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GOLDEN PRINCIPLES OF MAHAVIR COULD SOLVE THE PROBLEMS: HAMID ANSARI



Vice President M. Hamid Ansari met Jain Spiritual leader, founder of Sukhi Parivar Foundation Gani Rajendra Vijay and Sahitya Manishee Acharya Shrimad Vijay Virendra surijee at Vice President House to discuss about present scenario and tribal problems. While discussing on above topic Gani Rajendra Vijay told that if anybody wants to move ahead in field of spiritual practice then he has to overcome the outer world attraction. Vice President welcomed Sahitya Manishi Acharya Shrimad Vijay Virendra Suriji and Sukhi Parivar Movement founder Gani Rajendra Vijay at Vice President House, who reached Delhi by padyatra from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.

Gani Rajendra Vijay also said that the human values are rapidly declining despite the implementation of education system, reforms and innovative practices. Sahitya Manishi Acharya Shrimad Vijay Virendra Suriji said that Sukhi Parivar Abhiyan is a revolutionary process for maturity of thoughts, change in behaviors and all round development of the personality. It purifies the heart and the consciousness. It gives practical training of the fundamental elements of Indian ethics, culture and helps in emotional development.

While responding to the ideas expressed by Gani Rajendra vijay, Vice President M. Hamid Ansari said "Today our nation needs more moral education and teaching of non violence. We want peace and harmony because there is no alternative to it. In the age of nuclear bomb, communal violence and terrorism there is no way to resolve problems other than through peaceful and non violence means. He said people need to adopt the golden principal of non violence, Anekanta, world peace, brotherhood and communal harmony that was proposed by Bhagwan Mahavir. It is my view that " Sukhi Parivar Abhiyan can help to solve fundamental problems of the human being, it can develop personality also. On this occasion a book " yog ke vyavharik Safal prayog" written by Gani Rajendra Vijay, a Memorial Book 'Janak Jeevan Prakash' on Acharya Janak Chandra Suri and The latest issue of "shree vijay inder times" have been presented to Vice President M. Hamid Ansari by Lalit Garg. Mr. Lalit Garg (Secretary Sukhi Parivar Foundation) informed about activities of Foundation and presented a memento, bunch of flowers and shawl to Vice President.

TEMPLES

JAIN SOCIETY OF GREATER ATLANTA'S (US) TEMPLE PROJECT



Jain Society of Greater Atlanta's dream to build a spectacular Marble Temple is about to be realized. The project began way back in 1996, with a ritual-studded ground breaking ceremony for pratimajis, auditorium, kitchen, dining hall, library, and accommodation for visiting guests. The ceremony was performed on a 3.75 acre site at 669 South Peachtree St., Norcross, Georgia on April 5 1996. In the year 2000, the first phase (main floor) of the Center was built, and in 2001 the second phase was completed resulting in a two story building of 14,000 plus square feet where the Society's 400 plus Jain families could meet for regularly for poojas and festivals.

In brief, the Temple will have traditional design including Ghabhara for pratimajis (3 Mul Nayak's Shwetambar Pratimajis on upper floor) and (3 Mul Nayak's Digambar Pratimajis on the floor below), Shikhar, Rang mandap, and Bhomati with Murti's of the 24 Tirthankar. The three main pratimas will be surrounded by 24 tirthankars in a rectangular /stepped semi circle. The marble floor will have a seating capacity of more than 250 devotees. The project is expected to cost £ 2.7 million.

The main sponsors of the project are Quantum National Bank. In fact, Quantum National Bank's Chairman, Dr. Neel Neelagaru, attended the Pooja ceremony accompanied with Ms Deepa Kumari and Vinay Bose and also made a donation. Other major sponsors are Patel Brothers; MGR Palace, Nobel Investments, Raj Bhog ; Dosa Houze, & Bhindi Jewelers.

PUSHKAR: 11TH CENTURY JAIN STATUE FOUND

AJMER: A medium-sized blackstone statue of 17th Jain Tirth-ankar Kuntunath, dating back to 11th century, has emerged during excavations in the holy town of Pushkar, about 15 kms from Ajmer in Rajasthan. The statue is one of the more than 36 statues found in last one year at old Pushkar and Ghat areas of the region. The discoveries con-firms of a religious congregation being held at the place some time in the medieval period.

Eighteen more such statues have been discovered in old Pushkar alone, including a Shivling of nearly one thousand year old, rare statue of god Kartikeya, statue of Vishnu and more Jain Tirthankar statues. The statue of Jain Tirthankar Kuntunath in a meditating posture appeared when renovation work was going on at the famous Varaha temple in Pushkar. It bears characteristics of Jain architecture - curly hair, sharp features on face, etc. The style of meditation is also peculiar of Jain philosophy. The statues have been kept in the government museum at Akbar Fort in Ajmer. Archaeologists and historians are studying different perspectives of new scripts of Chouhan dynasty of 11th century.

These new discovery shows that Jainism flourished well at the time of Hindu ruler Prithvi Raj Chouhan, said Akbar Fort museum superintendent Syeed Ajam Hussein. Pushkar has the importance of multi-religious studies. The statues are in very good condition, he said, adding that the statues bear pure art of Jain sculptures and therefore have significance for the scholars and archaeologists. About 8 years ago, a metallic statue pertaining to Jain religion was also found in the area which dated back to more than two thousand years.

Pushkar is an ancient city and clues are there that Vikramaditya of 6th century had studied in Pushkar. The land has more treasure dug under it, said a Pushkar-based archaeologist Rajendra Yagnik. More than 4 times, the university at Pushkar was ruined by the invaders. This university was unique with Samkhya, Yoga and Jain philosophies being taught there.

