



JAIN AHIMSA TIMES

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"I object to violence because when it appears to do good,
the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent."

-- Mohandas K. Gandhi --

SAINTS

SAINTS CHATURMAS CAUSES HIGH RELIGIOUS FERVOR IN DELHI

Jain Sewtambar Sthanakwasi saints belonging to Shraman Sangh, namely, Poojya Upadhyay Shri Ramesh Muni Ji Maharaj, Up-Pravartak Dr. Rajendra Muni Ji Maharaj, young scholarly saint Shri Surendra Muni, Shri Roopendra Muni and Shri Dipesh Muni were given a tumultuous welcome by hundreds of devotees on their entry into Veer Nagar Jain Colony of Delhi for their Chaturmasic stay. During this period various types of religious activities including discourses by saints tapasya, swadhyay, mangal-path, discussions etc. are being regularly performed. Devotes have been pouring in from different parts of Delhi and even outside Delhi for darshan.

The 34th birth anniversary of one of the senior saints in the group, Shri Surendra Muni was celebrated on 5th August by the religious devotees of Delhi and other places, like Bhatinda, Ludhiana, Jullunder, Faridkot, Panipat and Bhilwara. On 12th August, Birth anniversary of the late Acharya Shri Anand Rishi Ji Maharaj, was celebrated by holding 'logass' path recitation, felicitation of a lady performing month long fasting and holding prayers. Excellent arrangements have been made by the organizers of Chatursmas at Veer Nagar for stay and meals of out-station visitors.

TEMPLES



BAHUBALI STATUE AT SHRAWANBELGOLA DECLARED AS ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS IN INDIA

According to a readers' survey conducted by the Times of India, the Bahubali statue at Shrawanbelgola in Karnataka state has been declared as one of the seven wonders of India. The statue is 17.38 meters tall in standing posture and is made of stone in one single piece.

Situated between two hills, on the bank of a lake. This place is a major pilgrimage centre for Jain community in the country and is the main attraction of the state of Karnataka. Karnataka Minister for Tourism B. Sriramulu informed that the Govt. would provide sound and light shows at , Shrawanabelgola in 2007-08.



SCULPTURE PARTLY BURIED IN A MOUND IN RAMANATHAPURAM VILLAGE

The mystery: The statue of a Jain Tirthankara was found at Pasumpon village in Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district three weeks ago. Is it the sculpture of Adinatha, first Tirthankara of Jainism, or Mahavira? This question has been haunting K.T. Gandhirajan, specialist in art history, for more than three weeks after he found that beautiful sculpture in a small mound at Pasumpon village. The lower portion of the sculpture, buried in the mound, holds the key to the question. But villagers may not allow the sculpture to be pulled out. The sculpture shows a Jain Tirthankara in a seated posture. It has a well-proportioned body with broad shoulders. The Tirthankara's eyes are half closed and he has curly hair. Surrounding his head is a simple semi-circular prabhavali (arch), topped by a triple-umbrella. Creeper designs fill the space above.

There are two chamdaris (chowri-bearers) cast in a tribhanga pose. According to K. Mohan, Inspector of police, a person known as Muthuramalinga Thevar, used to lead the villagers in offering worship to the image on Tamil new year day in April every year. The sculpture used to be anointed with oil and bathed with water. The practice stopped after Thevar died in 1963. Now it is lying half-buried in the mound. It is the buried portion which will reveal whether the sculpture is that of Adinatha or Mahavira. The triple umbrella is common to both. Courtesy : Pankaz Hingarh, Mumbai.

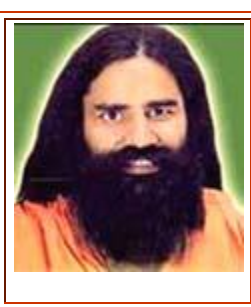
JAINS HOLD PROTEST MEETING AGAINST RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT

Bangalore: The Shree Adinath Jain Swetambar Temple Trust, Bangalore, organised a meeting at the Shikshara Sadan here on Sunday in protest against the taking over of the ancient Shree Kesariyaji Temple in Dhuleva Raj village near Udaipur by the Rajasthan Government. According to the trust convener, Devkumar K. Jain, the Supreme Court had declared the temple as a Jain pilgrimage centre and had directed that a committee be formed consisting of members of the community to run the temple. Despite the order, the Rajasthan Government was trying to take over the temple, Mr. Devkumar Jain said. It was the richest Jain pilgrimage centre in the world with 550 acres of land and 40 marble and granite mines on its premises, he said. The meeting decided that the Jains would take out a rally to Jaipur and continue the agitation through non-violence means.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & EVENTS

NEXT JITO FAIR TO BE HELD IN MUMBAI

The Jain International Trade organisation (JITO) will be organizing the next trade fair from 3rd January to 6th January, 2008 again at Mumbai Exhibition Center, N.S.E. Ground, Goregaon (East), Mumbai. The convener of the fair, Shri Padam Chand Jain from Jaipur informed the press that the sole objective of holding the fair was to strengthen financial, educational and spiritual status of Jain community. The fair will include seminars, group discussions, a trade exhibition of the products manufactured by members of Jain community in India and abroad and a Jain cultural pavilion. It has been planned to put up about 800 stalls at the fair which will go a long way in establishing international contacts. Eminent industrialists, scholars specialists, management managers, ministers and parliamentarians will be speaking in different sessions of the seminars.



