



# JAIN AHIMSA TIMES

IN COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR 14 CONTINUOUS YEARS  
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Volume : 42

Issue No. : 42

Month : January, 2004

"AHIMSA FOUNDATION WISHES HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS YEAR 2004 TO ALL ITS READERS."

## MUNI LOK PRAKASH LOKESH OF TERAPANATH TO PROCEED BY FOOT ON PEACE MISSION TO MOSCOW



Acharya Shri Mahapragya, Head of Shwetambar Terapanth sect has on the invitation of the Russian Academy of Sciences at Moscow agreed to depute his disciple and scholarly saint, Shri Lok Prakash Ji Lokesh to take up a peace mission to Moscow, performing 'pad-yatra' (traveling on foot through out the entire path) with the objective of bringing peace and mutual understanding amongst nations, conveying the message of ahimsa all through the way. He would perform his pad-yatra through a distance of about 7000 km., passing through Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Tazakistan. It will be for the first time in the history that any Jain saint would take up such a long and hazardous pad-yatra (vihar). Mr. R.B. Ribakov, President of the Academy, who had personally come from Moscow to hand over the invitation to the Acharya, assured him of fullest regard, respect and cooperation to the visiting saint at every point during his travel. This historic yatra would help in bringing countries together and building nation amity and international peace and understanding.

## JAIN SAMAJ AT SURAT DECLARES ROOP MUNI (RAJAT) AS ACHARYA?



According to reports published in a Surat newspaper (Lok Tej, Hindi daily dated 20th Dec. 03), the Sthanakwasi Jain community of Keem village near Surat has declared Sri Roop muni 'Rajat' as the Acharya of Shraman sangh. It appears from the news item published in another weekly paper from Ahmedabad, Sri Roop Muni has declared himself as Acharya replacing Sri Umesh Muni, whom he had himself appointed as Acharya in place of present Acharya Dr. Shiv muni only a few months ago. Sri Roop Muni after completing Chaturmas at Surat is on the way to Rajasthan and it is obvious from the news reports that he is spreading the canards through local innocent people about his self-proclamation as Acharya. The Press also does not leave any opportunity to print any hot news knowing well that it is all false propaganda. It is well known that Dr. Shiv Muni is and remains the true Acharya of entire Shraman sangh and commands full support from all the saints and sadhus except a few who were rightly expelled by him from Shraman sangh due to their indisciplinary and anti-religious activities. It is a shame on the Sthanakwasi society to tolerate and accept such so-called sadhus. It is high time that the Samaj takes the matter seriously and chalks out appropriate action in a united manner against the defaulting sadhus, whoever they are in order to maintain the dignity and clean image.

## DR. SHIV MUNI HONOURED BY 'ROLL OF HONOUR' AT PUNJABI UNIVERSITY



Dr. Shiv Muni, Acharya of Swetambar Sthanakwasi Shraman Sangh was profusely honoured by his alma-mater, Punjabi University at Patiala, with a "Roll of Honour" for his devotion, religious enlightenment, austerity, spiritual endeavors, equanimity and establishing himself as a messiah of humanity. Dr. Shiv Muni had earned his doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in the year 1978 from the Department of Philosophy of this very university. Dr. Shiv Muni was given a warm reception when he entered the University by the Vice-Chancellor, Padamshri Dr. Swaran Singh Boparay. His old professors were highly overwhelmed on seeing him and they met him with great affection, reverence and sense of veneration.

## AHIMSA YATRA REACHES JALGAON DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA

Ahimsa Yatra in the auspicious presence of Acharya Shri Mahapragya has entered the Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. Ramesh Dada, Office bearer of Maryada Mahotsava Vyavastha Samiti, Jalgaon welcomed the Ahimsa Yatra at Jalgaon. Diksha of two mumukshu viz. Mumukshu Pawan and Mumukshu Nikesh has been announced by Acharya Shri Mahapragya on 24th January, 2004 at Jalgaon. For further information on yatra programme please visit: [www.terapanthсурат.com/yatra.asp](http://www.terapanthсурат.com/yatra.asp).

