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Dashalakshana Parva - Festival of Self-Uplift by Holy Observation of Ten Universal Virtues Muni Sri Kamkumarnandi Maharaj

The Jain community like other communities throughout the world celebrates many social and religious functions annually. The superb Jain festival popularly known as 'Paryushan Parva' organized every year in the auspicious month 'Bhadrapad' of the Hindu calendar extends from the fifth day to fourteenth day of the bright fortnight. The festival ordains the Jains to observe the ten universal supreme virtues in daily practical life. Besides assuring a blissful existence in this world and the other world for every living being, it aims at the attainment of salvation - the supreme ideal for mundane soul. The non-Jains also express high reverence for this Jain festival. All members of Jain community- high and low, young and old, and males and females, participate with full vigor and zeal in the various religious rituals and cultural programs. They listen with rapt attention to the holy sermons of the saints and learned Jain scholars arranged during the ten-day festival. In these celebrations lie dormant the seeds of the well being, peace and happiness of the common man. On the eve of this festival all activities, which add to social discord or bitterness are declared taboo from the temple pulpits. These celebrations harbinger social harmony and amity and preach the lofty Jain motto 'Live and Let Live'.

The 'Paryushan Parva' celebrated annually for self-purification and uplift is meant to adhere to the ten universal virtues in practical life; and leads us on the right path, far from the mad strife for material prosperity, which ultimately leads us to our true destination i.e., salvation. Two popular titles of this festival, viz. (i) Paryushan Parva

and (ii) Dash Lakshan Parva are in vogue; but the mode of performance and aim of the festival is same. According to Sanskrit grammar the underlying idea of the festival and its interpretation is given below:

"Parismantadushayante dhante karmani yasimannasau paryushnm" i.e., The celebration through which the karmic matter attached to the soul is totally burnt or vanquished (both internally and externally) is known Paryushan i.e., self-purification. Various meaningful and sublime titles have been assigned to this festival in different Jain scripture; e.g.,

Parva Raj - The festival which carries a special and greater significance; its celebrations spread over a longer duration and it is more soul-stirring than any other Jain festival.

Maha Parva - It is an ancient and chief of all Jain festival.

Dash Lakshan Parva - The festival for the observance of ten universal virtues; viz., forgiveness, contentment, and celibacy, which aim at the uplift of the soul and are vividly preached and practiced during the festival.

Paryushan Parva - The festival through which an attempt is made to put an end to all vices, passions and lustful desires in thought, speech and deeds.

Paryu-Prasa - The festival in which one meditates upon the inherent virtues of the soul in thought, speech and action; or one attains peace of soul i.e., celestial peace.

Paryupshamn or Pajjusvana - The festival in which an attempt is made to obtain peace discarding all passions and lustful desires through various means; and observe harmony in the soul through the study of scriptures.

Pajjushana - This word of Prakrit language carries the same meaning as explained in Paryushan Parva.

Samvatsari Parva - The festival which is celebrated annually to subdue all passions and lustful desires. This title is popular to the Swaitamber sect of Jainism.

Paryushan Parva gives expression to the perfectly purified trait of the soul, through which one gets rid of worldly discords and allurements and one gets fully absorbed in the eternal truth on experiencing and realizing the true nature of soul. In other words we can say that the natural realization of the trio 'The True, the Good and the Beautiful' is fully possible only through Paryushan. In fact the other name of the Jainism, which is universal religion, is Paryushan. This festival puts an end to all evils in man; gives him realization of the eternal bliss, and spiritualism becomes alive by the celebration of this festival.

Since times immemorial the living beings have fallen prey to the bewitching worldly allurements. They are involved day and night in such a poisonous environment of lustful desires and sensuous pleasures that despite being cautioned time and again, they fail to rid themselves from the bondage of the net work of worldly illusions. Jain Acaryas have, through their sermons and ideal moral code of conduct, inspired the mundane souls to keep aloof from the blemishes of the world, which breed nothing but sorrow and misery for the mankind. But the insatiable ambition of man for sensuous pleasures, material comforts and luxurious life has always allured him since antiquity. Consequently man has bitterly failed to make distinction between self and non-self, and to understand the real nature of soul. This festival has its own age-old history, but nothing definite can be said about its origin and since when it is being celebrated. In fact, the celebration of this festival is beyond the scope of known history. The truth is that spiritual matters like self-purification and renunciation cannot be measured by Time scale. When the auspicious month of 'Bhadrapad' comes every year, the whole Jain community celebrates this festival unitedly without any difference of high and low, rich and poor. The Digambaras and the Swaitamberas, both sects of Jain community celebrate the self-uplifting festival with great enthusiasm. The fifth day of the bright fortnight of the holy month of 'Bhadrapad' is auspicious for both. The Digambaras celebrate this festival annually for ten days, from the fifth day to the fourteenth day of the bright half of the month. Whereas the Swaitamberas celebrate it only for eight days, and the fifth day is the main day of their celebrations held under the title 'Samvatsari Parva'.

References about the celebrations of 'Paryushan Parva' or 'Dash Lakhan Parva' are available here and there in ancient literary books as well; which show that it has been a popular festival since ages. The householders celebrate it jointly suspending all their business, agricultural and commercial activities for the time being. A fine description of the closing ceremony of this festival is available in the 'Bhattarak era' extending from 1350 AD to 1450 AD. In that age the house-holders got manuscript copies of the prominent holy books prepared by the scholars, and offered these to the 'Bhattaraks' and their disciples with due devotion at the end of ceremonies. Even today 'Dash Lakshan Parva' is the most suitable occasion for giving donations and charities; and on the last day of the festival the house-holders observe full day fast and make every attempt to donate to religious and social institutions in cash or kind some thing within their capacity. Very often the Jain scholars viz. poets and writers get their literary works initiated during the festival days and thus pay their homage to this grand festival.

'Jin Datt Charit' is an epic poem of Hindi language. The author of this literary work, the great poet Raj Singh finished this book on the holy day of 5th day, of the bright moon of 'Bhadrapad' in Samvat 1354. The learned poet Raj Singh chose this day for the initiation ceremony of his great book simply to immortalize the glory and significance of this day. The following verse of the poem throws ample light on the special significance of 'Dash Lakshan Parva' in the 14th century.

"Samvat terven chauvane bhadav shudi panchami guru dine" - - Jin Datt Charit

Similar to the modern age, the 'Dash Lakshan Parva' was celebrated with great zeal and joy thousands of years ago as well; austerities viz. self-meditation, doing penance, fasting and study of holy scriptures were performed during that period. The householders purged their soul by keeping fast on the last day of the ceremonies and celebrated the closing ceremony with great pomp and show. When the ten day celebration are over, this festival leaves behind deep impress on the mind and heart of every Jain - young and old. This sacred festival will be celebrate throughout India and abroad by all Jains - Digambers and Swaitambers, The former appear to have the best pretensions to antiquity and cultural heritage and to have been most widely diffused; the later have only as yet been traced as far back as 5th century AD. The former are almost certainly the same as Nirgrantha, who are referred to in numerous passages of Buddhist Pali Pitakas and must therefore be as old as 6th century B.C. rather earlier. The Swaitamberas' idea of exclusiveness appears to be one of recent growth. In fact, Jainism is a prehistoric religion propounded by the first Tirthankara, Lord Aadi Nath. Upon all these grounds we think that the celebration of 'Paryushan Parva' is a holy tradition coming down from the ancient past to the present times.

To sum up, 'Paryushan Parva' is a grand Jain festival of self-introspection, self-enlightenment and self-achievement, which ultimately leads to the one and only one final goal, i.e., liberation or salvation. This article is courtesy Mr. Nitin Jain, www.jainheritagecentres.com

TEMPLES



MADHYA PRADESH HIGH COURT UPHOLDS KUNDALPUR JAIN TEMPLE TRUST'S STAND - Rejecting the Archeological Survey of India's claim, the Madhya Pradesh High Court gave permission to Bade Baba Digambar Jain Temple Trust for construction work in Kundalpur in Damoh district provided it should obtain permission from the state government within two months. A division bench of Chief Justice Sushil Harkoli and Justice Alok Aradhe pronounced the verdict. The ASI had filed a petition in 2006, requesting to stop construction of temple on the Kundalpur temple premises and hand over the idols found during construction work. The ASI also claimed that the 12-foot-hight Lord Adinath's idol and the temple signified archaeological

importance and rights should be provided to the ASI for its preservation. On the other hand in its counter petition, the Trust said even before and after the independence, the temples were never under the ASI and the idols belong to the trust. It added that the temples were not accorded the status of national heritage, on the contrary it has a religious importance. Renowned lawyer and Janata Party president Subramanian Swamy was the

counsel for the Trust. Hailing the verdict, Trust chairman Santosh Singhai said the trust will ensure its future course of action in accordance with the High Court's directives. Kundalpur is approximately 20 miles northeast of Damoh in Madhya Pradesh. With about sixty temples built in the eighth and ninth century, Kundalpur is one of the most ancient and extensive Jain pilgrimage site in central India. Kundalpur is a Siddha Kshetra, which means, 'Gateway to the State of Enlightenment.

