



# JAIN AHIMSA TIMES

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## TEMPLES

### FIRST MAHAMASTKA ABHISHEK OF BH. ADINATH PERFORMED AT BAWANGAJA



Badwani, Near Indore, In the presence of lakhs of Jain devotees, the first Mahamastkaabhshek ceremony of this century was performed at Bhagwan Adinath teerth on 27th January 2008. Acharyashree Vidhyanandji Maharaj and Upadhyaya Gupti Sagarji Maharaj and several other saints of Digamber Sect attended and performed rituals and puja.

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chawan actively participated in rituals and also circled the statue of Bhagwan Adhinath in helicopter and showered the flowers all over the area. On behalf of M. P. Government, he also declared the place as State "Religious Tourism Place". Dr. Dilip Bobra from U. S., Sri Satish Chand Jain Delhi, Bharat Modi Indore and Sri J. C. Jain from Haridwar were the first few to offer their kalash respect to the statue. Organising

Committee of this event has decided to use the donations on construction & running of school for local Adivasi children. The organising Committee was headed by Sri Naresh Kumar Sethi. For more pictures Click Here ( Photographs Courtesy : Mr. Anil Jain, Delhi, C. A. E-Mail : anilfca@hotmail.com & Mr. Manoj Jain, Delhi, E-Mail : ultrawall@gmail.com)

### NEW BHAGWAN ADINATH TEMPLE ON JAIPUR DELHI HIGHWAY



Close to Delhi ( about 50 kms ) on Jaipur Delhi Highway a new Digambar Jain temple complex is coming up fast. This is a dream project of Pt. Dharam Chand Shastri, a renowned Jain Pratisthacharya & scholar. The idol of Bhagwan Adinath, which has already been installed is supposed to be the tallest ( 27 ft. height & 70 tons in weight ) in the whole of India. The statue has been placed on 35 ft. high platform on 15 Feb. The construction work at the temple site is going on for last many years. The first phase of the work is nearing completion. It took almost three days for two 160 ton cranes to lift the huge statue and place it on the platform. When fully complete this institution will provide multifarious services not only to Jain community but also to villagers of the area and to all the highway travelers in distress. Main facilities at temple complex will include a rest house for saints, devotees, library, nursery level village school, dispensary, ambulance and emergency doctor.

Panchkalyanak Pratishtha puja will be performed from 20th April to 30th April 2008. The pratishtha programmes will be attended by thousands of devotees from all over India and abroad. The project is started under the name of Manav Shanti Pratisthan a registered NGO with Govt. of India, both Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of Finance.

All Jains from Delhi and passing through Delhi - Jaipur Highway ( N. H. 8 ) are invited by the trust to visit the temple complex. Address : Manav Shanti Pratisthan, Bilaspur Chowk, Toll Tax Plaza, Delhi Jaipur National Highway, No. 8, Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana, Tel : 0124-2018176, 93-1283-7240. (Give size of idol, its material, names of trustees etc. if known).

## IF IN MUMBAI DO VISIT JAIN TEMPLE AT I. I. T., POWAI



Powai is known for the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, its tall and imposing buildings, a beautiful and self-sufficient township called Hiranandani Gardens, L&T and many other such aspects. Not many know that about a beautiful Jain temple that also exists here and celebrating its 32nd Anniversary this year. In the year 1972 Jain Guru Vijay Dharam happened to pass through the area of old Powai and being tired started looking around for a place to rest for a while. That was the time he spotted this Jain kutir, he rested there for some time and told the people of Jain samaj present there that there should be a Jain mandir at this place. There were some Jain-Kacchi families who had been living in Powai since more than 45 years took it upon themselves to build a Jain temple there. When the mandir was completed in 1975-76 they installed a statue of Jain Guru Shantinath and marble statues of 7 Gurus especially brought from Rajasthan. The Mandir is made of marble and its walls are adorned with the various religious places of the Jain community.

Presently the Jain Temple and Kacchi Bhavan built over a fairly large area, comprises idols of Adya Guru Shantinath Ki pramukh Pratima and also idols of Parshvnath Swami, Mahavir Swami, Neminath Swami, Vasupuj Swami, Adeshwar Swami, Munisurat Swami. About three years back, this Mandir has started a Medical Trust called the Shantinath Medical Trust. All the medical services in this Trust are made available to the general public. It has been formed for the poor and less fortunate who would otherwise not be able to bear the high medical expenses. The trust of this Mandir is sending out an open invitation to one and all to come and visit the Mandir on the occasion of its 32nd Anniversary. Courtesy: Mahavir S. Chavan.

