



JAIN AHIMSA TIMES

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**"Neither a Sharp sword nor an infuriated Serpent is so much Killing,
as
Anger that resides in our own Minds"**

SAINTS

RIGHTS TO LAST RITES OF HEMRATNA SURI MAHARAJSAHEB SOLD FOR 1.11 CRORES

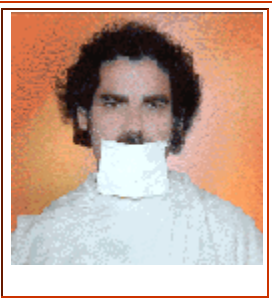
MUMBAI: Hemratna Suri Maharajsaheb had barely shut his eyes and crossed his legs in a meditative padmasana when pain flashed through his chest. In a quiet hamlet of Nadiad in Gujarat, Hemratna Suri Maharajsaheb, spiritual mentor to lakhs of Jains breathed last. The next morning, more than 15,000 Jains thronged the tiny temple town of Shahapur in Maharashtra. Many of them were there for the community ritual: to bid for the right to perform the last rites of the 58-year-old Jain monk.

The bidding was spirited, and the amount spiralled steadily. Eventually, an Ahmedabad-based land developer, Kalpesh Shah, lit the pyre after paying the perfectly symmetrical sum of Rs 1,11,11,111 (Rs 1.11 crore). The monk's relatives, though present, were treated no differently from the thousands who attended the funeral because when Hemratna Suri Maharajsaheb took his lifetime vow of diksha decades ago, he had renounced the world and all its comforts, familial and material. Various aspects of the funeral rites are bid for separately. The entire collection will be used to build a temple at Shahapur, but often the ghee-bolo money goes to secular causes such as eye-donation, animal shelters and education.

Bids are not invited at every monk's passing away. Many funerals are simply performed by local Jain associations. Hirabhai Parekh, who heads the Kalapurna Suri Smarak Sangh, said that big-ticket bidding is usually associated with those who have a huge following. "There may be one or two cases a year where it could run into crores. For monks who are not senior or acharyas, smaller sums are asked for.

The practice of bidding or ghee-bolo started 450 years ago to catalyse community charity. "At that time, devotees didn't contribute even a penny to the temple box. So something had to be done to raise funds to build more Jain temples and spread the religion," explained Vimal Sagar Maharajsaheb, a Jain monk. "That was when the idea of ghee-bolo emerged. Initially, it took place only as and when resources were needed, but over the years it has become a regular ritual." About 350 monks die each year. A close to thousand Jains take diksha every year, in a woman-to-man ratio of 3:1. Of the 13,947 monks 10,654 are sadhvis.

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STHANAKWASI SAINT SHRI VICHAKSHAN MUNI IN DELHI FOR HEALTH CARE - Revered saint belonging to Shwetambar Sthanakwasi Shraman sangh, Shri Vichakshan Muni, while moving on his Vihar along with other saints in the group through Nasik region, fell ill and was advised complete rest and undergo treatment for his cerebral complaint. Accordingly, on the advise of the doctors, he was brought to Delhi few days ago and has gone through a thorough check-up there. He, alongwith other saints has been staying at a Shwetambar Jain temple "Mahavideh Kshetra " near Shri Navkar Teerth, in North Delhi. On such an occasion, it is most unfortunate that a News Papers based in Bhilwara Distt. of Rajasthan is spreading incorrect information about the saint.

This local paper has given a news item, in which he has given totally incorrect news about the saint, having suddenly disappeared from his place of stay at Nasik, leaving no trace behind about his whereabouts. Such a news about a renowned and accomplished saint is highly objectionable and the person concerned needs to be condemned by the society.

LOKESH MUNI LEAVES ACHARYA MANMALJI SECT.

After a short tenure with Manmalji Sect, Sri Lokesh Muni has resigned from all the positions and moved out of the sect. Before joining Manmalji sect he was member of Acharya Manapragyaji's Tera Panth Sect. After resigning from Tera Panth he joined Acharya Manmal group in Delhi.



TEMPLE



HOLY CHANTS, CLEANSINGS MARK GROUNDBREAKING FOR JAIN CENTER IN NEW JERSEY
FRANKLIN, Nine shila stones were ceremonially cleansed with milk and placed in the excavated site of the future Jain Center on Cedar Grove Lane in Somerset. Members of the Jain Center of New Jersey chanted holy mantras during a recent groundbreaking ceremony as they buried the stones beneath the spot where the main altar will be located. During the Shilanyas Mahotsav ceremony, a gold tortoise was placed in the ground. The tortoise signifies the long lifespan of the Derasar or temple. When completed, the project will include three buildings totaling about 51,000 square feet. The sanctuary will seat about 340 people.

The largest building, a prayer hall, will have two floors with a total area of about 42,000 square feet. The upper floor will have a large assembly hall. The lower floor will have a dining hall, kitchen, an audio-video room and a library. A caretaker's house also will be built on the 9.6-acre site. A parking lot with space for more than 320 cars has already been constructed. The project is expected to cost about \$12 million. The plans have been in the works since the site was purchased in 2000 by the Jain Center of New Jersey, one of the oldest Jain Centers in United States. The main objective of the Jain Center is to develop a place of worship in Central Jersey.