## INAUGURATION OF A MODERN HEALTH CENTRE AT VEERAYATAN VIDYAPEETH, BHUJ



'Veerayatan' an institution for providing education and health facilities to the poor and adivasi population of north Bihar was established in 1973 by late Shri Amar Muni and later nurtured by the progressive Sadhwi Acharya Shri Chandana Ji at Rajgir. It has been performing valuable service for the development of people of Bihar. Over the years, the institution has spread to other parts of country as well as outside, having established 'Naval-Veerayatan' at Tiwai hill near Pune and later 'Veerayatan Vidyapeeth' at Bhuj, the earthquake-stricken region in Gujarat. It has also started centers six other countries, Veerayatan International, in USA, Veerayatan Australia, Veerayatan U.K., Veerayatan Kenya, Veerayatan Singapore and Veerayatan Dubai. The Vidyapeeth at Bhuj has been providing extensive and modern educational facilities and rehabilitation of children in Bhuj district.

In continuation to these humanitarian activities, the institution has now taken up the task of providing most modern medical facilities in Bhuj and a 'Health Centre' has been inaugurated on the 2nd January, 2004 by Shri Jayant Doshi, President, Lion's Club Enfiled, U.K. Along with this health center, a modern Eye Hospital, 'Netra Jyoti Seva Mandiram' has been established there and other supporting facilities like, a large library, 'Gyananjali' containing over 20,000 historical and religious texts, a large dining hall, multi-purpose hall, a guest house and water storage facility have been built. A galaxy of distinguished guests from Nairobi, England, Kenya, Dubai, Muscat, Singapore, Australia and USA were present on the occasion of inauguration and they offered generous donations to support the humanitarian activities at Bhuj. On 3rd January, 90th birth day of highly dedicated mahasati Shri Sumati Kunwar ji maharaj was also celebrated there.

## RENOVATION OF WORLD'S TALLEST STATUE OF ADINATH BHAGWAN NEAR INDORE

The tallest stone statue of Bhagwan Shri Rishabh Dev in the World having height of 84 feet , installed more than 2000 years ago at a place, called Bavangaja, 156 km. from Indore had been in a deteriorated condition. Jain muni Shri Kundkundacharya had lived about 2000 years back and he has mentioned about this statue in detail in his writings. Similarly, Shri Madan Kirti, an eminent Jain scholar who lived in the 12th century, has also mentioned about it in his books. This statue is 27 feet taller than that of Bahubali at Shrawanbelgola and is a rare example of ancient art and architecture and is a national heritage for all time to come. Its renovation was taken up about 15 years ago by the efforts of Industrialist, Shri Sriyans Prasad Jain and with the completion of renovation now, it shows a rare look of detachment, compassion and smile and depicts a glorious, magnificent and majestic view and is attracting devotees from all over the country.

## UNIQUE JAIN TEMPLE NOW READY AT AYODHYAPURAM IN GUJARAT



An unique Jain temple complex has recently come up at Vallabhipur in Gujarat, about 100 km. from Ahmedabad, on Ahmedabad-Palitana road, just 48 km. from Palitana and it has ben named as 'Ayodhyapuram'. The ancient name of Vallabhipur was Vamilpur and it used to be a capital of Maurya rulers. The place used to be of great religious significance and a centre for Agamic studies and was regarded very sacred. Hence, this temple has ben built here. The main temple has a stone idol of Bhagwan Adinath, measuring 23 feet in height. It has been carved out from a solid piece of marble rock, brought all the way from Makrana in Rajasthan in one piece, weighing about 250 tons. According to Jain epics, the height of Bhagwan Adinath was 500 dhanush and in sitting (Padamasan) posture, it was 260 dhanush. Hence, taking the scale of 1 dhanush equivalent to 1 inch, the height of idol has been kept as 260 inches. The Pratishtha ceremony of the temple was carried out last year. (Reported in Ahimsa Times, August,2003 issue) The height of the idol does not allow the worshippers to touch his arms or forehead for placing saffron and an elevator with a moving arm is used to place garland around the neck. A impressive model of Mount Kailash has also been built in the premises showing Bhagwan Adinath carrying out penance. Essential facilities, like dharmshala, dining hall, library etc. have also been developed and the place has taken the shape of a Teerth.

