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Our duty is to encourage everyone in his struggle to live up to his own highest idea, and strive at the same time to make the ideal as near as possible to the Truth. Swami Vivekananda

हमारा कर्तव्य है कि हम हर किसी को उसके संघर्ष में खुद के सर्वोच्च विचार के मुताबिक जीने के लिए उत्सहिर करें, और साथ ही ये प्रयास करें की उसके आदर्श सत्य के बिलकुल निकट हों.स्वामी विवेकानंद

CURRENT AFFAIRS

जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस के चुनाव की सरगर्मियां जोरों पर



श्री ऑल इंडिया श्वेताम्बर स्थानकवासी जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस नई दिल्ली की चुनावी गतिविधियां में तेज हलचल होने कारण यह देशव्यापी होता जा रहा है। इन चुनावों में स्थानकवासी बन्धुओं की ओर से जगह-जगह पूरे देश में अविनाष चोरड़िया जैन के समर्थन में जनसभा का आयोजन कर भव्य स्वागत अभिनन्दन किया जा रहा है। पूरे देश से मिल रहे अपार जनसमर्थन व बढ़ते जनाधार को देखते हुए यही लग रहा है कि इस चुनाव में अविनाष चोरड़िया जैन को जीत पक्की है। जो श्रमण संघ हितैशियों के लिए एक बड़े तोहफे से कम नहीं होगी। जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस के इन चुनावों के सन्दर्भ में श्वेताम्बर स्थानकवासी जैन समाज दिल्ली, समाज के वरिष्ठ नेताओं व प्रतिनिधियों की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण बैठक ए ब्लॉक स्थित प्रषान्त विहार जैन स्थानक में हुकुमचंद जैन 'भगतजी' की अध्यक्षता में सम्पन्न हुई। इस मीटिंग में दिल्ली प्रान्त के लगभग सभी क्षेत्रों के स्थानकवासी श्री संघों के पदाधिकारी व प्रतिनिधि ने भाग लिया। उपस्थित सभी प्रतिनिधियों ने सर्वसम्मति से राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष पद के लिए अविनाष चोरड़िया जैन व प्रान्तीय अध्यक्ष पद के लिए जयकुमार जैन को अपना भरपूर समर्थन देने की पुरजोर अपील की। इस मीटिंग को सम्बोधित करते हुए अतुल जैन राष्ट्रीय महामंत्री जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस युवाषखा ने कहा कि श्री ऑल इंडिया श्वेताम्बर स्थानकवासी जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस हमारी 106 साल पुरानी संस्था है, जो श्रमण संघ की मातृसंस्था कहलाती है। आज इस श्रमण संघ के आचार्य पूज्य श्री शिवमुनि जी महाराज की आज्ञा में लगभग 1300 संत-साध्वी पूरे देश में विचरण करते हैं। हमे इस चुनाव के माध्यम से श्रमण संघ के गौरव को बढ़ाने का, समाज में एकता व समन्वय की विचारधारा को मजबूत करने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है। समाज का हर व्यक्ति अविनाष जी के विचारों व क्रिया-कलापों से पूर्णतया अवगत है। इसलिए जीत में कोई संषय रंचमात्र भी नहीं है। मीटिंग में सभी वक्ताओं ने अपने वक्तव्य मे यह बात दोहराया कि राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष पद के लिए अविनाष चोरड़िया जैन व प्रान्तीय अध्यक्ष पद के लिए जयकुमार जैन को अपना भरपूर समर्थन देकर भारी मतों के अन्तर से विजयी बनायेगें। इस मीटिंग को जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस के राष्ट्रीय उपाध्यक्ष रमेश जैन 'काहनी', एल0 सी0 जैन, अतुल जैन महारौली, राम निवास जैन रोहिणी सैक्टर-5, यषवन्त जैन महामंत्री महासंघ, एस0 पी0 जैन, ओम प्रकाश जैन पीतमपुरा, संजीव जैन आत्म वल्लभ सो0, दिनेश सुराणा, पवन जैन-कृष्णा नगर, अशोक जैन-शक्ति नगर, रवी जैन-उत्तम नगर, राम निवास जैन-उत्तम नगर, जय भगवान जैन-पीतमपुरा, संजय जैन प्रषान्त विहार, सहित अनेको वक्ताओं ने सभा को सम्बोधित किया है। इस मीटिंग में राष्ट्रीय मंत्री शेर सिंह जैन, राष्ट्रीय प्रचार-प्रसार मंत्री सुखवीर जैन, राष्ट्रीय संगठन मंत्री अतुल बोकरिया जैन, राजकुमार जैन चिडाना, रजनीष जैन 'अहीरमाजरा' प्रषान्त जैन 'गन्धरवाल' दीपक जैन त्रीनगर, सुरेश जैन प्रषान्त विहार सहित लगभग 200 लोग उपस्थित थे। सभा का कुशल संचालन प्रषान्त विहार जैन स्थानक के महामंत्री जितेन्द्र जैन आभार प्रान्तीय अध्यक्ष पद के प्रत्याषी जयकुमार जैन व प्रधान जगदीष प्रसाद ने संयुक्त रूप से किया।

जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष पद के लिए मनमोहन जैन ने भरा नामांकन पत्र

नई दिल्ली: श्री ऑल इंडिया एस० एस० जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष पद के सशक्त उम्मीदवार के रूप में जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस के वरिष्ठ मार्गदर्शक एवं उत्तर प्रदेश व उत्तराखण्ड के प्रांतीय अध्यक्ष श्री मनमोहन जैन ने देश के कोन-कोने से पधारे जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस के हज़ारों पदाधिकारियों एवं सदस्यों की उपस्थिति के बीच अपना नामांकन पत्र दाखिल किया। जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस के इतिहास में यह पहला अवसर पर है कि जब राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष पद के उम्मीदवार के साथ लगभग दो किलोमीटर लम्बे जुलूस में समाज के गणमान्य प्रतिनिधियों के साथ समाज का महिला वर्ग, युवा वर्ग भगवान महावीर एवं जैनाचार्यों के जयघोश करते हुए नाचते-झूमते हुए नामांकन पत्र दाखिल करने पहुंचे। जैन भवन में विराजमान जैन संत पू० श्री ज्ञानमुनि जी म० के मुखारविन्द से श्री मनमोहन जैन सपत्नीक मंगलपाठ श्रवण करके जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस के पूर्व राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्री नेमीचन्द चोपड़ा जैन के नेतृत्व में जीवदया योजना के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्री आर० डी० जैन, जैन महासंघ दिल्ली के अध्यक्ष श्री मदनलाल जैन, वरिष्ठ राष्ट्रीय उपाध्यक्ष श्री पारस छाजेड़ जैन, राष्ट्रीय उपाध्यक्ष श्री पोपटलाल ओस्तवाल जैन, राष्ट्रीय उपाध्यक्ष श्री आनन्द छल्लाणी जैन, राष्ट्रीय मंत्री श्री इन्दरचन्द बोहरा जैन, कर्नाटक प्रान्तीय अध्यक्ष श्री भंवरलाल पगारिया जैन, जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारिणी समिति सदस्य प्रो० रतन जैन, जीवदया योजना के राष्ट्रीय मंत्री श्री सलेकचन्द जैन के साथ मुख्य राष्ट्रीय चुनाव अधिकारी पूर्व न्यायाधीश श्री किरण कुमार कोटेचा के समक्ष अपना राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष पद का नामांकन पत्र सामूहिक लोगस्स, महामंत्र नवकार एवं मंगलपाठ के उच्चारण के साथ प्रस्तुत किया। इस अवसर पर कॉन्फ्रेंस के राष्ट्रीय महामंत्री श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद कोठारी जैन भी उपस्थित थे। अनेक वक्ताओं ने कहा कि जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस एक सामाजिक व धार्मिक संस्था है, अतः संस्था का राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष ऐसा व्यक्ति होना चाहिए जिसका इतिहास समाज सेवा का, धार्मिकता के संस्कार का, जैन स्थानकवासी समाज की मान्यताओं और परम्पराओं के पालक तथा जीवन में जप, तप, त्याग और दान की भावना का है।