BABA RAM DEV VISITS JAINA CONVENTION AT NEW JERSEY

Internationally acclaimed for popularizing Yoga amongst the masses, Baba Ram Dev was invited to attend the Jaina convention held at New Jersey, USA from 5th to 7th July, 2007. Baba Ram Dev addressed the convention at its main session. He talked at length on the convention theme, "Relevance of Jainism in the present context" and expressed his high degree of regards and appreciation for Jain religion and its guiding principles, particularly, ahimsa. Shri Shri Ravi Shankar was also likewise invited at the convention to deliver his address.

SWAMI RAM DEV ORGAMSES- YOGA CAMPUS IN AFRICA

Swami Ram Dev has presently been touring different African countries with a mission to make the world disease-free. His tour covers Kampola (Uganda) from 11th Aug. to 16th Aug 2007, Mombassa (Kenya) from 18th Aug to 23rd Aug 2007, Dar-es-Salam (Tanzania) from 25th Aug to 30th Aug 2007 and Nairobi (Kenya) from 4th September to 9th September 2007.

BABA RAMDEV INVITED TO ADDRESS HOUSE OF COMMONS AT LONDON

The Yoga guru Baba Ram Dev was invited to meet and address the members of the House of Commons (Parliament) at London at a special session. He talked about the theory and practice of Yoga and gave demonstrations of yoga and Pranayam before the Parliamentarians. The members of House of Commons were highly impressed by the presentation and demonstrations given by Baba Ram Dev.

HONOURS



NEWSMAKER: RAJ JAIN

This week Raj Jain, President of Wal-Mart's operations in India, was splashed all over the Indian media as the face of the world's largest retailer. Jain joined the company only last May as the president of emerging markets and has since worked closely with Wal-Mart vice chairman Mike Duke to forge the 50:50 cash-and-carry joint venture with Bharti Enterprises in India. At a time when climbing the ranks without a MBA degree is next to impossible, Jain, 48, has achieved immense success. He has held three very different jobs so far. The first, after concluding his bachelor degree in mechanical engineering from Delhi School of Engineering, was with Unilever in 1980 as a management trainee.

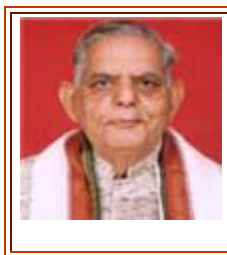
The second was with Whirlpool in 1996, post the acquisition of Kelvinator. This time, Jain had to shift to Shanghai. And though this led to major adjustments for himself and his family, Jain was most excited by the opportunity of overseeing the “integration of an acquisition”. Moving beyond the US, Jain is now in-charge of selling this “Wal-Mart is good for India” vision.



VAGEESHWARI PURUSKAR” TO VIVEKANAND JAIN (BANARAS) FOR THE YEAR 2007

In the gracious presence of Jain Monk 108 Balacharya Yogindra Sagar Ji Maharaj with group (Sasangh) and in the presence of Charukirti Bhattarak Swamy (Mulbadri) Sri Vevekanand Jain, Assistant Librarian, Central Library, Banaras Hindu University received an award known as “Vageeshwari Puruskar” for the year 2007 at Sree Mahaveer Ji District Karoli, Rajasthan (India). This award is given by “National Non-Violence Unity Foundation Trust” Ujjain every year to a young Jain scholar for their contribution to the society. Sri Chandra Prakash Pandey (Ratlam) is the president, Sri Mahendra Jain (Kota) as Vice – president and Dr. Savita Jain (Ujjain) is working as secretary for this foundation.