## JAIN SWETAMBAR TEMPLE IN PUNJAB, A SYMBOL OF COMMUNAL HARMONY

Ferozepur, Jain Swetambar Temple in Zira town in Punjab's Ferozepur District is visited by Sikhs and Hindus, besides Jains. For the villagers, the temple is looked upon as a place of worship where one can offer prayers anytime. A few Jain families in Zira look after the temple, but pilgrims and saints of various faiths and religions visit this temple. The temple was constructed in 1890. The paintings on the walls of the temple speak of the ancient Jain culture and history. It is named after the 23rd Tirthankra Parsavnathji. The main idol is believed to be one of most sacred and ancient. Vijayanand Suriji Maharaj, the first guru of the 'Mandir Margi' sect of the Swetambar was born here in 1837. He advocated the worship of idols. Maharaj, who was also a scholar poet and a social reformer of his time, performed the holy 'partishthas' ceremony at this temple in 1896 A.D.

## JAIN RELIGION IS THE OLDEST AND NOBLEST OF ALL SAID DR. A. R. KIDWAI



Haryana Governor, Dr. A. R. Kidwai while addressing a gathering after inaugurating an exhibition on ancient Jain Heritage on the occasion of Pushpdant Panch Kalyanatamak Pratistha Mahotsav at Digamber Jain Temple, Chandigarh said that the universal message of Ahimsa and co-existence of living beings, as preached by Lord Mahavira, is so relevant in today's context that if we follow it, the whole of the world will become a better place to live in. He added that the people following the Jain religion should know the importance of Ahimsa keeping in their mind that it is their prime responsibility to disseminate the message of Ahimsa indifferent sections of the society so as to make it a part and parcel action of their routine life. He said that the Jain religion is one of the oldest and noblest religions of India which has a rich heritage in form of ancient monuments, idols, manuscripts and artifacts dating back the Christian era. Recalling his association with the Jain Samaj during his tenure as Governor of Bihar, he said that he had got a number of occasions of visiting and patronizing great ancient monuments of Jainism at Vaishali. While referring to a demand of minority status to Jains in Haryana put forward by the Haryana Jain Samaj on this occasion, Dr. Kidwai assured that the matter would be taken up with the State Government for sympathetic consideration.

The Governor went around an exhibition on ancient Jain heritage put up on the occasion of Pushpdant Panchkalyanatmak Mahotsav organized by Shri Bharatvarshiya Digambar Jain Tirth Sanrakshini Mahasabha at the local Digambar Jain Mandir. Kidwai admired the efforts of the Jain Samaj in preservation and conservation of country's proud Jain heritage by putting up

such exhibitions. The Governor also sought blessings of Upadhya Shri Nayansagar Ji Maharaj during his visit to the Jain temple. A number of persons belonging to Jain Samaj and Jain Munis from the States of Haryana, Punjab and Delhi attended this function. Courtesy: Mahavir S. Chavan.

## SAINTS

### TERAPANATH SAINT'S CHATURMAS PROGRAMME 2008

Declared on 13.02.2008 at Maryada Mahotsav, Aasind, Distt Bhilwara 311301, Rajasthan, India

S.No.	Name	City
1	Muni Dharmesh Kumarji	Hoogly
2	Muni Jaychandlalji	Govindgarh, Punjab
3	Muni Jinesh Kumarji	Madurail
4	Muni Madan Kumarji	Borawad
5	Muni Mohjeet Kumarji	Towards Marwar
6	Muni Prashant Kumarji	Raipur
7	Muni Rakesh Kumarji	Anuvibha, Jaipur
8	Muni Ravindra Kumarji	Surat
9	Muni Sukhlalji	Towards Marwar
10	Muni Suresh Kumarji	Towards Malwa
11	Muni Tarachand ji	Towards Mewar
12	Muni Sumati Kumarji	Towards Mewar
13	Muni Vimal Kumarji	Rajnagar
14	Sadhvi Anima Shree	Bhayander, Mumbai
15	Sadhvi Ashok Shree	Chennai Purushvakam
16	Sadhvi Bhikhaji	Jagrao
17	Sadhvi Chand Kumarji	Aamet
18	Sadhvi Gunmalaji	Towards Malwa
19	Sadhvi Jasmatiji	Kannod

20	Sadhvi Jatan Kumarji	Ludhiana
21	Sadhvi Jyotiprabhaji	Tapra
22	Sadhvi Kamal Shree	Towards Marwar
23	Sadhvi Kanakrekhai	Hyderabad
24	Sadhvi Kanchan Kumarji	Udaipur
25	Sadhvi Kanchanprabhaji	Towards Gujarat
26	Sadhvi Kirtilataji	Bellary
27	Sadhvi Laxmi Kumarji	Nathdwara
28	Sadhvi Maan Kumarji	Sardarsahar
29	Sadhvi Madhubalaji	Barmer
30	Sadhvi Manohraji	Towards Marwar
31	Sadhvi Naginaji	Jodhpur
32	Sadhvi Nirvan Shree	Howra (Kolkatta)
33	Sadhvi Piyusprabhaji	Towards Malwa
34	Sadhvi Pramod Shree	Pune
35	Sadhvi Rajimatiji	Shyam nagar, Jaipur
36	Sadhvi Rakesh Kumarji	Sangrur
37	Sadhvi Ratiprabhaji	Towards Ramsingh guda
38	Sadhvi Raviprabhaji	Samanna
39	Sadhvi Sangeet Shree	Gujarat
40	Sadhvi Satyaprabhaji	Chennai Sahukarpeth
41	Sadhvi Sayam Shree	Sayara
42	Sadhvi Sohanaji	Sunam
43	Sadhvi Somlataji	Ahmedabad