श्री मनमोहन जैन राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष पद हेतु देश भर में तूफानी दौरा कर रहे हैं जिसके अंतर्गत गत दिनों वे मध्य प्रदेश में आत्म निश्ठ संत रत्न पू. श्री उमेशमुनि जी म. आदि ठाणा के दर्शनार्थ उपस्थित हुए। संत-सतीवृन्द के दर्शन एवं सामाजिक सम्पर्क अभियान के अंतर्गत श्री मनमोहन जैन श्री ऑल इंडिया श्वेताम्बर स्थानकवासी जैन कॉन्फ्रेंस, नई दिल्ली के पूर्व राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्री नेमीचन्द चोपड़ा जैन (पाली), श्री पारस छाजेड़ जैन (मुंबई), श्री पोपटलाल ओस्तवाल जैन (पूना), श्री आनन्द छल्लाणी जैन (चेन्नई), श्री प्रकाश बाफना जैन (औरंगाबाद), श्री इन्दरचन्द बोहरा जैन (बेंगलुरु), श्री अमितराय जैन (बड़ौत), श्री राकेश जैन (लुधियाना), श्री जवरीलाल कांकरिया जैन (पाली), श्री अनोखीलाल धोका जैन (अंकलेश्वर), श्री हर्षकुमार मुनोत जैन (हैदराबाद), श्री कंवरलाल सूरिया जैन (भीलवाड़ा), श्री जयप्रकाश जैन व श्री प्योप्रसाद जैन (बड़ौत), एडवोकेट श्री पुश्कर जैन, श्री कीमतीलाल जैन व श्री पद्म जैन (मेरठ), श्री सुधीर जैन (कोटा) आदि विभिन्न महानुभावों के अतिरिक्त देश के युवाओं के साथ देश के विभिन्न स्थानों में उत्कृष्ट प्रचार-प्रसार अभियान में लगे हुए हैं। - प्रभारी, चुनाव कार्यालय। Manmohan Jain, E-Mail :manmohanjain11@gmail.com

गज मंदिर, केशरियाजी तीर्थ की संचालन समिति का पुनर्गठन

परम पूज्य गुरुदेव प्रज्ञापुरुष आचार्य श्री जिनकान्तिसागरसूरीश्वरजी म० सा० के शिष्य पूज्य गुरुदेव मरुधर मणि उपाध्याय श्री मणिप्रभसागरजी म० सा० के सदुपदेश से श्री जैन श्वेताम्बर कीकाभाई प्रेमचंद ट्रस्ट के तत्त्वावधन में श्री केशरियाजी तीर्थ पर नवनिर्मित गज मंदिर तीर्थ की संचालन समिति का पुनर्गठन पूज्य उपाध्यायश्री की निश्रा में ता 07 जनवरी 2012 को संपन्न हुआ। वर्तमान अध्यक्ष श्री चन्द्रसिंहजी लोढा की अध्यक्षता में बैठक हुई। जिसमें आगामी तीन वर्ष के कार्यकाल के लिये संचालन समिति का पुनर्गठन करने का निर्णय किया गया। ट्रस्ट मंडल ने पूज्य गुरुदेवश्री से अनुरोध किया कि वे समिति का पुनर्गठन करें इस पर पूज्यश्री श्री चन्द्रसिंहजी लोढा उदयपुर को संरक्षक, श्री बाबुलालजी बोहरा सांचोर को अध्यक्ष, श्री मनोहरजी कानूगो सांचोर को उपाध्यक्ष, श्री गजेन्द्रजी भंसाली उदयपुर को महामंत्री, श्री सुलतानसिंहजी सिंघवी उदयपुर को कोषाध्यक्ष, श्री मोतीलालजी बोहरा मुंबई को सहकोषाध्यक्ष बनाया गया। महामंत्री श्री गजेन्द्रजी भंसाली ने बताया कि गज मंदिर की प्रतिष्ठा होने के बाद यात्रियों का आवागमन अत्यन्त तीव्र गति से बढ़ा है। प्रतिष्ठा के बाद अभी तक लगभग दो लाख से अधिक श्रद्धालुओं ने दर्शन, सेवा पूजा का लाभ प्राप्त किया है। मंदिर के चल रहे कार्य पर समिति ने संतोष व्यक्त किया। साथ ही अधूरे कार्य को शीघ्र पूर्ण कराने का भाव व्यक्त किया। श्री केशरियाजी तीर्थ अपने आप में अत्यन्त प्राचीन, ऐतिहासिक व चमत्कारी तीर्थ है। श्रीपाल का कोढ़ रोग इसी प्रतिमाजी के प्रक्षाल से मिटा था। यह तीर्थ जैन समाज का हार्द है।

