



# JAIN AHIMSA TIMES

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Volume : 102

Issue No. : 102

Month : January, 2009



## NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM ACHARYA MAHAPRAGYA

We Welcome New Year, People visit their places of worship, pray for blessings and desire for success. Next day one forgets it all. The year hands over its legacy, knowledge to the subsequent year. Few of the experiences and knowledge learnt are enormous while others may not be. It is definitely a matter of satisfaction that the general awareness of environmental issues has increased. At the same time, we cannot ignore the fact that lot more is to be done to protect our eco system from pollution. It is heartening to see people becoming more vigilant against increased menace of violence and terror. Huge time is being spent on deliberation in resolving these issues, which requires fast and prompt action.

On the auspicious occasion of the New Year, I am happy to share with you that we are transforming "Ahimsa Yatra" (Journey of Non - violence) program into "Ahimsa Samavaay" (Joint efforts for Non - violence), which is based on seven cardinal principles -

- Development of balanced personality through Ahimsa.
- Solving the family dilemma through Ahimsa.
- Solving the caste and communal problems through Ahimsa.
- To undertake efforts for making the concept of "Economics of Ahimsa" more wide spread & extensive.
- Extension of Ahimsa in the international world through "Ahimsa Universal".
- Training in Non - violence.
- Development of life - style based on Ahimsa.

I believe that majority in our world wants to live a peaceful life. It knows that the progress and development are impossible in absence of peace. We should not forget the truth that peace is not possible without Ahimsa and Amity. We all can feel that the expectation and ambition of our current society have increased tremendously. Individualism has also increased rapidly. For some, killing people has become a simple matter like 'cutting a blade of glass' compassion and understanding are disappearing from our society at an alarming rate.

On the august movement of the New Year, let us all pledge to change our current challenging environment for better by resolving -

- We will develop our inner consciousness.
- We will develop the consciousness of collectiveness.
- We will develop the consciousness of compassion and understanding.

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## TEMPLES

### NEW JAIN TEMPLE IN SOUTH PHOENIX (USA)

Dec. 25, 2008, The Arizona Republic, The Jain community dedicated its ornate marble temple in south Phoenix. The opening ceremony was attended by Close to 1,200 faithful from around the world who observed six days of rituals and festivities, Panch Kalyanak Pratistha Mahotsav. The multistory temple, with a non-violence monument, will serve 125 to 150 Jain families. The temple is similar to Mangalayatan, a Jain temple and pilgrimage complex in Aligarh. The temple, on 4 acres at 6250 S. 23rd Ave., is open to visitors.

## SAINTS



### SHANKARACHARYA JI CALLS ON ACHARYA SHRI MAHAPRAGYA

Dr. J. Tirumal Prasad, Shankaracharya of Ramchandrapur Math, Karnataka called on Acharya Shri Mahapragya on the 15th January, 2009 and discussed his efforts in the direction of saving cows and grass. The work is being initiated with a Gao-Gram Yatra commencing from Kurukshetra and it is expected to conclude on Makar Sakranti day in the year 2010 at Nagpur, covering a total distance of 2000 km. The yatra will be led not by any politicians but by a group of revered saints. He requested the Acharya to accord his cooperation by joining the yatra programme.

Acharya Shri assured Shankaracharya for considering to offer any cooperation that could be possible. A set of books written by Acharya Shri was presented to Shri Shankaracharya.

### JAIN SAINTS BLESS VHP'S PREPARATIONS FOR "VISHWA MANGAL GO GRAM YATRA"

The preparations for Vishwa Mangal Go Gram Yatra are in full swing. The yatra will commence on Vijaydashami in 2009 from Kurukshetra and covering different parts of the country will conclude on Makarsankranti Day in 2010. The yatra has been envisioned by Gokarna Peethadhishwar Shri Rageshwar Bharati. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh has also extended support to the yatra. Besides the RSS and other Hindu organisations, Sri Sri Ravishankar of the Art of Living, Dr. Pranav Pandya of Gayatri Pariwar, Yog Guru Swami Ramdev, Jain Acharya Mahaprajna, Acharya Vidyasagar, Shri Vijyaratnasunder Surishwar Maharaj, Mata Amritanandamayee and Swami Dayanand Saraswati Maharaj have also joined hands in this yatra.

A meeting for the preparations of the yatra was held in Varanasi on December 23 in which a total of 69 representatives from various parts of Uttar Pradesh participated. Speaking at the meeting Swami Rageshwar Bharati said the objective of the yatra is to contact every house of the country and the people would be educated about the benefits of the cow, harms of chemical fertilizers and benefits of organic farming, panchgavya, etc. Shri Hukumchand Sanwla of VHP, Shri Sitaram Kedilaya, Akhil Bharatiya Sewa Pramukh of RSS, and senior Sangh Pracharak Shri Shankarlal also spoke on the occasion.