SAINTS

SADHWI PRAMILA JI OF SHWETAMBAR STHANAKWASI SECT HONOURED

Sadhwi Pramila Ji, disciple of up-pravartini sadhwi shri Kaushalya ji was honoured with the title of "Shraman Gaurav Sanyam Swarn Jyoti" on the occasion of her 50th diksha golden anniversary at panchkula near Ludhiana. The function was held in the holy presence of Acharya Dr. Shiv Muni, of Shwetambar Sthanakwasi Sect.

FIFTYSIXTH STHAPANA DAY OF STHANAKWASI SHRAMAN SANGH CELEBRATED AT DELHI

The amalgamation of various Sthanakwasi groups, leading to the formation of Shraman Sangh, 56 years ago was celebrated at Karol Bagh, Delhi on the 11th May, 2008. More than 50 saints belonging to Shraman Sangh, who had been present in Delhi participated in the gathering and expressed their views. Amongst those who were present, included Upadhyay Shri Ramesh Muni, Upadhyay Shri Ravindra Muni ji, up-pravartak Shri Rajendra Muni ji, Shri Dinesh Muni ji, Shri Surendra Muni ji, Shri Suresh Muni ji and others. Shraman Sangh Acharya Dr. Shiv Muni conveyed his best wishes to the organisers on the occasion.

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EAGLE'S EYE: RELIGION: A WAY OF IDEAL LIFE - ACHARYA MAHAPRAJNA



I see a picture emerging before me. It has three aspects: First, a man was performing religious rituals. I endearingly asked him why he was doing it. He spontaneously replied, 'It will ameliorate the hereafter.' Second, there was a man who used to do business. Despite many efforts he did not get success. He grew disappointed. He started spending all his time in religious rituals. One day I asked him why he spent a lot of time in those rituals. He replied, 'I am unhappy in this life because of bad deeds in the previous birth.

I am doing those rituals so that at least in the next birth I may not have to suffer so much unhappiness.' Third, there was a man who was very quarrelsome. But he was equally a strong advocate of religion. I was at a loss to understand how pugnacity and religiosity could go together. However, he regarded himself religious and others also called him religious. One day I asked him what his being religious could mean when he was quarrelling all the time. He replied respectfully, 'I have got into the habit of quarrelling and can't get over it. This life will run its course the way it is doing. Let me by practicing religion at least hope for a better hereafter.

If we put all the three aspects together, the integrated picture suggests that religious people are not as much concerned about ameliorating the here as they are about the hereafter. They are not as desirous of improving the present life as they are of improving life in the next birth. And not apparently unreasonably so. For they believe they are helpless about what is happening in the present life, since it is the outcome of the bad actions of the previous life. Their next life would be good in proportion to the good they do in this life.

Their idea of a good life is availability of abundant wealth, a nice mansion, a good family, plenty of domestic aids and luxury goods. In authenticity, falsehood, breach of trust etc. are not opposed to their idea of a good life. They are not ascetics. After all they have to do business for earning a livelihood. Can one make a living through authenticity, truthfulness etc.? Such arguments never allow them to be righteous. Let me explain their concept of religion by quoting an incident.

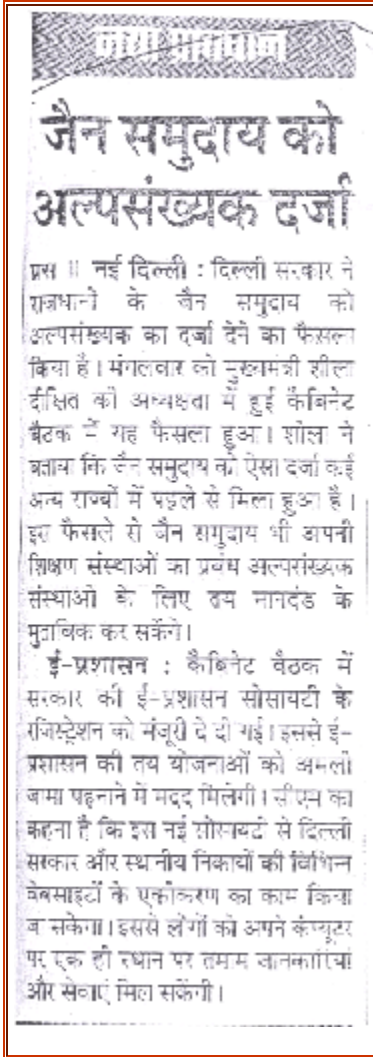
One day, a new face was sighted in a seminar. The participants present there asked the stranger out of curiosity: 'What is special about your life?' The stranger replied, 'My special quality is that I never neglect or abandon religion.' He felt all the more enthused when the people looked at him with eyes full of wonder. He added, 'When required, I drank liquor and gambled, but never gave up religion. Hunger is an acute problem and to satiate it I sometimes stole and even robbed, and yet did not abandon religion. Who does not have a weakness of mind? I too indulged in prostitution out of weakness, but did not relinquish religion; occasionally I committed murders also out of rage, but did not jettison religion.' Keeping his eyes closed he went on indulging in self-praise. Then one of the men asked him, 'what is your religion?'

The stranger replied with a sense of pride, 'I never ate anything at the hands of untouchables. I faced countless hardships but spared no efforts to remain steadfast in religion.' One can find hundreds of similar incidents and stories. They present before us religion as conceived by the common people. Of course there is also no dearth of people who would disapprove of such a concept of religion. But man revels in the outbursts of his emotions he has not left even the field of religion untouched by the above tendency. As a matter of fact, religion's true character lies in calming not in exciting passions. But has such a true religion ever been practiced?