TEMPLES

MAHAMASTAKABHISHEKA OF BHAGWAN SHRI BAHUBALI SWAMY AT VENUR



The nine-day anointment (Mahamastakabhisheka celebrations) of the 35-foot monolith Venoor Bhagwan Shri Bahubali Swamy celebrations in Venur began on a colorful note with the inauguration by Chief Minister D. V. Sadananda Gowda. Mahamastakabhisheka is held once in every 12 years in a grand manner. Streets leading up to Akkangala Basadi, which is behind the statue of Bahubali, were decorated. The rituals leading up to Mahamastakabhisheka began with a procession led by a decorated elephant. The procession went in circumambulation around the site of Bahubali's statue. Several women dressed in identical saris walked behind the elephant in two lines holding kalashas. The kalashas contained water that would be used in the Mahamastakabhisheka rituals. Head of the Ajila princely family, Padmaprasad Ajila, poured the first kalasha of water, followed by his family members. A total of 108 kalashas of water were poured on the first day, besides many other items, including sandalwood paste and milk. The devotees poured water over the statue of Bahubali from a specially constructed platform and paid obeisance. A large number of devotees watched the proceedings. The Ajila princely family is credited to have taken pains to install the statue – known as Naguva Gommata (the smiling Gommata) – in 1609 on the banks of the Phalguni river. The Heggade family was present. Before the formal inauguration, religious leaders, including Acharya 108 Gunadharanandi Maharaj, addressed the devotees. The acharya said that Gandhi and Anna

Hazare followed the concepts of ahimsa which were propounded by Mahaveera. Devotees frequently raised slogans of “Bahubali ki jai” and “Parshwanath swamy ki jai”. By the end of the formal programme, the number of people swelled. Hundreds of people visited the basadi of Chandranatha Swami which is behind the statue of Bahubali. Earlier, Mr. Gowda said that a Jain Adhyayana Peetha would be set up in Mangalore University and allocations would be made in the next budget. The peetha would help spread the Jain philosophy among the people. Mr. Gowda requested the Special Representative of the Karnataka Government in Delhi, Dhananjay Kumar, to ensure that funds meant for minorities also reached the Jain community. He was responding to Acharya 108 Gunadharanandi Maharaja's remark that although the government released Rs. 400 crore for minorities every year, only Rs. 2 crore had reached the Jain community. He said that he would look into the demand for providing reservation to the Jain community. The event attracted people from different faiths.

LOST JAIN TIRTH TRACED IN HIMALAYAS

February 13, 2012: According to book Ashtapad Maha Tirth Jain devotees will now get a chance to know and learn about one of the five major Tirths in Jainism, 'Ashtapad Maha Tirth' which is believed to have been lost.



The Maha Tirth is situated in the snow-clad Himalayas. The book, 'Ashtapad Maha Tirth', seems to be well- researched book. The book's author Dr. Rajnikant Shah has aimed at creating a much larger Tirth in India. Dr. Shah was born in 1935 in India and moved from Jaipur to Mumbai to study medicine. There are many stories related to Ashtapad Maha Tirth like Kumar and Sagar's sons, Tapas Kher Parna, Ravan and Mandodri Bhakti, among many others. But as per Jain scriptures, the first Tirthankar, Bhagwan Rushabhdev, had attained nirvana on the Ashtapad

Mountain. The son of Bhagwan Rushabhdev, Chakravati Bharat, had built a palace adorned with gems on the Ashtapad Mountain located in the serene Himalayas. Several written materials and articles were collected on Ashtapad from scriptures and compiled in different volumes. The book which is a compilation of the material gathered talks about the life of Arhat Rishabh, who breathed his last and attained parinirvana, when the moon was in conjunction with the constellation Abhijit. Arhat Rishabh lived the life of a prince for two million years and ruled as a king for six million and three hundred thousand years. He thus lived as a householder for a total of eight million and three hundred thousand years. The book also talks about the time of Lord Adinath, ancient Jain Tirth, India's Digambar Jain Tirth, Jainism in Central Asia where Jain religion literature is mentioned. The location of Ashtapad is still being searched as to where in the Himalayas it is situated. The book also has stories of Bharat Chakravati, Ravan and Mandodri, Mahamani Chintamani, and a lot more.

NEW JAIN TEMPLE BEING CONSTRUCTED IN CENTRAL OHIO, USA



As shown in the pictures, this will be the first Jain temple in Central Ohio. Preparation for Pratishtha is well underway. The Pratishtha ceremony is expected to be held early next year. The orders for the idols and other material have just been placed in Falna and elsewhere in Rajasthan by Mr. Tansukh Salgia, a trustee of the temple . The location of the proposed temple is: 6651 South Old State Road, Lewis Center, Ohio , 43035, U.S.A.

OLDEST BAHUBALI STATUE IN US



There are thousands of statues of Bhagavan Bahubali across the world. However, an interesting fact is that the oldest Bahubali statue is in USA, informed littérateur Nadoja Dr. Hampa Nagarajaiah. He was speaking at Bhavaikya Sammelana organised on account of Mahamasthakabhisheka in Venoor. Revealing the fascinating fact, he said that 1600-year-old Bahubali's bronze statue which is 3.5 ft tall is at Metropolitan Museum in New York city.

"There is close relation between Bahubali and Karnataka. Karnataka is just like maternal home to Bahubali. The oldest Bahubali statue of India is at Aihole which is eight ft tall. The Parshwanath statue which is located in front of Bahubali's statue in Aihole belongs to 8th century," informed Hampa Nagarajaiah.

The oldest Jain image in the Metropolitan Museum's collection also happens to be the earliest known representation of the subject in Jain art, that of Bahubali, a prince who attained the stature of a perfected being (siddha). Although never admitted to the pantheon of twenty-four tirthankaras, he nonetheless attained jina-like status. The legend of Bahubali tells of a prince who renounces violence after coming close to slaying his brother Bharata in a battle of succession and then renounces pride and its expression—violence to other living creatures. Embracing ahimsa (nonviolence), he meditates in the "body-abandonment" posture in a forest, where he is entwined by vines and hosts birds that nest in his hair until he attains moksha.

This diminutive icon is part of a tradition that inspired the largest rock-cut icon in the Indian subcontinent, the Bahubali at Shravana Belgola, in Karnataka, a sixty-foot-high image sculpted from living rock in the tenth century. This icon has been ritually lustrated in the mahamastakabhisheka festival since that date on a twelve-year cycle, most recently celebrated in 2006. Source: Mr. Yashwant Malaiya, E-Mail : ymalaiya@yahoo.com

SRI VARDHAMANA SWAMY BASADI IS BEING RENOVATED



A plan for renovation has been prepared with an estimated cost of Rs 1.25 crores of Bola Sri Vardhamana Swamy Basadi. The Dharmothana Trust of Dharmasthala has evinced interest in its renovation. A Renovation Committee has been set up under the guidance and leadership of Rajarshi Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade, the Dharmadikari of Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala. For hearing this sacred work, a beginning has been made by the Jaina devotees in the august presence of Svasti Sri Lalitakeerthi Bhattaraka Pattacharya Swamiji of Karkala Jaina Matha on the 14th of January 2007 with the hope of getting all help and support from the devotees who have been blessed by the Devi Padmavathi.