GANDHI NAGAR (GUJARAT) TO HAVE A TALLEST MAHAVIR SWAMI IDOL

Gandhinagar, May 13, 2009: Jain monk Padmasagarsurishwar Ji Maharaj announced that Gandhinagar would have Lord Mahavir Swami's 108 ft idol. Once ready this idol would be the tallest idol of Mahavir Swami who is the 24th Jain Tirthankara. Proposed idol would be erected on Gandhinagar's 'J' Road. It would weight 228 tons. The work of producing this Panchadhatu idol has already been started. Padmasagarsurishwarji Maharaj further said that there would be a mountain like structure behind the idol.

RECURRING INCIDENTS OF THEFT OF IDOLS FROM JAIN TEMPLES

It is very unfortunate to observe that incidents of theft of valuable idols of Jain deities, other materials and cash have been continuously taking place in Jain temples during the last few years and no stern action has been taken to recover the stolen items and bring the culprits to book. Recently, in the night of 21st April, theft of three rare ashtadhatu idols and silver mahamandal took place in a four hundred years old Digambar Jain temple at Udensar village near Firozabad town in Uttar Pradesh.

The idols belonged to Shri Mahavir Swami, weighing 27 Kg., that of Adinath Swami, weighing 24 Kg. and that of Pushpdant Swami, weighing 6 Kg. The culprits also broke five small metallic idols and two stone idols. The theft was detected only when the temple was opened in the early morning. The matter was immediately reported to the police.

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SANTHARA

BBC - SANTHARA SHOULD NOT BE EQUATED TO SUICIDE

By Narayan Bareth, BBC News, Jaipur - Commenting on the Santhara Practice in Jains Religion BBC has expressed that this traditional practice of Jains' should not be equated to suicide. The News Service extensively covered the recent death of Shri Amar Chandji, 76, at Jaipur, after observing "santhara". BBC mentioned that this is centuries-old Jain practice, where a person starves to prepare spiritually for his death. Campaigners want the practice banned, saying it is similar to suicide. Last week a Jain woman, 60-year-old Vimla Devi, died in the state capital, Jaipur, after fasting for 14 days. It is normal among Jains and we regard it with utmost respect," the group's General Secretary, Sohan Mehta said. "It is very unfortunate that a section of the society is questioning santhara and equating it with suicide or sati." Sati is the ancient Hindu practice in which women die on their husband's funeral pyre. Mr Mehta said Jains would stage a sit-in against the questioning of this practice. A writ petition challenging the practice of "santhara" is currently before Rajasthan High Court. The petitioner has also referred the matter to Jaipur police, who say they are collecting literature about the practice.



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

FIVE JAIN CANDIDATES WON THE PARLIAMENTARY SEATS IN THE 2009 ELECTIONS

Here is the list of the winning Jain candidates:

1. Pradeep Kumar Jain Aditya from Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, Indian National Congress
2. Raju Shetty from Hatkanangale, Maharashtra Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana
3. Dilip Mansukhlala Gandhi from Ahmed Nagar Maharashtra BJP
4. Jaya Prada Nahata from Rampur Uttar Pradesh Samajwadi Party

Ahimsa Foundation conveys Hearty Congratulations to all the winning candidates.

Jain candidate who lost in the election are

1. Pushp Jain BJP from Pali (Rajsthan)
2. Satyapaul Jain BJP Chandigarh
3. Smt Urmila Jain INC from Jhalawar(Rajsthan)



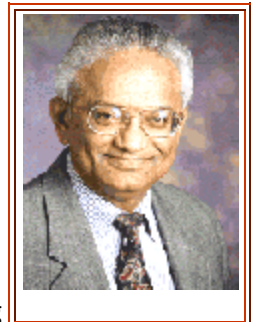
PRADEEP KUMAR JAIN BECOMES UNION MINISTER

Pradeep Kumar Jain 'Aditya', new member of parliament elected from Jhansi, has joined the union cabinet as a Minister of State. Elected from Jhansi constituency in Bundelkhand, 47-year-old Jain is not only a first-timer in the Union ministry but a first-time MP as well. Before becoming a MP, he was the sitting MLA from Jhansi Assembly constituency.

Sources in the UPCC said Jain is regarded as a diligent worker, who has worked hard to revive the party in the Bundelkhand region. Since Bundelkhand is said to be close to Rahul Gandhi's heart and Jain is regarded as one of the younger lot, he fits in Gandhi's vision for 2012. Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh. "His name comes as a surprise. But the fact that he comes from Bundelkhand explains it all. It will certainly give a boost to the region. He is regarded as a grassroots-level worker in the party."