44	Sadhvi Suman Shree	South Mumbai
45	Sadhvi Suraj Kumarji	Kandivali, Mumbai
46	Sadhvi Swarnrekhaji	Banglore
47	Sadhvi Taj Kumarji	Tapa Mandi
48	Sadhvi Trishla Kumarji	Patna
49	Sadhvi Vidyawatiji (First)	Dhuri
50	Sadhvi Yasodhraj	Jasol
51	Sadhvi Yasomatiji	Indore
52	Muni Harshlalji	Shambhugarh
53	Muni Mohanlalji	Bhilawara
54	Muni Sumermalji & Muni Udit Kumarji	Anuvrat Bhawan, Delhi
55	Sadhvi Bhagyawatiji	Tohana
56	Sadhvi Chandanbalaji	Hisar
57	Sadhvi Hulasaji	Pur
58	Sadhvi Kailashwatiji	Adampur Mandi
59	Sadhvi Kanak Shree	Sahadra, Delhi
60	Sadhvi Mohanaji	Hansi
61	Sadhvi Sanghmitraji	Aasind
62	Sadhvi Saraswatiji	Sirasa
63	Sadhvi Vijay Shree	Daulatgarh
64	Sadhvi Vinaywatiji	Bhiwani
65	Samani Bhavitpragyaji	Jalana, Maharashtra
66	Samani Gyanpragyaji	Madhya Pradesh
67	Samani Jyothypragyaji	Saakri, Maharashtra

68	Samani Kantipragyaji	Punjab
69	Samani Malayapragyaji	Guwahati
70	Samani Manjupragyaji	Vapi, Gujarat
71	Samani Nirmalpragyaji	Bardoli, Gujarat
72	Samani Nirvanpragyaji	Banglore
73	Samani Prathibhapragyaji	Tamkor
74	Samani Sanghpragyaji	Siliguri
75	Samani Sanmatipragyaji	Tejpur, Aasam
76	Samani Shardapragyaji	Kisanganj, Bihar
77	Samani Sheelpragyaji	Cuttack
78	Samani Sthitpragyaji	Sindgnoor
79	Samani Ujjawalpragyaji	Bagumunda, Orissa
80	Samani Vinitpragyaji	Coimbatore

## CONFERENCES & CEREMONIES

### JAIN DOCTORS CONFERENCE HELD AT MUMBAI



The fourth Jain Doctors' International Conference was held at Shanmukhanand auditorium, in Sion (East) Mumbai on Saturday the 16th and Sunday, the 17th February, 2008. The conference was well-attended by participating doctors from India and abroad. The major topics discussed at the conference were health and Jain way of life, health-care through science and spirituality, ahimsa chikitsa, avenues of health-care industry, yuva sanskar, AIDS and sadachar, health education and meditation. The theme of the conference was "Connecting doctors the world over for healthcare through science and spirituality. For further details, please contact Dr. Bipin Doshi, E-Mail : drbipin\_doshi@yahoo.com. web site: [www.jaindoctorsfederation.org](http://www.jaindoctorsfederation.org)

### SEMINAR ON WORLD RELIGIONS AT NEW JERSERY

A two-day seminar will be held 8 & 9 March 2008, at the Millburn Free Public Library, Millburn, New Jersey, about the basic beliefs of major world's religions practiced by the followers of diverse cultures in the state. The presentations will describe the basic beliefs of major religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, and Sikhism; as well as the oriental philosophies of Shinto, Taoism and Confucianism. A summary of major religions and other reading material will also be provided to each participant. The program is sponsored by International Jain Sangh, Spiritual Unity Network, Surya Theosophical Study Center, Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought, Worldwide Renaissance, Center for Understanding Islam, Federation of Jain Associations in North America, Jain Study Center of North Carolina. Mr. Pravin K. Shah will conduct such seminars across the US, Canada and the UK, besides making presentations at universities and interfaith programs.