The renovation includes the Basadi, the gopura, the prakara - mantapa, shrines for parivara devatas and also a Munivihara Mandira, Pravachana Mandira, a Sabha Bhavana, Dining Hall, Road, etc. Further, for the sake of regular worship, utsavas and Rathotsavas (carfestivals) a Palanquin and a Charriot with a shed are required. It is the wish of the devotees of this Kshetra to take up all these works on priority basis. According to Dr. P. N. Narasimha Murthy, who has thrown light on the ancient history of this place, even before the 8th century A. D. Bola had become a hut of Jaina religious activities with a large Jaina population including the Jaina merchant class. The grandeur of Jina worship in the Basadi with festivals and carfestivals (Rathotsava) continued to exist probably up to the end of the Keladi period (mid 18th Century A.D.). Thereafter, it slowly declined. But the Basadi structure may go back to 12th -13th Century A.D. with its deities Sri Vardhamana Swamy, Sri Chandranatha Swamy and Padmavathi Yakshi survived. In course of time due to lack of care, upkeep and maintenance the structure became weak. Fortunately the magnetic force of the presiding deities and Yakshi Padmavati remained nascent here.

In order to get remedies to varieties of their problems, people continued to visit this place. In recent years non-Jainas too have been finding soothing relief after visiting this place. This indicates the existence of the original magnetic religious power which was made to revolve round here by the great Jaina Munis and Acharyas of this place in ancient times. Contributions can be deposited in Canara Bank, Kedinje Branch, S.B. A/c. No. 59094 or Karnataka Gramina Vikas Bank, Belman Branch, S. B. A/c No. 6616. From: Mahaveer Jain, E-Mail - mahaveerjain_87@yahoo.in Website: www.Bolasrivardhamanaswamytemple.com

CELEBRATIONS AMIDST THE OPENING OF NEW JAIN TEMPLE IN CHENNAI



Over ten thousand followers of Jainism gathered at the consecration ceremony of the newly built Shri Matru Pitru Smruti Shri Sheetaainath Tirthankar Jinalaya. The ceremony was held for the opening of the Kalas on the temple tower as well as for the prathista of the holy men of the religion known as the Tirthankaras. The temple takes up an area of 8,000 square feet and is claimed to be built as the first of its kind in Tamil Nadu. It is the first such temple to have idols of all 24 Tirthankaras. The temple, which is located near the Mint clock Tower on Basin Bridge Road has been built by the family of Sankarji Prithviraj Kawad. The people associated with building the temple have stated that it has been built in a Rajasthani style and is made of white marble that has been brought from across various centres of the country. The main deity of the 24 Tirthankaras is the one of Bhagwan Sheetaainath, hence the name of the temple. He is the 10th deity among the 24 Tirthankaras.

The organizers further stated that the central dome of the temple, also created by rich intricately carved marble is 83 feet high and has carvings of 14 very sacred symbols to the religion. Various substances considered auspicious in the Jain community were used to decorate and ornate the eyes of the deities. This was a part of the ceremony ritual which took place on the day the temple opened for traditional rituals. Rose quartz, yellow mogue and black rainbow were some of the many rich stones that were used to create the idols. Each night after the consecration ceremony, there were programs held to take part in devotional singing for the deities. A play depicting the life of Sheetaainath was also held for the devotees to watch and learn from. Finally, the highlight of the ceremony was after the 9th day when a procession was taken out from Mint Street to the temple. Over 15,000 Jain's participated in this procession and are looking forward to the completion of the temple within the next eight months to come.

SAINTS

MUNI NIRBHAY SAGAR JI THREATENS FAST UNTO DEATH

Palanpur, February 23, 2012: Muni Nirbhay Sagar Maharaj, the head of Umta Digambar Jain temple, some 8 km from Visnagar in Mehsana district, has threatened to go on fast unto death if the stolen ancient idol of Chakreshwari Mata is not found. According to devotees, he has abandoned solid food since the time he came to know about the theft. He further plans to give up even liquids if the idol is not recovered. Around 250-300 devotees from across the state have also joined Muniji in his fast. Devotees from other parts of the country have also expressed their solidarity with Muniji. Meanwhile, According to State Archeological Survey, the lost idol was indeed unique for its sculptural prettiness. It was a priceless piece. The idol belongs to 1200-1300 CE during the Solanki dynasty. Amid Mahashivratri celebration, a dozen unidentified miscreants stole priceless 1,500-year-old marble idol from Chakreshwari Mata Jain Temple, eight km from Visnagar in Mehsana district, Mehsana. Around 10 to 12 thieves barged into the temple premises after breaking the channel gate and stole the 2.5-feet-high idol weighing 90 kg. Surprisingly, the thieves did not even attempt to touch the silver crown , umbrella studded with ornaments and cash.

The incident came to light when temple priest Shakuntla Devi found the idol missing and alerted local temple head Muni Nirbhay Sagarji. Two years ago thieves had targeted the Taranga Jain temple and tried to steal the idol of Lord Neminath. But because it was heavy, the idol broke on the way and miscreants could take only the head. Muniji said it was the second time that attempt was made to steal the idols. The stolen idol was one of the 58 ancient idols installed in the temple on June 6 last year after they were found during excavation near Rajgadhi Tikara in the village in 2002.

MID DAY APOLOGISES TO JAINS



This refers to the photo feature 'Plain Jains' which was published in this newspaper on February 1, 2012.

This newspaper had no intention to hurt the sensibilities/sentiments of any community. The Photo Feature was, in fact, published to highlight the extreme hardship undertaken by Jain sadhus and sadhvis in their quest for peace and harmony. Some of the captions that accompanied the pictures were inadvertent errors.

We unreservedly apologise for the anguish caused to the Jain community.

www.mid-day.com/news/2012/feb/030212-We-apologise-to-our-Jain-readers.htm

The contents can be read in Mumbai edition of Feb 1st 2012 on page no 12.

MR. NARENDER MODI SEEKS BLESSINGS FROM JAIN SAINTS

Gandhinagar: Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Jain pilgrimage 'Vishvamisra Dham' at Borij near Gandhinagar. According to Mr. Narendra Modi (on twitter) he was blessed by Tapagachchhadhipati Shri Premsurishwarji Maharaj Saheb of Sankheshwar and had a spiritual satsang. "It was divine to get blessings of Tapagachchhadhipati Shri Premsurishwarji Maharaj Saheb amidst soul-stirring satsang,"



देश के चरित्र निर्माण में आचार्य तुलसी का महत्वपूर्ण योगदान: सोनिया गांधी



नई दिल्ली, 6 फरवरी 2012, कांग्रेस की राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी ने कहा कि राष्ट्रीय एकता एवं समग्र विकास के लिए दलगत स्वार्थों से ऊपर उठना जरूरी है। राष्ट्र के चरित्र निर्माण में आचार्य तुलसी का महत्वपूर्ण योगदान रहा है। उनके द्वारा प्रवर्तित अणुव्रत आन्दोलन ने नैतिकता एवं चरित्र की प्रतिष्ठापना में अमूल्य योगदान किया है। श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी ने अपने निवास 10, जनपथ पर आचार्य महाश्रमण के शिष्य प्रेक्षाप्रभारी मुनिश्री जयकुमार के साथ विचार-विमर्श के दौरान उक्त विचार व्यक्त किए।