PROF. KANTI JAIN ELECTED TO US ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

Kanti Jain, professor, department of electrical and computer engineering, University of Illinois, Urbana. has been elected to one of the most prestigious institutions of engineers in United States of America . The National Academy of Engineering has elected 65 new members and nine foreign associates. This brings the total U.S. membership to 2,246 and the number of foreign associates to 197. Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.



Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to engineering research, practice, or education and engineering literature.. Courtesy: Dr. Sulekh C. Jain, Houston, Texas, USA



NITIN JAIN FROM FARIDABAD TOPS IN IIT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - IIT JEE topper Nitin Jain doesn't see what the fuss is about. The shy teenager says it's a goal he set two years ago and has steadily worked for. But consider the numbers: Jain secured the first rank in the IIT entrance exam for 2009, taken by 3.8 lakh students in the country and abroad. From Delhi zone alone, 60,852 students took the test, of which a mere 1,524 were successful. Nationwide, 10,035 students qualified. Nitin's teachers at Modern Vidya Niketan burst crackers to celebrate the unprecedented honour. Nitin's father, N C Jain, says the future was charted by the teenager long ago. I wanted him to do CA but he said he wanted to be a computer engineer. I once asked if he thought he could get into IIT. He said there was no doubt. Nitin, known as a science wizard in school, has won a gold medal in the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics in Indonesia and will soon head to Mexico for another science olympiad. The education minister of Indonesia had also invited him to join the Bardung Institute of Technology for engineering, Nitin's father said. Nitin scored 95% aggregate in his Class XII board exams.



N. K. JAIN, NEW DELHI TO GET RASHTRIYA RATTAN AWARD

Nand Kumar Jain, president of S S Jain School Committee, has been selected for the Rashtriya Rattan Award instituted by Citizens' Integration Peace Society, New Delhi. His name has been short listed for his outstanding services in the field of education.

Talking to newslines, Jain said, "The announcement of this award has come as a surprise to me. I have been serving this management for 25 years. I started serving as a member to this management." The committee headed by him runs Jain Public Senior Secondary School, Jain Girls' Sen Sec School, Devki Devi Jain Memorial College for Women and DD Jain College of Education and Atam Devki School. He said that a hospital was also started under his guidance near Neem Wala Chowk which has been doing very well.

A commerce graduate of 1977 from SCD Government College for Boys, Jain opted his family business of jewellery. He said, "My future plan is to provide more educational institutes in the city, where poor and needy children may study. Last year, we provided free of education to about 200 children."

AJIT JAIN MAY SUCCEED WARREN BUFFETT AS CEO

WASHINGTON: India born Ajit Jain is one of three top executives who could succeed billionaire investor Warren Buffett as CEO of the investment giant, Berkshire Hathaway Inc. At the company's annual meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, Buffett said it would be impossible to replace Jain at Berkshire's insurance operations, remarking: "Ajit is needed, and we won't find a substitute for him." Born in Orissa, the 57-year-old Jain is an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur and the Harvard Business School. As for Jain, this is not the first time that Buffett has showered praise on him. "Ajit's value to Berkshire is enormous," he said in 2004. In a comment a year ago, Buffett said: "Ajit came to Berkshire in 1986. Very quickly, I realised that we had acquired an extraordinary talent."



DR. SUSHIL JAIN OF WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA HONORED WITH 'AWARD OF EXCELLENCE' BY INTERNATIONAL JAIN SANGH, NEW JERSEY

Dr. Sushil Jain from Washington, DC, metropolitan area has received the 2009 "Award of Excellence" from International Jain Sangh (IJS) of New Jersey at the Mahavir Jayanti celebration program on April 19, 2009. Each year IJS honors an exceptionally worthy person, who has visibly and verifiably demonstrated a great service to further the teachings of Lord Mahavir including peace, nonviolence, education, and compassion either by practice or by influencing public policies, media coverage or through interfaith programs. Instituted in 2001, the former recipients of this prestigious award were Mr. Bawa Jain, Dr. Dhiraj H. Shah, Mr. Arvind Vora, Dr. Tansukh Salgia, Mr. Pravin K. Shah, Dr. Sulekh Jain; and Mr. & Mrs. Mahendra and Asha Mehta from Mumbai.

In his acceptance speech, Dr. Sushil Jain shared experiences of educating the main stream America about nonviolence in Jainism, drafting several policy statements for media including Jaina Code of Ethics & Conduct; Faith-based Charity, Gun control, Racial Profiling, and Affirmative action. He has written to many newspapers and magazines correcting misinformation published regarding Jainism and helped develop a dehydrated Hindu/Jain vegetarian meal for soldiers in combat environment. Dr. Jain also known as Captain Jain, an Optometric Physician and retired U.S. Naval Captain volunteered in 18 eye camp missions around the globe; and organized Jain Prayer in the U.S. Congress, as well as in Virginia and Maryland General Assembly. He was a key organizer for Jain Pilgrimage exhibit at the Washington Smithsonian Museum. Dr. Jain is currently in private practice including providing consultative services to the nation's leaders at the

White House and the U.S. Capitol. He has also received many military awards and honors including a Meritorious Service Awards Signed by President Clinton and a Legion of Merit signed by President Bush. Courtsey : Dr. Sulekh Jain, E-Mmail : scjain@earthlink.net

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & OTHER EVENTS

STHANAKWASI JAIN CONFERENCE ELECTIONS DECLARED

All India Sthanakwasi Jain Conference will hold its next Bi Annual National Elections on 21st June. These elections are being held for total 112 positions in the organisation i.e. one National President, 13 Regional Presidents & 97 Working Committee Members. Nomination papers will be received up to 16th May at the Head Quarters of the Conference located at Jain Bhawan, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg, Gole Market, New Delhi – 01. Conference has history of intense competition amongst its members and participants use everything possible to succeed.