MISCELLANEOUS



JAINISM, BUDDHISM ARE NOT HINDUISM’S DENOMINATIONS’ GUJARAT GOVERNOR

Gujarat Governor has returned the Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2006; which was passed by the state Assembly during the monsoon session in September last year. Finding it not in conformity with the concept of freedom of Religion as embodied in Article 25 (1) of the Constitution, Governor Nawal Kishore Sharma has returned the Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2006. The Bill was passed by the state Assembly during the monsoon session in September last year. The governor has held that Jainism and Buddhism are recognized as religions rather than denominations of Hinduism, something that the Amendment Bill sought to convey. The Amendment Bill — to make changes in the

Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003, enacted by Modi’s Government — would have excluded conversions amongst Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains from the purview of the 2003 Act, which required prior permissions from the district administration. Elaborating the meaning of a convert, the Amendment Bill showed Buddhism and Jainism as denominations of Hindu religion, as Shias and Sunnis are of Islam, or Catholics and Protestants are for Christianity. The governor has found this objectionable, and asked the state Assembly to reconsider the change.

JAINISM, BUDDHISM ARE NOT HINDUISM’S DENOMINATIONS’ GUJARAT GOVERNOR

A press release issued by Raj Bhawan here on Tuesday, said that the proposed amendment would amount to withdrawing the protection against forceful or inappropriate religious conversions, particularly in case of the Jains and Buddhists. The release cites large-scale protests from different religious and social organizations, especially from the Jain and Christian communities, in indicating toward the unacceptability of the proposed amendment. Delegations that met Sharma following the passage of the Bill last year, particularly objected to the inclusion of Jainism as a sect of Hinduism. The seemingly innocuous change had attracted widespread protests from the All India Digambar Jain Dharam Sanrakshini Sabha. Sharma considered the proposed amendment in the light of these protests and visits, and has concluded that even the Supreme Court has ruled that Jainism is a “special religion” formed on the basis of quintessence of Hinduism, and not

as a denomination of Hinduism. Building on this argument, Sharma has held that the amendment would make it difficult for the state to prevent forceful conversion of Jains into Hindus, and thus goes against the spirit of Article 25 (1) of the Constitution that guarantees freedom of religion. The press release says that it impairs the freedom of conscience, and protection against forced or fraudulent conversions. A section opposed to the Bill had found it to be part of the larger design of the Sangh Parivar. “If Buddhists are treated as part of Hinduism, then all its followers in China, Japan and much of South-East Asia become Hindus,” said Girish Patel, a noted social activist. The Modi Government seems to have been caught off guard by the Governor’s returning of the Amendment Bill. Expressing reactions, Cedric Prakash, a Human rights activist said - “We have protested against both the original Act and the amendment. It was draconian, anti-constitutional, and went against the freedom guaranteed both by our Constitution and the universal declaration of human rights. State should not have anything do with the individual’s right to believe or even not believe, and that has been our stand.

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COUNTRY-WIDE ARTIFICIAL FEET REPLACEMENT CAMPS FROM APRIL, 20TH TO OCTOBER 20TH

On the occasion of fiftieth diksha anniversary of Poojya Ganini Aryika Shri 105 Suparshwamati mataji maharaj, country-wide campaign has been launched by the 'Aryika Suparshwamati mataji Swarnim Diksha Mahotsava Samiti', to eradicate disability due to Polio and provide artificial feet to about 5000 people living in villages all over the country.

The campaign had been started at Calcutta on Akshya Tertiya day, the 20th April, '07 in the auspicious presence of Digambar Muni Shri Prasanna Sagarji Maharaj and by the end of June, about 1500 disabled persons had been provided with artificial feet by holding 18 camps, free of cost. In the remaining few months from July to October period, about 40 villages are going to be covered in different states. Once provided with artificial feet, a person can walk comfortably, drive a cycle and even climb on a hill. Various charitable organisations are offering their cooperation for this purpose. The main donors so far are Akhil Bharatiya Marwari Yuva manch, Calcutta and Sethi Trust (Silchar/ Guwahati/ Delhi). Donations for this righteous and sacred work are welcome at the rate of Rs. 1100/- per foot, by the organising committee, 'Aryika Suparshwamati mataji Swarnim Diksha Mahotsava Samiti' at Shri Bharat-varshiya Digambar Jain (Teerth Sanrakshini) Mahasabha, 609, Bhandari House, 91, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019. The campaign will be concluded at Jaipur on the 21st October, 2007.



COMPLETE BAN ON SMOKING IMPOSED IN GREAT BRITAIN

A total ban has been imposed on smoking in Britain through a law passed recently by the House of Commons to be effective from 1st July, 2007. Saturday, the 31st June, being the last night for smoking was celebrated at many places by farewell ceremonies. It will be of interest to know that this ban has already been imposed earlier in Scotland, Wales and North Ireland. The Chief Medical Officer of U. K., Sir William Donaldson expressed his firm conviction that this step will help in saving the lives of hundreds of people in the country.

