugurated the Devki Fitness Centre. Surinder Dawar, Parliamentary Secretary, promised all help in the construction of the college hall. Sirish Muni Maharaj, Suvrata Muni Maharaj and Upadhyay Ravinder Maharaj also spoke on the occasion. A compact disc of Acharya Samrat, Dr. Shiv Muni was presented to Subhash Sagar and Hira Lal Jain.

GLOBAL MEAT-OUT SEMINAR -2005 ON VEGETARIANISM

The Global Meat-Out Seminar for the year 2005 was organised by "Animals Rights International" at New Delhi on 20th March, 2005. The programme was arranged with the cooperation of National Vegetarians Society. It comprised of a key-note address by Mr. L. N. Mittal, well-known industrialist and lectures by eminent people on ahimsa, vegetarianism and prevention of cruelty to animals. A interesting display of a large variety of vegetarian foods was arranged besides a fashion-day, organised by school children to illustrate the use of vegetables for the purpose of covering on the body in the form of fancy dresses. A speech competition was also arranged for the school-going children. Shri K. C. Pant was the chief guest on the occasion.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON PRAKRIT AND JAINOLOGY AT CALCUTTA

A national seminar on 'Prakrit language and Jainology' was organised on 11th and 12th March, 2005 by Asiatic Society, Calcutta. This institution was established in the year 1784 at Calcutta by Sir William Jones. The programme was well-attended and delegates from various towns, like Dr. Hampa Nagrajyaya from Bangalore, Dr. Asim Kumar chatterji from Calcutta, Dr. Jitendra B. Shah and Dr. Dina Nath Sharma from Ahmedabad, Dr. Dharam Chand Jain from Jodhpur, Dr. Vimal Prakash Jain and Dr. Ashok Singh from Delhi and Dr. DALbir Singh from Amritsar took part in the deliberations. Eminent scholar of Prakrit, Dr. Satya Ranjan Banerjee conducted the programme. Fourteen research papers were presented on topics, like Anekantwad in Jain philosophy, Gun Sthan, Knowledge of Jainology, Ganadharwad etc.

LECTURES BY HIRAJI RATAN MANEK DRAW LARGE CROWDS



Hira Ratan Manek, fondly called, HRM - his love for the SUN has made him a legend of this century. He has been going round the country and also abroad to popularise sun worship and living entire on solar rays without food for long periods. His mind-blowing speech with remarkable confidence has been inducing people to arrange his lectures in Mumbai and many other towns. In almost all the places there is a large gathering and the audience is spellbound listening to him. His lectures charge the audience to that extent that many of them turn SUN worshippers the very next day. He is so powerful as to create an admiration in the mind of the people for the purity and beauty of the SUN.

WORKSHOP ORGANISED ON LAWS OF JAINOLOGY AND JAIN SOCIETY AT LONDON

The Religious Study Centre at London University organised a workshop on the 17th march, 2005 on the subject of 'Jain laws and Jain society'. Dr. M.K. Dhaki presented his paper on "Problems of Jain history", Mr. Peter Flujel and Mr. Prakash Jhaveri talked on Jain religion and Indian courts, Eminent lawyer from Jodhpur, Mr. Lekh Raj Mehta presented his paper on 'Study of Jain Judiciary in the context of code of punishment' and Mr. Bal Patil talked about 'Rights of Jain minority and religious secularism'. Mr. Lon Foulsten presented his research findings on 'The hills of Khandgiri and Udaigiri'. Prof. Philip Grenauf from the University of Yale delivered the fifth annual lecture on the subject of "Protecting the faith; Exploring the concern of Jain Monastic rules". Courtesy: Jinwani, April, 2005.

NEW BOOKS

MADHYA PRADESH KI JAIN KALA (Hindi) By Madhulika Vajpayi, 1993 250 x 190 mm 258 pp 26 line drawings 102 art plates. Jain Art has made a tremendously important contribution to Indian Art and architecture, iconography and paintings. The oldest Jain image is found at the Kankali Tila in Mathura, U.P., the standing image of Lord Rsabhadeva in the position known as khadgasana, which is a posture of standing askesis. The author meticulously covers different aspects of Jain Art, Architecture and iconography as found in Madhya Pradesh from 9th to 15th centuries CE. The work has been presented in a very comprehensive manner. There is a pull out map of Madhya Pradesh, 26 line drawings and 102 art plates, which have b/w colour photographs. A must for every art student and student of Jainism and Indology.