In past Conference Elections some prominent Jain Saints also expressed their opinions on aspiring candidates. However, this time Sri Roop Muni, Pravartak of Shraman Sangh & Mahamantri Sri Saubhgyamalji Maharaj Saheb have issued guidance note to all saints for avoiding discussion about the elections. We wish the Conference all the success in conducting the electoral process peacefully and successfully.



YOUNG JAINS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION - 2009

Young Jains events are open to all members and non-members, and welcome you to explore your values, beliefs and practices. Young Jains International Convention is proposed to be held from 17th to 19th July 2009 - Online Registration Now Open. To request your registration form, contact Rishma Shah, E-Mail : registration@youngjains.org.uk or call 0794 9794 312. The venue of the program is Canons High School, Shaldon Road, Edgware, UK. The Young Jains International Convention looks into the fundamentals of the timeless Jain tradition in a very real sense. It explores essential areas that will help youth to get better grasp on life.

NATIONAL VIRTUE DEVELOPMENT CAMP AT LADNUN

Acharya Mahapragya in his address of opening ceremony of National Virtue Development Camp said that special stress to be given to develop the Jain philosophy intellectuals. Today person is choosing MBBS, Engineering, C. A. as their carrier which is good from the view of economic prosperity but the attention towards building virtues & character become vanishing simultaneously. Hence some children should target to become the experts in Indian philosophy and to be a Jain Intellectuals. We have the inbuilt characteristics of morality & generosity but polish is required to remove the dust gathering over. This training camp is to polish out the virtues so that the inner personality also glitters with the outer one. This camp is organized by Jain Shwetamber Terapanthi Mahasabha in which nearly 250 participants from all corners of India are participating.



JAIN EDUCATION



ISSJS 2009 IS AN INTERNATIONAL JAIN INSTITUTION

The third ISSJS 2009 Summer School program started (April) in Bangkok , Thailand and will end in July in New Delhi. This unique Summer School program started five years ago, has made good progress . Professor Cromwell Crawford (Prof. Emeritus, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, USA) , Chairman of the ISJS Academic Council sent the following message to the ISSJS 2009 Class. ISSJS has now expanded to three Stand Alone programs; One month long ISSJS in Thailand (at Mahidol University, in Bangkok) which started on 23 April, 2009, One month long ISSJS in India which will start on 23rd May, 2009 and Two month. ISSJS in India will start on June 1st, 2009 as in the previous years. The total enrollment in the three programs is 45 scholars; 17 in Thailand, 13 in ISSJS one month program in India and 15 in ISSJS two month program in India. This year scholars from 6 countries (USA, Canada, U. K, Belgium, Spain and Thailand) are participating. ISSJS 2009 Class will consist of, 10 full time teaching faculties, 6 PhDs, 4 Grad Students and rest Undergrads. This also includes 2 distinguished Professors attending ISSJS 2009 program.

Prof. Padmanabh Jaini, Prof. Emeritus at University of California, Berkeley, California will also be teaching. In addition, he will also deliver public lectures at Jaipur and Mumbai. Parshwanath Vidhya Peeth, Varanasi is being revived and upgraded right now to open as a year round study cum residential ISJS –PV Global Center for Ahimsa & Indology Research in Varanasi,

India. Dr. Pankaj Jain; a 2006 Alumnus of ISSJS and now a faculty member at North Carolina State University will be offering a regular on-line course in Jainism . With ISSJS 2009 the Summer School Programme would have served about 120 scholars from 30 universities.

DIKSHA CELEBRATIONS

DIGAMBAR JAIN DIKSHA FESTIVAL AT KUNDALPUR

Kundalpur is a religious pilgrimage destination, formed exclusively of Jain temples built on the surrounding hills. The place has a divine and peaceful feeling to it. The white temples are connected through paths. .The occasion was Diksha Ceremony where fifty women embraced the Jain mother positions. They swore celibacy and renounced possessions. The ceremony took place in a huge tent, filled with thousands of Jain followers. The Jain Mothers, called 'Aryikas' wear white saris and the part of the sari covering their heads has blood spots. The Jain saints and Aryikas have shaved heads. They use their own hands to pull their hair out. The ceremony was attended by over eighty Digambar saints and also . Acharya Vidya Sagar Ji Maharaj.