He has also lectured on this subject in global forums including the Parliament of World Religions held in Chicago, Cape Town and Barcelona; and the World's Religion's Congress held in Montreal. He chairs the Education Committee of the Federation of Jain Associations in North America and resides in North Carolina. His edited book 'Essence of World Religions' has been very well received by many interfaith organizations. Prof. Pankaj Jain teaches World's Religions in the New Jersey City University. The panel members will represent many religious and interfaith organizations.

### **JAIN MILAN 2008 PROGRAM ON APRIL 4th, 5th AND 6th, 2008 AT HOUSTEN**

As the next generation of Jain Americans begins to assimilate into Western culture, it becomes increasingly challenging to meet those that hold similar beliefs and religious values. Though websites and e-mail communication help to a certain extent, nothing comes close to meeting potential suitors in person. We have witnessed many Indian organizations holding successful events to provide an opportunity for young adults to have a face-to-face meeting. We felt now it was time to create a forum for the Jain youth. Jain Milan 2008 is an opportunity for Jain youth (age 21 and older) throughout North America and around the world to meet in person, to make friends, to engage in networking, to develop business contacts and to possibly find a life partner. Jain Milan 2008 is organized to encourage our Jain youth to meet other Jains for the purpose of matrimony and to facilitate a face-to-face meeting. Venue: Inter Continental Houston, 2222 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027 Hotel Phone: (713) 850-2828 Fax: (713) 961-0545. Contact: Gunvant Shah, Phone: 732-246-4030, E-Mail : profgaryshah@yahoo.com

### **EX-PRESIDENT DR. KALAM INAUGURATES GLOBAL FOUNDATION FOR CIVILISATION HARMONY**



This high profile launch programme was attended by senior functionaries of all the faiths and religions. Jain religion was represented by Muni Sri Sumermalji of Terapath sect. In his address, he said, all human beings are born with one belief but individual egos divide them. He also briefed the audience about the "Ahimsa Yatra" of Acharya Sri Maha Pragyaaji Maharaj and its positive impact on the minds of different communities. Past president, Dr Kalam said, father, mother and teacher can make any one a good human being or destroy the character of the individual. It is very important for a child to have the right education both at home and in institution. Dalai Lama, Shri Ravi Shankar of Art of Living, Swami Nityanand of Vivekanand Mission, Yog Guru Swami Ram Dev, Ulema Chief Maulana Mehamood A. Madni, Acharya Swami Dayanand, Archbishop Cardinal Oswald Gracious, Swami Chitranand of Chinnmay Mission, Shri Ajkil Issak of Jew Religion and many other top ranking religious functionaries attended the programme. The Chief Trustee, Sri Subhash Chandra of Zee Television Network welcomed all the guests. Terapanth Samaj distributed Jain Literatures to all the guests. Courtesy: Sri Sheetal Jain, Anuvarat Bhawans, New Delhi.

### **OVER THIRTY FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS COMING TO INDIA FOR ISSJS 2008 STUDY PROGRAM**

The total number of participants this year is likely to be 34-36. There will be total 13 from North America, 2 faculty members from Univ. of Iowa, Eastern Connecticut State Univ.), 8 Grad students ( from Harvard, North Western, Univ. of Chicago, Univ. of Hawaii, Loyola Marymount Univ., George Washington Univ. etc), 3 Undergrad students for two month program from Eastern Connecticut State Univ. and Marquette Univ. These Scholars come from 10 Universities of USA and Canada. Also, 2 from CUBA. In addition, for the first time, we have admitted 2 senior level scholars from Havana, Cuba and 2-3 from Thailand. As in previous years, we are in the process of admitting 2-3 scholars from Thailand. Thus, the total class size will be about 18. Significant features of this year's Class are total number to be about 36 ( two month and one month combined); at least 4 countries will be represented. This year's class will be more diverse, focused and intellectually more motivated. At least 15 universities will be represented. 3 scholars are interested in studying Applied Jainism, relationship between Jain ethics and Principles and Health care, delivery and Public Health issues. 3 scholars are interested in studying Jain art, paintings and sculptures and how these things relate to Jain philosophy. All the students have started preparation for going to India in May 2008. Prior to their going, they will be sent 66 specially-prepared lectures covering several aspects of Jainism for their pre-reading. Courtesy: Dr. Sulekh C. Jain, Houston, Texas, USA.

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### JAINA GRANTED SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS BY UN

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This year, Jaina also embarked on a lengthy process and committee deliberations with ambassadors from 19 countries (India, US, UK, Egypt, France, Israel, Dominican Republic, Peru, Romania, Pakistan etc.). The committee granted Consultative Status to JAINA with unanimous consent. UN issued a press release reads: "Federation of Jain Associations in North America (document E/C.2/2008/R.2/Add.17), a New York based international organization that promotes charitable and humanitarian community-service activities in North America and worldwide, providing and promoting academic and cultural exchange and cooperation and fostering cordial relationship with interfaith and multi-faith organization" Committee member nations have recommended for Special Consultative Status." Jaina has become the first Jain organisation to have the credentials to partner with the UN and its member organizations in performance of its goals and objectives and be eligible to apply for grants. Dr. Tansukh Salgia, Past President of JAINA and Chairman of the JAINA's Government & International Relations Committee & Dr. Sushil Jain, Secretary of JAINA worked closely on this project for several years.