## MANY VEGETARIAN FOOD ITEMS OFTEN CONTAIN NON-VEG. CONSTITUENTS?



Many of us Indians quite often either eat at parties or have the Indian Food catered from the local Indian Restaurants. I am sure, most of us know that nearly 90% ( I am told by several restaurants) use eggs in their Naans. This is a very general practice. In fact many of them supply ( on a catered basis) to many Religious functions where it is distributed as 'prasaad'. The funny thing is that no Indian Restaurant mentions about this on their printed menu. It is only, when we specifically ask, then many of them will admit and some may even deny. I am told, same thing goes for all their fried items (Samosa, Pakoras, Kofte, Paneer etc.) which are fried in the same pan and oil where they fry all non-veg items. In this case, some will say that they use a separate pan. I don't know the whole truth.

In another case, where Tandoori Naans were being cooked in a tandoor ( oven), there on a string ( right on top of the tandoor) was hanging a dead chicken and the juice from this was dripping onto the Naan. This way, I think, Indian Restaurants are notorious in making many of the non-vegetarian items. I hope we can all do something about it. Just wanted to share this in case some of you may not be aware of this. Comments from Dr. Sulekh Jain, E-Mail : scjain@earthlink.net

### **MRS. SHEELA DIXIT EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO JAIN COMMUNITY OF DELHI**



Mrs. Sheela Dixit, newly elected Chief Minister of Delhi region, has expressed her gratitude to the entire community of Delhi for supporting her during the last state elections held in the month of December. At a reception ceremony arranged jointly by the representatives of Shwetambar and Digambar samaj, a bouquet was presented by Shri Mangi Lal Sethia, Patron of Jain Maha sabha and Shri R. D. Jain, Vice-Chairman of Sthanakwasi Jain Conference and a shawl by Ms. Indra Jain and Sarita Jain from the Women's wing of Jain Mahasabha. Mrs. Dixit expressed her gratitude at the whole-hearted cooperation and support given to her openly by the Jain community and thanked the entire community for the same. Prof. Ratan Jain, Secretary General of Jain Maha Sabha congratulated her for her victory and hoped that the city of Delhi will progress under her leadership, as before.

### **NINE JAIN M.L.A.s ELECTED IN M. P. ASSEMBLY, TWO BECOME MINISTER**

Total nine Jain M.L.A.s have won in the recent Assembly elections held in Madhya Pradesh on 1st Dec. 2003 and two of them (Shri Raghavaji and Smt. Alka Jain) have been taken in new Ministry. All are from BJP. The details are as under-

1. Mr. Raghavaji Sanwla has won from Vidisha and become Finance Minister of New M.P. Govt. He is very senior BJP leader, Ex Member of Parliament, Ex MLA, Ex Minister.
2. Mr. Jayant Malaiya has won from Damoh. He has become M. L. A. for the fifth time. He is a senior M. L. A. and was also minister in BJP Govt. from 1990 to 1992.
3. Mr Himmat Kothari has won from Ratlam. He has become M. L. A. for the sixth time. He is also very senior M. L. A. and was also minister in BJP Govt. from 1990 to 1992.
4. Mrs. Sudha Jain has won from Sagar. She has become M. L. A. for the third time.
5. Mr. Naresh Diwakar has won from Seoni. He has become M. L. A. for the second time.
6. Mrs. Alka Jain has won from Mudwara (Katni). She has become M. L. A. for the first time and became State Minister for School & Higher Education. She is the daughter of Ex. Governor of Rajsthan Late Shri N. C. Jain.
7. Mr. Paras Jain has won from Ujjain North. He has become M. L. A. for the third time.
8. Mr. Om Prakash Sakhlecha has won from Jawad (District Neemuch).
9. Mr. Sharad Jain has won from Jabalpur Central. He has become M. L. A. for the first time. Information Courtesy: Mr. Sudhir Jain

### **EIGHT MLA'S ELECTED IN RAJASTHAN VIDHAN SABHA ARE FROM JAIN COMMUNITY**

Following eighth Jains members have been declared successful in the recently concluded Rajasthan state elections.