श्रीमती गांधी ने देश को तरक्की की ओर अग्रसर करने के लिए समाज एवं राष्ट्र का नेतृत्व करने वाले लोगों से अपेक्षा की कि वे समाज को तोड़ने की बजाए जोड़ने के प्रयत्न करें। भारतीय लोकतंत्र को सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिए सांप्रदायिक एकता और सर्वधर्म सद्भाव के साथ-साथ नैतिकता, चरित्र निर्माण एवं जीवन शुद्धि के प्रयत्न जरूरी हैं। इस दृष्टि से अणुव्रत आंदोलन के माध्यम से किये गये प्रयत्नों को उन्होंने उल्लेखनीय बताया। मुनिश्री जयकुमार ने श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी के स्वास्थ्य के प्रति आध्यात्मिक मंगलकामनाएं व्यक्त करते हुए उन्हें धर्मसंघ के साथ नेहरू गांधी परिवार के अनन्य रिश्तों के बारे में जानकारी दी। मुनिश्री ने श्रीमती गांधी को पंडित नेहरू एवं आचार्य श्री तुलसी के साथ हुए वार्तालाप की संक्षिप्त जानकारी प्रदान की। मुनिश्री ने श्रीमती गांधी को 2013-2014 में समायोजित होने वाले आचार्य तुलसी जन्मशताब्दी समारोह के बारे में विस्तार से जानकारी प्रदान की। श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी ने मुनिश्री के साथ वार्ता के दौरान राजीव-लॉगोवाल समझौते में आचार्य तुलसी के योगदान, प्रेक्षा विश्व भारती, कोबा (गुजरात) में आचार्य महाप्रज्ञ के साथ मिलन एवं दोनों आचार्यों को प्रदत्त इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय एकता पुरस्कार की भी प्रसंगवश प्रसन्नता के साथ चर्चा की।

श्रीमती गांधी ने मुनिश्री को आश्वस्त किया कि आचार्य तुलसी जन्मशताब्दी समारोह में जो भी हो सकेगा, पूरा सहयोग किया जायेगा। मुनिश्री ने वर्तमान में तेरापंथ धर्मसंघ द्वारा मनाये जा रहे आचार्य महाश्रमण अमृत महोत्सव, अणुव्रत आन्दोलन एवं अहिंसा यात्रा की संक्षिप्त जानकारी श्रीमती गांधी को दी। श्रीमती गांधी ने मुनिश्री से प्राप्त जानकारी पर हार्दिक प्रसन्नता व्यक्त की। वार्तालाप के दौरान मुनिश्री रोहितकुमार, मुनिश्री मुदितकुमार भी उपस्थित थे।-ललित गर्ग, ई-253, सरस्वती कुंज अपार्टमेंट, 25 आई0 पी0 एक्सटेंशन, पटपड़गंज, दिल्ली - 110092, मो- 9811051133, E-Mail : lalit.r.garg@gmail.com

सड़क हादसे में दो जैन संत घायल, सेवक की मौत

Feb 12, 2012 मुंबई अहमदाबाद राष्ट्रीय मार्ग 8 पर शुक्रवार प्रातः सड़क हादसे में मूर्तिपूजकसंघ के दो जैन संत घायल हो गये। वहीं संतों के साथ साइकिल चालक सेवक की मृत्यु हो जाने के समाचार हैं। शुक्रवार प्रातः भागीरथ विजय म0 सा0 व रश्मिदीप विजय म0 सा0 अपने सिंघाड़े के साथ मुंबई से बोईसर की तरफ विहार कर रहे थे। राष्ट्रीय महामार्ग पर मनोर थाना क्षेत्र के वराई गांव के पास एक बड़े टेम्पो ने संतों को चपेट में ले लिया, जिससे चालक की मौत हो गई, वहीं मूर्तिपूजकसंघ के भागीरथ विजय व रश्मिदीप विजय म0 सा0 घायल हो गये। संतों के घायलों की सूचना मिलते ही मनोर, बोईसर, विरार के श्रावक घटनास्थल पर पहुंचे। घायल संतों का भायन्दर के उमराव अस्पताल में उपचार जारी है। प्रत्यक्षदर्शी रामलाल ने बताया कि टेम्पो चालक घटनास्थल से भाग गया। जैन संतों के घायल होने के समाचार लगते ही उमराव हॉस्पिटल भायंदर में श्रावकों का तांता लग गया। घायल संतों की कुशलक्षेम पूछने बोईसर, विरार, मीरारोड, भायन्दर से श्रावक पहुंचे। जैनज्ञान परिवार उनके अच्छे स्वस्थ की कामना करता है।

श्री अमर मुनि जी महाराज के स्वास्थ्य होने की कामना

पूज्य श्रुत आचार्य महाश्रमण श्री अमर मुनि जी महाराज के स्वास्थ्य लाभ हेतु विभिन्न जैन समाजों एवं संस्थाओं द्वारा को कुमरा पैलेस में जप अनुष्ठान महोत्सव का आयोजन किया गया। समारोह में विशेष रूप से उपस्थित आचार्य प्रवर श्रद्धेय श्री सुभद्र मुनि जी महाराज ने प्रवर्तक श्री अमर मुनि जी की गरिमा व महिमा मंडित जीवन पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि मुनि जी ने अनेकों जन कल्याणकारी संस्थाओं का निर्माण करवाया है। एक महान संत, विचारक, प्रचारक, साधक एवं कुशल संघ सारथी के रूप में गुरुदेव के महान योगदान से पूरी मानवता प्रकाशमान हुई है। कोटि-कोटि कंठ उनके महान जीवन के चिरायु होने की कामना करते हैं। इसी के साथ संस्कार दिवाकर श्री आगम मुनि जी, नेपाल गौरव श्री मणिभद्र जी, राष्ट्र संत सुव्रत मुनि जी, सेवा रत्न श्री सुयोग्य मुनि जी व उप प्रवर्तिनी श्री रवि रश्मि जी आदि संत-साध्वियों ने भी अपने भजन प्रवचन द्वारा अपने श्रद्धा पुष्प अर्पित किए। समारोह में महासती श्री कौशल्या जी, प्रतिभा जी, पुनीत ज्योति जी, सुमित्रा जी, सुनीता जी, शक्ति प्रभा जी, शिखा जी, प्रियंका जी आदि संत-साधवियां भी उपस्थित हुईं।