JAINA has also opened a liaison office in Mumbai. The All India Svetamber Sthanakwasi Jain Conference (Mumbai) has provided the office space to Jaina . The Liaison office will assist humanitarian and educational efforts of JAINA in India. The office will ease the dissemination of JAINA publications and news in India, and perform various administrative tasks.

### PROF. SHANTILAL MEHTA TO BE HONOURED BY MAHARANA PRATAP CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, UDAIPUR

As a part of the state-level awards given by the Maharana Pratap Charitable Foundation, Prof. Shantilal Mehta, Vice-Chancellor of Maharana Pratap Agricultural and Engineering University, Udaipur would be honoured on the 2nd March, 2008 with "Maharana Mewar Samman", according to the announcement made by the Foundation.

### JEWELS OF JAIN WORLD AWARD TO MR. RAVINDER JAIN

Jain World Foundation USA has announced the 2007 Jewels of Jain World Award. This award is conferred on Mr. Ravinder Jain of Malerkotla, Distt. Sangrur, Punjab, for his outstanding and historical service to the cause of Jainism by bringing Jain literature in Punjabi language for the first time in history. All his books are available on [www.jainworld.com](http://www.jainworld.com) web site.

### JAIN MINORITY

#### JAIN RELIGIOUS MINORITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN MAHARASHTRA

Here is a list of the educational institutions in Maharashtra which have been accorded minority status:

1. SNJB's College of Engineering, (Jain Gurukul), Neminagar, Chandwad, (Nashik)
2. Walchand Institute of Technology, Solapur
3. Parshvanath College of Engineering, Kasarvadavali, Ghod Bunder Rd, Thane(W)
4. P.C.T.'s Veer Mata Hiraben P.Shah, College of Pharmacy, Thane.

The prospective applicants for admission into engineering colleges may take advantage of the minority status for Jain community and benefit from the facilities available there.



### MISCELLANEOUS

#### MAHATMA GANDHI'S AHIMSA IS INSPIRATION FOR BARACK OBAMA

Washington : Vowing to strengthen ties with the India, Democratic presidential hopeful Barack



Obama has noted that the hardworking Indian-American professionals are adding to the "richness" of the US society and invited the community to join him in renewing the strength of this country.

The Illinois Democrat, who is giving his party rival for presidential nomination Hillary Clinton a run for her money and hopes, recognised the major contributions of Indian-American community to the US economy as well as the fabric of the American society. Obama also wrote that he sees Mahatma Gandhi and his philosophy of ahimsa as an inspiration and has a portrait of the apostle of peace in his office to remind him that ordinary people can do extraordinary things. "In my life, I have always looked to Mahatma Gandhi as an inspiration, because he embodies the kind of transformational change that can be made when ordinary people come together to do extraordinary things," he wrote.

#### **JAINS EXPRESS ANGUISH OVER NON-INCLUSION OF PAWAPURI IN PRESIDENT'S ITINERARY**

Patna, February 16: Patna Jain Sangh has expressed deeply felt anguish over the non-inclusion of Pawapuri Jal Mandir in the itinerary of President Mrs Pratibha Patil. Secretary of the Jain Sangh, Pradip Jain in a letter written to the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that President's programme included the visit of Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali but Pawapuri was left out although Bihar is known for its history and traditions of Buddhism and Jainism alike. Last time when the then President Sri APJ Abdul Kalam had visited Bihar, sacred Pawapuri was also included in his itinerary. Referring to the advertisement entitled 'Gyan ki Dharti Bihar men Rashtrapati Mahoday Ka Swagat' published by information and public relations department, Govt of Bihar in newspapers of Patna on February 15, he said that it carried the photographs of Bodh Gaya and Patna Saheb Gurudwara but not of that Pawapuri or any other Jain shrine, which had hurt Jain sentiments. He urged the Chief Minister to give equal treatment to Jain shrines during VIPs visits to the state and in government advertisements and publicity material. Jain has also written Secretary, IPRD, Bihar in this connection. Sri Pradip Jain, secretary Jain Sangh of Patna can be contacted at Redg. Office : post box no. 128, Mithapur, Patna 800 001. PH: 0091-612-2215929, E-Mail: philapradip@gmail.com