A person who deems himself religious is as full of fear, grief, hatred and agitation of mind as is an irreligious person. If those lecturing on the equality of all sentient beings are discriminatory and if those lecturing on the common fatherhood of God are cruel, it is natural to conclude that philosophy is confined to the intellect and lecturing only. I failed to understand why even those people do not hesitate to indulge in evil who believe that the spirit exists, that it is reborn, that good results in good and evil results in evil. Then how can one distinguish a believer from a non-believer? -Courtesy : Lalit Garg, E-Mail: lalitgarg11@gmail.com

MINORITY STATUS

REACTIONS & POLITICS IN MINORITY STATUS FOR JAINS



The Sheila Dikshit government accorded minority status to the Jain community in Delhi a move being seen as timed for the Assembly elections, just five months away. The Jains, primarily a business and traders' community, have been demanding the status for the past several years. In Delhi, the community is known to have largely backed the Bharatiya Janata Party till date.

Commenting on the issue, Chakresh Jain, head of the Delhi Jain Samaj said that we had been demanding the minority status for the past several years but the government had been ignoring our demands. Congress MLA Rajesh Jain, the community's sole representative in Delhi Assembly, said this is not a political move. Delhi BJP president Harsh Vardhan questioned the timing of the decision — just before the Assembly elections, scheduled for November and questioned what was the Sheila Dikshit government doing for the past 10 years?

Reactions within the community to this decision, however, were mixed. A section was not comfortable being labelled a minority, especially since most Jains are well-to-do and did not really need the privileges that come with minority status. Fashion Designer Madhu Jain - Most Jains are really affluent - some of them are leading industrialists and businessmen in the country. My husband was the MP from Chandni Chowk. His grandfather was one of the biggest businessmen in the locality in his time. For people like us, it won't really make a difference. It feels strange to be labelled as a minority. Minority status should be given to people who are not affluent and who need the privileges that come with it. This seems to be a purely political move before the elections. Politics makes strange bedfellows. Priyank Jain, a business analyst who also holds a degree in chemical engineering, says reservation on the basis of caste or religion should not be encouraged. If one really wants to help society, there should be free education for all. It doesn't mean you get through even if you

don't clear the exams just because you belong to a minority. S K Jain a Jain Scholar says, with reservation possibilities in institutions, we can provide jobs for our own community and support them better. It will also help us spread the Jain ideals of non-violence, vegetarianism and helping people.

Credit for achieving minority status for Jains goes to the hard work and pains taking efforts of Shri. Nirmal Sethi, Chief of Digambar Samaj, Prof. Ratan Jain, (9899228882), Founder of Jain Mahasabha, Delhi, Shri. Naren Bhiku Ram Jain (9811027563), E-Mail: artmall2007@gmail.com, Jain Activist and Politician, Shri. Sanjay Jain (09312278313, 09213691505) E-Mail: vishwajains@yahoo.com of Vishwa Jain Sangathan (Regd.)

DELHI GOVERNMENT ACCORDS MINORITY STATUS TO JAIN COMMUNITY

The State Government of Delhi at its cabinet meeting held on the 10th June, 2008 decided to accord minority status to Jain community on the same lines as given to Sikh, Parsi, Muslim, Bauddh and Christian communities. There had been a long-outstanding demand from Jain community of Delhi to grant inority status so that it could enjoy same benefits as other minority communities. The Delhi council of minister's decision, on June 10, to accord minority status to the Jain community in the Capital was not an easy one. It is learnt that the decision came after a fair amount of lobbying by Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit herself and Congress's Lok Sabha MP from Chandni Chowk Kapil Sibal. The decision was a difficult one, considering that a similar proposal had been shot down at least four times by Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil. Congress sources said senior party leaders from the city, including Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president J P Agarwal, had to bat for the community's cause.

J&K MAY ALSO SOON HAVE A MINORITY COMMISSION



Jammu and Kashmir, the only state in the country without a Minority Commission, may soon have one with Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad likely to give his nod to a proposal in this regard shortly. The proposal already has the consent of the state law department. After the Chief Minister clears the proposal the Commission will be constituted to decide about the minority status of Jains, Hindus, Sikhs, Kashmiri Pandits, Buddhists and Christians. The Social Welfare Department set into motion the process of constitution of the Minority Commission after the Union Ministry on Minority Affairs wrote to the J&K government to set up the commission as per the recommendations of the Sachar Committee on minorities. In order to address the problems of minorities in the state, the Minority Commission will focus on mitigation of their political grievances and boosting their development. The Commission, likely to be chaired by a retired High Court judge, will have members nominated by the government.

It appears a new chapter is being written to further damage the future of J&K. It has been learnt that Kashmiri Pundits are being declared as a religious minority by J&K Government along with five other religious minorities declared by GOI in 1993. The Minority Communities notified by the Government of India in October 1993 as per the provisions of the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992 include only Muslims, Sikh, Christian, Parsi and Buddhist . These are religious minorities. These have been worked out on the basis of all India level population count. Even this list is irrational since it includes Sikhs but excludes faiths like the Jains. Government of India and department of Minority Affairs Government of India have started using this list for support and benefits to five all India population basis minorities even for local matters at the level States. This is totally wrong and irrational.. In case the information as received takes shape then in J&K the religious minorities would be Muslims, Sikh, Christian, Parsi , Buddhist and Kashmiri Pundits. Does it mean that Kashmiri Pundits are not HINDU ? And in case Kashmiri Pundits are to be included as a sect or segment of Hindus then there are many other sects amongst Hindu who could fall under Minority category. This way in J&K the Khajuria Pundits (Purohit Brahmins) too could be considered for Minority Status.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

R. K. JAIN ELECTED CHIEF OF DIGAMBAR JAIN TEERTH KSHETRA COMMITTEE

After the fiercely fought Presidential elections of Bharatiya Digambar Jain Teerth Kshetra Committee on 22.6.2008 at Hastinapur, Shri R. K. Jain defeated nearest rival Mr. Bharat Mody of Indore by heavy margins. Shri R. K. Jain born on 19th November 1942 to Shri. Sreepal Jain and Smt. Kailashwati Jain at Delhi is a Mechanical Engineer by profession from Banaras Hindu University. Today he represents successful business in India. He has also held several positions in various philanthropic organizations including Presidency of Bharat Jain Mahamandal.

