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नववर्ष की हार्दिक शुभकामना - आचार्य श्री शिवमुनि जी म. सा.



नववर्ष 2015 आपके जीवन में सुख समृद्धि सौभाग्य लेकर आये।

आप धर्ममय हो जाओ। यही शुभ कामना।

हमारी व्यक्ति वस्तु, स्थान, इन्द्रियाँ, देह की आसक्ति दूर हो

यही शुभ भावना। अरिहंत कृपा से शिवाचार्यश्री जी ने यह

नव वर्ष निरासक्त वर्ष घोषित किया है।

श्रमण संघीय चतुर्थ पट्टधर युगप्रधान आचार्य सम्माट पूज्य श्री शिवमुनि

जी म.सा ने इस अवसर पर द्रव्य क्षेत्र काल भाव का आगार रखते

हुए सूखे समाधे आगामी वर्ष 2015 का चातुर्मास सिल्क सिटी डायमंड

सिटी सूरत (गुजरात) को प्रदान किया।

ACHARYA RATNAKAR SURISHWARJI M. S. & SADHAVIJI SHILPRABHA SHRIJI RUN OVER



December 24th, 2014, Valsad : A pall of gloom descended on the Jain community around the country after Pujya Acharya Gachhadhipati Bhagwan Ratnakar Surishwarji Maharaj Saheb, 71, and Sadhaviji Maharaj Shilprabhasriji, 50, were run over by an unidentified vehicle on National Highway-8 near Atul in Valsad district.

Valsad rural police said that a group of around 16 sadhu and sadhvis had started Vihar from Valsad in the early morning to reach Dungari from Pardi Jain Upashray. Acharya Ratnakar Maharaj and Sadhavi Shilprabhasriji were at little distance from the other group members.



They were walking by the roadside and hit by a speeding heavy vehicle near Visamo Hotel around 5 am. The driver of the vehicle escaped immediately. According to other monks, they could not see the vehicle as it was dark and they were ahead. They found both the bodies lying on the road. Police has registered FIR and investigations are on to trace the driver. As per a First Information Report (FIR) registered with Valsad police station, some unidentified vehicle hit the Jain saints, when they were proceeding towards a Jain Upashray in early morning hours. Police have registered the case under Indian Penal Code Sections 279 (rash-driving), 327 (causing hurt by act

endangering life or personal safety of others), 304 (A) (causing death by negligence) along with section 184 of the Motor Vehicle Act for driving dangerously. Sources said that the group had started their journey on foot from Mumbai last week to reach Dungari. Two months ago, Acharya Ratnakar Maharaj had attended a grand religious event in Mumbai.

PM NARENDER MODI SADDENED BY ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF ACHARYA SHRI RATNAKAR SURISHWARJI MAHARAJ SAHEB AND SADHAVIJI MAHARAJ SHILPRABHASRIJI IN ROAD ACCIDENT

After the accidental death of Pujya Acharya Gachhadhipati Bhagwan Ratnakar Surishwarji Maharaj Saheb and Sadhaviji Maharaj Shilprabhasriji in road accident near Valsad, the Jain Community strongly reacted over the electronic media. The Community forums used WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter etc. to demand appropriate enquiry of the accident from Gujrat Government. Prime Minister's Office instantaneously noted the urgency to deal with the subject appropriately. Mr. R. S. Negi, Personal Staff of the Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi telephoned and requested Ahimsa Times Office (Ahimsa Foundation) to enquire about the circumstances and other details of the accident. With the help of Nayan Padamsagarji Maharaj Saheeb and his devotees the details of the accident were collected and furnished to PM office about this unfortunate occurrence. PM Office assured that, they will do needful action in this regard.



सत्यमेव जयते

प्रधान मंत्री

Prime Minister

श्री ए० के० जैन

प्रेसिडेंट एण्ड फाउंडर ट्रस्टी

अहिंसा फाउंडेशन , 9, पूसा रोड

नई दिल्ली

संदेश

जैन गच्छाधिपति आचार्यश्री रत्नाकरसूरीश्वर महाराज तथा साध्वीजी श्री शिलप्रभाश्रीजी महाराज का सड़क दुर्घटना में आकस्मिक निधन का समाचार मिला। मुझे अत्यंत दुःख हुआ।

भगवान दिवंगत दिव्य आत्माओं को शान्ति दे।

इस दुख की घड़ी में ईश्वर उनके स्नेहीजन तथा गुरुभक्तों को धैर्य रखने की शक्ति दे।

नई दिल्ली

24 दिसम्बर, 2014

(नरेन्द्र मोदी)

We were also informed that necessary communication has been sent to Gujrat Government. We at Ahimsa Foundation on behalf of Jain Community thank "Prime Minister Mr. Modi" for showing his concern and sending condolence message. The letter received from PM Office is reproduced herein below.

Showing concern for frequent accidental deaths of Jain Saints on National Highway, Rajasthan Government has announced that Jain saints will be provided two police escorts during Vihar.

JAIN MONKS FACING HIGHWAY SIDE ACCIDENTS

December 31st, 2014, It is sad that Jain monks are hit and many times killed on highway by trucks or other heavy vehicles. The latest incident took place near Bhavnagar. A Jain monk was hit by a truck. In response to this, Jain monks joined by Jain community members stopped traffic for an hour or so until police arrived there to control the situation. This sudden protest on highway caused problem to people who stuck in traffic. Later, a meeting of Jain community was held in Rajkot on this issue. A decision to make representation before the government was taken in this meeting. There was a feeling that there could be some conspiracy behind these accidents. One option presented in the meeting was possible safety cover to Jain monks on journey.



Jain community has suffered huge loss by losing some of the finest monks like Jambuvijayji due to such accidents. But at the same time, Jain community needs to understand that highway is after-all highway. It is built for heavy vehicles that move in extreme speed. Highways are not for walking. Though walking is allowed on highway, and it is legal right, the practical fact is that it is very risky and dangerous. On many stretch, for a driver of heavy vehicle, it's just not predictable that somebody could be walking on highway side.

The issue, if we look at in a larger perspective is that the Jain monks don't use vehicles. They just walk, mostly without shoes. At the most, they would use push cart. This is the tradition and one needs to give respect to it and take care of it. Now though they

have stuck to this centuries old tradition, which is not bad, and no-one can have objection to it. But the world outside their community has changed so much. The vehicles are heavier and more powerful, traffic is increasing, roads are smoother, speed levels are much higher, walking on highway path is increasingly riskier. Discussions on conspiracy theories are pointless. When thousands of Jain monks are walking any day on highways, some incidents of accidents in any year are unfortunately bound to happen due to reasons narrated above. Some measures suggested are: A local person must accompany a group of Jain monks on highway side. If alternate routes parallel to the main highway are available, Jain monks should explore that option, rather than walking on highway. Again, to guide them about village side routes, local person should be there with them. There was a tradition of 'Valaviyo' existing in parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan to make this possible. It should be revived. Dark hours must be avoided to take journey on highway side. To make this possible, there should be more rest houses suitable to them on highway or nearby village. Modern ways like reflectors if the journey is taking place during dark hours need to be explored.