AN YOUNG DEVOTEE FROM USSR PREPARED TO ACCEPT MUNI DIKSHA IN TERAPANTH SECT

An 11 years old boy named, Mark Kovalov belonging to USSR is keen to accept diksha and become a Jain Muni with the blessings and inspiration of Acharya Shri Mahapragya, head of Shwetambar Terapanth sect. Presently, he is busy learning Hindi and studying Jain literature and has been moving with Acharya Shri and other saints for the last two months. He mentioned that he became acquainted with Jain philosophy, while studying the subject of 'Universology' in Germany. He had come to know about Preksha Dhyana propagated by Acharya Mahapragya two years ago from a close relative in Russia. He then came to India with his mother, and collected information about Jain religion before returning to Russia. Inspired by the Jain philosophy, he soon came back to India and joined the group moving with Acharya Shri Mahapragya. He has travelled with the Acharya Shri from Bidasar to Ladnun and is now fully prepared to accept Muni Diksha from Acharya Shri.

STHANAKWASI SECT - Vairagi Shri Amrit Kumarji accepted Jain Bhagwati Diksha in the holy presence and blessings of veteran saint, Shri Sumati Prakash Ji Maharaj belonging to Shwetambar Sthanakwasi Shraman Sangh at Rohtak. Other eminent saints and Sadhwi present on the occasion included Yuvacharya Dr. Vishal Muni, Shri Padm Muni Ji, Acharya Shri Subhagra Muni Ji, Shri Achal Muni Ji, Shri Agam Muni Ji, Shri Alok Muni Ji, Sadhwi Shri Shanti Ji, Shri Yashojyoti Ji, Shri Vandana Ji and many others.

BOOKS NEWLY RELEASED

THE KEY TO THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE - By Hermann Kuhn : (A practicable English translation of Umasvami's Tattvarthasutra), Sanskrit text + English translation 200 x 140 mm 204 pages Paperback Rs. 120. Time and again we receive fleeting glimpses of other modes of our consciousness. In his Tattvarthasutra, Acarya Umasvami explored dimensions of the human consciousness. Hermann Kuhn studied Indian philosophy and yoga for 25 years before he came across the Tattvarthasutra for the first time. He studied the Tattvarthasutra under his Jain guru Acarya Aryanandi and discovered for himself hitherto unknown dimensions of human experience.

KARMA THE MECHANISM - By Hermann Kuhn : Reprinted in India by Shri Jain Sanskriti Sanrakshak Sangh, English, 198 x 138 mm 240 pages Paperback Rs. 150. Hermann Kuhn studied Indian philosophies, mysticism and Yoga for 25 years in India from Mahesh Yogi and Acharya Aryanandi Ji. His study of the Tattvarthasutra, an Indian text describing "uncharted dimensions of our consciousness" led him to a spiritual journey that resulted in spiritual experiences. Kuhn's translation of the Tattvarthasutra is fresh, thought-provoking and uniquely endowed with insights available to the mendicant. This book has an incisively brilliant English rendition of the third part of the Tattvarthasutra (chapters 6, 8 and part of chapter 9). It alerts us to deep rooted mechanisms that govern all our actions and tells us how to control them. The work contains all sutras of the Tattvarthasutra that explain the karmic mechanisms relevant to our present times. Special efforts have been made to present the practical aspects of the Tattvarthasutra - the mechanisms of action and the development of hidden abilities - in an easily applicable way. A modern commentary accompanies the ancient Sanskrit text.

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Jain June Month Festivals



Courtesy Dr. Rajendera Muni, Delhi

S.No.	Date	Festivals
1.	03.06.2009	Nirjala Ekadashi
2.	04.06.2009	Sri Suparsavnath Janm, Tap Kalyanak
3.	09.06.2009	Sri Adinath Garbh Kalyanak
4.	14.06.2009	Sri Vasupujya Garbh Kalyanak
5.	16.06.2009	Sri Vimal Nath Moksh Kalyanak
6.	18.06.2009	Sri Neminath Janm, Tap Kalyanak
7.	27.06.2009	Sri Mahavir Garbh Kalyanak
8.	27.06.2009	Diksha Diwas, Acharya Shri Aatmaramji M. S.(S.S.)
9.	28.06.2009	Sri Neminath Garbh Kalyanak
10.	29.06.2009	Starting of Ashtanhika Parv

MISCELLANEOUS

RELIC WITH TRACES OF JAINISM DISCOVERED IN SOUTH INDIA

MYSORE: Archaeologists involved with excavations at historic Talakad village have found an inscribed stela which authenticates the existence of Jainism in the region. According to a press release issued by the archaeology department here, this inscribed stela with a Jain image dated to 978-79 AD was unearthed from already excavated Basadi site at Talkad. The inscription reads that sage Balachandramuni known for his unblemished character and quality attained heaven in 978 AD, the release says , adding that this "nishidige" was created by Kundana Somidevi. Archaeology director Gopal said this relic and inscription throws open a flood of information on several facets of Jain culture. Balachandramuni was the disciple of Maladharideva of Kondakundanvaya, Desigana and Pustakamnaya, and a great scholar. The team of archaeologists included M. S. Krishnamurthy, R. Gopal and T. S. Gangadhara, ephigraphist H. M. Nagaraj Rao deciphered the inscription.