NAVIN DEDHIA HONOURED WITH HARRY LESSIG MEDAL IN USA

Navin S. Dedhia received Harry Lessig Medal from ASQ (American Society for Quality) Inspection Division during the General Body Meeting in Houston, Texas, USA, May 5, 2008, for his contribution to the Inspection technologies and methodologies. Harry Lessig Medal is awarded to an individual for contribution to the inspection tools, technologies, methodologies. The American Society for Quality (ASQ) is the world's leading authority on quality. With more than 100,000 individual and organizational members, this professional association advances learning, quality improvement, and knowledge exchange to improve business results, and to create better workplaces world-wide. Navin has received the E. Jack Lancaster Medal and Testimonial Awards from ASQ and the Harrington-Ishikawa Medal from APQO (Asia Pacific Quality Organization). He has held many visible positions in the organizations including the chair/Trustee of ASQ International Chapter, chair of ASQ Inspection Division, National Director of ASQ and others. Navin is a Past President of the Jain Center of Northern California (www.jcnc.org), San Francisco Bay Area, California. He is also a Past President of KOJAIN Organization in North America. He worked at IBM corporation and Hitachi Global Storage Technologies previously. At present, he is a Quality Consultant. Navin S. Dedhia 5080 Bougainvillea Drive San Jose, CA 95111 U. S. A.

PRAKRIT JNANABHARATI INTERNATIONAL AWARD CEREMONY ORGANISED IN BERLIN

On 25th May 2008, the award ceremony of Prakrit Jnanabharati International Award 2005 and 2006 took place in Berlin. The award was bestowed on Prof. Willem Bollée (2005) and Prof. Klaus Bruhn (2006). Two scholars from Shravanabelagola, Karnataka, Prof. Jain, director of renowned "National Institute of Prakrit Studies and Research" and Prof. Hampana, of Bangalore University had come to Berlin for the ceremony. Prof. Bollée had come to Berlin for the function from his domicile in Bamberg, Oberfranken, Germany. Professor Klaus Bruhn has entered his eighties. Born in Hamburg 1928, he lives a fruitful scholarly life, focused on Indian Art History and Philology. His merits in this field are numerous. He inspired generations of students and scholars to focus their attention on India, be it on research of Indian Art History or Philology, especially Jain texts or Art.

SMT. KUSUM JAIN OF JODHPUR HONOURED WITH "NARI SHIROMANI AWARD"

Smt. Kusum Jain, belonging to Jodhpur, has been honoured with "Nari Shiromani award" for the extensive social work carried out by her specially in the field of women's education and development. The award was given in the Conference Hall of Law Institute at New Delhi. The award was given by ex-judge, Shri N. A. Tibberwal in the presence of Shri Baliram Bhagat and Ex-Director General of C.B.I. Shri Jogendra Singh.

SMT. KALYAN MAL JAIN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships have been announced by the Foundation for the year-2008-09.

The prime objectives of the foundation are:-

- To grant aid to the needy, destitute & desperate persons specially the 'Widows, Orphans or physically/ mentally handicapped, the aged, other needy person and the public at large.
- To give assistance to poor students in the form of scholarship (free scholarship or loan) or otherwise without any distinction of caste, creed or sex.

Scholarship: The scholarship is a form of financial assistance to the qualified students.

Eligibility: 10+2 with very high percentage of marks obtained from any the recognized board of examination.

Scholarship for the courses: Admission in full time regular basis Degree courses for higher studies i.e. Graduation programs courses in Indian Universities and IIT's Engineering Technology, Computer Science and other allied branches from any recognizes Institution within India only. Applications form can be obtained by writing to E-Mail : jainpushp01@yahoo.com

DR. RAJIV JAIN, WEXFORD DOCTOR HONORED WITH CLINICAL CARE AWARD

Dr. Rajiv Jain, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare Systems' chief of staff, was awarded the 2007 Mark Wolcott Award for Excellence in Clinical Care Leadership. The award was presented at the Veterans Health Administration National Leadership Board Meeting in Washington. The award is given annually to a person who has contributed to enhancing clinical care for veterans. Dr. Rajiv Jain has served as chief of staff since November 2000.

ACHARYA KISHORE KUNAL I.P.S. AWARDED BHAGWAN MAHAVEER AWARD

Patna : Acharya Kishore Kunal, retd IPS official and chairman of the Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts, has been conferred upon the prestigious Bhagwan Mahaveer Award for his dedicated community and social services. President Pratibha Patil gave him the award at a function organised at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

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The award instituted by Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation, Chennai, carries a cash component of Rs. Five Lakh, a commendatory citation and a memento. Acharya Kunal is the first individual from Bihar-Jharkhand to get this award. His selection was made by a jury headed by Justice Shri M N Venkatachali, former chief justice of India.



MAHAPRAJNA JAIN SAHITYA AWARD FOR DR. HAMPANAGARAJIAH

Bangalore, June 20 - The 'Acharya Sri Mahaprajna Jain Sahitya' award, newly constituted by Jain Shwetambar Terapanth Sabha, will be presented to litterateur Dr. Hampa Nagarajiah. The award, consisting of a cash of Rs. 51,000 and a memento, will be conferred on him on July 13. A meeting of the committee held under the Chairmanship of Prof. Radhakrishna selected Hampana for the award. The Committee comprising journalists E.V. Satyanarayana and Vishweswara Bhat, Prof. Mallepuram Venkatesh, Rajendrakumar Jain, Nandkishore Tewary, Heeralal Maloo, Bhupendra Mutha, Mahendrakumar Dak, Vimala Bai and Siddartha Sharma selected Hampana for this award.