#### **JAIN TRUST MOVES HC AGAINST ANOTHER JAIN TRUST OVER 'TRAFFICKED' IDOLS**

MUMBAI: Ancient idols of Jain deities allegedly trafficked from Gujarat may need the attention of the Bombay High Court to reach their final destination. Mumbai residents Dilip Shah and Shree Patan Jain Tirth Seva Samiti (SPJTSS) moved court against another trust in Shahapur, Thane, for allegedly bringing in 61 registered idols and 16 marble idols from Patan in Gujarat to a temple in Shahapur. The petition states that under the Archaeology and Antiquities Act, 1972, idols over 100 years cannot be shifted to another location. The two main idols of Ghia Parshwanath and Shantinath are 2,200 years old and the other idols are over 500 years old. This is a clear violation of the law and the idols should be handed over to the Gujarat archeological department. The idols were originally placed in Patan in Gujarat and were managed by the Ghiyanapada Jain Derasar Trust. The petition however alleges that the Trust allegedly in connivance with Shetrunjay Teerthdham Bhuvanbhan Manas Mandiram Trust, Shahpur and Abhinandanswami Jain Derasar Trust, Sion, sent the deities into Maharashtra stating that more devotees would visit the temples in Shahapur. They have also built two new temples for the installation of these deities.

Justice Bilal Nazki and Justice SA Bobade heard the petition and directed the STBMMT to file their reply to the petition in one week. The petitioner had first filed a police complaint in July 2005 and brought the incident to the notice of the Archeological Survey of India and authorities in Gujarat, Delhi and Mumbai. On February 5, the Archeological department of Gandhinagar directed the STBMMT to restore the idols in Patan, however, no action has been taken yet.

#### **ALLEGED MOLESTATION OF JAIN SADHWI AT PALITANA**

A Jain sadhvi has alleged molestation outside a dharmshala in the pilgrimage town of Palitana in Gujarat. This has outraged the Jain community of the entire region. In a police complaint, the 27-year-old sadhvi told that a man attacked her on February 9, when she had gone into the open field behind the dharmshala to attend to the nature's call. She said the man molested her and ran away when she shouted for help. As the community threatened a major agitation, the police held an identification parade, in which the sadhvi identified a balloon-seller, Laxman Bhara, who lives near the place, as the culprit. Bhara was immediately arrested. Palitana police inspector, R. J. Waghela said Bhara had taken the sadhvi by surprise, pushed her to the ground and tried to gag her. But sadhvi's cries forced Bhara to flee, he said. The sadhvi had immediately informed the caretakers of dharmshala about the incident. The police was called in, but the caretakers didn't want to

register the complaint initially, preferring to discuss the issue among themselves first. Maharaj Revant Vijay ji of the Palitana Jain temple has demanded stern action against the accused. Courtesy: Mahavir S. Chavan.

### **FORMER MCD COUNCILOR OF DELHI ASHOK JAIN FORMALLY CHARGED FOR MURDER**

New Delhi, Feb 22 Two days after arresting him, Delhi Police has finally charged former Municipal Corporation of Delhi councillor, Ashok Jain and eight others with plotting the murder of a city-based builder last year. Filing the charge sheet in the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Alok Kumar Aggarwal, the Delhi Police crime branch said that Jain along with Pramod Singh, Bhisim Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Pravin Kohli, Gopal Krishan Aggarwal, Desh Raj, Hitender alias Pappu and Rishi Pal had hatched a criminal conspiracy to murder Vijay Dhaiya due to personal enmity. The court took cognisance of the chargesheet under Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 302 (murder) and 404 (dishonest misappropriation of property belonging to a deceased person) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and posted the matter for further hearing. Jain was arrested Feb 20 in Chanakyapuri. Businessman Dhaiya was murdered in Hauz Qazi in September last year. Jain had allegedly hatched a criminal conspiracy with Gopal Krishan Aggarwal and Rishi Pal to murder Dhaiya due to personal enmity.

### **IRS OFFICER PRIYESH JAIN HELD FOR CHEATING**

He is working as an assistant controller with P&T department. Priyesh Jain , a probationary Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, has been arrested by the Sion police on a charge of cheating. According to the police, Jain forged the signatures of his childhood friend and operated her demat account for share transactions. Jain had cleared his IRS examination in the handicapped category in 2006 and was ranked 462, the police said. He is currently working as an assistant controller in the Post and Telegraph (P&T) department and is awaiting his IRS posting. The complainant, Lakshmi, who is a journalist, got to know of the forgery when she received a letter from the Munda port and special economic zone. The letter said the money she had paid for the allotment of shares was being returned to her because she was not allotted any shares, the police said. "When Lakshmi enquired about the share allotment application, she got to know that it was Priyesh Jain who had applied for shares from her account by forging her signatures. Based on Lakshmi's complaint, the police registered a case of forgery against Jain . "During investigation, police found evidence that Priyesh had forged Lakshmi's signature on several occasions.

