



# JAIN AHIMSA TIMES

IN COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR 14 CONTINUOUS YEARS  
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"Ahimsa Times"

condemns the unprovoked attacks on innocent civilians,  
in Mumbai, where the victims belonged to many religions and countries,  
We also hope that the Government will put their acts together to drive the terrorists out of business.

## REMEMBRANCE IN NEW YORK IN SOLIDARITY WITH MUMBAI



Many faith leaders joined hands on the steps of New York's City Hall on Monday December 1, 2008, to speak out against the terror attacks in Mumbai and to show support to their sister city in India. This meeting was arranged by the New York Board of Rabbis and the Interfaith Center of New York. The speakers included Rabbi Potasnik from the Board of Rabbis, Dr. Mysorekar from Hindu Temple, **Naresh Jain from Jain community**, Shamsi Ali from Islamic Culture Center, and Jaspreet Singh from United Sikhs. This show of support was followed by a Memorial – An Evening of Remembrance in solidarity with Mumbai at the Queensborough Performing Arts Center on Thursday, December 4, 2008. Naresh Jain represented JAINA and International Jain Sangh in this event attended by community, religious and political

leaders; as well as the academics and the media. Naresh was one of the two speakers in this gathering that were close to the families who had lost their loved ones. Naresh Jain is also a trustee in the Chicago based Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions.

In the aftermath of such a tragedy, revenge is a natural reaction. Naresh Jain urged the good people of all faiths to control that reaction. "Our hearts go out to all who have died, got injured or who have lost a loved one. I hope that these acts of violence will deepen our resolve to work more diligently to build stronger bridges of respect and understanding". A joint statement against terror in Mumbai was made by the organizers and participants & signed by the speakers; community and faith leaders present during that evening. Courtsey: Dr. Sulekh Jain, E-Mail: scjain@earthlink.net

## TEMPLES

### ANDHRA JAIN TEMPLE OPENS FOR PILGRIMS AFTER 20 YEARS



Hyderabad : The 2,500-year-old Sri Shwetambar Jain Tirth temple was reopened for pilgrims after 20 long years of renovation work. The temple at Kolanpak in Andhra Pradesh's Nalgonda district was opened Sunday after a day-long special puja, called "pran-pratishta" of a four-faced idol of Jain deities "Chaumukha", which was performed by Acharya Rajesh Surishwar. Hundreds of devotees from various parts of the country and abroad, besides Home Minister K. Jana Reddy and local public representatives participated in the event. About 150 Jains from United States also took part in the puja at the temple, which is considered as one of the top 10 Jain pilgrimage centres. The temple authorities said over 1,000 workers, artisans and stone cutters worked for two decades to complete the renovation work at a cost of Rs. 110 million. Jain philanthropists and members of the community in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat donated the amount. Out of the total 20 acre land, the temples stood on one acre. The remaining land houses a dharamshala, guest houses with about 160

rooms, a museum and a library for visitors.

## NEW JAIN TEMPLE AT RANCHI TO HOLD PANCH-KALYANAK FROM DECEMBER 7 TO 13



Ranchi, This temple is the first of its kind in eastern India. Made of red teracotta stones, every brick of the temple was worshiped before being used. The statue of Tirthankar Bhagwan Vasupujya, one of the most sacred for all Jains, has been installed here. Devotion, meditation and propagation of Jain religion and are the main objectives behind constructing this unique structure. The marvel of architecture sprawls over an area of 9200 sqft. It took around two years to construct the temple. An array of semi-circular steps lead towards the main entrance.

A 38 ft high massive dome sits on the top of the main hall, while a 5.25 ft high statute of Vasupujya rests on a beautiful lotus in the sanctum sanctorum. The statute has been so installed that it is visible right from the road side. The temple has been constructed strictly in adherence to the Nagar style of architecture, a traditional Jain temple-building art. Every feature of the temple is unique because of the choicest raw materials brought from far-off places. While the idol has been made by the artisans of Jaipur using the biozolia stones of Rajasthan, the sanctum sanctorum has been crafted out of the famous marbles of Makrana in Rajasthan. The 12ft high main gate is made of pure brass. Not an ounce of iron has been used in the construction of the 65 ft wide sanctum sanctorum. The walls of the temple are adorned by paintings depicting 16 dreams of Jain Maa. Two umbrellas have been installed on the grounds of the temple for the convenience of the devotees. Not only this, there is provision for rest places. A seven-day panch kalyanak ceremony (pran prathishta) shall be held from December 7 to 13, after which the temple will be opened for worship. Shri Ratan Lal Jain Charitable Trust has financed the construction of the temple.

### IDOL WEIGHING 100 TONS TO BE INSTALLED AT SHIVGANJ

A new Jain temple complex, called "Abhinav Mahavir Dham, devoted to Bhagwan Mahavir is under construction at a place close to Shiv ganj, on the bank of river javai in Rajasthan.. A massive stone idol is going to be built, which is expected to weigh as much as 100 tons. Entire work of producing the idol will be carried out at the site of the temple The Muhurat ceremony for starting the chiseling work of the idol was carried out recently in the holy presence of Jain saint Pranyas Bhadranan Maharaj and many other saints and sadhwi. The local businessmen and trustees of the temple, namely Shri Umed mal ji and Shri Shanti Lal ji Shobhawat, evinced great interest in conducting the ceremony and collecting funds for the construction of the temple. It was a tremendous task to remove a single piece of marble stone and transport it from the stone mine at Makrana in Rajasthan to the site of the temple. The 100 ton stone piece measured 20 ft. in length, 14 ft. in width and 7 ft. in depth. A specialist team was called from Delhi to handle the operation. It took 6 months time to cut out the piece of stone from the mine by 20 workers.