### JITO MENTOR NAYPADMASAGARJI MAHARAJ CALLS FOR UNITING JAINS

AHMEDABAD: 'Jains of the world unite', was the call given by Naypadmasagarji Maharaj, a revered Jain sadhu at the introductory meet on Friday on the eve of Jain International Trade Organisation global summit. Speaking to delegates, Naypadmasagarji, who is also JITO's mentor emphasised on the importance of unity for a better future. "JITO's aim is to work for betterment of society. We should unite to eliminate poverty in the world. For this, I would ask JITO members to even go meet terrorists and try to understand their side of the story. Why should anybody choose to become a terrorist? There must be some reason. We have to find this out for the cause of humanity".

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## AHIMSA AWARD RECEIVED BY SAMANI PRAGYA ON BEHALF OF ACHARYA SHRI MAHAPRAGYA AT LONDON



Samani Shri Prasanna Pragya alongwith Samani Rohit Pragya received the coveted Ahimsa Award on their arrival at London on the 15th October, 2008 on behalf of Acharya Shri Mahapragya. The award, given away as a mark of respect and honour by the Institute of Jainology. Later, when the two samani returned to India and reached Beedasar, a small town near Bikaner, where the Acharya had stopped during his Vihar, the award was presented to Acharya Shri personally by a senior samani Madhur Pragya Ji on the 11th January, 2009. Acharya Shri expressed his appreciation for the contribution made by the Institute of Jainology in the field of Jainism.

### DIKSHA CEREMONIES

**Two Sisters, Chandani and Rina**, Daughters of Shri Bhanwar Lal Singhvi belonging to a village near Bheem town in Udaipur division of Rajasthan accepted Jain Bhagwati Diksha in the Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect in the presence of Lokmanya saint Shri Roop Muni Rajat on Friday, the 9th January, 2009. They were re-christened as Mukta Shriji and Prerana Shriji. Devotees had arrived from far and near to participate in the diksha celebrations.

**Km. Dimple Jain**, daughter of Shri Kailash Chandji Goyal, born at Shivpur in Madhya Pradesh on 24th February, 1989 will be accepting Jain Bhagwati diksha on the 22nd February, 2009 at Dungla village near Kota in the jain Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect. The diksha is going to held in the presence of her spiritual guide Dr. Madhu Bala Ji M. A., Ph. D. D. Litt., Shri Vijay Kunwar Ji Maharaj, Upadhyay Shri Mool Chandji Maharaj and Pravartak Muni Shri Ramesh Muni Maharaj. She has studied various Jain scriptures and remembered by heart various important spiritual rituals and shlokas.

**Mumukshu Smt. Sampat Devi Sethia** accepted Jain Bhagwati Diksha on 11th January, 09 in Shwetambar Terapanth sect at Surat and was renamed as sadhwi Sidhshriji. Her husband, Shri Roop Chand Sethia, son Shri Mahendra Sethia, national President of Terapanth Mahasabha, large number of devotees of Terapanth sect and others from near-by places as well as people from Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad etc. had joined the celebrations to mark the occasion.

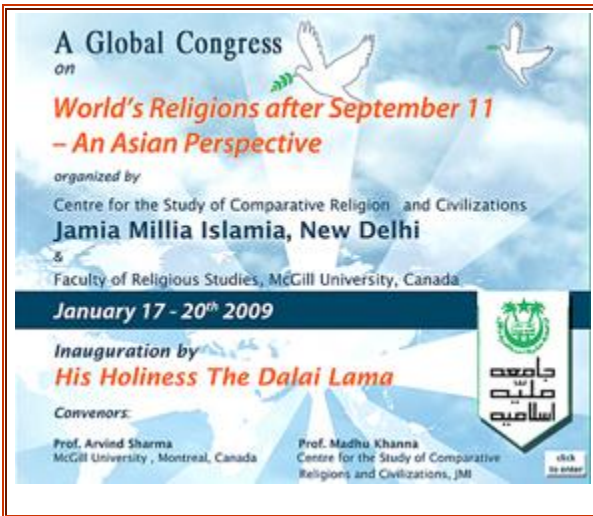
### CONFERENCES & EVENTS

#### JITO - L. K. ADVANI CALLS JAINISM MOST ANCIENT GREEN MOVEMENT



Ahmedabad, Jan. 10 : While speaking at the global summit of the Jain International Trade Organization Senior BJP leader L. K. Advani, said ethics and values are inseparable elements of every business. He also called Jainism, the most ancient Green Movement in world history. He pointed out that most people do not often appreciate why Jainism attached such paramount importance to ahimsa. However, two of the greatest challenges before the world today—Terrorism and Climate Change—are both manifestations of violence. He added that terrorism is of course the most extreme and inhuman form of violence. But there is another form of violence which the world has been much slower to recognize, and much more hesitant to take firm action against. Referring to the violence being inflicted on the Earth by our materialistic civilization, Advani said that only when we reflect on the challenge of Climate Change that we begin to appreciate the enormous contemporary relevance of the Jain philosophy of ahimsa and jiva daya. We realize that Bhagwan Mahavir and the other Jain Tirthankars were great environmental conservationists. They taught us that we human beings are merely trustees of this planet. We need to re-learn their teachings in our times. He further added that eco-friendliness is not a mere fashionable phrase; it has to be interwoven into our development paradigm.