1. Shri Mahavir Prasad Jain
2. Shri Gulab Chand Kataria
3. Shri Gyan Chand Parakh
4. Shri Shanti Lal Chaplot
5. Shri Pradip Singhvi
6. Dr. Chandra Shekhar Vaid
7. Shri Sanjay Lodha
8. Shri Pradumn Singh

At a reception held in their honour at Jaipur, Dr. Tarachand Bakshi, Chairman, Jain Social Group (Senior citizens) and Founder Chairman, Akhil Vishwa Jain Milan gave them a warm welcome and urged them to take active part in the activities of Jain religion and Jain society and provide guidance from time to time. The members assured the audience of their full cooperation and support.

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**ENTRY FORM**



**SRI KAILASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL OF NARAYAN SEWA SANSTHAN HONOURED BY PRESIDENT FOR HELPING DISABLED PEOPLE** - President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam honoured Shri Kailash Chandra Agrawal, Chairman and founder of Shri Narayan Sewa Sansthan, Udaipur for his ceaseless humanitarian efforts at a simple ceremony held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on the 3rd December, 2003 on the occasion of International Disabled day. As is well known, Shri Agrawal has dedicated his entire life to the cause of disabled people in the country. His selfless services have resulted in starting 182 branches of Narayan Sewa Sansthan all over the country, carrying out 35000 surgical operations free of cost on Polio-stricken people to enable them to carry out their their normal duties, providing callipers to 35,500 people, tricycles to 2215 persons, besides providing hearing aid to 57 persons. Various eminent people, like Shri Satya Narayan Jatia, Minister for Social Justice, Shri Kailash Meghwal, Minister for State and others were present on

the occasion.

#### **JAINA RECEIVES 2003 GLOBAL COMMUNITY AWARD FOR HUMANITARIAN WORK IN INDIA**

The World Medical Relief Organization based in Detroit, Michigan announced that JAINA, a well-known humanitarian and umbrella organization of Jain Centers in North America, is the recipient of the Global Community Award for the year 2003. JAINA was singled out by the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee members of World Medical Relief for its service to the medically impoverished people in India. "You have shown so much compassion--and great sacrifice-to your fellow countrymen and we admire your good work tremendously" Rita Grezlik, President and CEO wrote to Anop Vora, President of JAINA. According to World Medical Relief organization, JAINA will be honored at the Miracles of Mercy Gala 2004 event on Saturday, March 6, 2004.

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World Medical Relief based in Detroit, Mi is a non-profit, non-political humanitarian organization founded by a Detroit housewife Irene Auberlin in 1953. Its primary purpose is to assist developing countries with medicine, medical supplies and equipment. They average 80-100 humanitarian shipments per year. Further information about the World Medical Relief organization can be obtained by calling 313-866-5333. "Wheels of Hope" is Jaina's humanitarian aid program which assists with medical equipment and supplies for the needy and the poor. To date, twenty one shipments with medical equipment and supplies worth over \$7 million, have been shipped to India as part of this aid program. For further information about JAINA, call JAINA at 716-636-5342. News courtesy: Nitin Talsania, E-Mail : nitin\_talsania@yahoo.com

#### **PROFESSOR DIPAK JAIN HONOURED BY THE PRIME MINISTER**



Professor Dr. Dipak Jain, Dean of the Kellogg School of Management , USA and Visiting Professor at Sasin for 15 years is among twelve 2004 recipients of the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award instituted by

Government of India last year. The award is annually given to eminent Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin for their meritorious contribution in political, economic, social, academic and cultural fields.

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India presented the awards to Dr. Jain in New Delhi along-with 11 other recipients. In March 2003 Dean Dipak was appointed by Mr. Thaksin's, Prime Minister of Thailand as member of 'Eminent Persons Advisory Board' in the field of foreign affairs.