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### SAINTS

#### RELATIVITY; TRUTH-ORIENTED APPROACH, ACHARYA MAHAPRAGYA



Jain Acharyas developed a Science of Politics which is founded on relativity and synthesis. We have before us the individual and society. Some people have an absolute individualistic mentality. They make the individual wholly responsible. Others emphasize the role of society. In political systems, particularly in the socialist and communist ones, the entire responsibility is placed on society, whereas for an individualist, the development of the individual is of supreme importance. However, for a political ideologist, social progress is all that matters. But unless we have a relative approach, the relationship between the individual and society and an absolutely socialized individual have little worth. Socially-oriented individual and individual-oriented society are what really matter and with them alone can the process of right development be advanced.

The principle behind the truth-oriented approach is-relativity. This relativity is also developed through self-identification and logic. Not mere logic, nor insight alone. Not only spirituality, nor conduct alone. Stress on conduct alone, gives rise to grossness. So much grossness that truth is left far behind. With transcendentalism alone, spirituality stands weakened, both are necessary-the transcendental and the empirical.



In other words, the sect is necessary; so is spirituality. Spirituality unrelated to the sect may be useful for some individuals, but it is of little use to the public. A person might benefit there from: their path remains undetermined, community is necessary, so is the Order. Organization, oppose the sect and the Order as well, those who talk of being alone, of solitariness, are also not able to grasp the truth. They seem to be prejudiced in favor of solitude. One or two persons might benefit from being world? One comes to take it for granted that by retiring into a Himalayan cave, one will be able to lead a peaceful life. But on other side the whole atmosphere is polluted. There is not a spot in the world which is free from contamination. Where could an individual go to? In what cavern will he seek refuge? To what hollow will he retire in search of solitude? It is a contagious world. A thought arises in the mind of a person sitting here, and the atoms of that thought spread throughout the world. Nothing is

spared—neither the Himalayas nor any cave.

In this world of fast transmission, what amour has we to protect ourselves? In this direction, the Veetrage have endeavored to create a good world, where people might live righteously, and where an order of noble men, an exemplary, ethical society and community might come into being. If this does not come about, a dreadful situation might arise. Even a veetaraga is obliged to live out his life. His mind may remain unsullied, but his body will certainly be affected by the state of world. He will not be spiritually sick because of ill thought, but he can be physically ill because of the vitiated atmosphere. The food he is given might make him ill. The world in which he lives, the people in whose midst he spends his life-it is a veetaragi's duty to inspire them to move in the direction of veetaragat. So there is nothing evil about an organized Order or community. It is even necessary to have some organization or community. We should accept the truth to be found in an Order or community, derive inspiration and support from a transcendental view, so as to develop spirituality in ourselves. Without spirituality and transcendentalism, the Order or organization will be reduced to a mere skeleton devoid of life, glory and consciousness.

Acharya Sri has brought about a revolution in the field of religion. He taught his disciples to be objective and impartial, so that they are completely free from communalism. In the field of philosophy, too, Acharya Sri has propounded new values. He has established contact with lakhs and lakhs of people. In this sphere, Acharya Sri and his disciples have put in a Herculean efforts, with the result, that some who were estranged, while many who stood far away, have come closer. Great men never follow a beaten track. There are many who follow a tradition; rare are those who further develop a tradition even while keeping in it. Acharya Bhikshu, Jayacharya and Acharya Tulsī are among those great men who have through their achievements extended the frontiers of traditions.

## CONFERENCES & EVENTS

### INSTITUTE OF JAINOLOGY CELEBRATED AHIMSA DAY AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS



London, October 2008. UK: The Institute of Jainology held its sixth annual Ahimsa (non-violence) Day at the House of Commons. The annual event, sponsored by the Labour, Lib-dem and Conservative 'Friends of India' groups, is attended by MPs, Ministers, Lords, the Jain community and others and celebrates the central Jain tenet of 'non-violence' as a means to growth and prosperity.

This year, Lord David Puttnam, Labour Peer and President of UNICEF UK delivered the key note speech on 'alleviating global poverty'. As President of UNICEF UK, he said he had seen at first hand the poverty, hunger and lack of basic health and education provision for children in many countries. He argued passionately that our lack of action will see this becoming commonplace, and that tackling environmental issues and fighting poverty needs to be an urgent priority now for countries and industry.

Other speakers included Minister for London and Employment, the Rt Hon Tony McNulty MP, who spoke about ahimsa as being more than a non-violent or pacifist view. He gave examples from the life of Mahatma Gandhi ji to illustrate how conviction and non-violent action can achieve great outcomes.

The Ahimsa Award for 2008 was given to Acharya Mahapragya, Spiritual head of the Jain Terapanth Sect and a Jain monk for over 75 years. He is widely accredited with the rediscovery of Jain meditation – Preksha Dhyana, promoting Jain lay vows widely and achieving harmony during the recent sectarian riots.

The award was collected by the Choradia Family and two UK resident Samanijis (Jain Terapanth Nuns) on his behalf. They read a message from the Acharya emphasising that non-violence and non-possession (or limited possession) of material goods and wealth were closely linked.