Some members of Jain community in a meeting at Rajkot said that while devotees walking on road to Ambaji temple are much higher in number. They don't face accident, but Jain monks face accidents regularly. This is not fair argument. Pad yatra to Ambaji temple is seasonal and it take place in mass on particular highway stretches for particular period. Therefore, truck drivers and others have judgment in advance. They take extra care during particular period of time on particular stretch. Even then, some accidents do take place sometime.

Rather than useless discussions on conspiracy theories, making representations to government and instant agitation like traffic jam on highway, the community needs to understand the basic fact that highways are risky for walking and should proceed to adopt safety measures.

REPORT OF A JAPANESE HIROKO MATSUOKA ABOUT THE ACCIDENT OF MUNISHRI JAMBUVIJAYJI MAHARAJ SAHEB.

Ahmedabad, 9th December 2009: Summary of the event: We all, 87-year old Param Pujya Munishri Jambuvijayji Maharaj Saheb, 7 other sadhujis, 7 sadhvijis and I, left Nakoda (Badmer, Dist. Rajasthan) for Jaisalmer (RJ) on 9th November. Unfortunately the road accident happened on the fourth day of the pilgrimage (vihaara). At 6:55 AM of 12th November on Balotra-Barmer, Muni Jambuvijayji and the three of his disciples were brutally hit by a speeding jeep from the behind. At that time I was walking along with sadhvijis 4 km ahead. When we rushed back, we just found that 4 sadhujis were laid in a pool of blood on road and Muni Jambuvijayji and 34-year old his disciple Namaskarvijayji were already dead. Their bodies were cremated on 13th in Shankheshvar (Patan Dist., North Gujarat).



05:30AM 12th:7 sadhvijis I left school for Baitu (Barmer, Dist. Rajasthan).

06:00AM:8 sadhujis also left. Jambuvijayji led his group taking by both hands of Dharmagoshvijayji and Himavantvijayji. Namaskar vijayji follows just after these three sadhujis with rolling a wheelchair which would be provided when Jambuvijayji would get tired. 4 other sadhujis walked slowly because an old aged disciple used a wheelchair. An assistant and a driver cleaned up the rooms of a school where the group had a night-halt after that they will reach the next destination by bike and truck. 06:55AM:According to Himavantvijayji who was the only eye-witness; 4 sadhujis, who were walking together on the left edge of road, were hit by a speeding Toyota jeep from the behind. Namaskarvijayji was killed instantly. At the time the wheelchair, which Namaskarvijayji rolled on, made Jambuvijayji lay down over Namaskarvijayji, his head was hit heavily and his stomach and bones were crushed by car but still breathed a little.

Dharmagoshvijayji, who was taking Jambuvijayji by the left hand, was seriously injured and became unconscious. Himavantvijayj, who was taking Jambuvijayji by the left hand, was not able to move with his injured legs. Toyota jeep stopped after hitting them, saw, and went away without giving any help.

07:00AM:According to Himavantvijayji, Jambuvijayji breathed for a while and stopped as life was no more and there was no aid available.

07:20AM:One road side kind driver informed us that there is serious accident in which sadhujis are crushed and some are injured. Greatly shocked to hear such tragic news, Jinendraprabhushriji and all other sadhvijis including me, who were walking 4-km before them, rushed back to the scene breathlessly. It was horrible scene to see Muni Jambuvijayji and Namaskarvijayji lifeless and one other old sadhuji Dharmagoshvijayji almost unconscious as he was dragged about 5-meters by the speeding car. He was lying in a pool of blood where his both legs were crushed.

08:00AM:The police came from Baitu 15-km dist at the same time an ambulance car came from Balotra 35-km dist. Only Dharmagoshvijayji and Himavantvijayji were taken in an ambulance to hospital and dead bodies of Jambuvijayji and Namaskarvijayji were taken to Nakoda by car. Since I had my camera, the police asked me to take a photograph of Jambuvijayji in car and two photographs of Namaskarvijayji on road. Social Repercussions: Incidentally just 3 days before i.e. on 9th November four sadhvijis were brutally crushed by truck near Mahesana (North Gujarat). Shocked by serial deaths of sadhu-sadhvijis on road, all Jain communities don't believe they were killed by misadventure but strongly suspects that one Gujarat-based anti-Jain cult group named Anoop Mandal was involved in these serial unnatural deaths. It is easy to find the sensational articles headlined "It was not an accident but a plot!", "Who is the criminal?", etc. on the newspapers and the magazines which treated this incident. As mentioned above, the head-sadhuji of the tapagaccha officially accused Anoop Mandal with anger. Even on the short journey from Shankheshvar to Patan, in fact, whole group had been really frightened that the cult group may attack them.

Wonderfully I am lucky to get their love towards me. All of them told me not to join vihar as Anoop people might be knowing everything about you from newspapers. So better avoid the vihar but I am Japanese, strong in spirit, so I continued the vihar with them successfully. I am sure this gesture of mine must have given them courage and confidence.

It is irony of fate that most of Non-Jains as well as the police seem to take the matter lightly as one of the many accidents which always happens everywhere in India. They do not realize that this accident has taken precious life of saint who was noble, knowledgeable and most respected among the intellectual of the world. My analyses or impressions: I cannot judge the incident was an accident or a kind of terrorism as I was 4km away from the scene but do feel that there were no vehicles, road was quite wide and sadhujis were walking in extreme corner of the road in bright sunlight. How can accident happen? Around 15 minutes after sunrise, bright and white color of the sky are linked to color of white clothes which Jain sadhu-sadhujis wear. I still wonder how can accident happen?

These circumstances never give an enough answer to the question why Jambuvijayji, who was walking at the safest point on the corner of road, was terribly injured. It gave me an impression that car driver has already seen a small group of sadhus (including Pundarikarnaji etc.) walking. How he drove on Muni Jambuvijayjis group which was 2-km ahead of Pundarikarnajis group. Driver must have known that sadhus are on vihar. It is mystery why he drove over Muni Jambuvijayji.

In my own humble opinion, as a Japanese living in India since last two years is greatly impressed of Jain sadhus walking from place to place no matter whether it is cold or hot. People normally pay lot of respect to them. But this incident has opened my eyes that government in general do not observe road rules very strictly. I am shocked to read newspapers reporting many vehicle accidents every day. May I request the government to take strong actions so that accidents are avoided and precious lives are saved. To Jain community my hats off. They are most ideal care takers of sadhu-sadhujis. I hear a lot of stories how Jain communities in remotest villages well taking care of sadhu-sadhujis. I was pleasantly surprised to hear that normally escort will lead the sadhu-sadhujis group in vihar from one place to another place. So they were totally safe on the road.