SMT. KAMLA DEVI JAIN HONOURED BY THE BHARTIYA JAIN MILAN



Smt Kamla Devi Jain, B.A., Ex-President Inner Wheel Club Baraut, District Baghpat, UP and Ex-President Mahila Jain Milan, Baraut and wife of late Shri S. S. Jain, Senior Scientist, Plant Pathologist, ICAR retired Also Ex-President Rotary club Baraut and Jain Milan) has been honored by the Bhartiya Jain Milan and the Mahila Jain Milan in separate functions organised in Baraut on account of her exemplary qualities and excellent work, in spite of her octogenarian age and ill health while staying alone after her husband expired in 1997. Even though she is over eighty she carries a spirit of selfless social service and intellectual leadership even if beset with many problems of ageing, ill health, lack of care and medical care and loneliness. Courtesy: R. K. Jain, E-Mail: rakjan46@yahoo.co.uk

CONFERENCES & CEREMONIES

SUMMER SCHOOL ON PRKARIT LANGUAGE & LITERATURE



20th All India Summer School on Prakrit Language & Literature was held in Delhi from 11th May 2008 to 1st June 2008 at Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology. Approximately 50 participants attended the three-week long Prakrit Workshop from various universities of India and Japan. Faculties came from various universities apart from in-house faculty of BLII. The Valedictory Function was held on 1st June 2008.

Dr. K. K. Chakravarty, Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi (IGNCA) was the Chief Guest and Dr. Godabarish Mishra, Member Secretary, Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR) and Dr. P. V. Joshi, IFS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs were also the Guests of Honour. Dr. J. B. Shah, Vice-Chairman of BLII gave a detailed picture about the Institute as well as importance of the Summer School. He gave a very elaborate talk about the current situation and the importance of Prakrit language and literature. Dr. Balaji Ganorkar, Director of BLII announced the names of meritorious candidates. Central Institute of Indian Languages Mysore (Ministry of H. R. D., Govt. of India) sponsored this summer school. Courtesy: Dr. Balaji Ganorkar, E-Mail: blinst@blinstitute.org

JAIN MUSEUM IN ANU CAMPUS INAUGURATED

HYDERABAD: The Andhra State Archaeology Department wants to work with any organisation that comes forward for the conservation of monuments, arts and artifacts. Inaugurating the Rs. 60 lakh Atma Vallabha Jain Museum building at Acharya Nagarjuna University campus, Dr. Reddy, Director of ASAD said the state boasted of important Jain centres as Jainism was patronised alongside other religions by the past Andhra rulers from Satavahanas to Kakatiyas. The Sri Sankeswara Parsvanath Giriraj Trust donated Rs. 40 lakh while the university contributed Rs. 20 lakh. The University Vice-Chancellor V. Balamohan Das and prominent members of the Jain community attended the event.

ANIMAL COMPASSION

APPEAL FOR JEEV DAYA BY VINIYOG PARIVAR TRUST, MUMBAI



As many as 7700 Cow Progeny Animals while being taken for slaughter have already been saved with the help of police. Now we bid to save further 20000 to 25000 Cows, Bullocks, Buffalo and other animals from miserable death due to starvation. The major part of Madhya Pradesh and nearby region of Uttar Pradesh is reeling under drought-like situation for last 4 to 5 years. Due to almost non-availability of water in this region, the helpless farmers have abandoned their houses, farms and agriculture and have moved to other areas. Before leaving their houses, these farmers pay odalisque to their animals, seek their forgiveness and then abandon them and migrate to other areas. The abandoned animals wander in search of fodder and water in this region. These wandering animals are cornered by the butchers and are taken for slaughter in local slaughter houses and in some cases even to Bangladesh, from where beef is exported to foreign countries. In U.P. there is prohibition on slaughter of cow progeny animal by Law. However, thousands of cow progeny animals are slaughtered in local slaughterhouses and their beef is exported described as 'Meat' (flesh of buffaloes) on paper.

Due to drought of last 5 years, approximately 4 lakh cow progeny animals from these regions have reached slaughter houses. Sometimes animals driven by the butchers die on railway tracks while crossing them. In one instance about 50 to 60 animals were run over by a speeding train on railway tracks and died. Young calves are slaughtered by the butchers for their own food and they roast their beef for their food. Mahoba region, from where these animals were rescued has acute water problem. On order to provide water to the rescued animals, bore-wells were dug at seven different places up to the depth of 300 to 350 feet. However, water was found only in one bore well. For further information please contact Viniyog Parivar Trust, B-2/104, Vaibhav, Jamli Gali,, Borivali(West) MUMBAI-400092. 91-22-2898 0749 / 91-22-2899 178.

NEW RELEASES

SRAVANABELAGOLA THROUGH AGES: A BRIEF NOTE - By Prof. Dr. Hampa Nagarajaiah (English), 2008 155 x 115 mm 24 pp on Art paper in full colour Paperback Rs. 50.

STORIES OF ABHAYAKUMARA - By Prof. Dr. Hampa Nagarajaiah, Foreword by Prof. Dr. Nalini Balbir (English), Distributed by Hindi Granth Karyalay, 2008 220 x 140 mm 106 pp, Paperback Rs. 125.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF JAINA STUDIES (3 Volumes) - Edited by Dr. Peter Flügel, First Edition 2008 Rs. 600, This is one of the most prestigious academic journals in the world! This journal is a part of the Centre of Jaina Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. It carries research papers on Jain studies by some of the most distinguished scholars in the field. The book is good collection for every Indological library. The contents are as under:

The Invention of Jainism: A Short History of Jaina Studies / Dr. Peter Fluegel

Review of Acarya Kundakunda's Barasa Anuvekkha / Prof. Dr. Willem Bollee

The Sthanangasutra: An Encyclopaedic Text of the Svetambara Canon / Dr Kornelius Kruempelmann

Jaina Philosophy and Religion / Dr. Peter Fluegel

Are Jaina Ethics Really Universal? / Dr. William Johnson

Subject Index of the Inventory of the Stories in N. Balbir's Avasyaka Studien / Prof. Dr. Willem Bollee

A Note on the Pasa Tradition in the Universal History of the Digambaras and Svetambaras (Gunabhadra, Mahapurana, Utt. 73) / Prof. Dr. Willem Bollee

Blind Faith According to the Jainas: The Yama Case / Dr. Jean-Pierre Osier

A Short History of Jaina Law / Dr. Peter Fluegel

Digambara Attitudes to the Svetambara Canon / Dr. Sin Fujinaga

The Original Panhavayarana / Prasnayakarana Discovered / Dr. Diwakar Acharya

The above books are available at: Hindi Granth Karyalaya, 9 Hirabaug C P Tank, Mumbai 400004 India, Phones: + 91 22 2382-6739.