Mr. Ratilal Chandaria, Chairman of the Institute of Jainology, said: "This 6th Ahimsa Day has been an outstanding success. As Jains we are proud that our values and philosophy are respected by many Parliamentarians, who show as deep a conviction towards compassion to life as we do. We will certainly build on this in years to come."

**About Institute of Jainology, UK** -The Institute of Jainology promotes Jain philosophy and its values of compassion and non-violence towards all living beings through art, culture and education.

The Institute has many years of experience in delivering national and international Jain projects. These have included major exhibitions at the V&A (1995), publications of Jain sacred literature with contemporary English commentaries (Tattvartha Sutra, Harper Collins 1994) and an annual Ahimsa (non-violence) Day at the House of Commons. In 2007, HRH Prince Philip launched the Catalogue of Jain Manuscripts of the British Library which was compiled by the Institute over a 12 year period. The Institute also launched Discover Jainism in 2007, a book for teaching Jainism within the English National Curriculum.

In 2008, the Institute launched JAINpedia, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to digitise important Jain collections in the UK at the British Library, Wellcome Trust Library, V&A and the Bodleian Library (Oxford) and contextualise them to create a rich online resource for students, scholars and the general public. The online resource will be promoted for 4 years through local and regional exhibitions, school INSET days and events at Jain temples around the UK. From- Jaysukh Mehta, Trustee, Institute of Jainology, E-Mail: jaysukhmehta@googlemail.com, www.jainology.org

#### **PRESIDENT TO INAUGRATE WORLD PEACE SUMMIT IN HASTINAPUR**



Honorable President, Ms. Prtibha Devisingh Patil will inaugurate world peace and non-violence summit in Jambudweep, Hastinapur, Uttar Pradesh on 21st December 2008. The programme will discuss the importance of non-violence philosophy, as propounded by Lord Mahvira and carried forward by the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi in bringing about world peace, brotherhood and harmony in the present context of growing global discontent and strain. The event will see the presence of eminent scholars and over 5000 people from around the country. The programme will be held under the auspicious presence of renowned Jain sadhwi and scholar- 'Shri Ganini Gyanmati Mataji'. Pujya Mataji has written over 300 texts on jainsim and its philosophy of non violence. Hastinapur, is a central holy place for the jain community. The birth place of 3 Jain thirthankaras- Lord Shantinath, Kunthunath and Arahamath; it is also associated with many other historical events of religious and social importance. This programme will be held in the compound of Jambudweep- Jain temple complex at Hastinapur. The programme is organized by "Digambar Jain Trilok Shodh Sansthan". For any further enquires and how you can attend the event please contact the Brahmchari Shri Ravindra Kumar Jain Mobile- 09412708203. From: Anamika Jain, E-Mail: anamika\_jain1986@hotmail.com

#### **ALL-RELIGIONS MEET ORGANISED BY DIGAMBAR SECT AT BORIVALI**

The devotees of the Jain Digambar sect had organised an All-religions Conference in Nandishwar Dweep at Borivali in Mumbai on the 9th November, 08. representatives of aji jain sects, Hindu groups, Muslim, sikh and christian communities had actively participated in the deliberations of the conference. The meet was organised by the inspiration of Ganacharya Shri Virag Sagar Ji Maharaj, holding chaturmas at Borivali.

During the conference deliberations, ten eminent persons belonging to Jain community, who had made an appreciable contribution in the fields of education, trade and industry were honored. The eminent persons from different religions who attended the conference included Shri Ram Das ji Athwale, M. P., Shri Ram Naik, Past Central Minister of Petroleum, Shri P. U. Mehta, M. L. A., Shri Chandra kant Gosalia, Deputy leader of Shivsena, and Sri Manhar Cahuhan, Journalist.



## ZONAL JAIN CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT MYSORE



Bharatiya Jain Milan Zone-8 has organised its 14th Zonal conference at Sri Kshetra Kanakagiri in Chamarajanagar district on Dec. 20 and 21. About 1400 delegates are expected to participate. Swasthi Sri Bhuvanakeerthi Bhattaraka Swamiji of Sri Kshetra Kanakagiri will grace the occasion. The convention will be inaugurated by Dharmasthala Dharmadhikari Rajarshi Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade on Dec.20 On the occasion, Hemavathi Veerendra Heggade will present the Milana Shri award to Prof. N. Prabhakar in recognition of his service to Dharmasthala Education Institutions for the past 40 years. CM's Parliamentary Secretary S.A.Ramdas, MLA H.S. Mahadeva Prasad,

Bharatiya Jain Milan National Working President D. Surendra Kumar, industrialist Anil Kumar Sethi will be the chief guests. Bharatiya Jain Milan Zonal President M.S. Mruthyunjaya will preside.

The meet will have two sessions with 2 subjects each. The subject for the first session scheduled is "Birth Centenary of Justice T.K. Thukol and his contribution to the society. The second lecture by Thalthaje Vasantha Kumar, HoD, Kannada Department, Mumbai University, will be on "First golden era of Kannada literature."The second lecture will be on "Jain Religious Newspapers" by Shravanabelagola Gommatavani editor S.N. Ashok Kumar. The valedictory function will be held at 2.30 pm in the presence of Sri Bhuvanakeerthi Bhattaraka Swamiji of Sri Kshethra Kanakagiri.