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JITO TO HELP STUDENTS PREPARING FOR UPSC EXAMINATIONS

Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO), Mumbai are now going into the field of doing service to mankind. Their main purpose is to work for the upliftment of the Jain community in India and abroad. As part of their project they are going to sponsor the aspiring and eligible Jain students to prepare for the courses to be conducted for UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) in India. This is a very important and huge project taken by them for the benefit of all Jains. Thus they

would like to have the list of all the aspiring and eligible Jain students who would be interested in making their career in Indian Administrative Services in different fields.

UPSC conducts a common Civil Services Exam for about 26 services like IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS, etc. About 4 lac students appear for public service examinations every year. Out of these, about ten thousands pass preliminary entrance exams and selected for Main exams and about 1,500 finally passes and are selected for interview. Finally, every year about 500 candidates are selected for the top All India Class-I Services. At State Level also similar exams are held for State Civil Services and total of 4,000 candidates are selected for various Central & State Govt. levels. The proposed coaching by JITO will immensely benefits to Jain students. For any information you can contact Mr. Shridhar Jamadagni, Sr. Business Development Manager, JITO, Phone: 022- 6610 2003 / 6610 2004, E-Mail :contact@jito.org Courtesy: Mr. Rajan Parekh, E-Mail : parekhrajan@gmail.com



YOUR MEDICINES CONTAIN ANIMALS INGREDIENTS?

The use of animal ingredients in medicines is far less talked about but it is a major problem for the five million people in the UK who avoid some or all animal products for reasons of faith, ethics or allergy. With the advent of legislation such as the Equality Act 2006 there is mounting concern that the ethical, spiritual and dietary needs of these groups should be properly recognised and addressed in respect of all goods and services, including those offered by the pharmaceutical and medical sectors.

The Act will see the establishment of The Equality Commission in October, but the Department of Health is ahead of the game — it has already appointed a director of equality and human rights, Surinder Sharma, to ensure that it meets the requirements of the new legislation. This is particularly important considering that many medical goods and services are of necessity and are provided when the receiver is at his or her most vulnerable.

Vitamin K injection is a prime example. The injection, which is routinely administered to newborn babies to prevent haemorrhagic disease of the newborn, used to be free of ingredients derived from animals but the formula was recently changed to include a substance derived from bovine bile, making it unsuitable for Buddhists, Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, vegetarians and vegans, to name but a few.

Neither the change in composition nor the availability of any alternative was properly publicised and, as a result, many babies have been, and continue to be, injected with cow products without their parents' knowledge or consent. A plant-based alternative is available on a named patient basis but most health care staff seem to be unaware of this. (Admittedly, this product is currently supplied in a gelatine capsule, but the manufacturer has expressed willingness to change this.) Gelatine is commonly encountered in medicines. Derived from animal collagen (mainly porcine and bovine), it is used in the preparation of pastes, pastilles, suppositories and capsule shells, immediately rendering these products unacceptable to many vegetarians. An intravenous infusion is also used as a plasma volume expander. In addition, some over-the-counter aspirin and antacid preparations contain lactose or non-plant stearates, used to enhance the production of the tablets. Often this is only mentioned in the small print on the leaflet within the packaging and some people find themselves unwittingly consuming substances that they would find unacceptable.

The pharmaceutical industry must highlight the presence of all animal ingredients as clearly as is required of the food industry. For example, medicines could be labeled "suitable for vegetarians". This would remove the need for people to read every ingredient in a medicine and to work out if it is of animal origin. "The Vegetarian Society" urges the medical profession to take into account vegetarians' beliefs as far as is practicable when prescribing medicines".

There is a great deal to be done. After two years of knocking on doors in the pharmaceutical industry, a breakthrough came when Mr. Sharma hosted a meeting between various stakeholders, including Hindu and Jain representatives and members of the procurement and pharmaceutical sectors of the health service. The meeting, in March, identified the enormous scale of the problem facing thousands of patients and health care workers every day, and the need for better information at every point in the chain between producer and consumer, including consultations with a health care professional and the dispensing and sale of medicines. As well as informing patients and customers, pharmacists could play a crucial role in informing procurers

and other health care professionals. A further meeting, held in May, was attended by representatives from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, and drug companies, like Wyeth Research.

Industry representatives were concerned about the cost factors involved but also highlighted that substituting an animal ingredient could alter the potency of a formulation. However, as a result of the meeting, Richard Barker, director general of the ABPI, promised to highlight the issue at all levels of the industry. It was also agreed that pharmacists have a key role to play in helping industry to understand and meet the needs of patients in our modern, multicultural world. Courtesy : Mr. Atul Bafna, E-Mail : abafna@yahoo.com.