PAKISTAN SUPREME COURT MOVED FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF JAIN MANDIR



Lahore, (Pakistan), August 31, 2012: A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking elucidation of the rights of minorities and the reconstruction of Jain Mandir, which was demolished in 1992 in retaliation to the demolition at Babri Masjid in India. Petitioners Pir Ali Imran Sahir Israpheel, Syed Shamhurash Rizwanul Murtaza and Barrister Muhammad Javed Iqbal Jaafri submitted that, they had written several applications to government officials over the last 35 years asking that the area known as Jain Mandir along Lytton Road be cleared of illegal occupants, but they had been ignored. They said the land was occupied gradually starting during the rule of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. They said that the temple building was

destroyed in 1992 following the demolition of Babri Masjid. They submitted that the destruction of the worship places of non-Muslims was a manifestation of the state's failure to protect their rights. The petitioners submitted that at the time of Partition, Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Parsis and Jews made up about 20 per cent of the total population. Discrimination against minorities had resulted in their number dropping to 3-4 per cent of the population. They said that there was no tolerance for minorities in Pakistan and many Hindu families were currently seeking to leave. The petitioners submitted that the government should make Pakistan a country where everyone could follow their religion freely. They said that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had made it the state's prerogative to determine people's religion or sect, which was a victimisation of minorities. Nowadays Shias were being victimised because of their beliefs. Meanwhile, the sale of alcohol had grown fourfold since the 1970s. They asked the court to whether minorities have religious freedom in Pakistan and to define their rights. They also asked it to order the government to clear the Jain Mandir area of illegal occupants and rebuild and reopen the temple within six months. The chief secretary, the Auqaf Department, the cabinet secretary, the Evacuee Trust Property Board, the interior secretary and the senior member of the Punjab Board of Revenue were named as respondents. - News Courtesy: The Express Tribune.

UP GOVERNMENT PROMISES TO REINSTATE DAMAGED MAHAVIRA IDOL



It is reliably learnt that, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has promised to reinstate a new idol of Lord Mahavira at Bhagawan Mahavira park that was defaced by miscreants in Lucknow on August 17, 2012.

A rally was organised at Jantan Mantar on August 23rd to protest the defacing of the idol of Lord Mahavira at Bhagawan Mahavir Swamy Park in Lucknow on August 17, 2012. This was a grand success and was well attended by members of the Jain community from all four sects. Jain Gurus, leaders, politicians and members of the Jain Samaj had flowen in to the venue. This was a show of solidarity from the Jain Samaj to the world that Jains

cannot be taken for granted and will always stand united to fight it out when it comes to protecting their rights & interests. Sri Sunjay Jain (from Vishwa Jain Sangathan), Sri Chakresh Jain (president, Delhi Jain Samaj), Sri Nirmal Kumar Sethi (president, Digambar Jain Mahasabha) and many other Jain leaders attended the event. Speaking on the occasion Sri Nirmal Kumar Sethi said that, "It is high time we Jains unite to gether and fight out

for our rights. I am over whelmed to see the response received to this protest by the members of the Jain Samaj and particularly the youths who have turned out in large numbers". Religious leaders of other communities attended the event to extend their support for the cause. Father Dominick, Sri Pragnanandaji, Sri Paramjit Singhji, Imam Umar Ahman Iliyas (president, All India Imam Organisation) and other religious leaders attended the event. Imam Umar Ahman Iliyas, expressed shock over the incident. He called upon the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government to take stern action against the miscreants failing to which he warned of carrying out an "all religious protest march against the UP government". He further questioned the UP Government as to how more than 500 people with weapons were able to enter the park in the presence of police. Messages from Jain Gurus - The messages of Acharya 108 Sri Sanmathisagarji Maharaj, Muni 108 Sri Pulak Sagarji Maharaj & Muni 108 Sri Tarunsagarji Maharaj were read out in the rally. Since the chaturmas venues of many Jain gurus were at a very far off place from Jantar Mantar they were unable to attend the event. Jains of all ages and from all walks of life attended the event. Slogans like - Mahavir Smawy Ki Jai, Ahimsa Vishwa Dharma Ki Jai... went on all through out the event. - Inputs from Nipun Jain, Ayush Jain, Gaurav Jain & Jain Heritage Centres News Services. Source: Nitin Jain, www.jainheritagecentres.com

BETWEEN MYTH AND REALITY ANCIENT JAIN TEMPLE OF VIJAYAMANGALAM



Some 10 years ago, when the doors of the Chandraprabha Tirthankara temple were thrown open for puja, the main deity was found missing. "It was stolen, along with four other idols," explains Manjula, the priestess as she performs aarti to an empty pedestal. Her voice bounces off the walls. The empty pedestal is adorned with flowers, and there are traces of murals on the wall. Time has taken its toll. "We don't know what stories they are trying to convey," says R. Jegadeesan, an epigraphist with the Vanavarayar Foundation, Coimbatore. Look closely, and you can make out the outline of an anna paravai, yakshis and a few Tirthankaras. It's such untold stories that make the temple special. Built around the 16th Century by Harihara II, a Vijayanagara king, it is said to be

one of the oldest Jain temples in the Kongu region. The temple has been declared a monument by the Archaeological Survey of India. In the temple's courtyard stands an unfinished edifice, believed to be a shrine for the first Tirthankara. Again, this structure is a mystery. No one knows why the construction was stopped. "Our ancestors say that there was some thadai (obstacle)," says Manjula. According to Jegadeesan, the temple was a 'perum palli' or mutt that was frequented by Jain monks during the 10th Century. Vijayamangalam, he adds, was once called 'Vaagai Puththur' (Vaagai — victory). For it was here that the Jains successfully established a centre in Kongu Nadu, which was then a tribal area with very few settlements.

The temple has inscriptions at every turn. Look closely, and you can read about the 'nila kodai' (land donation) given by local administrative bodies to the temple. The first Tirthankara's life history, right from his birth till the time he attained mukthi, is carved on a panel in the upper walls of the mandapam at the entrance. One inscription says Kulothunga Chola offered a donation to the temple. Another inscription talks about Puliammai who travelled all the way from North India to Vijayamangalam to give up her life as part of a ritual. Jegadeesan says it was in Vijayamangalam that Kongu Velir wrote Perum Kadhai, the Tamil version of Udayanan's Jain epic in Pali. Inside the dimly-lit ante-chamber leading to the inner shrine, there are stone idols of a few other Tirthankaras. "Our family has been carrying out the rituals for seven generations now," says Manjula and tells the story of how Soorayya, one of her ancestors would take an underground passage to reach a temple nearby. While some say that the story is mere folklore, Manjula believes that it actually exists. After all, she knows the history of the place like the back of her hand.

प्राचीन जैन सिद्ध क्षेत्र गोपाचल, ग्वालियर की धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता और रख-रखाव हेत् आन्दोलन



सिंधिया पब्लिक स्कूल द्वारा ग्वालियर किले में अतिप्राचीन जैन सिद्ध क्षेत्र गोपगिरि और वर्धमान मंदिर को जबरन गैर-क़ानूनी रूप से अपने स्कूल में मिलाने और केंद्रीय संस्कृति मंत्रालय व भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण द्वारा इस विषय में कोई कार्यवाही न करने और किले के अन्दर सभी जैन मंदिरों और प्रतिमाओं का ठीक प्रकार से रख-रखाब न करने के विरोध में विश्व अल्पसंख्यक दिवस 18 दिसम्बर 2012 को विश्व जैन संगठन द्वारा सकल जैन समाज के सहयोग से विशाल अधिकार रैली राजघाट से संसद मार्ग व विरोध सभा संसद मार्ग, नई दिल्ली और सारे मध्य प्रदेश में होगी। सकल जैन समाज को अपनी एकजुटता दिखाने की आवशयकता है। उपरोक्त अधिकार रेली और विशाल विरोध सभा का देश के प्रमुख अख़बार और टी. वी. चैनलों द्वारा प्रसारण कराया जायेगा। एक बार इस इवेंट की सारी पोस्ट अवश्य पढ़े। आप इस कार्य में हमारा मार्गदर्शन और सहयोग करें। यह जैन धर्म के संरक्षण,

संवर्धन और भविष्य के लिए अति-आवश्यक है।

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कृपया भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण के निम्नलिखित पदाधिकारीयों से अनुरोध करे कि:-