BOOKS PUBLISHED

Illustrated BHAGAVATI SUTRA Vol. 1

VYAKHYA PRAJNAPTI

Prakrit Gatha - Hindi exposition - English exposition; with a glossary

Ed. by Pravartaka Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras

Eng. tr. by Surendra Bothra

14 Oil paintings by Dr. Trilok Sharma reproduced on art plates

2005 250 x 190 mm 584 pp 14 colour plates.

The Jain canon consists of 12 Angas which are said to be promulgated by Mahavira himself. Of these, the Viahapannatti (Vyakhyaprajñapti) is the fifth. The Viahapannatti is said to have been composed by ganadhara Sudharma Svami. It may be described as the "Exposition of Explanations", is the largest text of the canon said to contain 60000 questions answered by Mahavira. The subject matter of the answers ranges from the Jain Doctrine to rules of ascetic behaviour. Courtesy: Manish Modi, Web: www.hindibooks.8m.com

CHEDA SUTRA - Prakrit Gatha - Hindi exposition - English exposition; with Appendices, Ed. by Pravartaka Amar Muni, Shrichand Surana Saras, English translation by Rajkumar Jain, 15 Oil paintings by Dr. Trilok Sharma reproduced on art plates, 2005 250 x 190 mm 580 pp 15 colour plates; Hardcover; Price: Rs. 600.00. The Cheda Sutras form an important part of the Shvetambara canon. They are the basis of ascetic self-regulation in the Shvetambara ascetic community. The Cheda Sutras contain codes of ascetic praxis and may be described as the constitution of the Shramana religion. There are four Cheda Sutras, Dasha Shrutaskandha, Brhat Kalpa, Vyavahara, Nishitha. The first three are said to be composed by Acarya Bhadrabahu. This book deals with the first three Cheda Sutras. This book deals with the three Cheda Sutras in a simple and lucid manner. The Prakrit gathas are quoted, followed by a Hindi and English exposition. The subject matter is explained with clarity and the print quality is excellent. Courtesy: Mr. Manish Modi, Hindi Granth Karyalay, 9, Hirabaug, C.P. Tank, Mumbai 400004 India.

AN EPITOME OF JAINISM - (English) , Author - Mr. KB Jindal, 1988 220 x 145 mm 232 pp + 1 pull out chart, 81 215 0058 3 Hardcover Rs. 200. This book describes Jaina Sacred Scriptures in a nutshell. It contains scholarly summaries of the following works:

- 1) Dravyasangraha by Nemicandra
- 2) Tattvarthasutra by Umasvami
- 3) Pañcastikayasara by Kundakunda
- 4) Purusharthasidhyupaya by Amrtacandra
- 5) Gommatasara Jivakanda by Nemicandra
- 6) Atmanushasana by Gunabhadra
- 7) Gommatasara Karmakanda by Nemicandra
- 8) Samayasara by Kundakunda
- 9) Niyamasara by Kundakunda
- 10) Parikshamukham by Manikyanandi
- 11) Cosmology, OldNew by G. R. Jain

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This is a useful and interesting book. Jindal has written scholarly studies on each of the scriptures. His study includes not only an exposition on the contents of the scripture but also a scholarly attempt to fix its date and its contextual relationship with other Indian scriptures written in the same era.

Jindal also sheds light on the author of the particular text and his overall contribution to Jainism. Jindal's brilliant study is enhanced by footnotes, charts, illustrations and definitions wherever required. His explanation of the content matter of each scripture is absolutely superb, reflecting a deep-rooted understanding of Jaina Doctrine and exemplary powers of explanation. Courtesy: Manish Modi The book can be obtained from: Hindi Granth Karyalay, 9, Hirabaug, C.P. Tank, Mumbai 400004, India. E-Mail: manish.modi@mtnl.net.in

GOD: MYTHS OF THE MALE DIVINE - May be purchased from Amazon here: www.amazon.com. The concept of god through the ages is presented in his various forms as trickster, shaman, divine child, sacrificial victim, consort, warrior, sky king, creator, and more. Points are illustrated with myths and stories from prehistoric cave paintings, the mystic Jewish Kabbalah, Hindu Vedas and tales of North American Indians. Courtesy: Mr. J.V. Mehta

GODDESS: MYTHS OF THE FEMALE DIVINE - May be purchased from Amazon here: www.amazon.com. This book traces the goddess from her first Ice Age appearances as the all-encompassing, all-giving, and all-taking Earth, to her re-emergence as a powerful force in the myths of modern religion, psychology, and science. She moves through the foundational myths of African, Indian, Native American, Greece, Celtic, Christianity and the modern Gaia hypothesis. In these compelling myths the goddess coves alive with energy and mystery. Courtesy: Mr. J.V. Mehta.