It is observed that most of Jains have migrated to large cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Ahmedabad. There is vacuum in villages. May I request leaders of Jain community to make arrangement in villages for escort of sadhu-sadhujis from their village to next stop of vihar, very important is arrangement for boiled water and proper foods. I have seen by my eyes troubles faced by sadhu-sadhujis in vihar when they do not get boiled water and food. (Detailed report available at www.deshgujarat.com/2014/12/31/on-jain-monks-facing-highway-side-accidents)

BLACK MAGIC BY JAINS BEHIND GLOBAL WARMING, CLAIMS BOOK 'JAGAT-HITKARNI'

It may sound strange but Anoop Mandal members say Jains are responsible for excessive carbon emissions that cause global warming. The members draw their convictions from the book 'Jagathitkarni' written by Anoop Dasji, founder of the cult.

Jagathitkarni.org
Anop Mandal

On the second day of their national conference at Zundal, Anoop Mandal national president Amrut Prajapati said, "Thousands of Anoop Mandal members have come to participate in the 'Pruthvi Bachao Mahabhiyan'. We talked on saving all the living creatures on earth, identifying mother earth as a living creation, and spreading awareness among people about the secret black magic techniques used by Vaniyas (Jains). We want to spread the message of 'Jagathitkarni' for the security of our future generations. The book states that some of the Jains have crossed the sea boundaries and gone outside 'Delhi Mandal'. They are in consultation with the Jain Sadhus in India and are causing global warming, earthquakes, floods and droughts." Referring to recent Hollywood movie 2012, Prajapati said: "Talk about the end of mankind in movies, is not a joke. All these natural calamities are happening because of Jains' secret black magic. It should be stopped. Only Jagathitkarni can save us from Jains. We should follow it because if world is saved, we will be saved. Source: www.dnaindia.com. Showing concern for frequent accidental deaths of Jain Saints on National Highway Rajasthan Government has announced that Jain saints will be provided two police escorts during vihar.

अनूप मंडल - अनूप मंडल कोई व्यक्ति नहीं है।



इतिहास - लगभग 100 वर्ष पूर्व राजस्थान के जालोर में एक जैन साहूकार के हाथों आदिवासी अनूपदास प्रताड़ित हुआ था। बस उसी से गुस्साए अनूपदास ने जैनो का अंत करने की कसम खा ली थी। वो स्वयं एक साधू बन गया। अनपढ़ आदिवासी और पिछड़े लोग काफी संख्या में उसके अनुयायी बन गए। उसने जैनो को एक बीमारी कहते हुए और जहर उगलते हुए एक "जगत हितकारणी" नामक पुस्तक लिखी। ये पुस्तक अब इंटरनेट पर उनकी साईट jagathitkarni पर भी उपलब्ध है। उसके अनुसार जैन, जिन्न के अनुयायी हैं जिनका मकसद सम्पूर्ण धन दौलत अपने कब्जे में करना है। इसलिए सभी हिन्दू, मुस्लिम, सिख और ईसाई को इकठ्ठे होकर दुष्ट जैनो के खिलाफ लड़ना चाहिए। वो कहता है के जैन साधू बारिश होना रोक सकते हैं जिस से गरीबों को साहूकार लूट सकें। उसकी यह पुस्तक जगत हितकारणी उसके

अनुयायियों द्वारा पुराण के रूप में मान्य है। वर्तमान परिस्थिति - ये राजस्थान, गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र और उत्तर प्रदेश में अधिक सक्रिय है। ये जैनो को राक्षस जाति और रावण के वंश का बताते हैं। आगे बढ़ कर वे जैनो, रावण, कंस, कौरव इत्यादि को राक्षस जाति में रखते हैं। अनूप मंडल का मुद्दा भारतीय संसद में भी एक बार उठ चुका है। जैनो की दिक्कत ये है के हम लोग दूसरे जैनो का समर्थन नहीं करते। दिगम्बरों को कोई दिक्कत हो तो श्वेताम्बर खामोश रहते हैं और श्वेताम्बरों के समय दिगम्बर। ऐसा ही चलता रहता है। Also see Youtube link : www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbPrkFI8Vsg & www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjUeHzCXyQE

JAIN TEMPLES

PALITANA SHOULD BE MEAT FREE ZONE

January 9th, 2015: For hundreds of years, followers of the Jain religion have been lured to the quiet town of Palitana. In the adjoining hills of Shatrunjaya are located countless sacred temples and it is said that every Jain should make a pilgrimage to them once in their life.



In recent weeks Palitana, located in the western Indian state of Gujarat, has become the site of an unlikely controversy after Jain monks launched a hunger strike threatening to fast unto death and demanding the town be declared a vegetarian zone. The monks say that non-vegetarian food which includes eggs should not be permitted for sale or storage anywhere in Palitana. Jains also called for a ban on the ritual slaughter of animals and an estimated 260 butchers shops also be closed. But local Muslims say the demands by the monks discriminate against them. Most Muslims eat meat and eggs as part of their diet and say it is essential they are able to offer sacrifice during specific religious holidays.

The Jain monks have for now called off their hunger strike following an assurance by local politicians and officials that the matter would be looked into promptly. But the controversy has not gone away and the monks have said they will restart the hunger strike if their demands are not met. According to Shri Virag Sagar Ji Maharaj the Jain Saint who is leading the protests, "Every religion has its own sacred places, what you call holy cities or pilgrimage sites. Jains too, have a lot of sacred places, but Palitana is the most important". Officials say that Muslims are about 20-25 per cent of Palitana's population of 65,000. Reports suggest that there are also considerable numbers of non-Muslims who would also like to eat meat if they were permitted to do so. Leaders of the local Muslim community have held their own meeting with officials to try and ensure meat-eating and slaughter of animals is not banned in Palitana. 99, local officials declared that a one-and-a-half mile stretch of road leading towards the temples should be made a vegetarian-only zone. Pravin Solanki, a government official, said the municipal authority was discussing whether to extend the zone.

NEW JAIN TEMPLE AT AMBALA CHAVNI



Mithapur : Ambala, With the blessings and guidance of Punjab Shravak Udharak Muni Shri 108 Pramukh Sagar Ji Maharaj, a thirty one feet high statue of Bhagwan Adhinath is being put up. The statue was received by Muni Shri along with hundreds of other Jain devotees. The temple is being constructed by Ahimsa Teerth Trust Mithapur, Ambala.