- 1. संस्कृति मंत्रालय द्वारा ग्वालियर किले को राष्ट्रीय महत्व के प्राचीन स्मारक अधिनियम के अंतर्गत संरक्षित करने हेतु 29 अक्टूबर 2002 को जारी प्रारंभिक अधिसूचना संख्या का. आ. 1139 की अंतिम अधिसूचना को तुरंत जारी किया जाये।
- 2. सिंधिया पब्लिक स्कूल को राजनेतिक दबाब के चलते गैर-क़ानूनी तरीके से किले में पट्टे पर जमीन न दी जाएँ और स्कूल द्वारा अवैध रूप से कब्ज़ा की हुई जमीन को मुक्त कराया जाये।
- 3. हजारों वर्ष प्राचीन जैन धरोहर गोपाचल पर्वत (ग्वालियर फोर्ट में) के सम्पूर्ण भागों में स्थित सभी जैन मंदिरों, तीथीं, और मुर्तिओं को तीर्थ स्थल के रूप में संरक्षित करें।
- 4. गोपाचल पर्वत पर स्थित सभी प्राचीन जैन मंदिर और मूर्तिया जो कि किले में अतिकर्मन होने के कारन, दीवारों के गिरने के कारन, गाड़ियों के प्रदुषण और किले के गंदे पानी व सीवर आदि के रिसाव से नष्ट हो रही है, इस प्राचीन जैन धरोहर को पूर्व स्थिति में लाकर संरक्षित किया जाएँ।
- 5. ग्वालियर किले पर स्थित सभी प्राचीन जैन मुर्तिओं, मंदिरों व तीर्थ क्षेत्रो पर यात्रियों व पर्यटकों को विना किसी रोक-टोक के दर्शन करने हेत् जाने दिया जाएँ।
- 6. ग्वालियर किले में प्राचीन जैन संस्थाओं द्वारा देख-रेख की जा रही प्राचीन जैन मुर्तिओं व मंदिरों की संरक्षण, संवर्धन व जीर्णोद्वार की पूर्ववत स्वतंत्रता।
- 7. गोपाचल पर्वत पर उरवाई क्षेत्र में किले को जाने वाले सड़क मार्ग के निर्माण के समय सिंधिया शासन काल में दबाइ गयी हजारों वर्ष प्राचीन जैन मुर्तिओं और मंदिरों के अवशेषों व शिलालेखो को निकलवाकर पूर्ववत व्यवस्थित व संगृहीत किया जाएँ।
- 8. आठ वी सदी प्राचीन वर्धमान जैन मंदिर व इसके अवशेषों और इसमें रक्खी हुई प्राचीन मुर्तिओं जो कि सिंधिया स्कूल के परिसर में इधर-उधर रक्खी हुई है, उन्हें मुक्त कराकर मंदिर परिसर में रखा जाएँ और उपरोक्त मंदिर व इससे लगी

भूमि, भवन और किले के स्थित जैन मंदिर व अन्य सिद्ध स्थान को मुक्त कराकर जैन समाज को सुपुर्द किया जाएँ। 9. ग्वालियर किले को विश्व धरोहर के रूप में UNESCO के अंतर्गत घोषित कराया जाये।

HEADLESS JAIN IDOL FOUND IN VILLAGE NEAR THIRUVAIYARU

A one-and-a-half foot tall headless Jain idol has been found on the banks of a tank near Perramanar Ayyanar temple in Adhanur near Thiruvaiyaru. The idol was found during the field work carried out by Prof Kannadasan of Mannargudi Rajagopalaswamy government arts college, Mr. Thillai Govindarajan, headmaster of Ponthiyakulam primary school, Mr. Arunachalam and Mr. Umamahesaran, based on the information given by Mr. Arangasamy. The idol has a height of 46 cm and is 37 cm wide, and is in a sitting posture. During the field study Mr. Kumar, Mr. Ravi, Mr. Sakthi and Mr. Aruthanambi helped the research study team. In the temple next to where the idol was found, the presiding deity is known as Peramanar Ayyanar. This might have been the Jain term equivalent to Brahma Satthan. Later it was known as Peramanar. From the remnants of brick works found nearby, it is learnt that these deities might have been worshipped through centuries, Mr. Kannadasan and Mr. Thillai Govindarajan said. Sendalai is about 4 km from here. From the inscription found in Sendalai, there is reference to Aramba Nandhi, which refers to a Jain. There is also a reference about a lake known as Virasikamanipereri in the inscription, Govindarajan said.

जोधपुर में जैन समाज पर लाठी चार्ज की निंदा



जैन समर्पण मंच के सदस्यों ने जोधपुर में जैन समाज की निकाली गई, रैली पर पुलिस प्रशासन द्वारा बेवजह की गई लाठीचार्ज की कड़े शब्दों में निंदा की। जैन समर्पण मंच के अशोक छाजेड ने बताया कि विगत दिनों लखनऊ स्थित जैन मंदिर में भगवान महावीर की प्रतिमा को समाज कंटकों के द्वारा खंडित किया गया था। जिसके विरोध स्वप सोमवार को जोधुपर में जैन समाज द्वारा एक रैली निकाली गई।समाज के लोग शांति के साथ रैली को लेकर आगे बढ रहे थे, जिसमें कई जनप्रतिनिधि व समाज के प्रतिष्ठित लोग इस रैली में शामिल हुए थें। उस दौरान पुलिस

प्रशासन द्वारा रैली पर लाठी चार्ज किया गया जो कि सरासर जैन समाज के साथ अन्याय है, इसकी जितनी निंदा की जाए कम है। छाजेड ने इस संबंध में मुख्यमंद्राी व राज्यपाल को एक पद्मा लिखकर दोषी पुलिस अधिकारियों के खिलाफ सख्त कार्यवाही करते हुए उन्हें निलम्बित करने की मांग की है। विजय जैन, कमल गंगवाल, नीरज जैन, केश काकरिया, वैभव जैन, विपिन जैन आदि जैन समाज के लोगों ने इस घटना की कडी निंदा की।

AHEMDABAD - DEVOTEES CLEAN 111 DERASARS IN A DAY

Aug 27, 2012, Around 12,000 old Jain idols and 111 derasars of the city were recently washed and cleaned in just one day by 10,000 devotees who had volunteered for the job. This is the first time that cleaning of derasars on such a scale and with the participation of so many people had taken place. The derasars with their idols located in the old city had fallen into a state of neglect. Moved by their condition, Sadhvi Maitri Ratna Shriji resolved to have them cleaned. She announced her wish to have the neglected derasars cleaned and restored by youths and Jain devotees of the city. Four months back, a team conducted a survey to determine how many derasars needed to be cleaned and how many devotees would be needed to clean one derasar. A special association, Jinalay Shudhikaran Parivar—Rajnagar (JSPR), was created for the cleaning of the derasars and their idols. The 10,000 Jain devotees who joined it were split up into different teams. Around 50 devotees were assigned to one derasar for its cleaning. The 'shudhikaran' (cleaning) of the derasars was carried out on August 19. When asked why the derasars had fallen into neglect, Nirvan Shan, a member of JSPR, said that, over the years, many Jains living in the walled city had migrated to the western part of Ahmedabad. As a result, the derasars of the walled city fell into neglect. Swetambar Murti Poojak Jain devotees washed the stone idols, cleaned the metal idols (made of brass and copper) and replaced the old ornaments and pooja items with new ones all through the day on August 19. Many of these derasars are more than 100 years old and were in a neglected condition. Another member of the JSPR, Bhadresh Shah, said that among the prominent derasars that were cleaned are Shambavnath Bhagwan Jinalay of Kalupur and Adishwar bhawan Jinalay, Ajitnath Bhagwan Jinalay of Jhaveriwad. Also, the Shri Chintamani Parswanath Jain derasar in Rajpur area of the city, which is more than 450 years old, was decorated and devotees performed a mahapooja there.

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

SECOND ACHARYAMAHAPRAGYA MEMORIAL LECTURE ORGANISED

19th Sept. 2012, Minister of State, Rural Development, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Jain 'Aditya' while addressing second AcharyaMahapragya Memorial Lecture as Chief Guest at PHD House said that Corporate Governance should be value based. Value education plays an important role in Corporate governance.



He also said that the development of human value as goal ultimate of education. A value is that which fulfils human desires. A should live for values of soul, truth and humanity. Dr. Ved Pratap 'Vaidik', Journalist & Social Activist, also addressed the Memorial Lecture as a Guest of Honor. He said the turbulence is generated multiple multidimensional forces

-- be it the philosophy of life, social milieu, human relations, unbridled scientific progress, hunger for power through or outside the state. Samani Charitra Prajna, Vice Chancellor, Jain Vishwa Bharti explained in detail about Value Education & Corporate Governance. She said that according to Lord Mahavira, economic development is acceptable if it satisfies three basic postulates: (a) Ahimsa (non violence) and purity of means; (n) non-erosion of moral values; and (c) limits of self-interest. Seen objectively and analytically in their connotations, all the three conditionality are essential facets of values and ethics of all human activities - economic, business related and others.

Dr. S. C. Jain, Vice Chancellor, Mangalayatan University gave power point presentation on the subject and described the need of value education in corporate governance. Mr. M. C. Singhi, Sr. Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Deptt. Of Economic Affairs, said that "to restore trust, the survey proposes that business must "exercise principles-based leadership instead of rules-based strategy. Business should not go to the edge of what is legally permissible but rather stay focused on what is beneficial both to stakeholders and society."

Program was commenced to order by invocation performed by Terapanth Mahila Mandal, Mr. Suman Jyoti Khaitan, Sr. Vice President of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. K. L. Jain, President, Jain Shwetamber Terapanthi Sabha Delhi welcomed Invitees. Theme presentation was delivered by Smt. Sudhamahi Raghunathan, Former Vice-Chancellor, Jain Vishwa Bharti. Message of HH Acharya Mahasharaman was read out by Sadhvi Shri Rachna Shree. Jatinder Singh, Secretary Education Committee also addressed the audience. Sadhvi Yashomati showered her blessings. Ms. Urmi Goswami and Ms. Sunita Jain were the masters of ceremony. Vote of thanks was given by Shri M. K. Doogar and Shri Sukhraj Sethia.