50-BED 'DHARMASHALA' INAUGURATED AT MAHAVIR CANCER SANSTHAN, PATNA

PATNA: A dharmashala constructed by Mahavir Cancer Sansthan was inaugurated by Nizamuddin Saheb of Imarat Shariya on Wednesday. In his inaugural address, Nizamuddin lauded the efforts made by the Sansthan for providing medical facilities to cancer patients not only of the state, but also of adjoining states. Speaking on the occasion, administrator, Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts, Kishore Kunal said besides the Sansthan, Mahavir Temple Trust was also running several welfare hospitals and institutions which included Mahavir Arogya Sansthan and Mahavir Vatsalya Hospital.



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The hospital has the facility of only 300 indoor beds, he said, adding that the dharmashala at present has the facility to accommodate 50 patients and 25 out of them would get free treatment. Patients paying Rs 30 would get a room with all the facilities, he said and added that 25 more rooms would be completed by September. The dharmashala would have the capacity to accommodate 100 patients. BJP MP Shatrughan Sinha has donated Rs 25 lakh from his MP quota and soon another dharmashala having a capacity of 100 beds would be constructed.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED

'I TOO HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE' (Hindi) by Scholarly saint Shri Surendra Muni, disciple of Up-Pravartak Shri Rajendra Muni (Swetambar Sthanakwasi Sect) with a message from Dr. Girija Vyas, Chair-person, National Commission for women, Government of India.

Published by Shri Tarak Guru Jain Granthalaya, Udaipur. II Ed., 2007. Price Rs. 100/-

The book is lucidly written in the form of a novel to illustrate the dark side of girl child-killing and the social and psychological impact of the evil practice of girl foeticide amongst the entire society. The book should be read by all the young generation, both boys and girls. The pious effort made by the young saint will go a long way in causing an awakening amongst the youngsters to stop the unfortunate and deplorable act.

"PARAYA DHAN" (Others' Wealth) written by saint Shri Surendra Muni Ji Maharaj

Published by Shri Tarak Guru Jain Granthalaya, Udaipur. Price Rs.100/- Year 2006.

The book is well written by the scholarly Jain Muni to illustrate the sacrifices being made by women to fulfill the wishes and desires of their husbands and in-laws. The text of the book is in the form of a novel so that it can make an interesting reading and leave a lasting imprint on the minds of readers. It throws light on the expectation, aspiration, emotions and sentiments of a woman when she enters her future house just after her marriage. The treatment that the young woman receives in case of many greedy mothers & father-in-law, backed by the selfish husbands creates a storm in her mind. In many cases, she becomes alone and finds it impossible to face the situation resulting in suicide, bride-killing or bride-burning. The book is an eye-opener for the entire society.

YOGA-VIGYAN (Science of Yoga) in Hindi by saint Rupendra Muni

Published by Dr. Rajendra Muni Charitable Mission, I Ed. 2005, Delhi. Price Rs. 100/-

Shri Rupendra Muni is the disciple of Sthanakwasi Shraman Sangh Up-Pravartak, Dr. Rajendra Muni. Born in 1983, he accepted Muni diksha at Udaipur. Having passed the Bachelor's degree, he acquired Masters Degree in Sanskrit and Prakrit and since then he has been following the practice of Swadhya, meditation and yoga. This book is his first attempt as a writer. It gives brief but comprehensive description with illustrations of various techniques of yoga, starting with small introduction of Pranayam, then different types of Asanas, hand-mudras, meditation, Namaskar Mantra, food and health. Useful questions and answers are also appended for the inquisitive minds.

Yoga is an ancient subject, both in Vedic and Jain shastra. Our sages used to practice and preach Yoga and great saints, in ancient and medieval period, like Acharya Kundkunda, Siddhsena, Samant bhadra, Bhadrabahu II, Umaswati, Haribhadra and Hemchandra, to name the few, are well-known. During the contemporary period again, many eminent saints, like Ratan Chand Ji, Srimad Raj Chandra and Yashovijay Ji have contributed a lot to the subject of yoga and a great amount of material is available. The contribution of present age acharyas, like Acharya Mahapragna and Dr. Shiv Muni has been remarkable. Many new books have been published in this subject in recent years which are propagating the knowledge of yoga in our country and abroad. This book by Shri Rupendra Muni would however be a useful addition, especially for the beginners and for readers wanting to have a quick glance.

It is suggested that the author may think of enlarging and re-writing the first chapter of the book on Pranayam, a subject which forms the back bone of Yoga Practice in order to make the different steps and techniques more explanatory, systematic and useful for the learners. On the whole the efforts put in by the young muni are to be warmly appreciated.