#### **VED KUMAR JAIN ELECTED TO CENTRAL COUNCIL OF INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, NEW DELHI**



Mr. Ved Kumar Jain is a fellow member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Mr. Jain, a science graduate, passed the Chartered Accountancy examination in the year 1976 and was in the merit list both in intermediate and final examination of the institute, He did BA Economics from Punjab University and L.L.B from Delhi University in the year 1980. He was selected as member of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal in the year 1997 and worked as Accountant member ITAT for a short period before resigning in 1998. He as actively contributed as member of the Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in the drafting of the new 3CD form, Guidance Note on Tax Audit, Issues on Tax Audit, drafting of new Section 115JB (Minimum alternate Tax), Guidance Note on Minimum Alternate Tax Audit, drafter of Transfer Pricing Rules, Drafting of Transfer Pricing Audit report, Guidance note thereon, drafting of pre budget and post budget memoranda.

#### **'JAIN CHAIR' ESTABLISHED AT PUNJABI UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Swaran Singh Boperay, Vice-Chancellor of Punjabi University, Patiala announced establishment of a "JAIN CHAIR" at the University and making arrangements to appoint a professor at the earliest. The representatives of Jain samaj who had collected there to participate in the programme to award roll of honour to Dr. Shiv Muni were extremely happy to hear the announcement and they spontaneously declared that an appropriate building would be constructed and donated to the University for this purpose. The purpose of Jain Chair would be to promote study of Jain principles and philosophy and undertake research in Jainism.

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**ENTRY FORM**

#### **JAIN TEMPLE AT DIU, AN ANCIENT HERITAGE ON THE VERGE OF CLOSURE**

There is presently only one Jain temple in the port town of Diu which was earlier under Portugese rule and now an Union Territory, located at the southern tip of saurashtra. The place is otherwise famous for its beautiful beach, excellent weather all round the year, clean township, and increasing flow of tourists. The temple has highly inspiring main idol of Shri Navlakha Parshwa nath ji besides others of Shri Shanti Nath ji, Nemi nath Ji and Vimal Nath Ji. The temple is supposed to be 1700 years old and has many anecdotes attached to it about the appearance and disappearance of idols and a hidden tunnel connecting temple with the palace in the fort. Just about 10 years back, there were 100 Jain business families living here in Diu (about 40 sthanakwasi and 60 murti-pujak), out of which one after another,

all murti-pujak families except one have left and settled abroad or in Bombay. The last one family left here is also about to leave very soon. The sthanakwasi families living here visit temple just occasionally for darshan but do not perform puja or any religious ceremony. The temple is therefore already in a state of neglect and soon it would be abandoned and closed unless the Jain community living in near-by areas, like Una, Hazara and Delwara take interest and look after this ancient heritage. One of the religious trusts in Gujarat can also come forward and arrange to look after the temple.

#### **BOOK REVIEW**

**JAIN DARSANA** (Hindi) By Nyayacharya Dr. Mahendrakumar Jain, Published by Shri Ganesh Varni Digambar Jain Sansthan, Varanasi, Rs. 75.00, Pub. in 1974, 455 pages. - "A classic handbook on Jain Doctrine written by a master of Jain Darsana". Jain Darsana shows the path of salvation, walking on which man remains tranquil and at peace with himself and his world. Thus man lives in harmony with the society and the universe. The teachings of Mahavira were based on the mutliplicity of reality and the highest pinnacle of individual freedom. That is why Jain conduct leads one towards a non-violent and environment-friendly life. In the Nyaya tradition, Jain Darsana gives a critique of other philosophies, yet because of its facet of Anekanta, shows the road to peaceful co-existence. This inherent practicality of Jain Darsana, enshrined in reality-based ethics, leads to intellectual freedom by facilitating harmonious acceptance of disagreeing views and non-violent conduct of

mind, speech and body. Nyayacharya Dr. Mahendrakumar Jain was the finest scholar of Jain Darsana and from amongst all the literature, Jain Darsana is the jewel in his crown. Manish Modi, E-Mail : Manish.modi@bol.net.in

### **BHAKTAMAR TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH**

A new version of Bhaktamar stotra in English language along with its original in Sanskrit is available and can be seen in the attachment. Please click here to read.