### **JAIN SAINT SANJAY MUNI, CHARGED FOR MISSING WOMAN OF AMBALA**

Ambala, February 12, The Family of Purushotam Dass Verma has informed the police through a press conference that his daughter was missing for the last one month. But, the police has not taken any action to trace her. The family suspects that she has eloped with a Jain saint Sanjay Muni, who was staying at Patiala with other saints namely Subhash Muni and Sudhir Muni to spend chaturmas. Verma also said that his daughter used to attend discourses delivered by the Jain saints with her neighbor and had developed fancy for a particular Jain saint who also visited her house for ahar . He claimed that on conclusion of chaturmas, the saints moved to Barara from where Sanjay Muni used to call his daughter and had also asked her to deliver his articles that he claimed he left in Patiala. Verma further added that she had gone missing on the day she handed over the articles to Sanjay Muni whose whereabouts are also not known since then. The family also suspect

that she could have been kidnapped by the saint or she might have been eliminated because she was wearing heavy gold jewellery at the time she had gone missing. Earlier in January, the family had met the former Punjab Governor, Lt Gen BKN Chhibber, for his intervention in the case. Jain Saint Samaj has informed the police that the samaj had earlier published about the missing Sanjay Muni and also announced that the saint had no connection with the Jain Saint Samaj.

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### **VEGETARIANISM & AHIMSA**

#### **VEGETARIAN FOOD A FEAST FOR THE EYES AND MOUTH AT A VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT**

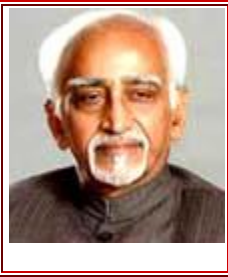
During the first month of the Lunar New Year, Vietnamese people traditionally make a pilgrimage to the pagodas to pray to the Buddha for happiness, health, success, safety and wealth. Also during this time of year, Vietnamese people abandon meat and embrace vegetarianism as a way of praying for good luck and paying tribute to their ancestors and origin. After weeks of indulging during Tet, vegetarianism is a breath of fresh air. Van Canh Restaurant is organizing a vegetarian buffet festival named "Springtime Bud Vegetarian Buffet" from February 16 to March 7 The festival is named after the ritual of picking buds at the pagoda. Van Canh Restaurant, under Que Huong – Liberty Group, is a familiar address for vegetarians. Last year, the restaurant served 20,000 in the vegetarian buffet. Van Canh – A Dong Restaurant, 184 Calmette Street, District 1, HCMC, tel: (08) 829 4963, E-Mail : [vancanh@libertyhotels.com.vn](mailto:vancanh@libertyhotels.com.vn)



## AHIMSA SILK GETTING POPULAR IN FOREIGN MARKETS

'Ahimsa silk', the fabric made without killing silkworms, is increasingly gaining popularity in foreign countries though it is yet to catch on in its land of origin. Unlike the usual silk cloth, for which at least 1,500 silk worms are killed to produce one meter of cloth, 'Ahimsa silk' is made out of the cocoon left behind by the moth after completing its life-cycle. According to ahimsa silk producers, the demand for such fabrics is steadily growing among animal lovers in the US, Europe, Japan and Australia. Pune-based Ahimsa Peace Silk Pvt. Ltd's said that over 60 per cent of the business comes from the US and the products are also exported to Europe, Japan and Australia, said Leelavati Sabale, president of the company. According to Hyderabad-based Andhra Pradesh Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society's Kusuma Rajaiah, a pioneer in the production of ahimsa silk, over 40 per cent of the total production goes to the US and the fabrics were also been exported to Europe and the UK. Ahimsa Peace Silk Pvt Ltd's production has gone up from 500 mts to 5,000 mts in three years' time. Though there was some awareness about the silk in south India, especially in Chennai, it was yet to become popular in the northern region.

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## VICE PRESIDENT CALLS UPON PEOPLE TO ROOT OUT PROBLEM OF FEMALE FOETICIDE

The Vice President of India, Mohd. Hamid Ansari called upon the people to change their attitude towards female child and reiterated that the age long problem of female foeticide should be rooted out completely from our society as it is a curse. Inaugurating a function "Kanyabhrun Hatya Ke Khilaf Sarvdharm Maha Abhiyan Samaroh" organized by National Integration Committee, he said that mere framing rules will not serve the purpose and the people at large will have to be motivated against it. It is not only inhuman but badly affecting our society also. He expressed his happiness that now the society has been awakened to root out this problem. He congratulated the organizers of the function to start this noble cause as a movement. The Vice President received a copy of the book entitled "The Unborn Curse" by Acharaya Shri Lokesh on the occasion. The founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti Acharya Shri Lokesh in his address cautioned that if the problem of female foeticide is not solved in time it may have more dangerous consequences than Aids or Cancer. The root cause of this social evil will have to be found. Shahi Imam of Fatehpuri Masjid, Dr. Mufti Mohd. Mukarram and the Chief Editor of Rajasthan Patrika Shri Gulab Kothari also addressed.