## GLOBAL CONGRESS ON WORLD'S RELIGIONS ASIAN PERSPECTIVE TO MEET IN DELHI



A Global Congress on World's Religions after September 11 - An Asian Perspective will meet in New Delhi from January 17-20, 2009 at the Jamia Millia Islamia University campus. This Congress is being hosted by the recently established Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations at the University. This Congress is a sequel to the Global Congress on World's Religions After September 11, which met in Montreal from September 11-15, 2006 and was attended by 2025 participants from 84 countries.

The present Congress will focus on the same theme, but from a primarily Asian perspective and will be inaugurated by His Holiness, The Dalai Lama. The congress proposes to bring together a community of scholars and academics, leading voices and representatives from different faiths,

the media and NGOs working in the field of peace building. For more information, please see the attached flyer or visit the Congress website: [www.worldsreligionsjamia.com](http://www.worldsreligionsjamia.com) or contact Naresh Jain, Interfaith Co-Chair - Federation of Jain Associations in North America.

## BANGALORE : WEEK-LONG JAIPUR FOOT CAMP TO HELP OVER 2,500 TO STAND ON THEIR LEGS



Bangalore, Gautam Chand Nahar, Chairman of the Jaipur Foot Camp Organizing Committee said, that the week-long camp which went underway in the city on Saturday January 3, will transform the lives of over 2,500 disabled people from all over southern India to enable them to stand on their own legs without being burdensome for others. The camp is being organized jointly by Rotary Bangalore Peenya and Sri Bhagwan Mahavir Vikalang Sahayata Samiti of Jaipur.

During the camp, prosthetic limbs, calipers, crutches, tricycles, wheel chairs etc., will be provided to the people with problems, depending on their need. The Jaipur Foot, invented first in 1969 by Masterji Ram chander from Jaipur in 1969, has been hailed as a model all over the world, as it is cost-effective, user-friendly and not complicated. During various camps held in the past all over the country and abroad, thousands of people got artificial limbs, calipers etc., rekindling in them a hope and determination to live life on their own. During the camps, in addition to the equipments, the patients are also provided with training to use them properly.

Karnataka governor Rameshwar Thakur who inaugurated the camp, hailed the camp for providing service to the poor crippled people who are unable to do something on their own. For more details, Gautham chand Nahar can be called on 9341214915 and 9243109009.

## NEW CHARITABLE HOSPITAL BY MAHAVIR INTERNATIONAL, FARIDABAD

Faridabad Centre of Mahavir International has constructed a charitable Hospital by name Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital & Research Centre, at Jain Bhawan, A-3 Central Green, NIT, Faridabad. The special services are being rendered in Eye and Dental Care and also Accupressure treatment and Homeopathic Dispensary is being run from the Hospital. The Centre has set up a Corpus so that the charity can continue with the interest earnings. From: Ajeet Singh Patwa, General Secretary, E-Mail: [ajeetsingh\\_patwa@rediffmail.com](mailto:ajeetsingh_patwa@rediffmail.com)



## PUNJAB UNIVERSITY HOLDS ACHARYA ATMA RAM MEMORIAL LECTURE 'PRATIKRAMANA IN JAIN RELIGION



Acharya Atma Ram Memorial Lecture was held in Punjab University, Patiala Senate Hall on 18th November 2008. Guru Gobind Singh Department of Religious Studies arranged the lecture with the financial help of Bhagavan Mahavir Meditation and Research Center Trust, Kuppakala, District Sangrur.

Importance of the 'Pratikramana in Jain Religion' was the main topic of the lecture which was delivered by Professor Sudeep Jain. Dr. Jaspal Singh, Vice-Chancellor of the Punjabi University, Patiala inaugurated and Jain Monk Shri Tarak Rishiji, Senior Adviser of the Shraman Sangh was the Guest of Honour at the lecture programme.

The Vice Chancellor while inaugurating expressed his great satisfaction on organizing such a lectures relating to spiritual and moral values by the Department of Religious Studies.

He quoted Gurbani emphasizing diversity among the people of the world but also underlying unity in human race. He said religion is basically based on compassion. Professor Sudeep Jain, Head of the Department of Prakrit Language, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Sanskrit University, New Delhi nicely conveyed the gist of the Pratikramana-Sutra to the august audience. He threw light on every important aspect of Pratikramana to which every religion subscribes. He further told that it was quite natural to commit mistakes in the life due to lack of self-vigilance but sincere efforts for trying to reform or remove them from daily behavior make a person authentic being called a civilized or a gentle man.



The name of this well-organized and independent process of the self-refinement is called "Pratikramana in Jain tradition. This is an efficient prompt psychological method to uplift the conduct, thought and self-confidence. The most proficient method to achieve the goal is through spiritual repentance. The young monk Shri Shivam Rishiji, inspired by a very senior and dedicated monk Shri Tarak Rishiji and Suyoga Rishiji, delivered an enlightening discourses on the same topic. The prominent members of the Jain community and teachers, researchers and students of the University also participated in the memorial lecture.