CHATURMAS

Sthanakwasi Sect

1. Acharya Shri Ram Lal Ji maharaj of sadhu-margi Jain Sangh at Calcutta-Howrah.
2. Ganadheesh Shri Umesh Muni Ji of Shraman sangh at Dahod, Gujarat.
3. Up-Pravartak Shri Rajendra Ji alongwith Upadhya Shri Ramesh Muni Ji and Shri Surendra Muni Ji at Delhi.
4. Shri Paras Muni ji at Ujjain.
5. Shri Kan Muni ji at Dhulia, Maharashtra.
6. Shri Gulab Muni ji at Bhivandi (Mumbai)
7. Shri Pankaj Muni ji at Nagpur
8. Shri Rajesh Muni ji at Kushal garh, Gujarat.
9. Muni Shri Shiviracharya ji, disciple of late gachhadhipati Shri Champa Lal Ji maharaj along with Shri Vinay Muni ji at Cochin.
10. Shri Dinesh Muni Ji at Meerut.
11. Sadhwi Shri Trishla Kumari ji of Terapanth sect at Patna.

Murti-Pujak Sect

Acharya Shri Vijay Jinottam Surishwar ji (Tapogachh) disciple of Acharya Shri Vijay Sushil Surishwar ji maharaj at Banglore.

Digambar Ssect

Muni Shri Tarun Sagar Ji maharaj at Aurangabad.

LETTER FROM READERS

NEW THERAPY TO REMOVE BLOCKAGES OF BLOOD CIRCULATION AND AVOID BY-PASS SURGERY

This is a new theory which has come to my knowledge very recently and I thought that I should also share with you all. A few days back my Friends Father-in-law was admitted in a nursing home due to severe chest pain. He had an attack in 1997 and was undergoing normal treatment. Due to the sudden pain just 15 days back we once again got him admitted in a private nursing home at Kandiwali, Mumbai. The doctors later suggested for Angiography.

We conducted the Angiography at Hinduja Hospital and knew from the reports that he has multiple blockages. The doctor told that he cannot undergo Angioplasty due to several blockages but suggested "By-Pass Surgery". The same day evening we bought him home since the doctor suggested that his heart is very weak and we can perform the by-pass only after 15 - 20 days. In the mean time we were discussing this issue with our relatives and friends, we got this new information from one of our family friends. There is a new therapy in the market which has been named as - Chelation Therapy or Calation Therapy.

According to this therapy any patient who has to undergo by-pass need not undergo the same. The patient is given approx. 18 bottles of blood where in some medicines are injected along with it. The blood cleans the system and removes all the blockages from the heart. The number of bottles may increase depending upon the age factor and health of the patient. The cost of the blood per bottle would be appx. Rs.2,500/- The treatment takes of approx. 1 month. Presently, there are only 4 doctors in India and one of them is Dr.Dhananjay Shah at Malad (Mumbai), the another one is at Karnataka. He has a

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list of patients who had to undergo by-pass surgery at Lilavati, Hinduja and other major hospitals but after undergoing the above treatment they are absolutely fine and leading a normal life. I give below the Doctor's details for your info:

Dr. Dhananjay Shah, Hospital Tel: 0091-22-2889 2089. Mob: 98194 39657. E-Mail: shahdhananjay@rediffmail.com
Courtesy: S. K. Bhandari, E-Mail : bhandarisk@vsnl.net

READER'S VIEWS:

Election on 22nd June at Hastinapur - SANJAY KUMAR JAIN E-Mail: vishwajains@yahoo.com - As u know all that the election of Tirth Rakshak Committee will be held on 22nd June at Hastinapur. Today I seen some Jain Bandhus at Nizamuddin Rly Station who were coming from different cities of India for casting the Votes > for a candidate. It means candidates are spending a lot of money for winning > the election and we are loosing our tirths, lands & oldest idols. I asked to > these Jain bandhus that can u go to GIRNAR Ji, Khandar Giri ji & many other > tirths which are going from our hands. They replied then who will pay > expenses. I have come to know that these candidates have also paid > membership fees of Rs 11000/ for some members for fixing his votes.

1. I have not seen any advertisement in any Jain magazines / News Paper / Temple / Tirth Kshetra for this election. Have U seen? 2. What is the moto / target of this committee? 3. Have they published any anually Balance Sheet / Profit & Loss Account? 4. What r they doing for tirth kshetras which are occupied by others? 5. Which tirth kshetras are in the list of this committee? 6. Have they published any list of Tirth Kshetras which had / have maintained by them? 7. Who were the members of last committee? 8. How many cases are pending for getting back our occupied Tirth Kshetras? 9. Will this election be held for leadership only? Or Manch, Moochh, Mala, Myke 10. Is this committee helping ASI for serching our oldest lost temples / tirth kshetras / idols lying under earth / idols under the unauthorised possession of private Jain/non-Jain person & different national / international Museums , laying in Police Malkhanas of different Police Stations. 11. Some oldest Jain idols are for sale on net. Has this committee taken any action in this regard. 12. Why have they choose Hastinapur? This is a holy place and now it will be a political assembly. People will pass comments on each others. 13. Can some people manage all tirth kshetras? Are they all retired? 14. How many times these 21 members go to tirth kshetras in a year? 15. I have not seen any board or any printing material at any tirth kshetra.