## MEAT SHOPS SHOULD NOT OPERATE FROM MAIN ROADS SAY M. P. HIGH COURT

In a public interest litigation filed by Shri Suresh Chand Jain ( 748, Sarafa Ward, Jabalpur, Tel. No. 0761-2611121), Justice Deepak Mishra & Prakash Srivastwa of M. P. High Court have directed Local Authorities to take strict action against all the shops selling meat on the main roads. Court also directed the local police to jail all the shop keepers violating court orders. Court accepted the petitioner's arguments that these shops have been polluting main city roads & causing environmental problems. PIL also informed that as per municipal laws meat can be sold only in notified & covered markets, whereas these shops are operating from many unauthorised markets. PIL. of Sri Suresh Jain has established a good example and legal precedence for the other vegetarians. Now taking this as precedence any one can approach their area Courts or Local Authorities and stop the mushroom growth of meat shops. Ahimsa Foundation congratulates Shri Suresh Jain for successfully taking up this issue of social importance.

## DIKSHA CEREMONY

An eminent and highly revered saint, Acharya Shri Gunrartn Surishwarji maharaj, belonging to Jain Shwetambar Murtipujak sect has by now accorded muni diksha to as many as 269 people, both male and female together. The latest addition of seven sadhwi and one saint, having undergone rigorous education in Jain religion and its philosophy have accepted diksha at Shankheshwar in Gujarat in the holy presence of the acharya and have been accepted into his guchh. The newly accepted sadhwi are in the age group of 21 years to 27 years and the saint is 65 years old. All of them belong to rich families of Gujarat.

## READERS MAIL

### REQUEST FOR AHAR DAAN (AVOID WASTAGE OF FOOD) BY MR. AJIT JAIN

Dear Friends, This universe / nature has given us many things in which one utmost valuable thing is " food ". Ahar Daan ( food distribution / langar ) is known to be a " MAHADAAN " in our all the religious scripts. We do not expect everyone to do it, without having means to do it..... but if excess and wasted have a way just a call away Call 1098 ... Child Helpline . If you have a function/party at your home and if there is excess food available at the end, don't hesitate to call 1098 (only in India) - child helpline. They will come and collect the food. Please circulate this message which can help feed many children. 'Helping hands are better than Praying Lips'. Pass this to all whom you know and whom you do not know as well. Ajit Jain, E-Mail : [ajit@dcpl.net](mailto:ajit@dcpl.net) ..... carrying Jainism to Generation NeXT.....

### CRIME BASED TV SERIAL 'BAHUBALI'

From: Pravin Shah, E-Mail: [kenpet007@hotmail.com](mailto:kenpet007@hotmail.com) -An Appeal- I want inform to whole Jain community that, film Director & Producer Prakash Jha is making a serial with the name "BAHUBALI" based on Criminals. You all know that BHAGWAN BAHUBALI is the son of very first tirthankar BHAGWAN RISHABHBDEV & we worship Bhagwan Bahubali. By this serial the name "BAHUBALI" will be flashed in very negative & bad way. It will hurt our community and our religious feelings. The serial shoot is starting & expectedly on-air in one month. So I request to all of you to protest for change of the name of the serial before of it is broadcasted.

Please write a letter to director and sensor board and send by post, email, and fax to director directly. Send copy of your letter to Dr Anekant Jain, H, Secretary - Jin Foundation, New Delhi, E-Mail [jinfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:jinfoundation@yahoo.com). Address: Sri Prakash jha , Prakash jha Production ,201 c-d,Abhishek Bldge; off New Link Road;Andheri(w), Mumbai-400053,ph.022-66781862, 23631048, Fax-022-23690083, 66781863, E-Mail : [info@prakashjhaproductions.com](mailto:info@prakashjhaproductions.com), Mrs. Shamila Tagore ,President ,Central Board Of Film Certification, Bharat Bhavan, 91-E,Walkeshwar Road, Mumbai-400006, Phone & Fax : 022-23625770, E-Mail : [aocbfcmum@rediffmail.com](mailto:aocbfcmum@rediffmail.com).

### DEVLOK GAMAN

**Acharya Shri 108 Gunnandi Ji Maharaj** belonging to Jain Digambar sect breathed his last and left for his heavenly abode after accepting 'samadhi-maran' at Ichhalkaranji (Maharashtra) after a short period of illness on 4th February, 2008. He was only 41 years old. He was an ardent devotee of Acharya Shri Shanti Sagar Ji maharaj and had been following the sacred of spirituality. He hailed from Baraut, a small town in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh. He had accepted muni diksha on 22nd July, 1991 from Acharya Shri Kunthu Sagar Ji Maharaj.

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