The engineers of the temple Amit Jain and Ashwini Jain informed that the panchkalyanak ceremony will take place sometimes in April, 2015. The trust is also actively engaged in supporting educational facilities for poor children. The trust intends to provide hostel, mess and medical

facilities to needy students.

Courtsey: Sunil Jain, Advocate, Ambala Cantt, Haryana, E-Mail : ibj171284@gmail.com

EIGHTH CENTURY JAIN TEMPLE DISCOVERED IN MADDUR



January 7th, 2015, Mandya: A Jain temple was discovered by the Archeological Survey of India at Arathipura near Chandragiri Shravanappa Betta in K M Doddi hobli in Maddur taluk. The discovery was made during an excavation near a hillock. The structure which is 100 foot long and 40 foot wide is believed to have been built during the eighth century with bricks and stones. There are 10 pillars, peethas, pots and idols. The officials also found stone inscriptions on Bahubali, Talakadu Cholas and Hoysala at the site. A team of 25 people has been conducting the excavation since last September. It also found 'shilabalikes' (stone sculpture of young women) and dwarapalakas and a Bahubali statue which is 3 foot wide and 3.5 foot tall. According to ASI

Bengaluru officials, the Jain Basadi seems to be older than the statue of Bahubali in Shravanabelagola. The area which is near Kokkare Bellur bird sanctuary, was once a destination of Jain travellers.

STOLEN TEERTHANKARA IDOLS BACK IN JAIN MATH

December 21st, 2014, Moodbidri: Fifteen idols of Jain Teerthankaras, which had been stolen on July 6 last year, were handed over to Sri Charukeerti Bhattaraka Swamiji at Moodbidri on December 20th by the local court on certain conditions. The precious statues were stolen from Siddartha Darshana Mandir at Moodbidri.



These miniature idols, which are ancient, are said to command a price of crores of rupees. These idols were brought to Jain Math premises, where ceremonial bath (Abhishekha) was performed. The Swamiji, speaking on the occasion, expressed his elation at seeing the idols back in the Math, and said he was feeling as if the god had himself come to stay. He added that arrangements will be made to keep the idols in a safe and secure place. Out of 52 miniature idols of Teerthankaras installed in Siddartha Darshana Mandir, 15 had been stolen. The police, who hit the trail of the thieves involved in all earnestness, had arrested a person named Santosh Das from Odisha. Three idols and golden nugget obtained by melting the idols were recovered from his possession. The accused also informed that he had sold the other idols to a diamond merchant named Rajaji Sancheti in Durg, Chattisgarh. Sancheti was also arrested by the

police thereafter. Within a few days, all the remaining stolen idols were seized by the police. They were handed over to the court. There was confusion as to whom should these idols be handed over. The issue ended with a happy note for the Jain Math.

जैन मुनि तरुणसागर जी महाराज ने आमिर खान को खुला चुनौती



सबसे बड़ी खबर मिल रही है कि जैन मुनि तरुणसागर जी महाराज ने आमिर खान को खुला चुनौती दी है कि अगर आमिर खान की छाती में दम है तो इस्लाम विरोधी फिल्म बनाएं। और कराची में दिखाये। फिल्म मनोरंजन के लिए होती है किसी धर्म के देवी देवताओं का मजाक उड़ाना के लिए नहीं। साथ ही फिल्म PK में हिन्दू देवी देवताओं के उड़ाए गए मजाक पर देश भर में जैन समाज के लोगों को इस फिल्म को ना देखने की अपील की है। साथ ही उन्होंने फिल्म PK को लेकर गंभीर आपत्ति जताई है और इस फिल्म को बेन करने की मांग कर दी है।

भारत से मांस निर्यात बंद कराने के लक्ष्य लेकर जैन मुनि मैत्री प्रभसागर जी का जंतर मंतर पर आमरण अनशन जारी

नई दिल्ली / अखिल भारतीय मांस निर्यात एवं यांत्रिक कत्लखाना विरोध महासंघ के तत्वाधान में भारत से मांस निर्यात को बंद कराने हेतु जैन मुनि मैत्री प्रभसागर जी जंतर-मंतर पर 27 दिसम्बर से आमरण-अनशन पर है। मांस निर्यात के विरोध हेतु भारत के अलग-अलग राज्यों से बड़ी संख्या में जीवदया प्रेमियों द्वारा जंतर-मंतर पर आकर समर्थन दिया रहा है।



मुनि मैत्री प्रभसागर जी ने कहा कि मांस निर्यात करके कुछ विदेशी मुद्रा के लालच में सरकार ने अहिंसा परमो धर्म की भारतीय संस्कृति के गौरव को निम्न स्तर पर पहुंचा दिया है। महात्मा गांधी के नाम का राजनैतिक लाभ सभी दल ले रहे हैं लेकिन सर्वोच्च इच्छा "समस्त पशु-वध पर रोक" को आज तक नहीं माना गया। यदि महात्मा गांधी को याद करना है तो अहिंसा को जन-जीवन का आधार बनाना होगा। गोहत्या बंदी और गोचरान हेतु संरक्षित भूमि की मुक्ति हेतु संत गोपालदास जी द्वारा शांतिपूर्ण विरोध करने पर उन्हें 29 लोगो

सहित 31 अक्टूबर 2014 को साम्प्रदायिक भावना भड़काने जैसी झूठी धारारें लगाकर तिहाड़ जेल में बंद किया गया है। क्यों?, क्या गौ-रक्षा हेतु आवाज उठाना जुर्म है? श्री मुनि ने कहा कि उनके द्वारा प्रधानमंत्री जी को मांस निर्यात बंद करने हेतु लिखा गया है, लेकिन आज तक कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गयी! केंद्र सरकार अपने वायदे को पूरा करे व मांस निर्यात को तत्काल बंद करे और निर्दोष संत गोपालदास जी को ससम्मान रिहा करे! यदि सरकार द्वारा ऐसा नहीं किया गया तो उनके द्वारा संधारा लिया जाएगा! विश्व जैन संगठन के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष संजय जैन ने कहा कि सोने की चिड़िया कहलाने वाले भगवान श्री राम, श्री कृष्ण व वर्धमान महावीर और महात्मा गांधी के भारत देश में मूक पशुओं को काट कर निर्यात किया जा रहा है! भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 48 का उलंघन करते हुए यांत्रिक बूचड़खाने स्थापित करने व मांस निर्यात करने में आयकर व अन्य करों में छूट दी जाती है और दूसरी तरफ भारत के किसान को कपास के उत्पादन और निर्यात पर टैक्स देना होता है! केंद्र सरकार द्वारा आगामी बजट में मांस व्यापार के सम्बन्ध में किसी भी प्रकार की छूट या सहायता न दी जाये! मांस निर्यात के विरोध में संतो को अनशन करना पड़ रहा है लेकिन सरकार द्वारा अभी तक कोई कदम नहीं उठाया गया, यह समस्त जीवदया प्रेमियों के लिए बड़े दुःख का विषय है! श्री जैन ने कहा कि भारत का कोई भी धर्म पशु हत्या की आज्ञा नहीं देता! गोहत्या बंदी के इतिहास में 7 नवम्बर 1966 से बड़ा आंदोलन कभी नहीं हुआ! क्या सरकार और देशवासी उन निहत्थे मरने वाले जीवदया प्रेमियों की शहादत को भूल गये? भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा भी 26 अक्टूबर 2005 को अपने ऐतिहासिक फैसले में गोहत्या पर पूर्ण प्रतिबन्ध को सही ठहराया गया