## 18TH MARATHI JAIN SAHITYA SAMMELAN TO BE HELD AT AURANGABAD

Eighteenth All India Marathi Jain Sahitya Sammelan will be held at Aurangabad (Maharashtra) on 7th and 8th February 2009. There will be various seminars on Marathi literature by Jains and Jain literature in Marathi. Selected writers and scholars will be awarded for their works. There will be a Kavi Sammelan also. Many Marathi books will be published on the occasion. This is first time that Marathi Jain Sahitya Sammelan is being held in Marathwada region of Maharashtra.

Justice Bhalchandra Vagyani is elected as President of this sammelan, while Mr. Rajendra Darda (MLA), the editor of Marathi daily Lokmat is the host. The venue is Hirachand Kasliwal Gandharv Vidyalay Parisar at Shahaganj, Aurangabad. This was announced by Dr. Ravsaheb Patil, Secretary of Maharashtra Jain Sahitya Parishad, Kolhapur in a Press conference at Solapur. For further details, please call Dr. Ravsaheb Patil on 0 9822978747. Courtesy: -Mahavir Sanglikar; 9096082940

## NATIONAL SEMINAR ON PHILOSOPHY, SCIENCE AND CULTURE

Jain Vishva Bharti University organised a national seminar on Philosophy, Science and Culture on the December 20-21, 2008. The seminar was sponsored by The Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi and was organized by The Department Of Jainology and Comparative Philosophy.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### BEST JAIN JOURNALIST AWARD, MUMBAI 2006-07



The 7th Smt. Rukshmaniben Deepchand Gardi Vidyavaridh BEST JAIN JOURNALIST AWARD for the year 2007 was handed out by SHRI MUMBAI JAIN PATRAKAR SANGH at a function held on the 16th of December 2008 at Hotel Samrat –Churchgate, Mumbai. For the 2nd Consecutive Year the First Best Journalist Award was bagged by Mrs. Raksha J. Shah -Free-lance Journalist and Spiritual columnist – Mumbai Samachar, editor - Jain Prakash. The second recipient was Mrs. Parul Gandhi, while the third winner was Mr. Prabhudas Pujari.

The President, Mr. Bhupendra Mehta introduced the guests and read the Report of the Institution in the presence of dignitaries like the Shri

Dipchand Gardi, Mukesh Doshi, Champalal Vardhan, Jawaharlal shah and Vinod Doshi. Rajesh Thavani of Mid-day and Kishore Dave of Mumbai Samachar were special guests present at the occasion. Two Consolation prizes sponsored by Bhupendra Mehta were allotted to Indravadan Zaveri and Dr. Utpala Mody. NEWS COURTESY- Shri Jitendrabhai V. Virvadia and Shri Jayantilal M. Shah, Shri Prashant Zaveri - SHRI MUMBAI JAIN PATRAKAR SANGH.

## SAVITRI JINDAL A JAIN DEVOTEE FROM TERAPANATH SECT DECLARED THE RICHEST WOMAN OF INDIA



In a fresh list of richest people in India by Forbes Co., Mrs. Savitri Jindal ( 58 years ) finds her name at the 12th position from amongst 40 persons. Her total assets are estimated to be around US\$ 8.5 billion. She is a devotee of Shwetambar Terapanth sect and hails from Haryana. She is a Minister of state for Revenue, Disaster Management, Rehabilitation and Housing in Haryana Government. She is the chair-person of Jindal Group of Industries, which is composed of more than 50 plants in the country and abroad in the fields of metals, pipes and energy. Her husband, Shri O. P. Jindal, a noted industrialist had died in a helicopter crash on the 31st March, 2005. Her 4 sons, Prithviraj, Sajjan, Ratan and Naveen, run the \$6 billion (sales) steel, power empire; youngest, Naveen, is in parliament.

## UDYOG VIBHUSAN AWARD CONFERRED TO PRADEEP JAIN OF PARSVNATH DEVELOPERS



Institute of Trade and Industrial Development conferred the prestigious Udyog Vibhushan award to Mr. Pradeep Jain in its Economic Development Conference This award was awarded to Mr. Jain, who is the Chairman of the leading Indian real estate company Parsvnath Developers Limited, in recognition to his contribution to the economic development of the country. His Excellency the Governor of Gujarat, Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma inaugurated this conference. During the conference, leading entrepreneurs across the economy participated in the discussion on the theme "Role of Indian Entrepreneurs in the Economic Development". Mr. S Harcharan Singh also attended the occasion. Receiving the award, Mr. Pradeep Jain, Chairman, Parsvnath Developers Limited, said "I am honoured to receive this prestigious award. This prestigious award is a manifestation of our efforts at Parsvnath to grow and contribute to the economic development of our country. The Indian economy is resilient and will withstand these tough times. The mood at the discussion has also been optimistic that the economy will rebound"

## JUSTICE RAJENDRA MAL LODHA JOINS SUPREME COURT



Supreme Court Chief Justice K. G. Balakrishnan administered oath of office to three new judges including Justice Rajendra Mal Lodha ex Chief Justice of Patna High Court. The new judges are Justices Ashok Kumar Ganguly, Chief Justice of Madras High Court, R M Lodha, Chief Justice of Patna High Court and H L Dattu, Chief Justice of Kerala High Court. With today's appointment the total strength of the apex court judges has gone up to 25. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Mal Lodha assumed the charge of the office of Judge, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 17th December, 2008.