AHIMSA

PROTECT NUCLEAR LIABILITY ACT - GREENPEACE INDIA



The Nuclear Liability Act holds nuclear suppliers liable in case of a nuclear accident in the country. The Rules will dilute this Act. In case of a nuclear accident the foreign nuclear suppliers will get away by paying a small compensation, and the Indian tax payer will bear the bulk of the cost. Our leaders need to listen to their people instead of foreign corporations. Last year, pressure from the people and the opposition parties made the government enact a strong Nuclear Liability Act. We can do this again, by asking the political parties in the opposition to challenge these Rules. It's close to a year, but many who left Fukushima, Japan, after the nuclear disaster and high radiation levels, can't go home. A year since Fukushima and we still have not learnt our lesson. Our government is still keen on nuclear energy. Now they even want to dilute a clause in the Nuclear Liability Act, which holds suppliers of nuclear technology responsible in case of a nuclear accident. The rules to dilute this Act, could be presented in the upcoming session of Parliament. Our government is succumbing to foreign pressure and compromising on our safety. Stop them before they expose our lives to the risk of a nuclear accident. Listen to the stories of the survivors of the nuclear accident in Fukushima and then ask the heads of political parties to stop the dilution of the Nuclear Liability Act. If the government succeeds, the foreign nuclear suppliers will get away by paying a small compensation in the case of a nuclear accident. The bulk of the cost will be borne by us - the Indian tax payer. Pressure from lakhs of people and the opposition parties made the government pass a strong supplier liability clause. We need to do this again. For more information log on www.greenpeace.in/take-action/no-nuclear/no-clause-dilution.php, From: Karuna Raina, Nuclear campaigner, Greenpeace India.

सन् 2012 के घोषित अहिंसा दिवस, राजस्थान सरकार

राजस्थान सरकार के स्वायत्त शासन विभाग के नोटिफिकेशन सं. एफ. 01/609/ एल.ए.जी/49 सन् 2012 वर्ष में राज्य में घोषित अहिंसक अगताओं की महावार सूची। इन दिनों बूचड़ तथा कसाईखाने व पशुओं को कत्ल कर मांस आदि विक्रय करना कानूनन बंद है। राजस्थान उच्च न्यायालय (जयपुर) खण्डपीठ के निर्णय रीट याचिका सं. 1170/88 दिनांक: 26.07.88 तथा श्रम विभाग के आदेश सं. एफ. 11/9/श्रम/86 दिनांक: 22-12-1988 के अनुसार प्रत्येक शुक्रवार को भी अहिंसक दिवस घोषित है। - श्री तारक गुरु जैन ग्रन्थालय, उदयपुर (राज.) द्वारा प्रसारित।

1. 26 जनवरी 12 गणतंत्र दिवस गुरुवार 26 जनवरी
2. 30 जनवरी 12 गांधी निर्वाण दिवस सोमवार 30 जनवरी
3. 20 फरवरी 12 महाशिवरात्रि सोमवार फाल्गुन कृष्ण 14
4. 1 अप्रैल 12 स्था. महात्मा ज्योतिराव जयंती रविवार चैत्र शुक्ला 9
5. 1 अप्रैल 12 रामनवमी रविवार चैत्र शुक्ला 9
6. 5 अप्रैल 12 भगवान् महावीर जयंती गुरुवार चैत्र शुक्ला 13
7. 14 अप्रैल 12 स्था. अगता अम्बेडकर जयंती शनिवार 14 अप्रैल
8. 2 मई 12 आ. देवेन्द्र मुनि निर्वाण दिवस बुधवार वैशाख शुक्ला 11

9. 6 मई 12 बुद्ध पूर्णिमा रविवार वैशाख शुक्ला 15
10. 10 अगस्त 12 श्रीकृष्ण जन्माष्टमी शुक्रवार भाद्रपद कृष्णा 8
11. 15 अगस्त 12 स्वतंत्रता दिवस बुधवार 15 अगस्त
12. 19 सितम्बर 12 गणेश चतुर्थी बुधवार द्वि. भाद्रपद शुक्ला 4
13. 20 सितम्बर 12 ऋषि पंचमी बुधवार द्वि. भाद्रपद शुक्ला 5
14. 29 सितम्बर 12 अनन्त चतुर्दशी शनिवार द्वि. भाद्रपद शुक्ला 14
15. 2 अक्टूबर 12 गांधी जयन्ती, विश्व अहिंसा दिवस मंगलवार गांधी जयन्ती
16. 16 अक्टूबर 12 स्था. अगता अग्रसेन जयंति मंगलवार आसोज शुक्ला 1
17. 10 नवम्बर 12 पेड़ा ग्यारस शनिवार कार्तिक कृष्णा 11
18. 12 नवम्बर 12 छोटी दीपावली सोमवार कार्तिक कृष्णा 13
19. 13 नवम्बर 12 दीपावली मंगलवार कार्तिक कृष्णा 15
20. 28 नवम्बर 12 कार्तिक पूर्णिमा बुधवार कार्तिक कृष्णा 14

मोरो को और गायों को बचाने के लिए प्रार्थना करती हूँ। Asha Gandhi, Bangalore, E-Mail : mailbox.asha@gmail.com
हम सब भारत के वासी हैं। हमें अपने प्राण जिस तरह से प्यारे हैं उसी तरह मूक प्राणियों को भी उनके प्राण प्यारे लगते हैं। कोई मरना नहीं चाहता। कुछ लोग उदार पूर्ति के लिए निर्दोष प्राणियों को निर्मम मरते हैं। धर्म के नाम पर पशुओं की बलि देते हैं। तब बहुत दुःख होता है। आज शहर के बाजारों में मोर के पंख धड़ल्ले से बिक रहे हैं। दक्षिण भारत में तो मोर नहीं पाए जाते, फिर ढेर सारे मोर पंख आते कहाँ से हैं? क्या मोरो को मारा जाता है पंखों की तस्करी के लिए। अगर ऐसा है तो सरकारें और जीव दया वाली संस्थाएं इस और जरूर ध्यान दें।