DIKSHACHATURMAS JAIN DIKSHA

1. Ms. Sangeeta Kawad, daughter Shri Ratan Lal Pawad and grand daughter of Mr. Panna Lal Ji Pawad who was practicing religion with Sadhvi Shri Sulochana Ji and Sadhvi Sulakshana Ji was accorded diksha at Bangalore on 12th March, 2005 by Marudhar Mani Upadhyay Shri Mani Prabh Sagarji of Mandir Marg sect. Diksha programme was attended by thousands of Jains from Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and several other nearby towns. Her father, Mr. Ratan Lal Kawad informed that their daughter had been carrying out spiritual endeavours and contemplation for many years.

2. Ms. Meena Golechha, age 22 years, daughter of Shri Mahaveer Chand and Mrs. Pratibha Devi of Erode Village, will be conferred diksha by Marudhar Mani Upadhyay Shri Mani Prabh Sagarji of Mandir Marg sect on 18th June 2005 at Krishna Giri Tirth in Karnataka. Ms. Meena is practicing religion for more than ten years under Sadhvi Shri Sulochana Ji and Sadhvi Sulakshana Ji.



CHATURMAS PROGRAM

Marudhar Mani Upadhyay Shri Mani Prabh Sagarji of Mandir Marg sect

1. Upadhyaya Shri Kailash Sagar Ji - Nakoda Ji
2. Upadhyaya Shri Maniprabhsagar Ji – Chennai
3. Muni Jayanand Ji – Jaipur
4. Muni Manogya Sagar Ji – Chohtan
5. Sadhvi Shri Prakash Shri Ji- ErodeChennai
6. Sadhvi Sulochana JiSulakshana Ji – Bangalore
7. Sadhvi Suryaprabha Shri Ji & Puranprabha Shri Ji- Hyderabad

MISCELLANEOUS

JAINS IN TN WANT TO BE DECLARED AS 'RELIGIOUS MINORITIES' IN TAMILNADU

Jains in Tamil Nadu have demanded that they should be declared as 'religious minorities' in the Tamil Nadu. According to Mr. Harish Mehta, Member of the State Minorities Commission, Jains are allowed to run educational institutions as minority institutions, but have to approach the Government every year for renewal of their minority status. Mr. Bharwarial Gothi, President of Shree Jain Maha Sangh has also demanded that, the Mahaveer Jayanti should be declared a holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act in the state. The day should also be declared as 'Ahimsa day' so that order can be issued for the closure of all meat shops on this day.

BHAGWAN MAHAVEER SERVICE APARTMENT AT BANGALORE

While traveling to Bangalore you can stay in service apartments at the most reasonable rates. All the rooms are very well furnished. All Jain temples are all near by with 10 to 20 minutes. ALL single and double rooms have a fully functional kitchen where you can cook your own food. Contact: Sundeep Raj Gadiya, BHagwan Mahaveer Service Apartments. E-mail : sunny_times_2000@yahoo.com

"JAINOLOGY CERTIFICATE COURSE" CONDUCTED BY MUMBAI UNIVERSITY

This course on Jainology, conducted by the Mumbai University consists of a variety of subjects, such as: All Main Religions and Jain religion, Basic Principles, Lokalok, Shatdravaya, Navtatva, Sadhu Sadhavi Aachaar, Grasthadharma, Karma Principal, Agamgrandhs, Panch Parmesthis, Chaturvidh Sangh, Status of women, Ahimsa and Vegetarianism, Jain Sampradayas, Panchgyan, Jain Literature, Sanlekhana, Jain Yog, Dhyan-Meditation, Leshya, Anekant, Tap, etc. Medium of instruction is English, but candidates can give examination in Gujarati or Hindi also. After one year certificate course, the students can go for Diploma Course. For Further Details: Please contact Mumbai University Tatvagyan Department, Ghyaneshwar Bhavan, 1 st. floor, Vidya Nagri, Kalina Campus Mumbai. Telephone Nos. 26527337 between 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. or To Dr. Bipin Doshi, Phone No. 98210 52413. Courtesy: Anandji Dedhia E-Mail : anandjidedhia@yahoo.com

PETITION TO STOP MASS ANIMAL SLAUGHTER

A message from Arinjay Jain requesting the jain community to sign the petition : "Central Government's decision to launch a scheme for starting fifty four thousand slaughter houses in the country". It has been hosted on the web by www.PetitionOnline.com, the free online petition service, at: www.PetitionOnline.com I personally agree with what this petition says, and I think you might agree, too. If you can spare a moment, please take a look, and consider signing yourself.