श्री जैन श्वे. खरतरगच्छ संघ, मुंबई के चुनाव संपन्न

श्री जैन श्वेताम्बर खरतरगच्छ संघ मुंबई के चुनाव सर्वसम्मति से संपन्न हुए। 26 अगस्त को हुई साधारण सभा की बैठक में सर्वसम्मति से सांचोर निवासी श्री मांगीलालजी तिलोकचंदजी श्रीश्रीश्रीमाल को अध्यक्ष पद पर चुना गया। श्री मांगीलालजी ने पूज्यश्री से आशीर्वाद लिया। पूज्यश्री ने आशीर्वाद प्रदान करते हुए कहा- आपके नेतृत्व में खरतरगच्छ श्री संघ नई ठुं चाईयों को प्राप्त करें। आप सभी को साथ लेकर चलें। सभी ने उन्हें बधाई प्रस्तुत की।

NAVRANGPURA (AHMEDABAD) CHOWK NAMED AFTER VIRCHAND RAGAHAVJI GANDHI



Ahmedabad 19th September 2012, A public square in Narangpura suburb of Ahmedabad was renamed to commemorate the name of the torchbearer of Indian culture and heritage Shree Virchand Raghavji Gandhi. This was achieved through the efforts of the Institute of Jainology which has been promoting the awareness of Jain philosophy internationally for over 20 years. Mayor of Ahmedabad, Honourable Shree Asitbhai Vora when naming the square said the V R Gandhi's achievements are a matter of pride for all Indians. The work he did in America with Swami Vivekanandji is truly unforgettable. His lectures introduced the real culture and heritage of India for the first time internationally at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago and later in other cities in the

US and also in England. Our future generations will certainly be able to take pride from his achievements. The local Member of Parliament, Shree Rakeshbhai Shah in his address said that by giving recognition to the person who brought to light the greatness of Jain philosophy and culture Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has made itself great. He commended the Institute of Jainology for bringing out the achievements of great but forgotten personalities like V R Gandhi . This would be of very beneficial to both the community and the nation. Dr Kumarpal Desai, Managing Trustee of Institute of Jainology, India who described V R Gandhi as a companion of Swami Vivekanandji and a friend of Mahatma Gandhi and said that both in the US and in England he had given over 700 lectures on Jain philosophy, yoga, meditation, importance of a cow, Indian women, vegetarianism and on other religious systems like Sankhya and Vaisheshik prevelant in India. In those days India was better known for tigers, cobras and maharajas and he created an awareness of Indian civilisation, richness of its culture and its history.

A goodwill message from the Chairmanemeritus of the Institute of Jainology, Shree Ratilal P Chandaria was also read out. Several Jain Acharyas spending their monsoon locally had also sent goodwill messages. Chandresh Gandhi, grandson of Shree V R Gandhi, recalled some memorable incidences from latter's life. Shree Maheshkumar Gandhi, a Patron of the Institute had come from Mumbai and expressed his thanks to all those who had helped to make this a reality. Many leading members of the Jain and wider community including Shree Arvindbhai Doshi, Shree Shriyakbhai Arvindbhai , Jayantibhai Sanghvi, Mahendrabhai Shah, Shree Nagarajaji Chajer were presentduring the ceremony. Well known literary writers like Smt Anila Dalal and Rajendra Patel were also present. The Institute of Jainology was also instrumental in getting a bust of Shree V R Gandhi installed in Jain Centre Chicago in 1993 to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the first World Parliament of Religions in 1893. Courtesy: Padmashri Dr. Kumarpal Desai & Nemu Chandaria, Institute of Jainology, E-Mail: nemuc@hotmail.com

JAIN BIOETHICS CONFERENCE HOSTED BY CLAREMONT LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

On August 24 & 25, Claremont Lincoln University was the host of "2012 Claremont Lincoln International Jain Bioethics Conference". The spiritual interaction of 25 scholars with students and the members of the Jain community was a delightful learning experience for everyone involved. Over 125 participants exchanged their views on Bioethical issues with Jain, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Christian, Jewish and Islamic perspectives. The two-day conference began with welcoming remarks by President of the CLU, Dr. Jerry Campbell. Dr. Campbell stated that the philosophy of the Claremont Lincoln University, the world's first fully interreligious is to offer a seat to every religion on an equal footing, so that we may all learn from each other and join together to wage Peace in the world. Dr. Sulekh Jain of Houston, Chair of the JAINA's Academic liaison committee and Chair of the International School of Jain Studies made the opening remarks detailing the Jain collaboration with Claremont Lincoln

University. After the lamp lighting ceremony (flameless candles to minimize himsa and candles that would stay lit for the entire conference), Pramodaben gave the benediction (MANGL ACHARAN) by a video message and Gurudev Shri Chitrabhanuji expressed his warm wishes and hope that the International Jain Scholars conference will continue year after year.



committee the planning for conference includedrange of sessions covering issues ranging from conception and birth to death. The first was a general session where, Professor Cromwell Crawford from University of Hawaii answered whether Religion can help understand Bioethics or not. Establishing significance of Religion Spirituality into Bioethics and various decisions in Life & Death set a stage and tone for this very first and unique conference. The next session talked about "Procreation". Many aspects of Bioethics including Birth, Artificial Insemination, Surrogate Mothers, Abortion etc., were discussed. Next discussion was about "Living with Non-Violence". Then came

discussion about the "Future". The role of Stem Cells and Gene Therapy were the main focus of presentations and discussions. Finally, the most coveted, challenging, controversial and very relevant topic the present day and age "The End of Life" was discussed. In fact, the Los Angeles Times carried an article on the Bioethics conference highlighting the same issue on Sunday, August 19th edition. The article created such a surge that conference registrations nearly doubled in the last three days! Steve Lopez of LA Times wrote the article covering Dr. Nitin Shah's personal experiences and quoted him: "We as Americans refuse to accept death as an eventuality," Shah said. "But we're all going to go, some sooner, some later. "Other speakers interviewed and quoted were Dr. Faisal Qazi, Professor Crawford and Whitny Braun (an ISJS alumnus). Each session had a Keynote speaker and also a Responder.

There were five Keynote speakers at the conference. The First was Dr. Cromwell Crawford of University of Hawaii. India born Cromwell is a much-loved friend of the Jain community in North America and chair of the Academic Council of International School of Jain Studies. In his speech, Dr. Crawford argued that indeed, religion has a lot to contribute to the discussion on Bioethics. The next keynote speaker was Dr. James Hughes of Trinity College, Connecticut. he spoke on "Procreation": "How Do We Care For future People?" with an emphasis on Jain and Buddhist ideas on reproductive ethics. Dr. Dilip K. Bobra of Phoenix, Arizona, gave a keynote speech "Living With Non- Violence". Dr. Brian Cummings of University of California, Irvine, gave a keynote speech about "The Future" highlighting Stem Cell Research - what is the Science and what is the Hype?

Three speakers presented views on Sallekhna Jain thinking on imminent death due to disease, old age or when one is unable to function self-sufficiently- and tradition of progressive withdrawal that leads to peaceful death. Dr. Christopher Chapple of Loyola Marymount University who had witnessed in 1989 an octogenarian Jainsadhwi's last hours of her Sallekhna - explained why it should not be called "Death by Starvation". Samni Dr. Chaitanya Pragya, a keynote speaker on "End of Life"drew a distinction between Euthanasia and Sallekhna. Whitny Braun, a doctoral student at Claremont Graduate University, discussed thevarious legal issues on Sallekhna in India and in the US.

Two presentations were made via Skype. The first one was from Ahmedabad by Dr. Surendra Singh Pokharna (Former Scientist with Indian Space Research Organization). He spoke about how General System Theory and Jain Philosophy could provide new ways of looking at the field of Bioethics. The other was by Dr. Shugan Jain of New Delhi, Director of ISJS, who discussed available Jain literature on medical sciences, metaphysical considerations,

Karma doctrine and basis of ethical-spiritual practice for leading a happy life as well as for its end. Dr. Subhash Jain of the University of Iowa discussed Karma theory and bioethics. He proposed a criterion for ethical conduct a non-violent deed producing less karmic load to measure bioethical issues. On the issues of vivisection Dr. Gary Francione of Rutgers University spoke forcefully against all animal experimentation and Dr. Brian Cummings of University of California, Irvine, spoke of stem cell research - what is the science and what is the hype? Dr. Varsha Bhatt Mehta of University of Michigan spoke of the ethical dilemmas of medical personnel in neonatal practice.

Brianne Donaldson, completing her doctoral dissertation on metaphysical approaches to animal liberation from the perspective of Process Philosophy, at Claremont Lincoln, was probably the most emotional speaker of the conference. She warned about how many Jains speak of Jainism as a "scientific religion". It is imperative that Jains not rush too hastily into a collapse with modern techno-science and its limited claims to judge the value of life based on cost and benefit. Dr. Predrag Cicovacki, Professor of Philosophy at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts and Director of Peace and Conflict Studies, discussed Albert Schweitzer's view that killing another living being is never morally permissible. Dr. Nitin Shah, Professor of anesthesiology at Loma Linda University spoke of the Religion of Humanity". He shared the joy he experienced by participating in various medical camps in India, South Africa and Haiti. Rabbi Harold Rabinowitz, President of The Reference Works Publishing House brought levity as he discussed what Jews could learn from the Jains.