Dr. Rajinder Kaur Rohi, Head of the Department of the Religious Studies presented her introductory remarks about the lecture series. Dr. Pradyumna Shah Singh Programme Coordinator threw light on the life of Acharya Atma Ramji who was the first Acharya of the Shramana Sangh. He also read the message sent by fourth Acharya of the Shramana Sangh Dr. Shiv Muniji who is Ph.D. from the Department of Religious Studies. In his message he extended his blessings for the success of the programme and promised to help in the future lectures also.

On this auspicious occasion the book titled Jain Stories translated into Punjabi Language by Purushottam Jain and Ravindra Jain was released by Vice-Chancellor. While delivering vote of thank Dr Pradyumna Shah Singh expressed gratitude on the behalf of the Dept. to Chndanbala Shravika Sangh, Ludhiana and patrons of the lecture series Purushottam Jain, Ravinder Jain, Padam Jain and Telu Ram Jain for their patron ship. From: Ravinder Jain, E-Mail: [ravinderjain@india.com](mailto:ravinderjain@india.com)

### JAINA SCRIPTURES AND PHILOSOPHY

The 11th Jaina Studies Workshop is going to be held on 12th & 13th March, 2009 at School of Oriental and African Studies, London. Jaina Scriptures and Philosophy will be the theme of the event. Fourteen scholars from various fields of Jainism from all over the world will deliver their lectures. For more details contact Dr. Peter Flugel, Tel: +44-20 78984776, E-Mail: [pf8@soac.ac.uk](mailto:pf8@soac.ac.uk)

## OVER 4000 DELEGATES PARTICIPATE IN JITO GLOBAL MEET AT AHMEDABAD



(9th to 11th January) The fourth Jain International Trade organisation global summit started with a conclave on the 9th January, 09 at Ahmedabad in a big way. It is reported that over 4000 people participated in the meet which included a large number of prominent businessmen and industry experts from all over the world. This summit is being held to offer tangible solutions to JITO members to deal with the present economic crisis, which is affecting most of the

developed world and now India too. On the first day of summit the JITO apex body members threw open the event with the blessings of Param Poojya Shri Nay Padam Sagar Ji Maharaj. They spoke about the mission and vision of the organisation as well as the achievements of the Jains worldwide. Exhorting Jains around the world to come together to fight the present economic crisis, Poojya Maharaj saheb said, "When we go out of this summit, we should stop being Deraasi or Sthanakwasi and unite for the larger good of the community and the world. Shri Hemant Shah, President, JITO Apex said, "If we unite, we can effectively fight the economic tsunami that threatens us at this time.

The first day's highlights consisted of inauguration at the hands of Leader of opposition, L.K. Advani, conference of Jain International Women's Organisation, Jain Ministers' felicitation and a session by the Chairman of Union Bank. On the next day, several leading businessmen spoke at the conclave, followed by a discourse by Poojya Naypadamsagar ji Maharaj on the effect of economic recession the world over and the role of Jain community as a whole. Seminars were held in the afternoon on a variety of subjects, such as capital market and commodity, real estate, construction and allied products, IT, gems, jewellery and bullion, metals, plastics, textiles, chemicals and pharma. The members participating in this summit felt that the entire programme was a great success and it would help in turning the current crisis into an opportunity serving as a practical and useful guide to all the members.

## FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF WORLD'S RELIGIONS IN MELBOURNE DECEMBER 3-9, 2009

Fifth Parliament of World's Religions will be held in Melbourne, Australia, from December 3 through December 09, 2009. Please review information about this global event attached below. This Parliament is projected to bring in about 10,000 people from 80 countries and attended by high level spiritual/religious people from all over the world including Dalai Lama, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and others. Australian government is supporting this event with full enthusiasm. The Council for a Parliament of the Worlds Religions (CPWR) has been organizing major interfaith events of global and historical significance for many decades. The very first one in 1893 became famous because of the well publicized participation of Swami Vivekananda and V. R. Gandhi. This was followed by a similar event in Chicago in 1993, Cape Town, South Africa in 1999 and Barcelona, Spain in 2004. The Barcelona Parliament was attended by about 30 Jains including monks, nuns, scholars, and delegates from USA, UK, and India. This participation was a huge success in terms of making Jainism more visible to the outside world. The theme of the Melbourne Parliament, Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other, healing the earth reflects the urgent need to act on concerns for the environment, peace, and overcoming poverty, and to cultivate awareness of our global interconnectedness. This theme calls for action and is parallel to the teachings of Anekaantvaad and Parasparopgraho Jivanaam.

The 2009 Parliament theme, sub themes, daily schedule, call for programs, criteria for program selection and proposal forms have been put on the Parliament web site [www.parliamentofreligions.org](http://www.parliamentofreligions.org). The current program proposal submission deadline is February 28, 2009. Mr. Naresh Jain, E-Mail : [njain52253@aol.com](mailto:njain52253@aol.com) and 201-933-8963) and Dr. Hema Pokharna,

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E-Mail : hemapokharna.phd@gmail.com and 773-368-1656), members of the Board of Trustees of the Parliament. are available to help and answer any questions. Please feel free to contact them. - Naresh Jain.