I have seen a lot of tirth kshetras which require repairing / maintenance / security guards / pujaris / care takers. I think, state wise or district wise or city wise committee (nearest to tirth khstra) should be formed. Can anybody reply for my above noted questions? so that I could satisfy to myself. Sunjay Jain, President Vishwa Jain Sangathan (Regd.)

JAIN SAINTS - Mahavir Sanglikar writes (E-Mail: msanglikar@yahoo.com) - Date: Sunday, 15 June, 2008, 1:38 AM

It is time to ban nakedness..... Nakedness is the highest position in the spiritual world. All Jain teerthankars became naked at a certain point, but no one of them did it knowingly. They did not copy it from previous tradition. They did not arrange any ceremony for removing the cloths. The fact is that they even did not try to remove their cloths, the cloths were removed automatically and they didn't care about it. In ancient times, naked Jain monks lived in caves and jungles. They had nothing to do with worldly things so they avoided visiting towns. They were the true followers of aparigrah. But it is very sad to write that today's naked Jain monks are just a blame on the name of Jainism. They do not wear any cloth on their body to show that they are not involved in any attachment, but in fact they carry lot of worldly things with them. Here are some examples:

- A famous naked monk is accompanied by his mother, brother and sister. This is not an exception; many Jain monks are attached with their worldly family and relatives.
- Many naked Jain monks are making money in the name of religion. Such monks have Bank Accounts in their own name or in relatives' names.

•Many such monks use mobile phones. I know one naked monk having three mobile handsets! Some years before, a daily had published a photograph of another naked Jain monk who was talking on mobile phone. The great followers of such monks like to gift such worldly things to their equally great gurus.

•Some naked Jain monks have appointed Personal Assistants for themselves. Such P.A.s help them to manage worldly things. Many naked monks carry a big staff with them which includes cooks, book sellers, drivers etc.

Nakedness has become an essential thing for making money from blind followers. This has nothing to do with the real teaching of Jainism. As Osho says that these monks are nothing but corrupted copiers of the ancient Jain monks.

So it is time to ban the nakedness at least in the public places. If the naked monks are real followers of un attachment, they should leave the public and go to the jungles or remote areas where they can spend their time in meditation. This will stop the all the bad things that are happening because of such monks. -- Mahavir Sanglikar. E-Mail: msanglikar@yahoo.com

Naveen Jain (E-Mail: naveen_jain_2000_in@yahoo.com) writes: I completely support sentiment expressed below. When our saints are ready to mould as per current environment by having a special team of cooks, mobile phone, a list of donators, then same adjustment should be shown towards clothes as well. Nakedness alone should be not the criterion of sainthood but character is more important. We can still follow our saints if their actions are holy and solid, rather than expecting nakedness as saint symbol.

Maulik (E-Mail: findnew@gmail.com), writes: This is among the other contraversial issues. This issue is only related to Digambar samprada, as all other monks wear cloths, but being a jain, we also have to be a part of listeners. This subject is internal to Digambers and they are the only ones who can bring this to an end. The very good thing pointed by Mayur is that we have Agams. If a digambar monk is attached by worldly needs like mobile, automobile, etc, the Digambers should ask them to attach themselves with the cloths, before attaching themselves with other needs. The one of the great monk that I know was Kanji Swami. I have seen his some photos where he is wearing cloths. I am in no sence to comment. I just expressed my views. The list of inconsistency is very hard to resolve and should be pushed by some big acharyas.

Mayur Jain (E-Mail: mayur_j1980@yahoo.co.in) writes: I completely agree with Mr. Mahavir. People are blindly worshipping the nakedness and they have completely forgotton about the true meaning of munis. I have listened to so many lectures of munis and what they talk is completlely impertinent. They have no knowledge of Tatvs.... so forget about "Samyak Darshan" and above all now a days some munis even have Grahith Mithyadarshan. I think they are mere social worker of society. All Mithyadrasti munis (we should not call them as munis, as it is a disrespect to that position) should wear clothes. Its very sad that today there is no real muni but good thing is we have Agams and we can take their help to decide what is right and wrong. Mayur Jain, Process Scientist, Imclone Systems, 484-680-4880.

These views are expressed by independent individual members of the community. "Ahimsa Times" is not expressing or suggesting its opinion on this subject.

DIKSHA CEREMONY



1. Jain diksha was granted to Mumuksha Kajal Kumari, daughter of Shri Dhiraj Kumar Ji Patwa of Surat. The ceremony was organised on the 28th June, 2008 in the holy presence of Acharya Shri Gunratna Surishwar Ji maharaj belongng to Shwetambar Murti-pujak sect. She has passed B.Com. and studied various Jain shastra.

2. Jain Diksha was also granted to four mumukshu candidates, (i) Shri Mohan Lal Ji Dhoka of Jalgaon, (ii) Sushri Dimple Salecha of Hubli, (iii) Sushri Bhavana Bagrecha of Hyderabad and (iv) Sushri Ritu Jain of Barodkar

village in Rajasthan. The diksha ceremony was held in the holy presence of Shri Hira Chand Ji Maharaj, disciple of Acharya Shri Hasti Mal Ji Maharaj, belonging to Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect.



3. Mumukshu Sonu belonging to Nadol town near Jodhpur in Rajasthan accepted Jain diksha in the holy presence of sadhvi Shri Indu Prabha ji, Mangal Jyoti ji, Chen Prabha ji and Hit Prabha ji on the 18th June, 2008 amidst great rejoicing and religious fervor. Sonu was given her new name as Saurav Prabha ji. After the diksha rituals, she got the blessings of Pravartak Shri Roop Muni, who was present there on the occasion.