Scholars of other faiths made the conference even more vibrant. Dr. Rita Sherma of the Nalanda Confluence Institute discussed the Hindu chaplaincy program they are offering and Dr. Ram Agarwal from the University of Miami presented a paper on Hindu Bioethics in the present medical context. Dr. Robert presented a Christian perspective on "Conscience and Consciousness". Faisal Qazi, President of Medical Network Devoted to Service (MiNDS) presented the Islamic view on Brain Death. Seth Clark of CLU presented Buddhist perspectives on Reincarnation and Rabbi Elliot Dorff discussed the approach of Judaism to moral issues raised by the new artificial reproductive techniques and modern genetic testing. A father and son duo Dr. Thomas Peteet and John Ray Peteet explored how the virtues embodied in four major religious traditions shape the character, attitudes and behavior of physicians making bioethical choices.

There were many other scholars who responded to the papers presented- Dr. Harvinder Sahota, Faisal Qazi, Rita Sherma, Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Dr. Manoj Jain, Dr. Robert Hesse, Dr. KalpanaSavla, Dr Ram Agarwal, Swasti Bhattacharya, Dr. Manish Mehta, Dr. Jayesh Shahand others engaged in lively questions and answers session with the audience. Detailed information can be seen on Jain studies page at: www.jain.claremontlincoln.com

This was the first International Jain Scholars conference in the US jointly organized by CLU, JAINA, JCSC -(Jain Center of Southern California) and ISJS -(International School for Jain Studies). This collaboration between 4 distinct entities is a promising start for many good things to come for Jain studies at CLU. Three past presidents and two current regional vice presidents of JAINA were in attendance. Their three past presidents, the current president Dr. Jayesh Shah and many community members represented JCSC. It should be noted that the members of the Jain community of southern California generously supported the conference. Several scholars and participants commented that this was the first conference they ever attended that invited interfaith dialog between seven major religions on the important topic of Bioethics and hoped that more such conferences will take place.

Six ISJS officers were present to witness the birth of Jain studies and to see it take center stage at a major University in the US. Some of the important steps in that direction are:

- · Campus wide Ahimsa Day on October 2 with emphasis on Forgiveness.
- A two week Jain studies camp on CLU campus for Jain youth in 2013
- The offering of a class on "Bioethics in Dharma Traditions" in fall 2012 semester
- A long term and fully funded CLU/ISJS India based research program to study the role Jains played (or did not pay) in the violent aftermath of partition of India. This project has generated lots of interest in India and has resulted in new partnerships with some of the most venerable institutions.
- · Progress on plans to offer on-line fundamentals of Jainismlecture series free of cost.
- The topic for the 2013 Jain Scholars conference will be: "Women's Perspectives in Dharma Traditions".

 \cdot Creation of a Jain sacred space on CLU campus - may be a 6' \times 4' Jinalay (Temple) in marble. Goal is to complete this prior to October 2013.

All of these steps are designed to enrich Jain studies at CLU. At this time in America, CLU is the only university committed to offer Graduate degree program for Jain studies. There is a promise for the Jain Scholars conference to become an annual event at CLU where it will become a precursor for the course offered each the fall.

In honor of Gurudev Chitrabhanuji's 90th Birthday, who was the major financial supporter of the conference the entire two-day event was made a Jain vegan event for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The meals were fabulous and were served in the open air space surrounded by trees. The location offered participants the opportunity to mingle with scholars and academicians to continue their conversations and treasure the new connections they had made. This was truly a multi cultural, multi religious perspective on Bioethics that was an occasion for respectful exchange of views across religious boundaries befitting the Claremont Lincoln University's purpose for being. The conference organizers Dr. Nitin Shah, Matthew Zaro Fisher, Brianne Donaldson, Dr. Manish Mehta, Rajen Dhami, Dr. Manoj Jain and Lidiya Potapenkodeserve Kudos for organizing a much-needed conference. All the organizers got their sustenance from the Provost Dr. Philip Clayton who first conceived the annual Jain Scholars Conferences at CLU.

CLU provost Dr. Philip Clayton held a dinner reception (jain Vegan menu) at his home prior to the conference for several speakers, organizers and donors. Dr. Jerry Campbell, President of CLU spoke to the group explaining the vision of CLU. This was truly a remarkable event to mingle and to learn how important a role Jain Studies" has at CLU. Courtesy: Dilip V. Shah, International School for Jain Studies.

AWARDS AND HONORS

GANESH JAIN ELECTED AS NEW CHAIRMAN OF IMI & PPL



September 29, 2012 01, Ganesh Jain gets elected for a high and respected post as a chairman in Indian Music Industry & Phonographic Perfromance Ltd. for the year 2012-2013. "It's an honor to get nominated and elected for such a position and I am humbled and deeply touch by this decision. I have great passion for Hindi music and cinema. I always have believed in standout performances and I did it hopefully", says Ganesh Jain. The Indian Phonographic Industry, the Association of Phonogram Producers, was established in 1936, and it was Instrumental in finalizing the Broadcasting License arrangement in India. Subsequently, IPI members decided to form a specialised body to administer their Public Performance and Broadcasting Rights, and so

PPL came into being in 1941.

As the registered copyright society in respect of Sound Recordings PPL has the authority to administer the Broadcasting /Telecasting and Public Performance Rights on behalf of a large number of important music companies in India who are its members. PPL administered repertoire encompasses all major Indian languages, including Hindi, Punjabi, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil, Marathi, Gujarati, Malayalam, Bhojpuri, etc. (both film and non-film music like devotional/spiritual, Ghazals, Classical, folk, Indi-pop, etc) and English/International songs. Indian Music Industry was established on 28th Feb 1936 as the Indian Phonographic Industry (IPI), and is second oldest music companies' associations in the world engaged in defending, preserving and developing the rights of phonogram producers, and actively promoting and encouraging advancement of creativity and culture through sound recordings. IMI members includes major record companies like Saregama India Ltd. (HMV), Universal Music (India), Tips, Venus, Sony BMG Music Entertainment (India), Crescendo, Virgin Records, Magnasound, Milestone, Times Music and several other prominent national and regional labels that represent over 75 % of the output in legitimate recordings and a wide range of musical repertoire.

The Jains started the business of manufacturing Audio Cassettes/Cd's during the early 80's under the banner of Venus Records & Tapes Mfg Co with the sole aim of providing good quality of music products. "I did what I had to do and I will continue to push myself. I think God had sent me to do this job. Music is what I live for. I am nothing without music", says Ganesh Jain.



SHANTIBEN KAPURCHAND OF KENYA FASTS FOR 134 DAYS AND INTENDS TO GO FOR 151

DAYS - It is a overwhelming news from Kenya Jain Society to know that, Shantiben Kapurchand has already completed 134 Uppwas and intends to conclude with 151 uppawas. She is surviving only on boiled water....!!!. She intends to be at Palitana for her Parna on 21st September under the blessings of Paraam Pujya Shri Kulchandra Suriji Maharaj is a unique Tapssiya by a Jainben in a foreign land. Ahimsa Times congratulates Shantiben and wishes her good health. Curtsey: B. Raj Bhandari.

JAIN LITERATURE AWARD

Apabhramsha Sahitya Akademi, Jain Vidya Sansthan is asking for entries related with its literary awards in two fields. Dharasenacharya Prakrit Award worth Rs. 21001 will be given to the best original critical composition in Hindi or English pertaining to Prakrit literature. Svayambhu Apabhramsha Award worth Rs. 21001 will be given to the best original critical composition in Hindi or English pertaining to Apabhramsha literature. Apart from this, two compositions related with Jaina religion, history and culture in Hindi or English will also be given Mahavir Award worth Rs. 31001 as first prize and Puranchand Riddhilata Luhadia Literary Award worth Rs. 5001 as second prize respectively. Last date for the entry is October 31", 2012.

JUSTICE V. K JAIN NAME SUGGESTED FOR HARYANA HRC

Chandigarh September 15, 2012, A high-powered committee today proposed the name of former Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice V K Jain for the post of chairman of the Haryana Human Rights Commission. Justice (Retd) H S Bhalla and retired bureaucrat J S Ahlawat's names were suggested as members of the Commission by the Committee, headed by Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Leader of the Opposition in Haryana Assembly Om Prakash Chautala recorded his dissent at the meeting, officials said. The INLD chief demanded re-convening of the committee's meeting to discuss a new set of name.



PANKAJ JAIN APPOINTED SECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF WATER AND SANITATION Senior IAS officer Pankaj Jain has been appointed as the new secretary in the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. Pankaj Jain is a 1978-batch officer of Jammu and Kashmir cadre. He will take charge from Vilasini Ramachandran, a 1977-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre.

FOOD AND HEALTH

INDORE CARDIOLOGIST, DR. SIDDARTH JAIN WARNS ABOUT TRANSFAT IN NAMKEEN

Indori namkeen and local fast food served near roadside eateries in Sarafa Baazar and Chappan Dukan that make every Indroean proud is harmful for heart because of the presence of transfats, claim doctors of city chapter of the World Heart Federation on Friday. Oil when re-treated when frying food items becomes transfat, which is dangerous for human heart, said doctors. Dr. Siddarth Jain, cardiologist said people of Madhya Pradesh, Malwa in particular, and Gujarat, are more prone to heart diseases because of their food habits. "Much like Gujarat, Indoreans like namkeen and street food. All these items are prepared by re-treating oil causing concentration of trnasfat," Dr. Jain said, adding that number of heart-related problem goes up manifold in the city in the past few years. Dr. Jain also highlighted that it is only the number that is increasing; average age of heart patients is also coming down. "Till few years ago average age of heart patients was around 50 to 60 years, today more than 30% of the heart patients are less than 40 years of age. Number of people dying because of heart-attack is more than the total death because of TB, malaria, HIV and AIDS put together.