### **YOGURT CAN ALSO CONTAIN BEEF IF GELATIN IS USED FOR SETTING**

I am Smita from Chicago-US, I would like to share a fact which came to me as an afflicting surprise. Not sure if many of you already knew it .Packed yogurt ( Dahi or Curds) which we buy and use almost everyday is not always vegetarian,. Most of top leading Dairy-product companies use "Halal gelatin" which comes from Beef, to set them. Please read the short communication with the leading firm "Yoplait" in Australia , I am pasting below.

From: "Consumer Services-Yoplait" E-Mail : yplait@mail.genmills.com - Thanks you for contacting Yoplait with your inquiry. In the product ingredient lists, the gelatin is referred to as Kosher gelatin. This means that the process of producing our gelatin is under rabbinical supervision. The gelatin in our yogurts is from beef. We hope you find this information helpful. Please let us know if we can help you again. --Cynthia Brown Mail from Smita Jain, E-Mail : smita\_koshal@yahoo.com

### **PUNJAB GOVERNMENT TO DISTRIBUTE EGGS IN SCHOOLS**

Email from Mr. Sandeep Kumar Jain, E-Mail : jeevdaya@rediffmail.com Punjab Govt has decided to include egg in mid-day meal of school children. All the vegetarians, followers of jeevdaya and animal-lovers are requested to protest to Shri Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh and Animal Husbandry Minister, Punjab, Chandigarh, against this decision. (Ahimsa Times requests all its viewers to spread the message as much as possible.)

### **JAINA (USA) ORGANIZES MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CAMPS IN GUJARAT**

JAINA, the well-known humanitarian and umbrella organization of Jain Centers in North America, is organizing various medical assistance camps in India starting on January 2, 2004 through January 20, 2004. JAINA's medical and surgical camp drive will occur in several places in Saurashtra, Kutch and Gujarat during this three week period. These camps have become an ongoing annual tradition that brings the American medical expertise of volunteering doctors to the footsteps of needy people in India. A team of dedicated JAINA doctors from United States, traveling and working on a voluntary basis, will spend over three weeks serving the poor and the sick of India. Collectively, they possess expertise in multiple disciplines that will cover all major aspects of medicine - diabetes, cancer, endocrinology, asthma and allergy, urology, pediatrics, rehab, dermatology, arthritis, psychiatry, dental, orthopedic, gynecology and general surgery. Camps will be held primarily in Bidada (Kutch), Upleta (near Rajkot), Disa (Palanpur), Ahmedabad and Mumbai. These camps are being held in cooperation with local hospitals and facilities and trusts like Bidada Sarvodaya trust.

**JAINA's** team consists of Dr Manibhai Mehta, Dr Dhiraj Shah, Dr Pradeep Kansagra, Ramesh Shah and Dr Jaya Shah, Dr Atul Shah, Dr Jaswant Modi, Dr Ashish Mehta, Dr Pravin Kapadia, Dr Dinesh Shah, Dr Rimal Bera, Dr Shanti Kenia and Dr Ajit Shah accompanied by JAINA's President Anop Vora. JAINA is a non-profit religious and humanitarian organization established in 1981. It consists of sixty-two Jain Centers in United States and Canada and over 300 volunteers that assist in its core activities. Besides organizing medical and surgical camps. JAINA has a humanitarian program which assists with medical equipment and supplies for the needy and the poor. For further information you may call (02834) 244 444 / 2444 143. News courtesy: Mr. Nitin Talsania, E-Mail : nitin\_talsania@yahoo.com

### **RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT DECLARES 17 DAYS AS AHIMSA DAYS THIS YEAR**

The Government of Rajasthan has declared seventeen days to be observed as Ahimsa days, on which there would be complete ban on the killing of animals and The sale of meat. These days are: Ganatantra Divas, Shahid Divas, Maha Shiv-ratri, Ram Navami, Mahavir Jayanti, Acharya Devendra Punya Tithi, Buddh Purnima, Independence Day, Krishna Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Rishi Panchami, Anant Chaturdashi, Gandhi Jayanti, Peda Gyaras, Vijaya dashmi, Deepawali and Kartik Poornima. Besides these 17 days, the sale of meat will also be banned on all Fridays and all the Poornima falling in every month.