MISCELLANEOUS

CCTV CATCHES THEFT IN JAIN MANDIR, MUMBAI



Mumbai: Temples across Mumbai are tightening security after the CCTV cameras captured an audacious daylight theft at a popular Jain temple in the heart of Mumbai. The footage shows a thief entering Mahavir Swami Jain Mandir and cautiously pocketing the jewellery before walking out of the temple.

This man was sitting outside for sometime to find out how many people were inside and then he entered, roamed around the temple and then took away the ornaments. He then waited outside and left with the crowd, temple CCTV in charge informed. Police suspect that the thief, caught stealing in the CCTV footage, is a professional. Meanwhile, temples across the city have now heightened security with similar incidents being reported from neighboring temples as well.

THREE ANTIQUE JAIN STATUES STOLEN IN UTTAR PRADESH

Firozabad, May 31, Three antique ashtadhatu (eight-metal) statues were found missing from a Jain temple in Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh. Hundreds of Jains gathered and protested against the theft. Sant Kumar, a priest, told the police that the statue of Bhagwan Parsvsnath was 1,600 years old. The other two statues were of Bhagwan Bahubali and Sidh Bhagwan. Five canopies were also missing.

JAIN DEVOTEES LIGHT LAMPS AND PRAY FOR WORLD PEACE IN VARANASI

Varanasi, June 10 : Hundreds of devotees belonging to Jain religion have gathered on the banks of Ganges River here to pray for world peace by lighting lamps. The devotees said that by lighting lamps, they were wishing that the world was illuminated with peace and prosperity. According to Jain devotees, "The lamps lighted here may dispel all the darkness in the world, and spread harmony amongst all. We are praying for the peace, prosperity, of all the people in the world and so we have lighted up these lamps." Varanasi, which is one of the most holy places of Hindus, is equally revered by Jains being the birthplace of one of the holy Jain saints, the 23rd Tirthankar Parsvanath.

NEWFOUND JAIN SITES - ROCK ART, JAINA BEDS, DOLMENS NEAR GINGEE



Chennai : Over the last three months, two rock art sites, two caverns with Jain beds, and dolmens have been discovered within a radius of 25 km on the hillocks behind the Gingee fort in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district. Members of the team that found the sites, said the discovery of Jain beds confirmed the earlier view that present-day Villupuram district was once a prominent centre of Jainism. The presence of the rock art sites and dolmens showed that the area had been under continuous human occupation for 3,000 years.

The hillock, located 15 km behind the Gingee fort, forms part of a chain of hills in the area. The team found a series of Jain beds on the floor of the cavern and pre-historic paintings on the boulder surface opposite the beds.

BIJAL CASE: SAJAL JAIN AND MANISH JAIN OTHERS GET LIFE TERM



Ahmedabad : In yet another instance of the law catching up with the rich and influential, Delhi-based businessman Sajal Jain and his four friends were sentenced to life imprisonment by an Ahmedabad Sessions Court, four and a half years after they gangraped 24-year-old Bijal Joshi after a New Year Eve party. Unable to bear the humiliation and physical torture — she was also beaten up by the gang — Bijal hanged herself on January 7, 2004, leaving behind a note accusing Sajal (33), his friends Chandan (27), Ashok alias Mandan Jaiswal (26), Sugam Jaiswal (26), Dharmendra alias Karan Jain (30) and Manish Jain of driving her to suicide.

OBSERVE 2nd OCTOBER AS WORLD DRY DAY

The Government of India has mooted out a proposal before World Health conference held at Geneva to observe the 2nd October as 'World Dry day'. The assembly consisting of 11 members from south-east Asian countries accepted the proposal unanimously with a view to control the consumption of alcohol. The proposal was placed by the Health Minister, Dr. Ambumani Ram Doss. The resolution was signed by all the members and a draft of the same was prepared for being placed before the next meeting of World Health Organisation to be held in the year 2010. The Minister pointed out that only four states in the country, namely Gujarat, J & K, Mizoram and Manipur had framed their anti-alcohol policy. Urgent action was required to be taken by all the states in this direction to control the alcohol consumption and prevent its consequent harmful effects. He added that existing laws to control alcohol consumption were not being implemented seriously. Concerted efforts will be made in this direction from 2nd October, 2008.

POLICE INFORMER OF JAIN IDOL THEFT DENIED CASH PRIZE

New Delhi : An informer who had helped the Delhi Police to trap a gang which stole old Mahavira idols, has claimed that she was not given the promised cash reward of Rs. 3.5 crore by the police and has now moved to the Delhi High Court seeking Justice. Jyoti Gupta the Delhi Police informer claim that she acted as a decoy customer to trap the gang which stole the idols from Kasganj in Uttar Pradesh on December 2006. According to Jyoti, she did the job after getting an offer of Rs.3.5 crore reward money. As Gupta was waiting for the prize, she was shocked to see two days later in the news channels that police have cracked the case and recovered the idols from Delhi. The police has malafide intension made false and baseless story to deprive of her reward money. She then filed a petition in the HC demanding the money and seeking security.

DEVLOK GAMAN

SAD DEMISE IN ROAD ACCIDENT

Two Jain Shwetambar Sadhwi, belonging to Murti-pujak sect, one, sadhwi Sunayana Shri ji and second sadhwi Gunodaya Shri Ji met with a road accident, while moving on foot during their vihar from Ayodhyapuram, a temple town in Gujarat to panvi village. It was reported that a fast-moving jeep had run over both of them causing immediate death on the spot. The matter was reported to the local police for taking immediate action to investigate and arrest the vehicle driver. The incidents of road accidents causing death of jain monks and sadhwi have been occurring commonly but sadly, no firm action has been taken by the jain community to prevent these happenings. Just about a month ago, three sadhwi belonging to Shwetambar Sthanakwasi Shraman sangh were killed in a similar road accident while moving towards Udaipur. (Report in April, 08 issue of Ahimsa Times) Condolences meetings were held by the concerned sects but nothing beyond that to

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