## FIFTH CONFERENCE OF JAIN DOCTORS FEDERATION ORGANISED AT AHMEDABAD



The fifth conference of Jain Doctors Federation was held on the University grounds at Ahmedabad on the 10th and 11th January, 2009. The theme of the conference was "**Serenity through scientific spirituality**". An endeavor was made to assess and amalgamate principles of medicine and recent technological innovations in the context of Jain philosophy, exhaustive knowledge of Jain Agams and theory of Karma. The JDF conference was organised by the Federation in association with the conference of Jain International Trade

organisation on the same ground. The inauguration ceremony of the conference was graced by Param Poojya Acharya Shri Nay Padam Sagarji Maharaj, Shri L. K. Advani, Leader of Bharatiya Janta party, Shri Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of Gujarat. The conference was attended by more than 1200 doctors coming from India and abroad. The afternoon session of the conference was devoted to practice of 'Shatavadhan', demonstrated by Yuva Muni Shri Ajit Chandra Sagarji Maharaj. it is a spiritual power of mind to remember and reproduce 100 or even more numerical figures or names, phrases or any activity in the same order. Thus, a shatavadhani can remember 100 different things in 100 different orders, spoken by 100 different persons. It can be achieved by constant practice of yoga, tap, tyag and sanyam. Many of our saints and acharyas have achieved this feat.

The second day was devoted to lectures on Jain philosophy, health-care and innovations in medicine delivered by renowned experts in their fields. Some of the prominent speakers were Dr. Shikhar Chand Jain on the subject of basic elements of Jain religion; Dr. Kalyan Gangwal on the topic of Jain philosophy and Gandhiji, Dr. Ashok Pangariya on Science, mind and way to happiness, A peep into the future by Dr. K. Ganapathy and Dr. Mavlin Vora on the topic of Attractive killer, the cell phone and secrets of centenarians. The event was highlighted by discourse by Poojya Nay Padam Sagarji Maharaj. we should stop being Derawasi or Sthanakwasi and ite for the larger good of of the entire community and the world.

## WORLD PEACE AND AHIMSA CONFERENCE AT HASTINAPUR



President Pratibha Patil inaugurated a conference on World Peace and Ahimsa on 28th December, 2008 at Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh. in the presence of sadhvi Pramukha Shri Gyanmati Mataji Maharaj. Several leading Jain scholars from different places belonging to Digambar sect participated and spoke on the occasion. The theme of the conference had a great relevance to the gloomy picture at the present time urging the people to follow the path of peace and non-violence shown by Bhagwan Mahavir.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### INDIAN STAMPS - DR. L. M. SINGHVI - BY INDIA POST



Vice-President Hamid Ansari on 8th December released a commemorative postage stamp at India Habitat Centre on the late Laxmi Mall Singhvi, India's long time envoy to the UK (1991-1997), former Parliamentarian (Member of Third Lok Sabha-1962-1967 ) and a legal luminary / jurist. He was father of Mr Abhishek Manu Singhvi a prominent Congress Leader. He was Awarded Padma Bhusan in 1998 and was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1999. Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, presided over the ceremony. It was organized by the Trustees and and Advisory Council of the Dr. L.M. Singhvi Foundation. Denomination:-500p.

## TEN JAIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS ELECTED TO M. P. ASSEMBLY

VILLAGE	NAME	PARTY
Kolaras (Shivpuri)	Devender Jain	B.J.P.
Sagar	Shailender Jain	B.J.P.
Damoh	Jayant Malya	B.J.P.
Jabalpur	Sharad Jain	B.J.P.
Javad	Omprakash Saklecha	B.J.P.
Bhojpur (Bhopal)	Surender Patwa	B.J.P.
Vidisha	Raghavji Bhai	B.J.P.
Ujjain	Paras Jain	B.J.P.
Ratlam	Paras Saklecha	Others
Garoth	Subhash Sojtiya	Congress

Ahimsa Times Congratulates the newly elected members and wish them success in their mission to serve the country. We are sure these respectable representatives of the jain community will prove their competence and serve with humanity, dignity and honesty.

### PROF. MAN CHAND KHANDELA HONORED BY AMERICAN BIOGRAPHICAL INSTITUTE

Prof. Man Chand Khandela, Director of Subodh Management Institute at Jaipur has been declared as a recipient of "Man of the Year" India-2008 award by the American Biographical Institute. According to the Mr. J. M. Evans, Chairman of the Biographical Institute, the selection for this award was made by the Institute's International Board of Research, based on his research accomplishments and professional achievements, including M. Com., M.A., M. Phil., LL.B., Ph.D., C.A.F.I., apart from 60 books in the relevant fields, 3000 papers published in International research journals and participation in more than 50 seminars, workshops and conferences in India and abroad. Earlier, Prof. Khandela was a recipient of Life Time Achievement Award given by United Writers' Association of India, Chennai, Bharat Jyoti Award given by India International Friendship Society, New Delhi, Best Citizen of India Award given by International Publishing House, New Delhi, Outstanding Man of the Twenty first Century by American Biographical Institute, USA, Jewel of India by International Business Council, New Delhi and others.