## DR. SANDEEP K. JAIN, CO-OPTED MEMBER, ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

Govt. of Punjab has Nominated, Dr. Sandeep K. Jain, Co-opted Member, Animal Welfare Board of India (Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India) and Chief Coordinator, CAPE-India(Care of Animals & Protection of Environment-India) as MEMBER of Newly reconstituted Punjab State Board for Wildlife. Dr. Sandeep K Jain has been active in the field of Animal Welfare and Wildlife Conservation from last one decade. He has been instrumental in Booking many cases against offenders of Wildlife Protection Act and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and rescuing animals and Wildlife.He is also Hon.WildlifeWarden & Nominee of CPCSEA(Govt of India) for various Medical colleges and Pharmacy Colleges for supervising experiments upon Animals. He has been awarded with Jeev Daya Award –2000 by Animal welfare Board of India Presented by H.E.Governor of Maharashtra and Tirthankar Vardhman Award -2007 by S.Parkash Singh Badal Chief Minister,Punjab. E-Mail: capeindia1@gmail.com

## BOOK REVIEW

**HAPPY AND HARMONIOUS FAMILY** - By Acharya Mahapragya, Published by Jain Vishva Bharati, Ladnun, Rajasthan, India.,First Edition; Price: I.N.R. Rs. 250/- \$8.0 Acharya Mahapragya, the supreme head of the Jain Shwetambar Terapanth sect, is a well-versed erudite of Jain Agamas, a highly reputed scholar of Indian and western philosophy, coordinator of science and spirituality. He is a treasure-house of deep knowledge and original thinking is one of the remarkable characteristics of his literature. He has more than one hundred and fifty books on subjects like, religion, philosophy, human behaviour, dhyana, yoga and literature to his credit. Many of his books have been printed in various regional languages and translated into English and other foreign languages.

In this book, Happy and Harmonious Family, the author has discussed at length, different aspects of living together happily and harmoniously in the family. Hindi edition of the book, named Parivar Ke Saath Kaise Rahein became very popular. A large number of solutions, various tests and contemplations have been provided in this book to overcome negative behaviour within the family. The contents of the book include topics like How to live in a family, How to maintain peaceful co-existence, How to maintain harmony, Peaceful co-existence and courtesy and discourse, Achieving bliss in life through tolerance, endurance, forgiveness and modesty, Effective mantra of peace in the family, Developing a spiritual home, Instilling good values in children, and building a moral character and vice of dowry. The book has been lucidly written in a simple language. The translation of the book into English by Sadhvi Vishrut Vibha Ji appears to have been done very painstakingly and the get-up of the book is excellent. The book will go a long way in encouraging people to understand the true meaning of a happy family. The finishing touches to the book have been given by Samani Shri Charitra Pragna Ji who is a visiting professor at Florida International University, Miami (USA).

## READERS VIEW'S

**DIALOGUE ABOUT PROACTIVISM BY JAINS** - I saw your very thought provoking article/message for the Jains to take proactive role in Indian Politics. I believe that the idea will be welcome from all corners of the society. Balaji Ganorkar E-Mail: blinst@blinstitute.org Director, B. L. Institute of Indology, Delhi 110036.

## DIALOGUE ABOUT PROACTIVISM BY JAINS



Fakirchand J. Dalal - Jains are a Resourceful Community in India and around the World. Jainism is the Most Scientific Religion with The Message of 'AHINSA' (NON-VIOLENCE). It is the Most Relevant Philosophy, particularly Now, when The Violence is perpetrated in the Name of Religions, Particularly by Fanatic Minority of Believers in Islam, and by Others Wrongly in Response to it. The Subject is deeply rooted in long History, yet the Present is very Crucial, as the Violence is at its highest level, in India and elsewhere. We don't need to go in details as it is evident by the Happenings of the recent past.

History has a Purpose, 'To Learn Lessons from the Past and Not to Repeat the Mistakes in the Present, for A Better Future'. Modern Civilization has forgotten the Cultural Values, the Accumulated Wisdom. Materialism has Swept around the World, starting with Industrial Revolution. It has Now Reached the Zenith, Led by U.S.A. and Spread Around the World in the Rat Race. This is because, The GLOBALIZATION is an Irreversible Phenomenon. It has A Brighter Side that is Overlooked by GREED and IMMORALITY. Here comes the ROLE of Basic Principles of All Religions, - Non-Violence (Ahinsa), Truth (Satya), Non-Stealing (Exploitation, Asteya), Restraint (Brahmacharya) and Detachment (Aparigraha). GLOBAL WARMING is The Symptom of Man-Made Abuse of NATURE and All the Living Souls (in Air, Water, Heat/Light, Vegetation and Earth) of the Universe. Humanitarian Principle of 'Live and Let Live' is Forgotten.

Now, What can We Do as SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUALS and as A WORLDWIDE AFFLUENT COMMUNITY?

As INDIVIDUALS, We can Do a Lot and Contribute to the Larger Good of the Society around. 'Simple Living and High Thinking' is a Forgotten Mantra. It Mostly Died with Mahatma Gandhi. Village Self-Sufficiency was his Way of Organization of the Society. Science and Technology is the Human Brain Child. We can't Go Back. Science and Religion are Not the Anti-thesis of each other. They Complement and Supplement each other. 'Religion Makes a Statement and Science Tries to Prove It'. Gandhi, while promoting 'Spinning Wheel', stated that Science should Not Dictate (RIDE OVER) Human Being, It should Help Human Beings from Drudgery'. I have been Promoting the Idea of Retirement Communities, as an Example of Simple Living for Seniors / Retirees. It Brings into Operation, All the Five Fundamental Principles for Lay(wo)men (Shravak/Shravika/s).