और यह भी कहा कि गोवंश की हत्या करने की अपेक्षा उसे बचाना आर्थिक रूप से ज्यादा जरूरी है! श्री जैन ने भारत के समस्त अहिंसक समाज, गौ-भक्तों और जीवदया प्रेमियों का आह्वान करते हुए कहा कि भारतीय धर्मों एवं संस्कृति की रक्षा हेतु जंतर-मंतर पहुंच कर इस अहिंसक व शांतिपूर्ण आंदोलन में अपना समर्थन देकर धर्म लाभ लें।

ACHARYA DR. LOKESH MUNI HONOURED AT GUJARAT RAJ BHAWAN



9th January 2015: While felicitating Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Governor of Gujarat Mr. Om Prakash Kohli said that serving others is the most important faith and hurting others is the biggest iniquity. Service to mankind is the largest religion. Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni has significantly contributed in the field of Service to Mankind. Mr. Kohli was addressing the program organised in Gujarat Raj Bhawan to honor Swami Ji Maharaj, BAPS Swamynarayan with 'Person of Year 2014' and Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni, founder Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti with 'Excellence in Community Service Award 2014'. Governor referring to the terrorist in Paris said that ideological pollution is more harmful than environmental pollution. Emphasizing the need of religious tolerance he said that Bhagwan Mahavir principles of Unity in Diversity, shows us the path of solidarity, harmony and tolerance. Pramukh Swamy ji Maharaj and Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni are constantly making efforts to establish these values in the society.

Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni on the occasion said that we should respect others existence and thoughts along with our own existence and thoughts. He said that saints are away from honors and dishonors. Source : Kenu Agarwal, Media Secretary, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, E-Mail : acharya@ahimsavishwabharti.org

EVENTS, CONFERENCES

DIGAMBAR JAIN SOCIAL GROUP FEDERATION (DJSGF TO HOST NATIONAL CONVENTION AT UJJAIN)



January 9th, 2015, Ujjain : Digambar Jain Social Group Federation will host 19th National Convention at Ujjain on Indore Road, on January 10th and

11th. According to the Conveners of the event Jambu Jain and Pradeep Jhanjhari around 3500 members from across the nation will participate in the convention. The convention will be themed with nonviolence of Lord Mahavira and Cleanliness drive of PM Narendra Modi. An open forum will be organised on January 10 in which various aspects of the society will be discussed by members. Urban Administration Minister Kailash Vijayvergiya will be chief guest of open forum. National Flag will be unfurled at 8.30 am on January 11. National president Hemchand Jhanjhari will address on this occasion. Shravan Snehlata Sogani and Dr. V. K. Chanda Rawat will be felicitated for their social work. Minister Paras Jain and MLA Mohan Yadav will be guests of honour.

FIVE INDIANS TO REPRESENT INDIA IN PARLIAMENT OF WORLD RELIGIONS



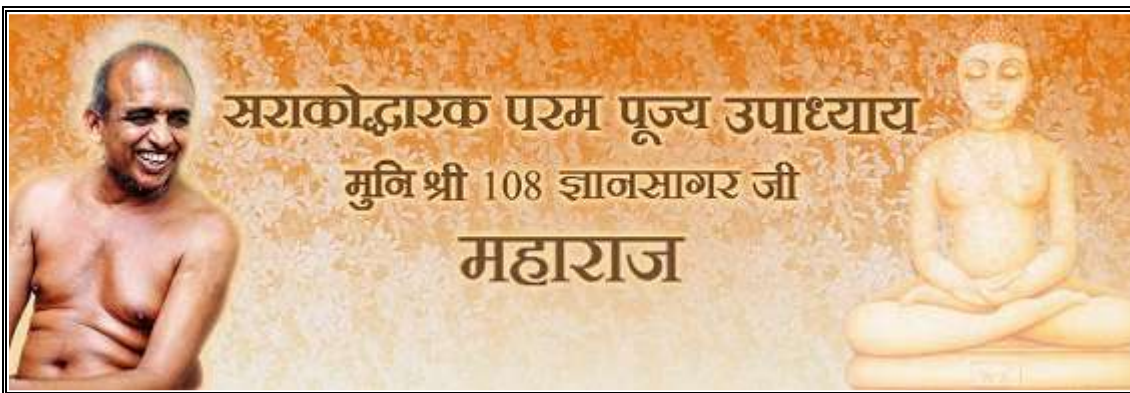
January 4th, 2015, BENGALURU: Five Indians have been selected as ambassadors for the Parliament of World's Religions, Chicago. The Parliament of the World's Religions seeks to promote inter-religious harmony among different religious and spiritual communities to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world. The ambassadors selected are: Jayesh Shah, advisor, Vakpati Foundation, and Research Associate with Centre for Culture and Development, Vadodra, Gujarat; Sudhir Lodha, Member, State Minority Commission, Tamil Nadu; Ambili Ramnath (Trivendrum), Member in Advisory Council for Ambassadors, Council for Parliament of World's Religions, Chicago; Geeta Mehta, Director, K. J. Somaiya Centre for

They have been selected as ambassadors by Mary Nelson, Executive Director, Parliament of World's Religions, Chicago. The term of the Ambassadors is two years from December 1, 2014. A total of sixty three ambassadors have been selected from across the globe. Ten have been selected from the Asian continent (India - five, Pakistan - two, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Russia - one each), USA, Canada, Mexico (42), Europe (six), Africa (two), Australia and New Zealand (three). The next Parliament would take place at the Salt Palace Convention Centre in Salt Lake City, Utah, US, for five days from October 15, 2015. Ambassadors would engage in supporting Parliament initiatives, take part in inter-faith events, organise pre-parliament events in communities or regions, and encourage registrations for the next Parliament. The Parliament, 2015 would focus on critical issues: climate change and care for creation; war, violence and hate speech; the widening wealth gap and wasteful consumption. Three focused constituencies of 2015 are women, indigenous communities and youth. The first Parliament of World's Religions was held in 1893 in which Swami Vivekananda represented India.