### VEGETARIANISM

#### NEW GOVT. BODY TO PROMOTE MEAT EXPORT



According to Mr. Ratan Jain, General Secretary of the Jain Mahasabha, Delhi, the Government of India has recently accorded its approval for the formation of a 'National Meat and Poultry Farm Board'. The Board would be financed by the Central Government. The Board will consist of representatives from private institutions, State Governments and Central Government. The main objectives of this Board would be to boost the production of meat in the country, establish new slaughter houses in the country, encourage the industry for eggs production and enhance the export of meat. Prof. Ratan Jain said that it was most unfortunate that the Government is encouraging the business involving killing of animals on a massive scale on a regular basis.



It is not in the interest of cultural heritage of the country, environment, farmers or financial gains. According to Prof. Jain, Jain Mahasabha has called upon the whole country to oppose this move on the part of the Government to promote violence and killing of innocent animals in the country. Various institutions in the country believing in ahimsa, such as Jain community, Arya samaj, Sanatan dharmi samaj, Radhaswami, Namdhari Sikh community and animal protection organisations must start a campaign to oppose tooth and nail, the establishment of meat and poultry farm board.

### THE MAKING OF VARAKH. IS YOUR MITHAI NON-VEGETARIAN?



The process of making varakh, a material used in plenty on sweet-meats and on Jain idols in Shwetambar Jain temples for decorating the idols is at once an interesting and a repulsive process. A process which could otherwise have been admired as a remarkable achievement of human skill instead gets judged for its ethical moorings from the very first step...the sourcing of material from the slaughter-house. There can not be anything more tragically ironical. The practice of anointing with a slaughterhouse-derived material the idols of those who preached non-violence to the least of God's creatures is nothing short of an embarrassment if out of ignorance, and blasphemous, if knowingly. Those who should be at the forefront of the battle against the manufacture and use of varakh are the main consumers of it. The sooner that the religious heads realise the embarrassing contradictions of the awful practice, the better it would be.

Briefly, the process starts with removing the skin of slaughtered goat or sheep and soaking it for dehairing. The workers then peel away the epidermis layer from the skin in a single piece. The animal tissue layers are treated in a decoction of about 70-80 herbs for 30 minutes to deoxidize, soften and warm them and are then coloured and left to dry on wooden boards. The process of beating silver pieces between tissues of the slaughtered animals is a most closed-guarded secret of the varakh industry. Square pieces measuring about 19 cm x 15 cm are cut from the treated animal tissue. Pouches are made from these pieces and are stacked into booklets. Thin strips of drawn silver are placed inside the pouches. The pouches are pounded with wooden mallets to beat silver inside into ultra-thin varakh of thickness as low as a fraction of a micron. Thus, there is always a possibility of some of the animal tissue remaining on the surface of the silver foil. Many claims are made regarding the availability of 'ahimsak' varakh, that is not beaten inside animal tissue but is supposedly machine-made. Such claims have never been substantiated with details of the manufacturers. Personal discussions with varakh craftsmen have revealed that their manual method is the only process used in India and elsewhere. Technically also, it is not feasible to produce varakh of such minute thickness by any machine process so far without incurring heavy tears. According to literature published by "Beauty Without Cruelty", the annual demand of varakh is about 30,000 kg. which means 37.5 crore animals are required to be killed every year and the killing rate comes to 12,500 animals for producing 1 kg. of varakh.

### CHICAGO HEALTH CHIEF DR. TERRY MASON CALLS ON EVERYONE TO "GO VEGETARIAN" IN JANUARY



It is heartening to note the good news from Chicago. Chicago Health Chief calls for everyone to 'Go Vegetarian' in January. Philosophy, Compassion, Global Warming, Animal Welfare, etc. are all good, but health is the benefit that attracts a large number of Americans. The livestock industry is responsible for creating more greenhouse gases that cause global warming than any other industry, and it is time the world finally finds out the real truth about the many other worldwide catastrophic disasters that are related to eating animal flesh.

Chicago health commissioner Dr. Terry Mason has a message for Chicagoans who enjoy devouring meat in all its fat-dripping, artery-clogging glory: Don't do it. As part of his campaign to slim down waists and lower blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol citywide, Mason is encouraging everyone to join him in going vegetarian for January. In a city famous for Italian beef, Polish sausage and deep dish Pizza, his call for a meatless month may sound downright blasphemous. But

Mason, a Physician who has a medical practice in urology, appears undaunted, and for good reason. From E-Mail: Aapolet@aol.com

## BOOK REVIEW

### THE FAMILY AND THE NATION By Acharya Mahapragya and A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

Published by: HarperCollins Publishers India, A-53, Sector 57, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh-201301 (India) Price: Rs.250/- Pages: 216.

The book is written jointly, one by a revered and celebrated Jain Muni, who is an eminent scholar, thinker and a philosopher and the other, a visionary, a distinguished scientist and a former president of the country. The two of them have brought their vast experience to bear on the important subject of family-nation relationship. As the authors put it, it's only a strong and happy family that will lead to a noble nation, one that can be a true fulfilment of 5000 years of India's civilisation. The book takes up the difficult and pressing task of setting new agenda in a time of radical social change. It shows us the path we need to follow to take India to its rightful place as a great nation.