VEGETARIANISM / VEGANISM (Plant-Based Diet Only, Without Any ANIMAL Products, including Dairy, whatsoever): Every one of Us can Practice it for Health (Physical, Mental, and Philosophical), Compassion for ALL Lives, and Livable Planet. In DEMOCRACY, 'Vigilance is The Price (of Democracy)'. We All have to Actively Participate by VOTING and Observing Civic Sense of Cleanliness and Hygiene, etc.. We Can Join, Promote, and Participate as Individuals and as Jain Organizatins in Vegetarian, Animal Rights, Environmental Groups, etc. We can Take a Lead in the Movement. We are Resourceful enough

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to invigorate and bring about the CHANGE, if we move out of our traditions of temples, rituals, dogmas, etc. and join the wider world.

As Jain organizations, we will have to overcome divisions like Shvetamber, Digambar, Sthanakvasi, Terapanthi, Rajchandrawala, Songadhawala, Rajkotwala, etc. and remain Jains only as believers in and practitioners of Ahimsa, as the foremost principle, 'Ahimsa Paramodharma'. Divisions have made us smaller and smaller, infighting, hair-splitting, and splinter groups, ineffective to take up any worthwhile action program.

Money making has remained our only goal around the world and everything else has been the consolation. Many individuals have progressed in various directions, but as a community, we remain unknown and insignificant. Vested interests and hankering for power, position, and prestige has left us lost from any major achievements. 'Better late than never' or else we are on the verge of extinction. It needs the change in exhausted, tired, aging, and visionless leadership.

All that is said above is fully applicable in India, U.S.A., and everywhere else. Fakirchand J. Dalal, E-Mail: sfdalal@comcast.net 9001 Good Luck Road, Lanham, Maryland 20706, U.S.A. Phone: 301-577-5215.

### **JAIN SAMAJ SHOULD PLAY PROACTIVE ROLE IN THE INDIAN POLITICS**

From: Nathulal Jain, E-Mail: lal@megalith.net The idea you expressed in your letter in Ahimsa Times (November Addition) is really correct idea on right time. Now, we all Jains should wake up & come forward to combat this mission of the basic of following points which recognized by international community.

1. International Non violence day declared by UN (2nd Oct.) we can say, its great achievement, because (1st pillar of Jainism & by using this Mr. Gandhi fought freedom war.
2. Forest preservation, Water conservation, non killing of animals are the main basic principle of Jainism since the religion established thousands years ago & now practically whole world is active on same issues & imposed international rules to implement it. (PROUD ON JAINISM)

If international community recognized, why our government will not think about it. There should be a big campaign for it through out the country & work on it for us & our generations.

### **SUBJECT: JAIN SHOULD TAKE PART IN ACTIVE POLITICS**

From: Ravinder Jain E-Mail : ravinderjain@india.com I read the recent issue of Ahimsa Time .I am fully agree with your views and backward condition of Jain Community in politics. Jain should have awareness about their fundamental right mentioned in Indian constitution. Our country has different religions ,casts and creed . Every religion have their own culture and history. We are not Hindu or part of Hindu. Jain's are minority religion of world. We have our own scripture ,culture, language, tirth and we are totally a separate religion. It is our bad luck that Govt, of center cannot recognize as minority,. It is injustice and unconstitutional trend of every political party. Our politician think that Jain Community is rich community. But this is dangerous view. It is time of thinking. it is time of unity. We should organise a political party like Akali Dal . Jains Acharya should organise to Jain Community like JITO Jcao and JDO. I think the leader of community are mentally prepared for this noble cause of Jain Community.

### **AHIMSA**

#### **EATING BEFORE SUNSET ACCEPTED AS RULE BY JAIN COMMUNITY IN AHMEDABAD, SURAT, RAJKOT, BARODA, BOMBAY AND BANGALORE**

It is heartening to learn that the Jain community, particularly those from Shwetambar sect, have taken a vow to avoid eating at night after sun-set for-ever. Those from Digambar sect have, by and large, already been following this rule. To overcome this slackness, group meetings and gatherings were held in various towns, and by the inspiration of Jain Acharyas and sants, vow has been taken in mass by the communities to not to eat at night. For instance, at Bangalore, the Adinath Jain Shwetambar Sangh had organised a congregation of all Jain groups, institutions, social organisations and social workers and after long deliberations, a decision was taken to completely avoid taking any food item after sunset during the whole night till sun-rise the next day.



Similarly, at Mumbai, Shri Matunga Jain Shwetambar Murtipujak Tapagachh had taken the initiative to arrange a joint meet of all the Jain sects in the presence of respective acharyas, saints and sadhwis and after holding discussions for a period of six hours, thousands of devotees, both men and women, who had attended the deliberations took a vow jointly to totally avoid eating at night. and strictly abide by this rule for the whole of their life. Similar instances were observed at other places. It is hoped that Jains living in other places, would also get inspired by the examples set by people of above-mentioned busy towns and have to travel over long distances every evening to reach their homes well-before sunset to finish their meals in time, and follow the rule of not eating at night, more because they have taken birth in Jain families simply by virtue of their good karma in previous births.