CHATURMAS OF SAINTS AND SADHWI (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES)

SHWETAMBAR MURTI-PUJAK SECT

1. Acharya Shri Jay Ghosh Surishwar Ji Maharaj at Matunga, Mumbai.
2. Pandit Poojya Acharya-Devesh Vijay Shri Hem Chandra Ji Maharaj alongwith Panyas Pravar Shri Jai Tilak Vijay Ji, Shri Kalyan Bodhi Ji and 19 other saints and 15 sadhwigan are holding their chaturmas at Pawapuri Dist. Sirohi (Raj.) A large

number of devotees are arriving Pawapuri every day to have darshan of the holy saints.

3. Muni Shri Hitruchi Vijay Ji maharaj at Vadgaon (Gujarat)

4. Pandit Poojya Panyas Pravar Shgri Kalpendra Vijay Ji and Muni shri Kalp Bodhi Vijay Ji maharaj at Shri Shiteel Nath swami jain temple, Kandivali (West), Mumbai.

SHWETAMBAR STHANAKWASI SECT

1. Acharya Shri Dr. Shiv Muni Ji maharaj, Shri Sahaj Muni ji maharaj and others at Ambala City (Haryana)

2. Acharya Shri Ram Lal Ji maharaj at Raipur (Chhatisgarh)

3. Gyangachhadhipati Shri Prakash Chand Ji maharaj at Ahmedabad.

4. Acharya Shri Shubh Chandra Ji Maharaj at Jodhpur (Mahamandir)

5. Acharya Shri Sudarshan Lal Ji maharaj at Vijay Nagar (Raj.)

6. Acharya Shri Mahapragya Ji at Udaipur

7. Muni Shri Ramnik Muni Ji maharaj and others at Tohana Mandi (Haryana)

8. Up-Pravartak Shri Prem Chand Ji maharaj at Rodi (Haryana)

9. Shri Sumati Muni Ji maharaj at Rania (Haryana)

10. Upadhyay Shri Jitendra Muni Ji maharaj at Banud (Punjab)

11. Shri Ratan Muni Ji maharaj and Shri Amar Muni Ji maharaj at Ludhiana

12. Shri Tarak Rishi Ji maharaj at Chandigarh.

13. Shri Dinesh Muni Ji maharaj at Ropar (Punjab)

14. Dr. Suvrat Muni Ji maharaj at Maud Mandi, Bhatinda (Punjab)

15. Shri Jinesh Muni Ji maharaj at Nabha (Punjab)

16. Shri Sushil Muni Ji maharaj at Mannsa (Punjab)

17. Shri Anupam Muni Ji maharaj at Bhatinda (Punjab)

18. Shri Ajay Muni Ji maharaj at Patiala (Punjab)

19. Upadhyay Shri Ramesh Muni Ji, Up-Pravartak Shri Rajendra Muni Ji maharaj at Veer nagar, Delhi.

20. Up-Pravartak Sri Paras Muni Ji maharaj at Lakshmi Nagar, Delhi

21. Shri Upendra Muni Ji maharaj at Uttam Nagar, Delhi

22. Upadhyay Shri Mool Chand Ji maharaj at Doongla (Raj.)

23. Upadhyay Shri Ravindra Muni Ji Maharaj at Udaipur (Raj.)

24. Pravartak Shri Ramesh Muni Ji maharaj at Majal (Raj.)

25. Up-Pravartak Shri Naresh Muni Ji maharaj at Samdari (Raj.)

26. Shri Vridhi ji maharaj at Indore (M.P.)

27. Up-Pravartak Shri Sudarshan Muni maharaj at Ratlam (M.P.)

28. Shri Veerendra muni ji maharaj at Shriramapuram, Bangalore

29. Shri Kanti Muni Jimaharaj at Madurantkam, Chennai

30. Shri Rajesh Muni Ji maharaj at Dehradun (Uttaranchal)

31. Pravartak Shri Ganesh Muni ji maharaj at Surat (Gujarat)

32. Shri Satish Muni ji maharaj at Nalagarh (H.P.)

33. Shri Kranti muni ji maharaj at Dabhota (H.P.)

34. Shri Kamlesh Muni ji maharaj at Calcutta

35. Up-pravartak Shri Arun Muni ji maharaj at Bokaro (Jharkhand)

36. Pravartak Shri Kundan Rishi Ji maharaj and Shri Sundar Lal Ji maharaj at Ahmadnagar (Maharashtra)

37. Pravartak Shri Ratan Muni ji maharaj at Vani (Maharashtra)

38. Upadhyay Shri Pravin Rishi Ji maharaj at Chinchwad (Pune)

39. Shri Suresh Muni Ji maharaj at New Vashi, Mumbai

(Remaining saints in next issue)

DIGAMBAR SECT

1. Acharya Shri Guptnandi Ji maharaj at Raja Devalgaon (Chikalthana) Maharashtra.

2. Acharya Shri Vivek Sagar Ji maharaj at Itawa (U.P.)

3. Acharya Shri Sanmati Sagar Ji maharaj, Ganacharya Shri Virag sagar Ji maharaj, Acharya Shri Nishchaya Sagar Ji maharaj, Upadhyay