## DIKSHA

**Sushri Anju Jain**, daughter of Shri Jitendra Kumar Jain belonging to Kandhla in U.P. and sushri Mona Jain, daughter of Shri Tek chand Verma from Nepal was accorded Jain Bhagwati Diksha on the 7th December, 2003 at New Delhi in the holy presence of Shri Manohar Muni Ji maharaj, Upadhyay Shri Hem Chandra Ji, Shri Suman Ji, Shri Sumati Prakash Ji, Mahasati Shri Shashi Prabhi Ji and others from Swetambar Sthanakwasi sect.

**Shri Sreyas Rishi Ji** accepted earlier by Muni Shri Pravin Rishi Ji as his disciple was accorded full diksha at Ram Bagh Niwas in Indore in the presence of Shri Ramnik Muni Ji, Dr. Madhu Bala Ji, Chandrakala Ji and other sadhwis and many eminent persons from the town and outside.

**Sushri Ekta Kumari** accepted Jain Bhagwati Diksha under Mahasati Shri Bhanu Bai belonging to Swetambar Jain Gondal sect at Deolali (Nasik) on the 28th December, 2003 in the holy presence of Shri Dheeraj Muni Ji, Shri Paras Muni Ji maharaj. A large procession (Maha-bhi-nishkraman Shodha Yatra) was taken out through the town to celebrate the occasion.

### A CRY FOR HELP

**Respected Sir/Madam,**

I would like to bring to your kind notice that my mother Mrs. Damayanti S. Salunke is suffering from cancer. She had been operated and now is to be put to expensive chemotherapy doses. I had sent mails to Jain trusts and persons. However only shweeta shah from delhi had sent Rs. 500/- and Mr.Mehta from Gujarat had sent Rs. 2000/-. No one from the community had helped me. Thereupon I happened to post my plea on Ahimsa Times. I had responses only but no help till now. I beg upon for some help at the feet of Lord Mahavira The Almighty for some help from your end, to cope up for the expensive series of chemotherapy doses. I shall send across documents and signed receipt of the extent of help received from your end. I request you to send some help whatever meagre the amount may be I would like you to send immediately by a cheque on above name and address. At the feet of Lord Mahavira, I wish you prosperity, good health all the times. Contact address: Mr.Shekhar .S.Salunke, M-37, Mhada Society, Opp.Pharmacy College, Dist: Solapur: 413 004. Maharashtra.

### SIXTH BIENNIAL YJA CONVENTION AT MILPITAS, CALIFORNIA

The sixth biennial YJA Convention for the year 2004 is going to be hosted by the Jain Centre of North California (JCNC) at Milpitas. The venue would be Bay area of Western Santa Clara Hotel. Renowned speakers are being invited to speak and a variety of interesting programmes are going to be arranged. Registration for the event has begun on 12th January, 2004. The co-chairs for the program are: Samir Ajmera and Rina Shah. For further details, please visit [www.yja.org](http://www.yja.org)

### THEFT OF IDOLS AT KAPARDA JAIN TEERTH IN RAJASTHAN



It is a matter of grave concern that thefts in Jain temples, specially in western Rajasthan has become a regular feature. One after another, theft cases have been reported from different temples but absolutely no action is taken by the concerned authorities. The matter does not appear to be given the seriousness it deserves, as if it is a routine affair for the people who are supposed to provide protection to the religious places and national heritage. It is reported that on last Thursday, the 8th January, silver odols of Jain Tirthankars, their umbrellas and the donation box carrying cash were stolen from famous Jain temple at Kaparda, 45 km. from Jodhpur in Rajasthan Matter was promptly reported to the local Police but the culprits have yet to be apprehended. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan has also

been apprised of the case. It is high time that the Government takes the matter with concern and makes all necessary arrangements for the protection of Jain temples and other places of ancient heritage. A few days back, theft has also been reported in one of the dharm shalas at Nakoda Jain Teerth and it is a indeed matter of concern for all. (Courtesy: Dainik Bhaskar, 11th Jan.,04.)