### **MASSACRE OF CAMELS AND COWS AT BAKR ID**

Sandhya Jain - Camels and cows constituted an astonishing Bakr Id fare in distant parts of the country this year, reinforcing a trend growing over the past few years. Under a pernicious Saudi attempt to Arab-ize and Wahab-ize Indian Islam, Muslims are increasingly transporting camels to various states for the Id sacrifice, spurning the humble goat that was the traditional sacrificial animal from the time of the Prophet. Moreover, despite a much appreciated fatwa from Deoband Dar ul Uloom, a large number of healthy cows seem to have been sacrificed in southern states, in disregard of Hindu religious sensitivities. This year, a host of rich Kolkata families at Metiabruz imported sahi camels from Rajasthan at the princely sum of Rs 25,000/- each (Pioneer, 11 December 2008). The number of camels that went to West Bengal and other States is not known, but a family that purchased one for sacrifice argued that one camel or one cow equalled seven sacrifices, whereas a goat equalled a single sacrifice. About five lakh goats are sacrificed annually in Kolkata alone.

The growing 'fashion' to sacrifice camels, an animal integral to the unique socio-economy and cultural heritage of Rajasthan and some parts of Gujarat, could soon threaten the very existence of the camel species in India, and vastly disturb the desert economy and ecology. Sadly, despite several pleas and warnings, both the Rajasthan and Gujarat governments have been grossly indifferent to the plight of the gentle ship of the desert, and the trafficking of the animal for slaughter across State boundaries, acknowledged reaching as far as Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, is becoming alarming. In Chennai alone, more than nine camels were slaughtered on Bakr Id, despite fervent protests from animal lovers and the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI). The purpose of this article is not to sensationalise the practice of Id in any part of the country, or even to question the community's culinary tastes. But there is a vast disconnect between what community leaders say they will abide by and what happens, which requires honest discussion in the best interests of the nation. Political parties and community leaders will have to acknowledge the fact that this is the lived reality of the two communities, the touchstone upon which both will judge and respect each other. If there is no amity or honesty at this level, there can never be a meaningful communal harmony. From [www.vijayvaani.com](http://www.vijayvaani.com)

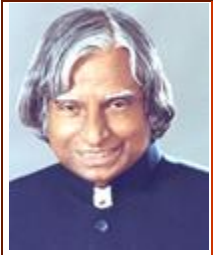
### **JAIN MINORITY ISSUE**

#### **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MOVE TO PROVIDE MINORITY STATUS TO JAIN COMMUNITY**

NEW DELHI: Government has agreed to move an official amendment in the Constitution to redefine minority, which could enable it designate the Jains as a minority community. The Union cabinet has approved the proposal to introduce the Constitution 103rd amendment bill. The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting recently. The proposed legislation comes in the backdrop of several Supreme Court directives to the government to decide on the issue. The Bill is about the power to define a minority. The Supreme Court directed the Centre to decide the issue of giving minority status to Jains. A number of orders have been passed by the Supreme Court in this regard. The Bill was introduced earlier and referred to the Standing Committee. After considering its recommendations, it was decided to move official amendments.

From Sanjay Kumar Jain, Vishwa Jain Sangathan, E-Mail: [vishwajains@yahoo.com](mailto:vishwajains@yahoo.com) -We are pleased to inform you that,

1. We had filed a petition/representation to National Commission for Minorities on 30.08.2007 for granting minority status to Jains nationally which was forwarded by NCM to Ministry of Minority Affairs on 17.09.2007 by letter no. No. 81/71/04-NCM (Scanned copy of the letter is enclosed herewith).
2. We filed a petition in Delhi High Court along with solid proofs and various judgments for declaring minority status Jains nationally.
3. Delhi High Court accepted our petition and issued notices to Central Govt and its five Ministries in May' 2008.



The past President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam, while releasing the book, "The family and the Nation" written by himself and Acharya Mahapragya, mentioned that he would be happy to visit Jain Vishva Bharati University at Ladnun for giving lectures, five days every month on the subjects like spiritualism and science. He stressed the point that the foundation of building of any nation commences from the family and children of well-cultured families can only bear the responsibilities of the nation.

#### **JAIN PILGRIMS FROM MUMBAI ROBBED AT MADHUBAN**

Mumbai : At least 75 Jain pilgrims from Mumbai, going to a temple at Madhuban in Jharkhand's Giridih district, were stopped by a 12-member gang of dacoits who entered their buses and took away money, ornaments, mobile phones and watches. The pilgrims were part of an 850-member group, including women and children, who had arrived in Parasnath from Mumbai. They left Parasnath for Madhuban, in 50-odd vehicles. The vehicles ran into a barrier erected by the robbers at Dumri Mor.

The gang, armed with lathis and iron rods, pulled out the drivers and smashed the vehicles. The robbers looted Rs 5 lakh and snatched the ornaments. They took away Rs 50000 & mobile handsets and even spectacles were snatched.

In his bid to escape, a panicky driver ended up driving his vehicle into a roadside ditch. The occupants were injured, and later looted. Eyewitnesses said at least 17 vehicles were looted in two hours. The Dumri Mor-Madhuban road is notorious for road robberies and Maoist violence. Wary of red terror, the state government last week cancelled the two-day Sri Shikharji Mahotsava in Madhuban from December 22.