MUMBAI HIGH COURT REJECTS PETITION FOR STOPPING BAL DIKSHA

The High Court observed that as per the Jain religion bal diksha is an acceptable tradition and therefore the petition filed is rejected. A petition was filed in the Mumbai High Court by some persons for the stoppage of all Bal Diksha programmes by law through a writ petition number 3272/2004. The case was heard by two member bench of Justice (Mr.) V. G. Paslikar and Justice (Mrs.) Nishita Mahatre. The deciding bench also referred to a similar case in Rajasthan High Court (1998), where it was observed that conferring diksha without any force or compulsion is acceptable. Since no complaint is made and everyone has willingly participated in the programme, the petition cannot be accepted.

C. B. I. TAKES UP ENQUIRY INTO DEPLETING NUMBER OF TIGERS



The Central Bureau of Investigation has constituted an enquiry into the report received from the Ministry of Forest and Environment about the sudden depletion in the number of tigers in the Sariska national sanctuary. An enquiry committee has been formed by the C. B. I. to carry out preliminary investigations. A detailed enquiry will be conducted after receiving the report from this committee. However, it is understood that tigers are disappearing in Uttaranchal also and this information has become a cause of concern for the environmentalists. According the figures published in the press, the total number of tigers in the year 2001 was 251, whereas, in 2003, the number is 245.

REGRETTABLE

SAM JAIN CHARGED FOR SOFTWARE PIRACY BY SYMANTEC SOFTWARE IN US

Symantec has been granted a default judgment of \$3.1 million against Sam Jain for selling counterfeit Symantec software and violating Symantec's intellectual property rights. Specifically, the judgment, handed down by the United States District Court for the Central District of California, found in favor of Symantec against Jain for trademark infringement, copyright infringement, false designation of origin, and unfair competition. In addition, the Court enjoined Sam Jain and anyone acting in concert with him from infringing Symantec's intellectual property rights again in any way or from further misleading consumers in the future by using representations or imitations of genuine Symantec trademarks, service marks or copyrighted materials.

The award had concluded legal action in the case filed by Symantec against Jain and others in April 2004. In the suit, Symantec had alleged that Jain and his co-defendants used pop-up ads that misled consumers into believing that their Symantec software was about to expire and needed to be renewed to maintain functionality. Symantec also alleged that some of the pop-up ads re-directed unsuspecting consumers to a Web site selling the defendant's own software.

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JAINA- USA OFFERS- VIRCHAND RAGHAVJI SCHOLARSHIP

JAINA-USA, had established Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi Scholarship to honour and commemorate the centenary of the great historical event of the first ever organised Parliament of World Religions held in 1893 at Chicago, U.S.A.. Shri V.R. Gandhi, the great Jain Scholar attended it as a representative of the Jain Religion. He was a first Jain to spread Bhagwan Mahavir's message of universal love, brotherhood, compassion and nonviolence to the West in person.

This scholarship is awarded to students doing M.A, M.Phil, Ph.D in Jain Literature, Philosophy, Sculpture, Temple architecture, etc. at recognised institutions and Universities. Eligible students are requested to download the form from the website www.jaina.org /VRG Committee and fill in all the particulars carefully, attach required documents duly certified by the institution head and send the form to Mrs Raksha Shah, 71-B/1, Adarsh Bldg, Saraswati Road, Santacruz [West] Mumbai-400054, Tel-91-22-26490164, E-Mail shahraksha99@yahoo.com before the 31st of July 2005. For further details contact Dr Gulab Dedhia-91-22-26240020, Dr Nilesh Dalal-91-22-25115918 or Niranjana shah-91-22-22811660.

DEVLOK GAMAN

Acharya Shri Nag Raj Ji maharaj, D.Lit., well-known philosopher, literaturer and founder of National Ekta Samiti breathed his last on the 1st April, 2005 at New Delhi. His death has been very untimely and sudden, caused by heart failure. His body

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was taken in a procession from Acharya Nag Raj Ekta Bhawan at Gole Market for cremation at Nigam Bodh Ghat.