### PRICELESS RARE JAIN MANUSCRIPTS DESTROYED IN SHIV SENA ATTACK IN PUNE

A 150 to 200-strong mob, calling itself the Sambhaji Brigade of the Maratha Seva Sangh, landed at the Bhandarkar institute at Pune on January 4 and went on the rampage. According to Ms. Saroja Bhate, Secretary of the Institute, the preliminary estimate of the material damage has been around Rs. 1.25 crore. Several manuscripts have been stolen or destroyed. Mob snapped telephone lines, tore books, rare writings and damaged artifacts and several framed paintings and photos. The departments of Mahabharatiya, manuscripts, publication, postgraduate teaching and research bore the brunt of the attack.

The police subsequently arrested 72 persons. The shocking incident comes in the wake of the December 22 incident when Shiv Sena supporters manhandled and humiliated historian Shrikant Bahulkar, named by historian James Laine in his book's acknowledgements section.

(The problem started from the controversial book of historian James Laine in which he made certain observations on Maratha warrior King Shivaji and his parentage.) Later, Sena leader Raj Thackeray apologised to Bahulkar, also a member of the Bhandarkar institute's governing council. The Bhandarkar institute attracts world scholars and was established in 1917. In 1920, the then Bombay administration had handed over its entire collection of 20,000 manuscripts to the institute for indexing and preservation. The Prime Minister also lambasted the vandalism at Pune's Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute triggered by the controversial book on Shivaji. "Countering the views in a particular book by another good book is understandable" Vajpayee said adding, he did not like the banning of the American writer James Laine's controversial book Shivaji: Hindu King of Islamic India.

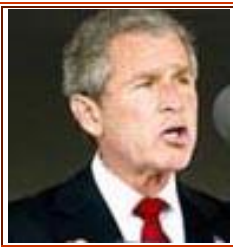
#### **BAN ON TOBACCO ADVERTISEMENTS TO BE IMPOSED SOON**



Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Government of India announced at a Press Conference recently that total ban would soon be imposed on the advertisements for the sale of tobacco and its products. The notification to this effect would be issued within 8-10 days. India would thus be the 7th country in the World to have imposed ban on tobacco advertisements in newspapers and magazines, after Sri Lanka, Fiji, Malta, Norway and Sachelles. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has already accorded its approval and strongly recommended this ban in all the member countries



#### **PRESIDENT BUSH IS VERY FOND OF BEEF**



Even though more than two dozen countries have imposed a ban on the sale of beef (cow's meat) in view of prevalent 'madcow' disease and its harmful effects on human health are well-known, it is learnt from press reports that President George W. Bush is very fond of beef and finds it very relishing. President has his own farm in Texas, where large number of animals are kept. Cows are particularly kept there for providing him the delicious item in his menu. One wonders whether it is not a matter of shame for a person like him.

#### **BIJAL JOSHI COMMITS SUICIDE; SUICIDE NOTE CHARGES DELHI'S SAJJAL JAIN & FRIENDS**



Mr. Sajjal Jain, son of famous industrialist and owner of Delhi's Appolo Millenium hospital, Sh. S. K. Jain of Delhi has been arrested by Gujarat police on the charges of rape. Ms. Bijal Joshi in her suicide note had accused Sajjal and his four other friends in Ahmedabad on the new year eve. Mr. Sajjal Jain consumed poison after the case was registered by Ahmedabad police but now he is relieved from the hospital and is in the custody of the Ahmedabad police for further investigation. In Ahmedabad people took out a protest march in the entire city against what they called police in-action in the case. Her family has said that Bijal may not have killed herself had she known that she



would get justice. One more accused in the case Mr. Karan Jain is still to be arrested in this case. According to Mr. S. K. Jain, father of the prime-accused, the charges levelled against Mr. Sajjal Jain are false and he has been unnecessarily implicated in the matter.

#### **DEVLOK GAMAN**

##### **Advertisement Tariff - "AHIMSA TIMES"**



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Sadhwi Shri Bhika Ji, disciple of Acharya Mahapragya Ji from Terapanth sect left for her heavenly abode after promoting Jain religion for a period of 73 years. She had accepted Jain diksha at the tender age of 13 years under Acharya Tulsi. She had established a worthy record for keeping 'maun vrat' (silence) and undertaking penance and austerities.