अ० भा० जैन बैंकर्स सम्मेलन 2014 दिल्ली में संपन्न

दिल्ली, अखिल भारतीय जैन बैंकर्स सम्मेलन 2014 सराकोद्वारक आचार्य श्री ज्ञानसागरजी महाराज ससंघ के सानिनिध्य में 21 दिसम्बर को गोविन्दम बैंक बलवीर नगर दिल्ली में हर्षोल्लास से संपन्न हुआ। पंजाब एवं सिंध बैंक के एक्ज्यूक्यूटिव डायरेक्टर मुकेश जैन ने मुख्यातिथ्य व भारत सरकार के संयुक्त सचिव वित्त मंत्रालय (बैंकिंग) अनुराग जैन आईएस व पूर्व केन्द्रीय मंत्री भारत सरकार प्रदीप जैन आदित्य के विशेष आतिथ्य में हुए सम्मेलन में अनेक प्रदेशों से आए बैंक प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लेकर 'जैन बैंकर्स से धर्म एवं समाज के प्रति अपेक्षाएं विषय पर चिंतन किया। आयोजक दि.जैन समाज बलवीर नगर व जैन मंच बलवीर नगर थे।

खचाखच भरे हाल में आचार्यश्री ज्ञानसागरजी महाराज ने अपने प्रेरक उद्बोधन में कहा कि जीवन में कभी भी निराशावादी मत बनना। भौतिक सुख सुविधाओं को जीवन का लक्ष्य मत बनाना। ईमानदारी, कर्तव्य निष्ठा यदि जीवन में है तो दुर्भाग्य भी कुछ नहीं बिगाड़ सकता है। पुरुषार्थी के लिए कोई काम असंभव नहीं है और प्रमादी (आलसी) के लिए कोई कार्य संभव नहीं। अवसर आता नहीं है, अवसर लाया जाता है। बैंकिंग सेवा में अनेकों बार तनाव के क्षण आते हैं, जो हमारी शारीरिक शक्ति को कमजोर कर ब्लड प्रेशर, डाईबिटीज, हृदय रोग उत्पन्न करते हैं। तनाव विपत्ति से नहीं हमारी सोच से उत्पन्न होता है। यह तनाव जीवन में आध्यात्मिकता के प्रवेश से दूर भाग सकता है। अध्यात्म जब आत्मा को स्वस्थ बना सकता है, तो वह शरीर को भी स्वस्थ बना सकता है। बैंकर्स को प्रेरणास्पर्द संस्मरण सुनाते हुए आचार्यश्री ने कहा कि हमारी पहचान प्रामाणिकता की रही है। पुराने समय में जैन व्यक्ति को ही खजांची बनाया जाता था। आज भी अधिकांश जैन सफल बैंककर्मी हैं। संगठित रहने की सीख देते हुए आचार्यश्री ने अपने आपको रिचार्ज करने के लिए 24 घण्टे में एक बार मंदिर अवश्य जाने व संतोष धारण करने, नषा न करने हेतु मार्गदर्शित किया।



मुख्य अतिथि पंजाब एण्ड सिंध बैंक के एक्ज्यूक्यूटिव डायरेक्टर मुकेश जैन ने कहा कि बैंकिंग अर्थव्यवस्था की जीवन रेखा है वर्तमान में बैंकिंग व्यवस्था नाजुक दौर से गुजर रही है, यह सुखद है कि डिफाल्टर व्यक्तियों में

जैन व्यक्ति नगण्य हैं यह हमारी प्रामाणिकता की पहचान है। समाजजनों को सहयोग हेतु आप्त्वस्त करते हुए उन्होंने

अर्थव्यवस्था में जैन समाज के इतिहास को भी रेखांकित किया। श्री जैन भविष्य में चेयरमेन होंगे। अनेक बैंकों में अपनी सेवाएं दे चुके श्री जैन अनेक डिग्रीधारी हैं। ओरिएण्टल बैंक आफ कामर्स के मुख्य सतर्कता अधिकारी आर.सी.लोढा ने भी संबोधित किया। भारत सरकार में पूर्व केन्द्रीय मंत्री प्रदीप जैन आदित्य ने कहा कि प्रत्येक व्यक्ति के पास कर्मों का बैंक है, इसमें वह पुण्य-पाप कर्म जमा करता रहता है। बैंकर्स से आह्वान करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि अनेक अवकाश प्राप्त बैंकर्स हमारे पास हैं। हमारा अपना बैंक होना चाहिए, हम अहिंसक उत्पाद बनाने वालों को प्रोत्साहित करें, शाकाहार से जुड़े उत्पाद को हम ऋण प्रदान करें। राजेन्द्र जैन 'महावीर मो.: 094074-92577.

JAIN MINORITY

SC DIRECTS CENTRE TO DECIDE ON JAIN COMMUNITY'S PLEA FOR EQUAL MINORITY STATUS

New Delhi: Aggrieved by the Centre and majority of the states not extending any benefit to Jains as a minority community, the Akhil Bhartiya Jain Mahasabha moved the Supreme Court for a direction to the Centre and states to treat them on par with Muslims in granting benefits.



The Supreme Court asked the Centre to consider and decide the representation seeking various reliefs including adequate representation of members of the Jain community in national and state minority panels. It was also pointed out that all these years the Centre had ignored the interest of the Jain Minority Community and had not given equal treatment to them. Petition also referred, that the government "has adopted appeasement policy towards Muslims and in the name of the minorities all the benefits are being given to this community whereas other minorities are not being given the same benefit and status." It

also said "the government has always appointed Chairman of the Minority Commission from a particular community in the States and also at the Centre even in the matter of appointment of members of the commission. The Muslim community is given the major share in the representation ignoring the interest of Jain Minority Community. The population of Muslim Community is 18.5% in the census of 2001 and that of Jain Community is 0.4%. However till date no member of this community find representation either in the State Minority Commission or in the National Minority Commission."

HONOURS AND AWARDS

DR. LOKESH MUNI HONORED WITH 'GLOBAL PEACE AWARD



New Delhi: Governor of Gujarat Shri Om Prakash Kohli honored founder President of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni with 'Global Peace Education and Development Award 2014' in 'World Human Solidarity Congress' organized on the occasion of United Nations International Day of Human Solidarity by Confederation of Indian Universities at Indian International Centre. Governor of Gujarat honoring Acharya Lokesh Muni with 'Global Peace Education and Development Award 2014' said that Acharya ji has been serving the humanity for last 30 years by spreading the message of Non-violence, Harmony and Unity in Diversity in the whole world. Acharya Lokesh Muni has left

immortal impression internationally through his work in this field. He is not only a social reformer but master in versatile fields. He has been constantly making dedicated efforts for building national character, development of human values and establishing non-violence, peace and harmony in the society. On the occasion honorable Governor also

released the book 'Gujarat: Past, Presence and Future'. Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni on the occasion said that after intense spiritual practice and research I have reached the conclusion that if Peace education developed with the combination of Ancient Meditation -Yoga and modern scientific facts is introduced right from the beginning in our education system the balanced and overall growth of students is possible. President of Confederation of Indian Universities Chancellor Dr. Priya Ranjan Trivedi on the occasion said that in a country like India with diverse religions and cultures it is important that we understand our religion-culture also learn to give respect and honor to other religions-cultures. Courtesy: Kenu Agarwal, Media Secretary, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti 9811025332.