**The entire Jain community should feel concerned about this happening and take appropriate action at whatever levels, necessary. Bharat Solanki -President, Marwad Jain Sangh Mumbai.**

#### **RELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGE GROUP TO TRAVEL ON FOOT FOR 281 KM. DISTANCE**

A religious group of Jain devotees, have commenced their journey on foot on 12th December, 2008, to cover a long distance of 281 km, starting from a village, Khajwana, near Nagore in Rajasthan and heading for Nakoda Teerth, reaching there in a period of 21 days. The journey, carried out as one of the important rituals by the Jain devotees belonging to Shwetambar sect, is called, "Chhei Ri Palit Yatra". The group consists of 700 devotees, both men and women, led by eminent Jain saint, Upadhyay Shri Maniprabh Sagar Ji maharaj. The members of the group are well-received by the Jain community and given a warm welcome by various Jain organisations in various towns on the way. The members of the pilgrimage group follow a strict code of conduct while on the way, by not eating in night, sleeping on the ground as a saint, not engaging themselves in any house-hold or business talks and spending all the days in a simple way.

#### **WORLD'S 1ST EVER JAIN RADIO CHANNEL ON THE INTERNET- JINVANI**



World's 1st ever Jain radio channel - JINVANI ([www.JainMediaLive.com](http://www.JainMediaLive.com)) has been launched on the internet, which will broadcast 24x7. The channel will broadcast various programs such as Abhishek, Pooja, Lectures, Bhakti, Aarti, Samayik, Pratikraman etc. throughout the day. Everyday's program schedule will be published at least one week in advance. Channel requests your support in spreading this message to your local Jain community members through local forums, via e-mail or newsletter and any other possible medium. Please take a moment to forward this message to all your Jain friends and relatives. To learn more about Jain radio channel- Jinvani, please visit the website at [www.JainMediaLive.com](http://www.JainMediaLive.com) From Rajesh Mehta, Founder, E-Mail: [rcmehta\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:rcmehta_2000@yahoo.com)

#### **BE CAREFUL ABOUT LPG GAS CYLINDER'S EXPIRY DATE**



Expired gas Cylinders are not safe for use and may cause accidents. In this regard please be cautious at the time of accepting any LPG cylinder from the Vendor. Here is how one can check the expiry of LPG cylinders: On one of three side stems of the cylinder, the expiry date is coded alpha numerically as follows A or B or C or D and some two digit number following this e.g. D06.

The alphabets stand for quarters -

1. A for March (First Qtr),

2. B for June (Second Qtr),
3. C for Sept (Third Qtr),
4. D for December (Fourth Qtr).

The digits stand for the year till it is valid. Hence D06 would mean December qtr of 2006. Please Return Back the Cylinder that you get with a Expiry Date, they are prone to Leak and other Hazardous accidents. The second example with D13 allows the cylinder to be in use until Dec 2013. Kindly pass this to every one, and create awareness among the public. Courtesy : Satyesh Kumar Bhandari.

### **BIHAR MLA HOLDING PHD FOR HIS RESEARCH ON 'MAHAVIR'S TEACHINGS IN MODERN CONTEXT' CHARGED WITH SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENCES**



Narendra Kumar Pandey alias Sunil Pandey, a suspended JD-U MLA charged with serious criminal offences, has received a PhD from a Bihar University. And his subject? Ahimsa (non-violence). Pandey's curriculum vitae includes life sentence for masterminding the kidnapping of noted neurosurgeon of Patna Ramesh Chandra, a two-year imprisonment by a Sasaram court for violation of prohibitory orders in Dehri-on-Sone in 2006 and a three-month sentence by Patna High Court for contempt of court.

What's more, the Rohtas police earlier charge-sheeted him in an extortion case. He has also been charged with threatening mediapersons and policemen on several occasions. A few months back, he threatened a journalist with dire consequences for showing him on a private news channel in an inebriated state in a posh hotel. However, Veer Keur Singh University at Ara has awarded him the PhD for his research on 'Mahavir Ke Updesh Adhunik Paripeksha Mein' (Mahavir's teachings in modern context).

Now an inmate in Patna's Beur jail, Pandey said, "Padhai kahin bhi aur kabhi ki ja sakti hai (One can study any time, any where)." He added that next he wanted a D-Lit. Considered to be an expert on Jainism and Prakrit language, Pandey appeared at the viva voce examination on November 25 under police custody. He was interviewed for nearly an hour by a team of experts on Jainism and the result was published on November 27. A gold medallist from S.B. College, Pandey has authored several articles on Mahavir's ahimsa. He is a life member of the All India Oriental Conference in Pune, Indian Society of Buddhist Studies in Jammu and the Indian Society of Gandhian Studies.

### **BHUSHAN JAIN JAILED FOR 3 YEARS FOR CHEATING PNB**

NEW DELHI: A special court sentenced a Punjab National Bank employee Sat Bhushan Jain to three years jail term on for duping around Rs one crore from the bank customers and fraudulently transferred the money into his wife's account. The accused, Sat Bhushan Jain, was sacked by the bank soon after he was caught cheating. Additional sessions judge Vinod Goel also imposed a fine of Rs 56,000 after holding Bhushan guilty under various provisions of the IPC dealing with cheating and misappropriation of public money. Bhushan had opened an account in the name of his wife, misrepresenting her as owner of a proprietorship firm called S S investment company, the prosecution said. He fraudulently used to transfer the money of account holders into the fake account of his wife, the CBI allege.

### **DEVLOK GAMAN**

Mahasati Shri Charan Pragya Ji, belonging to Jain Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect, after having accepted the vow of 'santhara' (Fasting till death) left for her heavenly abode on the 11th September, 2008, after as many as 87 days at Bhilwada in Rajasthan. Hundreds of devotees had been arriving every day to have her darshan after her accepting the santhara vow. Such a long period of sustenance of santhara has never been heard so far. She was a great soul and she will be remembered for ever.

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