MAHAVIR HOSPITAL IN PATNA ADDS YET ANOTHER FEATHER IN ITS CAP - Bihar

State Religious Board chairperson Acharya Kishore Kunal, in Patna inaugurated the functioning of the Intensive Care Unit and the Heart Disease Medical Unit at the Mahavir Arogya Sansthan saying the new facilities would prove to be a boon for the people with moderate to poor financial means. Prominent Heart specialist Dr. A. K. Thakur, while thanking Kunal for his dedication in the area of public health, said no religion in the world was bigger than the religion of serving the poor and the impoverished.



MAHAVIR MANDIR TRUST IN PATNA TO ARRANGE MARRIAGES

PATNA: Mahavir Mandir Trust is going to arrange marriages of such brides, whose parents have either died in accidents or were killed in heinous crimes, provided they did not have criminal antecedents. As per a press release issued by the trust , marriages would be solemnised in the Mandap on the sprawling campus at Kadamkuan recently vacated from the illegal possession of Asaram Bapu and his disciples. The trust would provide services of priests for solemnisation of marriages and gift a `sari' to the bride and `dhoti' to the groom.

Marriages would be performed with all simplicity and without any band or dance party or loudspeakers, he said, adding that maximum persons allowed from each party would be 25 only and simple meal would be provided for a maximum group of 50 for both sides.

AHIMSA

PEOPLE COME FORWARD TO LOVE WILD ANIMALS IN BHOPAL

In Bhopal, animal lovers are adopting animals under the scheme launched by Van Vihar authorities. Several people have come forward to adopt these animals and express their love for these unspeakable animals. The Van Vihar authorities when started this scheme, they have never thought that large number of people will turn up for this noble cause and offer their interest to adopt animal of their choice. But one by one people started coming to adopt wild animals after paying fixed amount for their food, care and treatment.

The Director of Van Vihar National Park, SS Rajput informed that people who are interested to adopt wild animal can pay nominal charges and they can adopt the animal for limited days or months. He said hundreds of people visit this National Park daily and some of them develop love and affection for these animals and they offer their interest to adopt some of them. He informed that few organisations and industrial houses have also shown their interest for adopting wild animal. Van Vihar is offering this scheme for animal lovers who are interested to keep wild creatures as pet, this is possible in Van Vihar only, because the law of our country does not permit to keep wild animal in captivity. He said that people who have adopted wild animals are permitted to see their animal free of cost, they don't have to pay to enter the National Park.

Initiatives taken by forest authorities have started showing the fruitful result. Recently white tiger and one panther has been adopted by Tata Indicom Company for one year. The company had paid Rs 1.25 lakh for tiger Bhagat and Rs 50,000 paid for panther Traga. After being adopted by the people and companies these animals will not depend on government money as they have many more people to care of them.

Species	Annual Expenditure
Tiger	125000
Lion	110000
Leopard	50000
Bear	65000
Hyena	30000
Brown Bear	8000
Jackal	25000
Crocodile	30000
Python	6000
Other Snakes	2000

HEALTH & VEGETARIANISM

ASPIRIN : Why Aspirin by your bed ? It is important to always have ASPIRIN at home! It save lives ... About Heart Attacks - There are other symptoms of an heart attack besides the pain on the left arm. One must also be aware of an intense pain on the chin, as well as nausea and lots of sweating, however these symptoms may also occur less frequently. There may be no pain in the chest during an heart attack. The majority of people (about 60%) who had an heart attack during their sleep, did not wake up. However, if it occurs, the chest pain may wake you up from your deep sleep. If that happens, Immediately Dissolve Two Aspirins In Your Mouth and swallow them with a bit of water. Afterwards, phone a neighbour or a family member who lives very close by and state "HEART ATTACK!!!" and that you have taken 2 ASPIRINS. Take a seat on a chair or sofa and wait for their arrival and Do not lie down !!

A Cardiologist has stated that, if each person, after receiving this e-mail, sends it to 10 people, probably a life can be saved! Courtesy: E-Mail : schordiya29@gmail.com, Kothari Ratan, E-Mail: kothari_rl@yahoo.co.in

HISTORY

RISE AND FALL OF JAINISM IN SRILANKA

In Sri Lanka also before the advent of Buddhist religion, Jain religion was well entrenched. This has been substantially proved from old Buddhist literature. The Buddhist literature in Sri Lanka, 'Mahavansh and the ancient text 'Deepvansh' mention that Jainism existed during the reign of the early 21 kings in Lanka (10 B.C. to 3A.D), but was later destroyed by king Vattagamini. Jainism crossed India from South India at about eighth century B.C., if not earlier, and become one of the most important religions of Ceylon, which was known in those days by the name of Lanka, Ratnadvipa or Simhala. The Mahavamsa (10.65-70; 33. 43-79) refers to the existence of Jainism in Ceylon even before the arrival of Buddhism. According to it, Pandukabhaya built a house at Anuradhapur for the Nigantha Jotiya and Giri and some more Niganthas, Jain tradition takes the history of Jainism in Ceylon even prior to its Aryanization, or the Arrival of the Aryans. Ravana, a king of Lanka long ago is said to have erected a Jain temple there at Trikutagiri. Another statue of Parsvanatha, the 23rd Jina found in the caves of Terapur is also said to be from Srilanka. Jainism was a living religion of Srilanka up to the 10th A.D.