RAJIV MEHTA APPOINTED NEW DGP OF MEGHALAYA



January 10th, 2015, Senior IPS officer Rajiv Mehta has been appointed as the new Director General of Police in Meghalaya. The State government has issued a notification for the appointment of Mehta as DGP. Currently he is serving as the Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Delhi. He is from 1981 Assam-Meghalaya IPS cadre. Mr. Mehta replaces P. J. P. Hanaman who retired on December 31 and will take charge from acting DGP S. K. Jain. An alumnus of St. Columba's and St Stephen's College of Delhi, Mr. Mehta had also taught for two years at Lawrence School, Sanawar, before joining the Indian Police Service. He has also served with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) as an IG.

JAIN IRRIGATION BAGS NATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST INNOVATION



January 05, 2015, Mumbai: Jain Irrigation has received the National Award for Best Innovation in Manufacturing and Servicing in Water Resources given by Central Board of Irrigation and Power, Government of India for its outstanding contribution in inventing, designing, manufacturing and servicing for effective use of water resources. The Hon'ble State Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Sawar Lal Jat, presented the award to Somnath Jadhav, Sr. Vice President, JISL, at a function held recently in Delhi. The Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Sushree Uma Bharti was present on the occasion. Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd. (JISL) has been providing modern hi-tech irrigation systems and innovative technologies in order to save precious water and significantly improve crop yields, especially for the small

farmers. JISL has developed Jain Integrated Irrigation Solutions (JIIS), which can be adopted in canal command areas to increase water Use Efficiency to 85% as against 40% by conventional irrigation methods.

I think, it very old news, probably, one year old and has been repeated.

JAIN CELEBRITIES

PROF. J. SRICHANDRAN AN OUTSTANDING TAMIL JAIN SCHOLAR



Prof Srichandran is a perennial source for information on Jaina religion, philosophy, and culture as reflected in Tamil literature and grammar. Authority on Great Jaina epics like Jeevaka sinthamani, Silappathikaram, Agamaic works like Sripurana, Merumanthara purana, didactical works like Thirukkural, grammatical works like Tholkappiyam. Nannul. He has written outstanding commentaries on Jaina epics, Jaina philosophy, several articles on various aspects of jaina philosophy in various Tamil Religious journals. Very popular speaker-orator on Jaina Philosophy and literature, Prof. Srichandran commands great respect not only among fellow Jains, for a vast majority of non Jain Tamil Scholars interested in Jaina Philosophy and for the research students he is the one to be consulted first and last for guidance and clarification. People throng in thousands to hear his oration on Jaina philosophy. Through His Publishing house 'Varthamanan

Pathippagam and Tamil Nilayam he has brought out important publications on various aspects of Jainism. Apart from that he has brought out Audio cassettes, compact discs on Jaina Philosophy. to site a few- Shodasa bhavana,

Dwadhasanu preksha, Bhagwan Adhinatha, Bhagwan Parswanatha, Bhagwan Varthamana, Perunkakathai (Udayana kumara kavya) etc. The pinnacle of his contribution for Jainism in this part of the country is his excellent translation of Sripurana from Manipravala into Tamil. Sripurana is an abridged work of Mahapurana of the great Acharya Jinasena and Gunabadra. It is worshipped in individual houses as well in Jinalayas. He has translated, printed and published this Holy Scripture. Source: P. Rajendra Prasad, E-Mail : prp@inelpse.com

DIKSHA

HYDERABAD GIRL TAKES UP JAIN 'SANYASA DEEKSHA'



December 24th, 2014, In an unusual development, a 22-year-old girl from Hyderabad accepted Jain "sanyasa deeksha". During the first day's ritual of the 'sanyasa deeksha', the girl, Suman Kumari, was taken in a procession on an elephant at the historical Jain pilgrimage centre at Kolanupaka in Alair Mandal in Nalgonda district. As a symbol of renunciation and distraction towards materialistic life, she kept aside all her valuables such as gold, money and other articles on the roadside and was seen smiling throughout the procession that took a few hours to run its course. As it was the first 'sanyasa deeksha' in recent times at the famous Jain pilgrimage centre for Svetambar Jains in South India, many Jains from nearby places, particularly from Hyderabad,

arrived in large numbers to participate in rituals. Jain monks led by Jayantsen Suri Maharaj Guru blessed Suman Kumari and all others by their presence.

MISCELLANEOUS

JAIN SAHARA SANSTHAN OFFERS NOBLE SERVICES TO COMMUNITY PATIENT

To serve the community patients admitted in Mumbai hospitals a noble service has been started by Jain Sahara Sansthan which provides foods to patients admitted in hospitals. The service can also be requested by the relatives of the patients. To avail the service one has to inform Mr. Champalal J. Jain Mobile Number 9757364576.

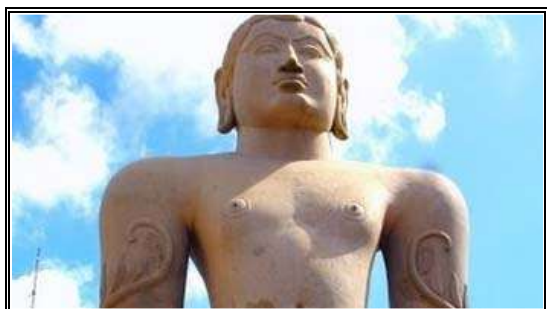
JAIN FOUNDATION LAUNCHES COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



January 7th, 2015, Seattle: The Jain Foundation is offering a unique scholarship opportunity that takes advantage of the deep involvement of today's youth in social media and rewards students for spreading awareness about limb-girdle muscular dystrophy 2B (LGMD2B)/Miyoshi myopathy using a Facebook app. In addition to the social media scholarships, the foundation is also offering merit-based awards. A

total of eight \$1,000 renewable scholarships for post-high school education programs will be awarded in 2015. The four applicants most successful at spreading disease awareness using the Facebook app based on the number of votes their entry receives will win the social media scholarships. For more information on the application process and eligibility criteria, visit www.jain-foundation.org/scholarship

JAINS PROTEST AGAINST DOCTORED 'PK' POSTER WITH BAHUBALI IMAGE



Meerut: The poster of Aamir Khan starrer PK has been circulating over social media, with the nude Khan replaced by Lord Bahubali. Enraged by the satirical image, Meerut Jain Community filed an FIR with the Sadar Bazaar police. The image also went viral on WhatsApp. Ranjit Kumar Jain, President, Meerut Sadar Jain Samaj said, "this was disappointing and shocking for the community. We assembled and met the police asking them to look into the matter".