The book is written in two parts, one deals with the dynamics of Indian culture, evolutionary process and the idea of unity. The second part deals with topics like creating healthy individuals, birth of a beautiful home and birth of a noble nation. The book is written in a simple language, giving prescription as to how a noble nation can be evolved, fulfilling an urgent need of the country. A serious reading of the book would go a long way in exploring how the creation of a beautiful family would lead to the evolution of a noble nation.



### "WALK WITH ME - THE STORY OF MAHAVIR: A REMARKABLE REVOLUTIONARY"

By Acharya Chandanaji and Professor Vastupal Parikh -In this unusual biography of Bhagwan Mahavir, the authors focus on Mahavir's revolutionary achievements in several fields, e.g. social justice, environment, war, etc., that are relevant to the 21st century global issues. Every chapter is in the form of an easily readable story narrated by Bhagwan Mahavir's chief disciple - Guru Gautamswami. The book will inspire you to examine your personal way of living and becoming proactive to live a better life.

Available at Peace Publications ,2777 Steamboat Springs Drive ,Rochester Hill, MI ,USA 48309.

## SOCIAL COHESION: A JAIN PERSPECTIVE



Dr. Atul Shah and Dr. Aidan Rank ,Release Date: 5th November 2008. Dr. Atul Shah and Dr. Aidan Rankin are launching a new book entitled 'Social Cohesion: A Jain Perspective'. The book draws on the time-tested vision and science of ancient India to develop new solutions for the social crises facing modern Britain. Prof. Werner Menski of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, has said: 'This is a very important book which is timely and relevant to the problems faced by modern Britain'. Simon Keyes, Director at St. Ethelburgas, a major new centre for peace and reconciliation, explained: "Jain wisdom speaks to our current debates about "social cohesion" in a most interesting and helpful way. I hope this excellent and accessible book will be widely read by policy-makers, activists and anyone concerned with understanding what enables communities to cohere." The book is available free on-line at: [www.diverseethics.com](http://www.diverseethics.com) or printed copies can be bought at £10 each from Diverse Ethics Ltd. Dr. Atul Shah, 07804294903 or E-Mail [atul@diverseethics.com](mailto:atul@diverseethics.com)

## READERS VIEW'S

**Why should we vote & why should we not to in favour of Palitana?** I sincerely appreciate your respect towards our SUPER MOST TIRTH - PALITANA. I would like to share my views with you. Why should we vote & why should we not to in favour of Palitana? Is it not fact that Palitana is much ahead, much beyond 7 Wonders? If you have seen rest of wonders, did you found any wonder SASHWAVATA? Is any of other place's PRABHAVKTA is comparable with Palitana? Can any one of us get license (irrevocable) to avail moksh / siddh pad by visiting any other place then Palitana / Giriraj? There are many, too many reasons to say that our Giriraj (Palitana boomi by it self ) has unmatched pavitrata. Every single particle or atom of Giriraj has parmatma. By placing it with rest of wonders we may (obviously, innocently and unknowingly and having certainly best

intention and unmatched respect) put this most holy place of pilgrimage in danger. It shall be developed for tourism & holidaying. Many interested peoples & tourists- local as well as foreigners (but may not necessarily dharmik by nature) will come there not for yatra but for enjoyment! Many facilities & infrastructure will come up and made available to them, many hotels and guest houses will come up to facilitate tourists. This will ultimately hurt & damage its Pavitrata. We just can't just do such sinful act knowingly or unknowingly. At no cost any one of us can even dream such kind of situation! but in reality it can happen! proposal to include in seven wonders is part of such a process. Please, do not get mislead with offers for such kind of status (to include under wonder 7 etc.). Giriraj never need any man made status. In fact to protect the holiness of our teerth, under no circumstances we should ever encourage such activity for any of our teerth. On the contrary, we should see that it does not get included in such a list. Courtesy: Devang Shah, E-Mail : dpshah\_1968@yahoo.com.

**Subject: Jain Nuns Support Hindu Terrorism**, From: I. R. Sancheti, E-Mail: i\_sancheti@hotmail.com . You should not get involved in such matters. If you till wish, you should check up thro' somebody with these Shwetambar Jain nuns Pritisudhaji & Madhusmitaji Maharaaj. They are v talanted & v popular nuns. Thousands & thousands people attend their 'vyakhyan' ( speeches). They have crores & crores followers spread all over the world. There are few Digambar Jain, who many times work against Shwetambar jain. Newsletter of your standard should not get involved in such controversial issues of 'divide & rule'. This is time of Unity & everybody should work whole hearted for the same. I hope u all will agree ....I. R. SANCHETI.

### **JAIN MINORITY ISSUE**

#### **MINORITY STATUS FOR JAINS**

After years of unstinted efforts by all the sects of Jain community, the minority status would soon be obtained by the Jain community in the country. The Central Cabinet has given its acceptance to the proposal in this regards. Accordingly, Jain Samaj would soon be included in the list of minority communities, which have been described in the Constitution of India. The Bill will now be placed in the Parliament for amendment in the section 103 of the Constitution. Once the bill is passed, the much-desired status will be achieved.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **PATSY WANTS TO LOCATE S. K. JAIN**

Hello. My name is Patsy (Edwards) Kirkpatrick. E-Mail : abuelapepsi@hotmail.com Tele : 620-232-6768; add:103 E. Williams, apt. 103, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762, USA. I am hoping to locate a friend from many years ago and am wondering if you would be able to help. The name is S. K. Jain (Satyendra Kumar ) Born December 3, (1943?)