JAINISM IN CEYLON

It would be relevant here to give a short account of the presence of Jainism in Ceylon centuries before Buddhism. Dr.Bhagchandra Jain has given authoritative evidence of Jainism in Ceylon in his Jainism in Buddhist Literature, with a Foreward by Dr.Hira Lal Jain which is his Thesis approved for the degree of Ph.D. of the Vidyodaya University of Ceylon : "Jainism crossed India from south in about the eighth century B.C. if not earlier, and became one of the important religions of Ceylon, which was known in those days by the name of Lanka Ratnadvipa or Simhala. (Mahavamsa, 10. 53-59 (tran)..Mahavamsa, pp. 67..ibid. xxxiii. 43-44..ibid, xxxiii. 79.)" As recounted by Dr.Bhagchandra Jain: "The Mahavamsa, the best-known and most authoritative Ceylonese Chronicle in Pali verse, refers to the existence of Jainism in Ceylon even before the arrival of Buddhism.... The five hundred families of heretical beliefs and the construction of Viharas to the Niganthas on behalf of the king of Lanka, Pandukabhaya, indicate clearly that Jainism was a living religion in Ceylon during his reign. Pandukabhaya's period, deduced on the basis of the date of Buddha's death as 544 B.C., is supposed to be 438-368 B. C. Jainism had apparently been introduced to Ceylon before Pandukabhaya. It could have been even before the arrival of Vijaya. One may wonder whether a name like Arittha (i, e. that of Devanampiya Tissa's minister) had any connection with the Jaina Tirthankara of that name. Mahavamsa, ibid. 10. 65. And further: "Jainism continued to exist even after the establishment of Buddhism in the Island. Its existence during the first century B. C. is recorded in the Mahavamsa. It is said that after a battle with the Tamila, king Vatthagamini Abhaya who was defeated fled out of the city. A Nigantha named Giri saw him and cried out loudly. "The great black Simhal is running away" (palayati mahakala Simhalo ti bhusam ravi). When the great king heard this he thought "If my wish be fulfilled I will build a Vihara here" (sidhe mama manorathe viharam karessam) ibid. xxxiii. 43-44. Hence, after a few years when he drove away the Damila Dathika from Anuradhapura and regained his throne, he destroyed the Jaina monastery and built Abhayagiri Vihara in that place. ibid, xxxiii. 79." Source: Atul Bafna, E-Mail : abafna@yahoo.com



FALL OF JAINISM AND BUDDHISM IN KERALA

The great Chandra Gupta Mourya and the Jain Saint Bhadrabahu are supposed to have visited Karnataka during the 3rd Century BC. Jain missionaries are also said to have visited Tamilnadu. The great Ilango Adigal, the author of the Silpaddikaram, is believed to have been a Jain patron. It is well known that Kerala was under the suzerainty of Cheras. It was, therefore, easier for the Jains to seek immigration into Kerala. Sravanabelagola in the state of Karnataka is one of the greatest centres of Jainism (Digambara) in South India even today. There are evidences of Jain influence penetrating to the South into Kerala. Kasargod which borders Karnataka could be cited as an example. At the nearby Manjeswaram there is a Chaturmukh Jain temple. There are four idols of Adinath, Shantinath, Chandranath and Mahavira looking at the four directions. Another Jain structure is in Wayanad which was used by Hindus and later taken over by Tipu Sultan for housing his armory. This is known as Sultan Battery. The Wayanad area is still home to more than 200 Jain families. Another granite structure is at Jainimedu, Palakkad. It is 20' wide and 32' long housing Tirthankaras. Coming still further down, at Irinjalakuda, the Koodalmanikyam temple is also believed to have been a Jain temple dedicated to their Saint Bharateswara. Presently it is a Hindu shrine with Bharata the brother of Lord Rama, in a standing posture inside. Strangely, there are no idols of any other gods in the periphery. Generally we come across lord Ganesha (Vinayaka) in every temple. Perhaps this is the only temple in the country dedicated to Bharata. Incidentally, we find temples of all the four brothers of the Ramayana epic around Thrissur.