कुछ सम्प्रदाय के लोगों ने गायों को बचने की मुहिम छेड़ रखी है। इसके लिए उन्हें बहुत बहुत साधुवाद गायों को बचाना भी चाहिये। गायों को हम हिन्दू अपनी माता मानते हैं और माँ की तरह ही पूजते हैं, किन्तु इसी देश में गायें सड़को पर पड़े कचरे के ढेर में बैठ कर कचरा खा रही हैं गायों को पालने वाले उन्हें भर पेट चारा पानी नहीं देते और योहीं सड़को पर खुले आम छोड़ देते हैं कचरा खाने के लिए ऐसे दृश्य मैंने सरे हिन्दुस्तान में जगह जगह गली गली में देखे हैं चाहे अहमदाबाद हो राजस्थान हो चाहे बेंगलुरु चाहे पूना हो या चेन्नई हर कहीं। एक दो किस्से तो मैंने गायों को कचरे में से प्लास्टिक खाकर मरने के भी अखबारों में पढ़े हैं। अब समय आ गया है कि गायों को बचाया जाय उन्हें अच्छी जिंदगी दी जाएँ उनके लिए सर्व सुविधा युक्त गोशालाएं बनवाई जाएँ। दूध बेचने वाले दूध निकालने के पहले गायों को और भैंसों को injections लगते मैंने खुद अपनी आँखों से कई बार देखा है। पुछने पर पता चला कि ऐसा करने से गायें अदि ज्यादा मात्रा में दूध देती हैं। हम कृष्ण को भूल गए हैं जो गो पलक भी कहलाते थे। जिनकी मधुर बांसुरी की आवाज़ सुन कर गायें ज्यादा दूध देती थी और घरे रहती थी। आज नदियों तालाबों के किनारे फैक्ट्रीयां एवं बड़े बड़े अपार्टमेन्ट बन रहे हैं गायों को ताज़ी घास मिले तो कहाँ से। वे अपना दुःख कहें तो भी कैसे उन्हें समझाने वाला कृष्ण कन्हैया जो नहीं हैं। हम आने वाली पीढ़ी को क्या ऐसा दूषित कलुषित वातावरण देकर जायेंगे। हम मूर्तिपुजक जैन लोग भगवन का पंचामृत से अभिषेक करते हैं जिसमें गायों का ताज़ा दूध घी और दही होता है, और अपने आप को धन्य मानते हैं तब क्या हमारा फर्ज नहीं बनता कि भगवन का अभिषेक ऐसी गायों के दूध से न किया हो जिसने कचरा खाकर पेट भरा हो (?) एवं जिसने injections का दर्द सहन हो। अपने लोगो को रूढ़िवादिता से थोड़ा हट कर भी सोचना चाहिये: समाज में हो रहे इन अत्याचारों से क्या हमारा कोई वास्ता नहीं। क्या हम सिर्फ अहिंसा परमो धर्म का नारा लगाने के लिए ही हैं। सही मायने में हम ने अहिंसा का अर्थ समझा ही नहीं। व्यापारी वर्ग का काम सिर्फ व्यापार करना और जरूरत पड़े तो donation देना ही है इससे ज्यादा कुछ नहीं।

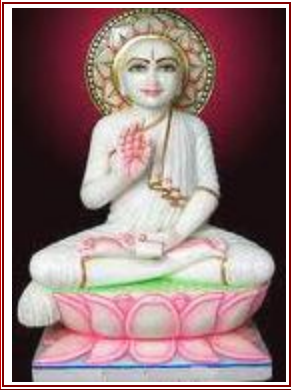
मैंने राजस्थान के पावापुरी धाम में K. P. Sanghvi Charitable Trust Dwaara Sanchalit गोशाला देखी और दिल खुश हो गया। काश भारत की और दुनियां की सभी गायों को वैसी जिंदगी मिले। इसकी विडियो बना कर इसका प्रचार होना चाहिये ताकि लोगो को प्रेरणा मिले। गायें सबसे ज्यादा शांत प्राणी हैं जो सिर्फ देना जानते हैं लेना नहीं, हम आज यह प्राण ले कि हम गायों को उनका उचित स्थान देकर ही रहेंगे बस एक क्रांति की जरूरत है। अगर आप इस मुहिम को चलाने के लिए प्रचार करेंगे तो मैं आपके साथ हूँ।

इतना ही नहीं यहाँ दक्षिण भारत में मोर पंख धड़ल्ले से बिक रहे हैं और हम सभी जानते हैं कि मोर राजस्थान और गुजरात में ही पाए जाते हैं। शिकारी लोग चंद रुपये के लिए मोरों को मार कर उनके पंख को बेच रहे हैं और आपके माध्यम से मोरो को और गायों को बचने के लिए प्रार्थना करती हूँ।

धन्यवाद

ARTICLE

SRI GAUTAM SWAMI



In 607 B. C., in the village of Gobargaon, a Brahmin couple called Vasubhuti and Prithvi Gautam (family name) had a son named Indrabhuti. He was tall and handsome. He had two younger brothers named Agnibhuti and Vayubhuti. All three were well versed in the Vedas and other rituals at an early age. They were very popular and great scholars in the state of Magadh. Each one of them had 500 disciples. Once in the city of Apapa, a Brahmin named Somil was conducting a Yagna (sacrificial ceremony) at his home. There were over four thousand Brahmins present at the occasion, and there were eleven popular scholars among them. Indrabhuti stood out as a bright star. Somil was a staunch supporter of the Brahmin philosophy and was very happy during the ceremony. The whole town was excited by this event in which they were going to sacrifice the sheep and the goats. Suddenly, Somil noticed many celestial beings coming down towards his sacrificial site. He thought that this would make his offering ceremony the most popular in the history. He told the people, "Look at the sky, even the angels are coming to bless us." The whole

town was eagerly looking at the sky.

To their surprise, the celestial beings did not stop at their site, instead they went further down. Somil's ego melted away as he learned that the celestial beings paid homage to Lord Mahavir, who had come to near by Mahasen Forest. Indrabhuti was outraged by this incident and his ego was bruised. He started thinking to himself, "Who is this Mahavir who does not even use affluent Sanskrit, but speaks the common public language of Ardha Magadhi." Everyone in the ceremony was overpowered by the mere presence of Lord Mahavir. Indrabhuti once again thought, "Mahavir opposes animal sacrifices, and if he succeeds then we Brahmins will lose our livelihood. I will debate with him." He left to challenge him.

Mahavir welcomed Indrabhuti by calling him by his name even though they had never met before. Indrabhuti was surprised, but then he said to himself, "Who does not know me? I am not surprised he knew my name. I wonder if he knows what I am thinking." Omniscient Mahavira knew what was going through Indrabhuti's mind. Indrabhuti, even though a great scholar, had a doubt about the existence of Atma (soul) and was thinking to himself, "Can Mahavir tell that I doubt the existence of the soul?" The next moment Mahavir said, "Indrabhuti, Atma (soul - consciousness) is there and you should not question it." Indrabhuti was shocked and began to think very highly of Mahavir. Then, they had a philosophical discussion, and Indrabhuti changed his beliefs and he became Mahavir's first and chief disciple. Indrabhuti was fifty years old at the time, and from then on he was called Gautamswami, because he came from Gautam family. Meanwhile in the town, Somil and other scholars were waiting to greet the expected winner of the debate, Indrabhuti. They were shocked to learn that Indrabhuti had become the disciple of Mahavir. The other ten Brahmin scholars, also went to debate with Mahavir, also became his disciples, the same way as Indrabhuti. The people present at the Somil's place began to leave, and Somil canceled the ceremony and turned all the animals loose.