He received his master in engineering in Cananda in 1969?).He worked for McNallys Corp. in Pittsburg, KS in 1969-1970. Then he moved to Danville, Pennsylvania. He returned to India, married, and had 1 daughter, and 1 son, in the early 1970s. S. K. worked as structural engineer, as project manager, in New Delhi, in the 1980s. (Engineering Projects -India LTD, Government of India Enterprise, head office-Kailash. He also worked, or lived in Orissa. Patsy Kiskpatrick ,103-E, Williams, Apt. 103, Pihsburg, Ks...., USA.

#### **AFTER BID TO KILL WIFE, VIKAS JAIN TRIES TO END LIFE IN DELHI COURT**

NEW DELHI: Vikas Jain tried killing his wife in front of a metropolitan magistrate at Delhi court tried to commit suicide in the court premises on. According to the police, Vikas Jain had tried to stab his wife, Geeta, with a dagger, injuring her grievously, over an altercation with her during the hearing of their domestic violence case in the court of M. M. Sunaina Sharma . He was immediately arrested and a case of attempt to murder was registered against him. However, when he was produced in the ACMM court, he tried to kill himself by jumping off from the ledge outside the courtroom. He sustained minor injuries. It seems he is not completely mentally fit. Inquest proceedings against his attempt to commit suicide have begun too.

#### **JAIN TEMPLE AT SAO JOSE DE ( GOA) AREA BURGLIED**

MARGAO: Burglary in temples is never without a rich haul. The one that was reported at the Jain Mahavir temple

early morning at Mugali in Sao Jose de Area was a repeat story except that the burglars could not carry the heavy metal donation box beyond a certain distance and had to drop it in the hilly terrain some half a kilometer from the temple. Sniffer dogs trailed a distance and helped police recover the box that had not been broken open. However, the burglars are still at large. Police said the pujari of the temple called at around 6 am to inform him about the burglary. The police team rushed to the site and found the lock of the main door broken and the silver arch around the deity (Lord Mahavira) along with other ornamental items stolen. Police held a meeting with temple authorities a few months ago, during the time when the vandalism of religious places was reported, and asked them to take security measures. He had even advised the president of the Jain temple to depute security guards.

### **TWO HELD WHILE TRYING TO SELL MAHAVIR IDOL**

29 Dec 2008 HYDERABAD: Two persons hailing from Nizamabad were nabbed today while they were trying to sell an antique idol of Mahavir in the city. The idol is worth Rs. 35 lakh and it was procured from Jaipur by one of the accused. On specific information, the North Zone Task Force team raided a house at Sriram Nagar in Baghlingampally and nabbed the duo and seized the idol. The accused, Alete Mithun Reddy, hailing from Nizamabad & Shaik Habeebuddin is a motorcycle mechanic from Ricepet in Bodhan of Nizamabad. Mithun Reddy completed his B Tech with his own transport business. Shaik Habeebuddin reportedly purchased the Mahavir idol from Jaipur for Rs. Two Lakh and was planning to dispose it off to potential customers at a higher price. They tried to dispose off the idol by claiming that it belonged to 15th Century AD and is worth crores in the international market and were searching for potential customers. The Task Force sleuths apprehended Shaik Habeebuddin and Mithun Reddy while they were trying to sell the antique idol.

### **ANCIENT ORNAMENTS LOOTED FROM JAIN TEMPLE IN SIROHI**



Jaipur, Jan 16, Unidentified men decamped with ancient silver ornaments, weighing 138 Kgs, after drilling a hole in the basement of a Jain temple at Rajasthan, Peshwa village. The thieves removed bricks and made a hole to the basement of the Kandhunath temple. They then cut out iron rods using welding machines and loot the jewels, they said. Police suspect the robbery to have taken place during the intervening night of December 29-30, but it was detected only on January 14 when a group of kite fliers noticed debris near the temple and the hole leading to the basement. A case has been registered and a priest and two guards, who were reportedly on duty at the time of the incident are being interrogated.

### **SURESH KUMAR JAIN'S SON ENDS LIFE**



Mysore, Jan. 17 , In a tragic incident, Abhijit Jain (28), son of the Mysore Industries Association General Secretary Suresh Kumar Jain committed suicide by hanging himself yesterday. He committed suicide at their house in Chamarajapuram opposite Law Courts. Abhijit, who got married only last year, worked in Pune for BMW company after completing his MBA. He had returned to Mysore only one-and-half months ago and was managing Cotton Industry in Mandya. Abhijit leaves behind his wife Anita.

### **DEVLOK GAMAN**

As a most unexpected and rare event, soon after the acceptance of Diksha by Smt. Sampat Devi Sethia on the 11th January, she left for her heavenly abode. She had accepted diksha at 12.05 hrs. and she expired just after 5 hrs. 42 minutes.

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