Shri Shashank Sagar Ji maharaj with other Muni and Kshullaks at Kanjvan-Udgaon, Tehsil: Sirol, Dist. Kolhapur. Contact: Ajit Kasliwal, Mob. 094225-13025

4. Acharya Shri Dharm Bhushan Ji alongwith Muni Shri Bharat Bhushan Ji maharaj at Ghaziabad.

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5. Acharya Shri Gundhar nand Ji Maharaj with his sangha at Borivali Jain Mandir, Acharya Shanti sagar Smarak Trust, Borivali, Mumbai.
6. Acharya shri Pushpdant Sagar Ji maharaj at Digamabar Jain Pushpgiri Teerth, Indore-Bhopal Highway, Sonkachh, Dist Dewas (M.P.) Contact: Ph. 094253-06501
7. Acharya hri Sudharma Sagar Ji maharaj at Nagalya (Bilwa), Tonk Road.
8. Acharya Shri Vishad Sagar Ji maharaj and Muni Shri Vishal Sagar Ji maharaj at Ajmer
9. Acharya Shri Nirbhay sagar ji maharaj ar Sikar (Raj.)
10. Acharya Shri Chetya sagar Ji and Upadhyay Shri Urjayant sagar Ji maharaj at Shri Mahavir Ji Atishay Kshetra.
11. Acharya Shri Padamnandi ji maharaj at Ichhalkaranji.
11. Upadhyay Shri Samta sagar Ji maharaj at Lakhana Sanganer (Jaipur)
12. Muni Shri Anekant Sagar Ji alongwith Elak Shri Achintya Sagar Ji at Ranchi
13. Muni Shri Punya Sagar Ji maharaj at Kanpur.
14. Muni Shri Shreyans Sagar Ji maharaj at Bhankrota (Jaipur)
15. Muni Shri Prakarsh Sagar Ji maharaj at Lucknow.

DIKSHA CEREMONY

Mumukshu Km. Visha Mutha daughter of Shri Shanti Lal Ji Mutha of Jalore (Raj.) accepted Jain diksha in the presence of Shrimad Vijay Hemendra Surishwar Ji maharaj on the 20th June, 2007. She was inspired by Sadhwi Shri Maniprabha Shri Ji maharaj. The diksha ceremonies and celebrations were held on four days, 17th to 20th June.

COMMENTS FROM READERS



MODI GOVERNMENT TAKES U-TURN ON GUJARAT ANTI-CONVERSION BILL

This is how Hindutvawadi Government is trying to take away the religious freedom of Jains. Please read and Protest. Jains can use a political block vote to protect our religious freedom. Making Jains Hindu sub-cast. The next step would be to install Hindu idols in Jain temples. Facing a jolt after the Gujarat Governor N. K. Sharma rejected the Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, the Narendra Modi government has decided to revive an old law passed by the state assembly four years ago. The law was, however, never implemented. The original Act passed in March 2003 and aimed at curbing religious conversions was cleared by the then governor S. S. Bhandari. "We only need to frame the rules for the original enactment. The process will take just eight to ten days," home minister Amit Shah said.

The government did not implement the 2003 Act, which had the Governor's approval, for several years because of legal opinion that it would not stand judicial scrutiny. Governor Sharma found particularly objectionable the classification of Jains and Buddhists with Hindus. Blaming "foreign powers" for religious conversions, an official statement underlined the government's commitment to curb such activities through the law. The law requires a person wishing to embrace another religion to seek permission of the government before doing so.

Ahead of the assembly polls later this year, Modi was keen to push ahead with this law in any shape, in order to re-establish his Hindutva credentials. The Narendra Modi Government has decided to reactivate the dormant anti-conversion law enacted by the Assembly in 2003. The Gujarat Cabinet has decided to "stop all religious conversions done through inducements or threat in larger national interest". A statement issued by Ministers I K Jadeja and Saurabh Patel, the government spokespersons, stated that the administration was of the view that without affecting freedom of religion as enshrined in the Constitution, it was necessary to stop all religious conversions through inducements or threats in larger national interest.

"The Modi Government believes that the state has been specifically targeted by some foreign powers for religious conversions, as they convert the innocent and the poor people using inducements and threats. Strong nationalistic political will is needed to counter such forces, but unfortunately the opposition Congress does not believe in preserving national identity. The Cabinet lauds the decision to bring in the original anti-conversion law of this Government, terming it in national and societal interest," the statement added. "The issues raised by the Governor would be studied exhaustively, and the Government would determine its next step in due time following constitutional guidance from experts," the note stated. Jains in Gujarat should fight for their Independent existence. All Tirthankara's fought against Vedic animal sacrifice [which goes on still in Kali temple] and now Modi government wants to put Jains into Hindu sub-cast. Yet he can't define what Hinduism is. This is insulting to all Jains in Gujrat. Please click on the link below to go to the page. If you think someone you know would like to read it too, do mail it to him. Courtesy : Mr. Shan Parisa.