He stressed that it is not the male gender only that are affected by heart diseases; women and children are also getting affected by the deadly disease. According to survey around 79% male and 83% female are not doing required physical activities. Similarly, 51% male and 48% female eat food with more fats and 60% male and 57% female eat less fruits and vegetable. Overweight is another reason for heart complication. Survey reveals that 41% male and 45% female are either obese or overweight.

CHOCOLATES MAY NOT BE REALLY VEGETARIAN



Some of the best-selling international chocolate bars, such as Mars and Twix, will no longer be suitable for vegetarians. Also affecting brands such as Snickers and Maltesers, owner Masterfoods said it had started to use animal product rennet to make its chocolate products. Masterfoods said the change was due to it switching the sourcing of its ingredients and the admission was a "principled decision" on its part. The Vegetarian Society said the company's move was "incomprehensible". 'Extremely disappointed' Masterfoods said it had started using rennet from 1 May and non-affected products had a "best before date" up to 1 October. Rennet, a chemical

sourced from calves' stomachs, is used in the production of whey. It will now also be found in Bounty, Minstrels and Milky Way products, and the ice cream versions of all Masterfoods' bars. According to the company, if the customer is an extremely strict vegetarian, then we are sorry the products are no longer suitable, but a less strict vegetarian should enjoy our chocolate. The Vegetarian Society said, at a time when more and more consumers are concerned about the provenance of their food, Masterfoods' decision to use non-vegetarian whey is a backward step. Mars products are very popular with young people and many will be shocked to discover that their manufacture now relies on the extraction of rennet from the stomach lining of young calves," it added.

FESTIVALS

THOUSANDS THRONG TO WATCH JAIN RATH YATRA IN AHMEDABAD

Sep 22, 2012, Thousands of Jain devotees thronged the streets to get a glimpse of the spectacular Rath Yatra in the city. The five-km-long procession had hundreds of chariots with a musical extravaganza. Organised by Rangsagar Jain Sangh, the rath yatra was held on the first day of an eight-day celebration. The procession started from Rangsagar Jain Sangh, Paldi, passed Dr. Ambedkar Bridge, Krupasagar Jain Derasar, Lakshmi Vardhak, Shantivan, Chandranagar, Gharda-ghar and returned to Rangsagar Jain Sangh covering a distance of five km. The yatra, which lasted two-and-a-half hours, was the first rath yatra after the end of Paryushan. More than 700 Jain sadhus and sadhvis as well as 20 Jain Acharyas, including several children, participated in the yatra. The main attraction was the beautifully decorated silver rath. It was a 450-kg pure silver chariot carrying the idol of Shantinath Bhagwan. Two horses were decorated in Rajwadi attire. Students of the Shalibhadra Jain group decorated the rath. Hundreds of devotees hand pulled the rath having ancient idols of Jain tirthankars. "The beauty of this year's rath yatra was the simplicity. We have showcased the yatra in a very subtle manner," said Vishok Shah, a devotee and member of Rangsagar Upashray. "The rath yatra fulfils the first 'kartavya' (duty) of every Jain devotee after the end of Paryushan," he added. The yatra was followed by a lecture by Acharya Dharmatilak Maharaj Saheb of Rangsagar Upashray.

Appeal to the Patrons and Readers

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STHANAKWASI JAINS WILL CELEBRATE GURU PUSHKAR JAYANTI ON OCTOBER 14 AT GURGAON Several programmes have been planned to celebrate Guru Pushkar Jayanti under the auspicious presence of Upadhayay Shri Ramesh Muni, Uppravartak Dr. Rajendra Muni, Shri Surender Muni and several saints and sadhvis from Sthanakwasi and other Jain sects. The programmes will also include felicitation of Yuva Manishi Shri Surender

Muni on the occasion of his 25th (silver) diksha anniversary. Programmes will be attended by dedicated members of the community from all over the country, besides, eminent political leaders and community stalwarts. Day long programmes will include religious lectures by the saint community, launching of several books on Jain philosophy and religion. To involve the participation of children and ladies musical and antakshari programme are also part of the days activities. Elaborate arrangements have been made for the comfort and stay of the community members attending programme from other towns.



JAIN MINORITY STATUS

LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER BY VISHWA JAIN SANGATHAN- SANJAY JAIN

Dr Man Mohan Singh ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,

Sub: Information for organizing "VISHAL ADHIKAR RELLY" from Raj Ghat to Sansad Marg & peaceful "PROTEST" at Parliament Street, New Delhi on 'WORLD MINORITY DAY' on 18th December 2012 due to non-declaring National Religious Minority Status to Jains by the Central Government under section 2 (C) of NCM Act, 1992 Respected sir,

With reference to our various request letters & reminders, sent to you since year 2007 for declaration of religious minority status to Jain religion nationally at par five other religious communities under section 2(C) of NCM Act, 1992. The hon'ble Supreme Court of India had also directed to the Central Govt. for taking decision in the matter. but no action has been taken by the Central Govt. till date.

In the aforesaid context a grave injustice has been done to the Jain community in as such as its legitimate constitutional status as a religious minority community has been denied by the Govt. of India vide notification no. 816 (E) dated 23.10.1993 by declaring five religious communities as minority communities under the clause (C) of Section 2 of the NCM, 1992 Act. Jains have also been counted separately in all Census of India during year 1901-2001.

So we have decided to organize peaceful "VISHAL ADHIKAR RELLY" from Raj Ghat to Sansad Marg & 'PROTEST' at Parliament Street, New Delhi on 18.12.2021, if the national religious minority status will not be given to Jain Religion up to 31 October 2012. Various Jain saints and religious & social leaders among the thousands Jains from all over the India will participate in this relly & protest.

Sir, VJS has a genuine & bonafide interest for the future of Jainism and Jain community as a whole in the above noted matter. We want religious minority status, for recognition of Jain religion as an independent religion, freedom in educational & religious institutions, safety of our ancient temples & idols which are main motives of your Government, declared for the other religious communities. Jains have 94.01% literacy and contribute appox. 20% of total Income Tax collections from all over India. The Constitution of India also recognize Jain religion as independent religion.

Sir, we are again enclosing herewith a representation with all facts, court orders etc. praying for declaring "Jain Religion" in India as religious minority nationally under 2(C) of NCM ACT, 1992.

We request you and shall be highly obliged, if you favor us for your all support and instruct to the Ministry of Minority Affairs or other concerned Ministries to issue a notification under section 2 (C) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 for providing national religious minority status to Jain religion up to 30th Nov, 2012 otherwise we will organize peaceful relly & protest at Parliament Street, New Delhi on World Minority Day onTuesday, 18th December 2012. Thanking you and hoping your kind co-operation in the matter. Dated: 23.09.2012, Sanjay K. Jain, National President, Vishwa Jain Sangathan (Regd.), E-Mail vishwajains@yahoo.com

अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय में शामिल होने पर जैन समाज में खुशी की लहर

जींद : हरियाणा सरकार ने जैन समुदाय को राज्य में अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय के रूप में अधिसूचित किया है। हरियाणा सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग द्वारा जारी इस आशय की एक अधिसूचना के अनुसार हरियाणा राज्य में जैन समुदाय को राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक आयोग अधिनियम 1992 (1992 की 19) के तहत अधिसूचित अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों के समकक्ष माना जायेगा। हरियाणा सरकार के इस फैसले पर जैन समाज ने खुशी जताई है। अखिल भारतीय अग्रवाल समाज हरियाणा के प्रातीय महासचिव व जैन समुदाय के वरिष्ठ नेता रामधन जैन का कहना है कि सरकार ने जैन समुदाय को अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय में शामिल करके सराहनीय काम किया है। इसके लिए प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र सिंह हुड़ा बधाई के पात्र है। उधर जैन समुदाय के सुरेश जैन, कृष्ण जैन, वर्धमान मंच के प्रधान निर्मल जैन, महासचिव अमित जैन, संरक्षक मुकेश जैन इत्यादि प्रतिनिधियों ने भी सरकार के इस फैसले पर खुशी जताई है।

BOOKS ON JAINISM

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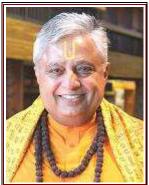
HINDUS CRITICISE BULLFIGHTS' RETURN ON SPANISH TV

Hindus have strongly criticized return of live bullfights to Spanish television after a six-year ban. Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement in Nevada (USA) said, that instead of thus promoting the barbaric, inhumane, horrendous, cruel and unacceptable practice of bullfighting (corrida); Spain should follow example of its regions Catalonia and Canary Islands and ban the age-old tradition of bullfighting altogether. Spain could easily find other ways to entertain its citizens and visitors, Zed added. Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, also urged other countries of the world to outlaw bullfighting practice. European Union should impose a Europe-wide ban on all blood-sports. People, whose jobs were thus affected, should be rehabilitated in other jobs

with related training. Rajan Zed stressed that non-violence was a greatest virtue. We had long been out of the caves. Let us get rid of these outdated traditions. World would be a better place without these blood-sports.