Within an hour's drive towards the South, at Methala, 13 km's from Perumbavoor, we come across the Kallil Bhagawathi temple. It is a cave temple with carvings of Parswanath, Mahavira and Padmavathi reckoned to be of the 9th Century AD!. Jain monks seem to have come to this place finding an atmosphere of peace and tranquility conducive to meditation. Historical events in the sub continent lend support to assume that Jains and Buddhists had a presence in Kerala even prior to the Christian Era. While Jains entered Kerala from the North, Buddhists, on the other hand, seem to have gained entry from the South. Their decline which started somewhere in the 8th Century AD is mainly attributed to influx of Brahmins from the North, advent of Shankaracharya and the revival of the Vedic Culture. Both the faiths were completely assimilated and merged with Hinduism. People were back into the Hindu fold. Their Viharas and temples were taken over and Hindu shrines built, some for Bhagawathi and some for Lord Shiva. The Buddhist shrines must have been circular in shape for their Chaityas and the Hindu temples replacing them too followed suit. This is the obvious impact the Buddhist designs had on the temple architecture of Kerala. Most of the Jain temples were of the North Indian pattern excepting for the roof. They had their cave dwellings for their monks, which also were used to place Hindu deities.

"A historical and sect-based theory that attempts to explain the rite of polluting of the temple holds that originally Sri Kuramba Kavu was the shrine of a Jain goddess or a Buddhist vihara for nuns (see Obeyesekere 1984, 518-20). The Chera emperors whose capital was at Vanji, probably near or at Kodungallur, protected and supported Jain and Buddhist communities. The Buddhists flourished in Kerala during the fourth to the eighth centuries C.E.(Obeyesekere 1984, 517). At the end of this period, with the migrations of groups of Brahmin settlers into Kerala, the religious climate began to change. The caste system as defined by the southern Indian Brahminism was gradually extended over the diverse residents, altering the social, ritual, and political positions of the different segments of the population. By the twelfth century Buddhism had virtually disappeared and the cult of the goddess Kali was in the ascendent. This growth led to the re-consecration of Jain and Buddhist sanctuaries as Bhagavati temples (Induchudan 1969, 200-201). In order to get the nuns to leave their residence at Kodungallur, low- caste devotees of Bhagawati were persuaded to throw animals and filth into the sanctuary (Induchudan 1969, 39). It was then rededicated to Bhadrakali and lost its institutional association with the Jains or Buddhists and with the Jain goddess Kannaki of the fourth century epic Shilappadikaram (The affair of the anklet). The worship of Kannaki was absorbed into the Kali cult, and the polluting of the temple during Bharani commemorates the original confrontation and transfer of liturgical control." From what has been observed above, it would be evident that Buddhism and Jainism ceased to exist in Kerala only after/around 12th Century AD. Courtesy: Vinod Kumar, E-Mail : vinodd_bh@yahoo.com

DEVLOK GAMAN

Acharya Shri Sudarshan Lal Ji Maharaj, coming from Nanak-Vansh (Sthanakwasi sect) breathed his last and left for his heavenly abode at the age of 86 years at Shalimar Bagh Sthanak in New Delhi. He has left behind in his sect, Shri Priya Darshan Muni Ji, and five other learned saints and four Sadhwi, S. Shri Dr. Gyan Lata Ji, Dr. Darshan Lata Ji, Dr. Charitra Lata Ji and Shri Kamal Prabha Ji. Dr. Shiv Muni Ji, Acharya of Shraman Sangh has expressed that his demise would be an irreparable loss to the Jain community. Thousands of devotees from Delhi and other places joined the funeral procession and paid their homage.

Sadhwi Shri Nayan Jyoti Ji, belonging to Shraman Sangh group of Swetambar Sthanakwasi sect breathed her last at Udaipur in Rajasthan on the 19th May, 2009. Hundreds of devotes, both gents and ladies joined the funeral procession, which was accompanied with office-bearers of Shraman Sangh, Shrawak Sangh, representatives of various other sects and eminent persons from the town. A police band also accompanied the procession . His body was kept in a 'baikunthi' called Moksha Rath.

DIAMOND KING VASANTBHAI SANGHAVI PASSES AWAY - 1946-2009

Vasantbhai R. Sanghavi, chairman of Sanghavi Exports Intl. Pvt. Ltd. passed away following a severe heart attack on May 16. He was 63 years old. The second of six children, Sanghavi was born to a well-to-do Jain family in Deesa, Gujarat where his father had a thriving money lending business. He received his physics and chemistry B. Sc. Degree from the Gujarat College in Ahmedabad. Following a brief stint as a chemistry and mathematics teacher, Sanghavi joined his older brother and became a Government contractor. Due to health problems, in 1977 he left construction to join his younger brothers who were diamond traders. Sanghavi opened his first overseas office in Hong Kong in 1985 and later expanded its operations to South Korea. Quickly the company expanded its operations and opened branches in other major markets, including New York, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Singapore and Antwerp. After the company expanded its manufacturing operations, and added jewelry manufacturing to its portfolio, it gained a Diamond Trading Company (DTC) Sight in 1997.



In Sanghavi brought the Sangini brand from the DTC. Today the group companies have offices in South Africa, Ghana, Congo, Angola, Israel, Russia and Dubai. Among his philanthropic activities, Sanghavi supported several Jain temples and donated generously to animal charities that take care of crippled and abandoned animals.

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