Hundreds of Jain men and women gathered at the Sadar police station and lodged a formal FIR in the matter. Police said, "We have referred the matter to the cyber cell of the crime branch. But it may take time, as tracing the origin of such content is not easy." Jain religious centres have also taken up this issue. Ganini Pramukh Gyanmati Mataji of Jambudweep Hastinapur, one of the five main centres of Jain pilgrimage, said, "The picture being circulated on social media is of the 1,100-year-old 57-feet statue of Gomateshwara Bahubali in Karnataka, one of the most revered Jain monks. Every 12 years, lakhs of devotees congregate here to perform mahamastakabhisheka of the statue. So, you can gauge the importance of this statue. The circulation of this contortion has deeply hurt the sentiments of the entire nation's Jains. Being ardent practitioners of non-violence, whatever protest we do will also be peaceful."

RARE STATUES STOLEN FROM JAIN TEMPLE IN AJMER

December 14th, 2014, AJMER: Four statues made of eight elements were stolen from the Jain Temple at Sewargi Mohalla near Dargah Bazaar. The priest found these statues missing when he came to open the temple in morning. The incident generated anger in the Jain community because of continuous incidents of stealing of Jain idols being reported since last two years. According to police, when the priest came to open the temple, he found the lock of the main door broken and four idols were missing. When the news broke out, the members of Jain community gathered on the spot and demanded arrest of thieves and retrieval of statutes. Police registered a case of theft and are looking at proofs left in the temple. Sources said that last year two statues were stolen from the nearby temple in the same locality. There were similar incidents of idol theft in different parts of the city and also in Kishangarh town of the district in last two years. Sewargi Mohalla is thickly populated with Jain community and they have a good number of temples in this region. This is the fourth incident of idol theft in this area in last two years.

IDOLS AND VALUABLES STOLEN FROM GURGAON TEMPLE



December 30th, 2014, Gurgaon: Ten idols and other valuables were allegedly stolen by unidentified men from a Jain temple at Sikhorpur village in Gurgaon. The wall of Sidhant Tirth Kshetra temples at Sikhorpur village was broken by unidentified men. It was reported that thieves fled away with ten Jain idols including one silver idol of Adinath Bhagwan, another silver idol of Parasnath Bhagwan along with gold and silver valuables and cash. The monetary value of the loss has not been ascertained. A reward of Rs 1 lakh has been announced for providing any information about the culprits.

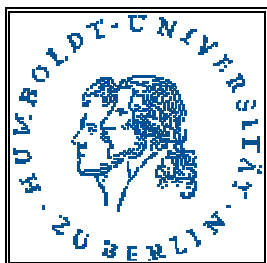


SILVER IDOL STOLEN FROM JAIN TEMPLE IN UDAIPUR

December 22nd, 2014, Jaipur: A silver idol and other valuables were found stolen from a Jain temple in Udaipur district of Rajasthan.

The incident took place at the Digamber Jain temple in Karavali village under Salumber tehsil, Nathmal. Incident was noticed when people visited the temple in the morning. They found the door lock broken and the silver idol of Lord Mahaveer and other items like throne missing. Police has registered the FIR.

BERLIN JAINA STUDIES CENTRE AT HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY



The Centre for Jaina Studies was founded at Berlin Freie University in May, 2011. The Centre was administratively functioning at the Department of History and Cultural Studies. Now the Centre for Jaina Studies has been shifted to Institute of Asian and African Studies of Humboldt University in Berlin. This is now known as 'Centre for the Study of Modern Jainism'. This structural change is a great chance to expand the focus of the Centre in future. In addition to the Jaina studies in the traditional sense, which comprise all related fields of Jaina history, culture and religion, some new aspects will be added, e.g. the view to the Jaina communities of today, the teachings of the Jaina Acharyas and Munis of the present age and the Jaina communities outside of India. Thus, the Centre for the Study of Modern Jainism is a place for both the view of

western scholars on Jainism but also the view of the Jain people on Jain religion. Courtesy: Dr. Sulekh. C. Jain, Houston, Texas.

GHAR WAPSI COMPLEMENTS NARENDRA MODI'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: VISHVA HINDU PARISHAD

December 26th, 2014, New Delhi: Burqa-clad Muslim girls with limited education and boys of the community would benefit from the Ghar Wapsi campaign once they come into the Hindu fold, Vishva Hindu Parishad national spokesperson Surendra Jain has said.



Terming it as complementary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's agenda of national development, Jain said Muslim boys would become patriots if they embraced Hindu religion by way of homecoming, a rite performed to welcome converts back into the fold. Ghar wapsi will affect Modi's development agenda in a positive way. Muslim girls who don't have access to education and are in burqa, once they become Hindu and get educated, will contribute to the country's growth story. Surendra Jain is a retired professor from Haryana's Rohtak College. Upon becoming Hindus will become patriots and will contribute to national development.

Ghar wapsi, or homecoming, integral to the VHP's core social services since its inception in 1964, is an expression coined for reconversion for those Hindus who were either forced to convert or were lured into adopting a different faith. Claimed as legal, a series of homecoming ceremonies are being organized across the country for those who had roots in Hinduism but drifted into other religions and would now like to voluntarily return home. According to Surendra Jain, about 90-95 percent of Christians and Muslims in India were originally Hindus as their forefathers or they themselves were either forced or lured into conversion. Now we are only trying to reconnect them with their roots and the land. We want to rekindle their attachment with their land and bring them back. As part of the VHP's yearlong golden jubilee celebrations, Fatehpur district, the constituency of controversial union minister Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, will witness a series of Ghar Wapsi programmes from Jan 14 to Feb 16. In Gujarat a batch of over 200 tribal Christians were brought home after performing certain Hindu rituals. Similar reports have come from Kerala and other parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh where over 100 Muslims underwent re-conversion. VHP's homecoming is not done under any pressure or greed.

TERRORISM IN PARIS



This abhorrent act of terror and violence in Paris is not just an attack on the life of French citizens. It also represents an attack on freedom of opinion and of the press, a core element of our free and democratic culture, for which there can be no justification. This is a dark day for freedom of expression and a vibrant press culture. But above all, it is an appalling human tragedy. This was a barbaric act and an outrageous attack. We stand squarely for free speech and democracy.

We at Ahimsa Foundation (India) Condemn this Hateful Criminal Act

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**WE HEARTILY WELCOME FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED
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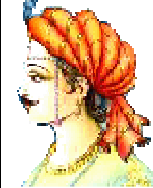
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