Bullfighting was just plain cruelty and unnecessary tormenting and abuse of the animals and not an art form. Bullfighting ban took effect in Catalonia from January this year while it has already been banned in Canary Islands since 1991. Besides Spain and France, bullfighting is also practiced in Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Colombia, and Venezuela. A typical bullfight usually is of 20 minutes in which a bull is stabbed several times before the final blow with a sword pushed between its shoulder blades. Nobel Prize winner author Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) was reportedly a fan of bullfighting and mentioned this tradition in his work "Death in the Afternoon". According to Utrecht (The Netherlands) based CAS International: Every year, more than 250,000 bulls and cows are tortured and killed worldwide during bullfights and similar events. Courtesy: Mr. Rajan Zed, E-Mail: zed.raja@gmail.com

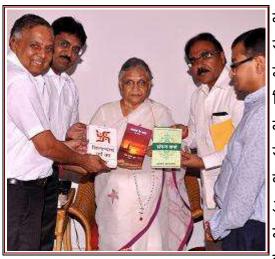
MCDONALD'S TO OPEN "VEGETARIAN ONLY" OUTLETS IN INDIA



Hindus & Jains have welcomed McDonald's plans to open some vegetarian only restaurants in India, which are said to be its first vegetarian outlets. Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement in Nevada (USA) said that "it was a step in the right direction" and urged McDonald's to open some such restaurants in other parts of the world also and called on other international restaurant chains also to launch some meat-free outlets. According to reports, McDonald's plans to open these vegetarian only outlets in India near Golden Temple (Amritsar, Punjab) and near Vaishno Devi shrine (Jammu-Kashmir). In its other outlets in India, its menu is presently about 50% vegetarian. Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, noted that Hinduism promoted strict vegetarianism insisting on ahimsa (not harming living creatures) and non-killing, and renouncing animal slaughter and meat

eating. It suggested taking of sattvik (vegetables, fruits, etc.) and avoiding rajasik (eggs, etc.) and tamasik (meat, intoxicants, etc.) foods. Rajan Zed argued that there was extensive protection of life in Hinduism and ahimsa was a command. All the major religions of the world were opposed to killing, he added. Zed pointed out that many Hollywood and other celebrities were flocking to vegetarianism for health and ethical reasons, besides reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. McDonald's, headquartered in Oak Brook (Illinois, USA) and whose history goes back to 1940, has over 33,500 restaurants in 119 countries. Source: Rajan Zed, E-Mail: rajan.zed.zed@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS नशामुक्ति एवं पर्यावरण संरक्षण में अणुव्रत की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिकाः शीला दीक्षित



नई दिल्ली, 28 सितम्बर 2012 मुख्यमंत्री श्रीमती शीला दीक्षित ने कहा कि संतुलित एवं शांतिपूर्ण जीवन के लिए नशामुक्ति एवं पर्यावरण संरक्षण की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है। इसी से शांति एवं अहिंसा की स्थापना संभव है। इसके लिए संत और साहित्यकार अपनी ऊर्जा का उपयोग करे तो हिंसा, नफरत, नशा, पर्यावरण असंतुलन आदि समस्याओं से जूझ रहे राष्ट्र को निजात मिल सकती है। संतों से प्रेरणा लेकर समाज और राष्ट्र की समस्याओं को सुलझाने का मार्ग प्रशस्त करना चाहिए। श्रीमती शीला दीक्षित आज अपने निवास पर अणुव्रत महासमिति द्वारा आयोजित विचार संगीति के दौरान आचार्य श्री महाश्रमण की पुस्तक 'शिलान्यास धर्म का ' एवं 'संपन्न बनो' का लोकार्पण करते हुए उक्त उद्गार व्यक्त किए। श्रीमती शीला दीक्षित ने इस अवसर पर

आगे कहा कि यह प्रसन्नता की बात है कि आचार्य श्री महाश्रमण आचार्य श्री तुलसी एवं आचार्य श्री महाप्रज्ञ की परम्परा को आगे बढ़ाते हुए देश के नैतिक एवं चारित्रिक मूल्यों के उत्थान में अपना योगदान दे रहे हैं। उन्होंने दिल्ली को नशामुक्त एवं प्लास्टिक थैली मुक्त बनाने में अणुव्रत आंदोलन के कार्यकर्ताओं के प्रयत्नों की सराहना की। उन्होंने कहा कि राजधानी दिल्ली में गुटखा प्रतिबंध एवं प्लास्टिक की थैलियों पर रोकथाम का आदेश तो पारित कर दिया गया है लेकिन स्वस्थ एवं स्वच्छ समाज की स्थापना के लिए जन-जागृति जरूरी है और इसके लिए अणुव्रत आंदोलन जैसे नशामुक्ति के अभियान को अधिक सिक्रय होकर अपनी गतिविधियों का संचालन करना चाहिए। इस अवसर पर अणुव्रत महासमिति के अध्यक्ष श्री बाबूलाल गोलछा ने श्रीमती शीला दीक्षित के सक्षम नेतृत्व में दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा पारित किये गये गुटखा प्रतिबंध एवं प्लास्टिक की थैलियों पर रोकथाम के निर्णय का स्वागत करते हुए कहा कि इस निर्णय से राजधानी को नशामुक्त बनाया जा सकेगा। उन्होंने अणुव्रत महासमिति द्वारा आचार्य श्री महाश्रमण के नेतृत्व में संचालित हो रहे व्यसनमुक्ति, मच निषेध, व्यवहार शुद्धि, नैतिक शिक्षा, भ्रष्टाचार उन्मूलन एवं भावनात्मक एकता इत्यादि गतिविधियों की जानकारी दी। अणुव्रत के सिक्रय कार्यकर्ता श्री लिलत गर्ग ने कहा कि मानवीय एवं नैतिक मूल्यों के विकास के लिए व्यसनमुक्ति जरूरी है। उन्होंने दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा संचालित हो रहे नशामुक्ति केन्द्रों के साथ प्रेक्षाध्यान की गतिविधियों को जोड़ने की आवश्यकता व्यक्त की। इस अवसर पर उन्होंने आचार्य श्री महाश्रमण के अमृत महोत्सव पर अपने संपादन में प्रकाशित निर्गुण चदरिया ग्रंथ की प्रति श्रीमती दीक्षित को भेंट किया। इस विचार संगीति में जैन श्रेताम्बर तेरापंथी सभा शाहदरा के अध्यक्ष श्री भानूप्रताप बरिड़या, श्री शांतिलाल पटावरी, दिल्ली प्रादेशिक अणुव्रत समिति के अध्यक्ष श्री बाबूलाल दुगड़, अणुव्रत पाक्षिक के सह-संपादक श्री प्रदीप संचेती, श्रीमती राज गुनेचा, श्रीमती प्रिया सोनी, श्री अभय सिंघी आदि ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किये।

प्रेषकः ललित गर्ग, प्रचार-प्रसार मंत्रीः अणुव्रत महासमिति, 210, दीनदयाल उपाध्याय मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110003

'JAIN KASHI MOODABIDRI MULLS PLASTIC BAN



Mangalore: While metros are getting increasingly plastic polluted small towns here are showing the way to be environment friendly. The Udupi City Municipal Council (CMC) last month decided to ban plastic carry bags from September 15 in the Temple Town, Moodabidri Town Municipality Council (TMC) will also join the league from the same date to make the Jain Kashi plastic free by banning plastic carry bags. Moodabidri TMC president Ratnakar Devadiga says that he wants to Jain Kashi of the South to be a model and environment friendly town. About six months back, the TMC removed all garbage bins giving stress on door to door

collection and to discourage people from throwing all types of garbage in the bins. We have to take a first step. If somebody had done it a decade back, it would have been controlled by now,' he said.

JAIN MONKS DEPICTED IN ANAND GANDHI'S MOVIE SHIP OF THESEUS



Anand Gandhi's movie "Ship of Theseus" is all set to sail at the Toronto International Film Festival and is the opening film at the festival which is a huge honour. Following separate strands of three physical journeys, Ship of Theseus explores questions of identity, justice, beauty, meaning and death through the stories of an experimental photographer, an ailing monk and a young stockbroker. "Ship of Theseus is a philosophical paradox of identity and change," says director Gandhi about his first feature film.

As the planks of Theseus' ship needed repair, it was replaced part by part, up to a point where not a single part from the original ship remained in it, anymore. Is it, then, still the same ship? My film probes this question in a metaphorical sense - how do we know where we end and our environment begins. Shekhar Kapur says: finally a brilliant new filmmaker emerges in Anand Gandhi with Ship of Theseus. Anurag Kashyap says: Just saw an

extraordinary film, by Anand Gandhi. Probably the most brilliant film to have been made in India in decades. Puts all of us to shame. Courtesy: C. S. Praveen Jain, E-Mail: cs.praveenjain@gmail.com

BANGLORE JAINS OBJECT TO CONTENTS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE TEXTBOOK

Bangalore, Jain associations in the City have expressed dissent over the contents of one of the chapters of the Class 8 Social Science textbook which mentions that Vardhamana Mahaveera, the founder of Jainism, was married to Yashodhara. The associations demanded that the line be removed from the textbook, as a section of the community believes that Mahaveera was a bachelor. While the Shwetambara sect believes Mahaveera was married, the Digambaras do not. The textbook also carries an image of the 23rd Tirthankara Parshwanath Bhagwan with Mahaveera's name in the caption.