JAIN JAGRUTI CENTRE, MUMBAI

Three years ago, stewardesses on a flight from London to Washington were stumped by the demands of a group of elderly vegetarian men. They had demanded food that was not on the flight menu. When the seniors did not achieve their goal, they found consolation in the snacks packed by the foresight of their women, and in the fact that they got this foreign trip on a reasonable discount arranged by a curious community service.

These senior citizens were members of the Jain Jagruti Centre (JJC) in Vile Parle, Mumbai, and they were on one of their annual international tours. The centre, which began in Vile Parle, now has 115 branches all over India tending to 58,000 members. It was formed by advocate C. S. Gosalia in 1975. He was disturbed by the fact that when

he used to attend the functions of the Rotary or the Lions clubs in 5-star hotels, he had to bear the sights of people drinking and, "one man holding another man's wife by her waist". So he wanted to found a club that could match Rotary or the Lions but still be rooted in 'Indian values'.

Gosalia also wanted to unify the various factions of the Jains. He saw that the young girls in the community were growing old searching for a groom within their sub-sect. Also, there were many budding artists in need of a loan. Similarly, there were Jains all over the country who wanted many things but did not know whom to ask. So he started the Jain Jagruti Centre with the intention of uniting the Jains and giving them the best financial deals possible through the power of collective bargaining. The group negotiates with cinemas and theatres for ticket discounts, with travel agents for best air and hotel fares, with banks for good loan deals, with marriage halls for generous concessions and, of course, with God for general good times.

The centre has more than 35 branches in Mumbai and these branches try to outdo each other. "If we get a better hall, we show off. It's a healthy competition," says Deepak Gandhi, the secretary of the Vile Parle group, which has more than 1,100 members. The Vile Parle branch has an arrangement with two local theatres and a multiplex to host free shows for its members once in two months. The members also bag free tickets to Gujarati plays.

Besides religious festivals, members bond mainly during the domestic and international tours. Travel agencies themselves approach various committee members with attractive wholesale offers. The members get nearly 50 percent off on holiday tours. A common festivity among the Jain groups is at the reception of hotels, where they compare the rack rates and overtly rejoice at the discounts they have got. The group travel also ensures that nobody in the community, especially the old, feel lonely or left behind. When JJC members travel inside India, they take a Maharaj along to survive places like Goa and Kerala. The JJC takes care of love too but with parental discretion. With different sects of the Jains united by the club, young girls are now marrying at the 'right age'. They don't have to wait endlessly for a rare groom with the right ancestry anymore. The JJC conducts introductory sessions during which prospective grooms and brides are called out by numbers and a middle-class version of speed dating unfolds. Then mass weddings ensue with the club having taken care of everything from dowry to other expenses. JJC is never short of funds, and even has a charitable trust that helps out the poor with food grains and student loans. It has almost become a social protocol among the Jains now to ask for the JJC branch they belong to. "It is a matter of social status to be a member of the JJC," says Deepak Gandhi.

Another pleasant outcome of the JJC, says Gosalia, is that women are more empowered due to increased interaction among themselves. They now make their own voting decisions. Though they still are chiefly housewives who like to discuss saas-bahu serials, jewellery and soaring vegetable prices when they gather for the JJC meets, "they no longer vote for a party just because their husband asked them to," says Gosalia.

The services provided by Jain Jagruti Centre includes, Free cinema tickets, Free play tickets, Organise subsidized international and domestic tours. Provide hall to organise social and religious functions, Mass weddings, Loans for higher education. Distribute food grains to the poor and during emergencies.

JJC welcomes new members and the conditions are, you have to be a Jain, in case of couples, at least one has to be Jain. To join, contact the Vile Parle centre on 022-26134731 between 11 pm and 12 pm, fluency in Gujarati helps. Courtesy : Rajendra Jain., E-Mail : raj@rediffmail.com

DEVLOK GAMAN

Gurudev Shri Chandan muni ji maharaj (Punjabi) left for his heavenly abode on the 31st July, 2007 at Ludhiana. He had been indisposed due to old age for quite some time but was suddenly taken ill seriously from which he could not recover. Shri Chandan Muni ji was very popular owing to his literary taste. He also used to write religious poems and bhajans, due to which he had earned the title of 'kavi-ratn'.

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