Shashi Kumar, Surendra Kumar, national working president of Jain Milan, and Jitender Kumar, president of Karnataka Jain Association, submitted a representation to Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri urging the government to delete the "marriage" line in the textbook. "Since the textbooks have already been distributed this year, we have asked them to send stickers containing the correction to schools," Shashi Kumar said. Textbook Society co-ordinator Mudambadithaya told Deccan Herald that it was not a factual error, as beliefs differed between the two sects of Jainism. "Nonetheless, we will remove the line for the following academic year, along with other corrections that have to be made," he said.

NEWLY LAUNCHED JAIN WEBSITES



www.sametshikhar.in - According to Jain religion, Samet Shikhar jatra has been considered as the penultimate voyage before man's journey to mortality. Several jains thrive to travel to Samet Shikhar atleast once during their lifetime. But due to several bad experiences that have occurred in past, people are reluctant to travel to Samet Shikhar. However over last one decade there has been substantial decline in such incidents due to development in that region. As a result, the journey has become as safe as in any other region of the country. In the era of internet, lot of information is available for travel destination across the world. However there is lack

of proper information about the Samet Shikhar. Through www.sametshikhar.in we attempt to provide basic information for Samet Shikhar Jatra. We also attempt to eliminate some of the misconception regarding the Samet Shikhar Jatra. Hope the information provided in the website addresses your queries pertaining to the Samet Shikhar Jatra.

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT RENOVATING SIXTY POPULAR MONUMENTS

Bangalore, Sep 15, 2012, As many as 60 popular historical temples and structures, including the Magadi Fort and Jain basadis across the state, have been taken up for conservation by the department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage. Work on many of these monuments that have been given an allocation of around Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. One Crore each has already begun, said Kannada and Culture Minister Govind M. Karjol here. He said Rs. 25 Crore had been set aside for this under the 13th Finance Commission during 2011-12. In Bangalore division, work will begin on 11 temples including the Aprameya temple and Magadi Fort in Ramanagara district; ten monuments have been identified for conservation in Mysore division, including the Suralu Mud Palace in Udupi and Bhaskaraswamy temple in Mysore; 25 monuments have been identified in Belgaum division, including the Srimantgada Fort in Gadag and the Jain basadis in Belgaum and Uttara Kannada districts. Fourteen structures will be taken up for conservation in Gulbarga division, including the Panchalingeshwara and Jain temples in Hampi and the North Gate and Fort at Anegundi in Koppal district.

FINANCIAL ISSUES FORCE PRODUCER RAKESH JAIN TO COMMIT SUICIDE



Producer Rakesh Jain, who was making Kannada movie Anarkali directed by Sadhu Kokila, committed suicide at his residence in Amruthanagar, Bangalore on August 29. He took his life as he was unable to cope with the burden of loan repayments. Rakesh Jain, 41, was also into mining business. The producer could not repay the heavy loans amounting to Rs 20 crores due to which he was under great stress since the past couple of months. While his family was staying in Bellary, he used to stay alone at his residence in Bangalore. He is survived by his wife and son. Rakesh's film Anarkali was launched in 2011 and Sringar Kitty and Ramya Bharna were supposed

to star in the movie. But the movie did not make much progress due to financial constraints.

DOCTOR PAWAN JAIN ACCUSED OF OVER PRESCRIBING MEDICATIONS



Sept. 25, 2012, Dr. Pawankumar Jain is facing the hearing before the New Mexico State Medical Board. Dr. Jain is accused of over prescribing medications to his patients and is allegedly linked to 17 toxicity deaths. The license of Dr. Jain has also been suspended. In course of hearing, medical expert Dr. Cesar Velarde testified on behalf of Jain, saying he felt Jain followed the proper procedures, particularly when administering epidurals. Administrative prosecutor Daniel Rubin said that Jain would charge his patients for a full epidural but not carry it out correctly. The state said that Jain topped the prescription monitoring

program's list with more than three million prescriptions and said that he prescribed around 22,000 prescriptions a year. Several of Jain's former witnesses testified in the doctor's defense, but the media was not permitted to attend. One of the defense's own witnesses, Dr. Richard Steig, said that he felt Jain can improve upon his record keeping. "In Dr. Jain's, case the first thing I would recommend is that he switch to electronic record-keeping so that anybody scrutinizing his records can read them," Steig said. The testimony heard during the hearing will be sent to the State Medical Board, which will ultimately decide whether Jain will keep his license.

ONE MORE TEMPLE ROBBED IN PATAN, GUJARAT

Ahemdabad: Temples in North Guajrat continue to be robbed. The latest incident of robbery took place in a Jain temple in Patan taluka. Robbers broke into the temple in the wee hours and stole Rs. 10 lakh worth of jewellery. Interestingly, despite several notifications of installing CCTV cameras in the district, the temple had refrained from installing any surveillance equipments as they did not have an electricity connection. Mukesh Trivedi the temple priest explained that in most Jain temples its a practice for not having a connection as a matter of principle. The robbers, according to the police complaint had broken the front door lock. Police suspect the involvement of an insider.

COAL SCAM: CBI BOOKS VIKAS METAL AND POWER



New Delhi, Sept 22: The First Information Reports has been registered by CBI against Vikash Metal & Power and its Directors (Vimal Patni, Vikash Patni, Anand Patni, Virender Kumar Jain, Kailash Chander Jain, Vijay Kumar Jain) for misrepresentation of facts and for false claims in the applications for coal blocks. Vikash Metal & Power Ltd is listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange. The company scrip touched a 52-week low of Rs 1.37 a piece on this news . The stock closed at Rs 1.39 a share on the last trading day of the week.

JAIN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



VADODARA UNIVERSITY UNDECIDED OVER GIVING ACCESS TO JAIN MANUSCRIPTS FOR DIGITIZATION - Sep 17, 2012, M S University seems to be caught in a dilemma over the issue of giving access to a large number of manuscripts to a Jain organization from the Oriental Institute for digitization. The organization has been seeking the manuscripts since the last couple of years, but MSU is yet to decide on it. Samast Jain Sangh had recently written to MSU again seeking the manuscripts and the issue was put before MSU syndicate for its approval. The syndicate discussed the issue, but did not take a call on it and it was postponed to the next meeting. Oriental Institute of the university has over 28,000 manuscripts collected since its establishment by Maharaja Sayajirao

Gaekwd III. The Jain organization wants access around 6,500 manuscripts and digitize them. MSU officer on special duty (registrar) Amit Dholakiya said the organization has proposed to digitize these at the Oriental itself and keep a copy of the digital copies and hand over another to the university.

Officials said most of these manuscripts have been given to the institute by a Jain saint around the year 1960. The Oriental Institute has, however, opposed the move sighting its strict rules and the fact that it did not allow people to take away copies of entire manuscripts. Only select portions or around 20 pages are allowed to be copied by the institute. Dholakiya said the Jain organization wanted the digital copies and Jain saints had limitations in coming to the institute for studying them. He added that the organization also wanted to put these on a website so that more people could access them and gain knowledge. "Their feeling is that not many can come to the institute and do so," he added. Sources added that a meeting was called by the MSU top brass to sort out the issue on Monday evening, but the stalemate had continued.

LTIKA & RAJIY JAIN FELLOWSHIP

Candidates are sought for a two-year graduate fellowship in Religious Jain Studies at Florida International University to be awarded to a highly qualified and motivated student. Candidates should have a B.A. (all fields will be considered), an undergraduate GP A higher than 3.5, and meet university requirements for admission. Last date for applications is March 1,2013, and the fellowship will be tenable from August 2013. For more information about the Master's Degree in Religious Studies, and to apply, go to www.casgroup.fiu.edu/religion/pages.php?id=1621

JAIN CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 2012

(VIR SAMVAT 2538 JAIN CALENDAR VIKRAM SAMVAT 2068)
Produced By Mr. Kishor B. Shah E-Mail: kshah12179@aol.com

Aatham Chaudas Pancham Bij Agiyaras Jain Festival							Auspicious Day
	NIJ E	BHADARVO					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
1 Vad Ekam	2 Vad Bij	3 Vad Trij	4 Vad Choth	5 Vad Pancham	6 Vad Chhath	7 Vad Satam	
8 Vad Aatham	9 Vad Nom	10 Vad Dasam	11 Vad Agiyaras	12 Vad Baras	13 Vad Teras	14 Vad Chaudas	
15 Vad Amas	16 Sud Ekam	17 Sud Bij	18 Sud Trij	19 Sud Pancham	20 Sud Chhath	21 Sud Satam	
22 Sud Aatham	23 Sud Nom	24 Sud Dasam	25 Sud Agiyaras	26 Sud Baras	27 Sud Teras	28 Sud Chaudas	

29 Sud	30	31			Kalyanak
Poonam	Vad Ekam	vaa Bij			

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