One time, Gautamswami was going back after the gochari (getting food or alms), and he noticed many people going in another direction. He asked them what was going on. They said, "We are going to see Anand shravak. He has been performing austerities and has attained a special knowledge (Avadhigyan)." Anand shravak was Mahavir's follower, so Gautamswami decided to go and visit him. When Anand saw Gautamswami coming to his house, he was very happy that his guru (spiritual teacher) was coming. However, even though he was very weak due to his austerities, he got up and welcomed Gautamswami. Gautamswami inquired about his condition. Anand replied, "With your blessings, I am fine." After some time, Anand told Gautamswami with respect, "Reverend teacher, I have attained Avadhigyan because of which I can see as high as fourteenth heaven and as low as the seventh hell." Gautamswami thought, "A shravak can attain Avadhigyan, but not to this extent." Aloud he told Anand, "You should do prayshchit (atonement) for your imagination." Anand was puzzled. He knew what he could see, but his teacher told him to atone for telling that. So, he politely asked Gautamswami, "Does one have to atone for telling the truth?" Gautamswami replied, "No," and then left the place thinking, "I will reconfirm this with Lord Mahavir."

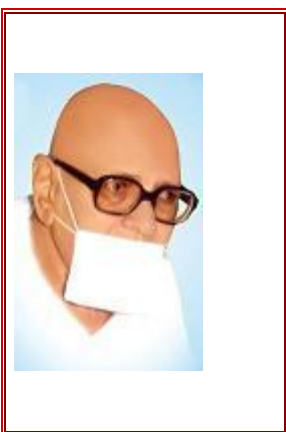
Gautamswāmi returned to Lord Mahāvīr, who was sitting with his other disciples, and asked about Anand. Mahāvīr said, "Gautam, Anand was telling the truth. How could a person like you with so much knowledge make such a mistake? You should atone for your mistake." Mahāvīr believed in the truth, and he would never cover up the mistake of his disciple just to make their group look good. Gautamswāmi put his alms aside, and immediately went to Anand's house to ask for forgiveness for his doubt. Anand was proud of his humble teacher, who did not mind admitting his own fault to his followers.

On another occasion, Gautamswāmi went to town for the alms. He was returning with the kheer (a sweet made from rice and milk) in a patra (bowl) when he saw fifteen hundred hermits. Gautamswāmi felt that they were hungry and offered them the kheer. They began to wonder how Gautamswāmi would feed all of them. Gautamswāmi requested all of the hermits to sit down, and then he served everyone with the kheer with the help of Aksheemahanasi (nondiminishing) Labdhi (special power). While serving the kheer, he kept his thumb in the kheer. To everyone's surprise they were all well served from the small patra (bowl). The hermits were all so impressed by Gautamswāmi, that all fifteen hundred decided to take diksha (renunciation) from Lord Mahāvīr.

Many sadhus, including those hermits, attained Kevaljñan, but Gautamswāmi was still unable to achieve it. He was worried that he would never attain Kevaljñan. One day, Gautamswāmi asked Lord Mahāvīr, "There were eleven of us (main disciples - Gandhars) who accepted diksha and most of them have attained Kevaljñan. Why am I so unlucky that I am not able to attain Kevaljñan?" Lord Mahāvīr replied, "Gautam, you have too much affection for me. In order to attain Kevaljñan you must overcome the attachment. So, until you give up your attachment towards me, it would not be possible for you to attain Kevaljñan."

On the day when Mahāvīr was to attain nirvana (liberation), Mahāvīr sent Gautamswāmi out to preach to a man named Devsharma. On his way back, Gautamswāmi learned that Lord Mahāvīr had attained nirvana and reached the moksha (salvation). Gautamswāmi went into a state of shock and sorrow, lamenting, "Lord Mahāvīr knew this was going to happen. Why did he send me away." Gautamswāmi could not stop his tears and started weeping. Within a few minutes, he came back to his senses and began thinking, "Maybe this was destined to happen this way. No one can live forever; no relationship is permanent. Why was I so attached to Mahāvīr?" He contemplated that he was wrong and gave up attachment for Mahāvīr. During this deep thinking, he burned his Ghati Karmas and attained Kevaljñan at the age of eighty. Gautamswāmi taught and spread Jain principles for next twelve years. He attained Moksha, at the age of ninety-two in 515 B. C.

उपाध्याय श्री पुष्कर मुनि जी के साहित्य में नारी जीवन और उसके आदर्श - सीमा दिलीप धींग



उपाध्याय श्री पुष्करमुनि जी म.सा. साधना के शिखर पुरुष और ज्ञानी-ध्यानी संत थे। विभिन्न विषयों पर जीवन निर्माणकारी साहित्य रचकर उन्होंने अपने उपाध्याय पद को सचमुच सार्थक कर दिया था। उनके साहित्य के मुख्यतः दो स्रोत एवं तीन धाराएँ हैं। स्रोत के अन्तर्गत लिखित और प्रवचन साहित्य सम्मिलित किया जा सकता है। उनके साहित्य की तीन धाराएँ हैं - निबंध, कथा और काव्य। कथा साहित्य में "जैन कथाएं" शीर्षक से एक सौ ग्यारह भाग लिखकर उन्होंने एक कीर्तिमान रच दिया। निबंध और कविता में भी उनके साहित्य का विशिष्ट स्थान है। उनका साहित्य बहु आयामी है।

उसमें नारी जीवन और उसके आदर्शों पर इतनी सामग्री है कि पूरा एक शोध प्रबंध ही लिखा जा सकता है। इसलिये यहां हम उनके चन्द्र संदर्भों के साथ कुछ आदर्शों की ही चर्चा कर पाएंगे। उपाध्याय श्री पुष्कर मुनि जी को श्रमण जीवन के लिये प्रेरित करने में महासती धूल कुंवर का विशेष योगदान रहा, जिसे उपाध्याय श्रीजी बहुत ही आदर से स्मरण करते थे। उनके कथा, काव्य व प्रवचन-साहित्य में शीलवती व साहसी नारियों के जीवन की महिमा का बखान किया गया है। जैन कथाओं में प्रायः कोई भी कथा नारी के किसी न किसी प्रेरक आदर्श के बगैर पूरी नहीं होती है। "जैन धर्म में दान एक अनुशीलन" पुस्तक में वे चन्दनबाला द्वारा उड़द के बाकुलों से भगवान् महावीर के पारणों का उल्लेख करते हुए नारी के तप-त्याग व भावना को चरमोत्कर्ष प्रदान करते हैं। इसी ग्रन्थ में अनेक उद्धार सन्नारियों के उदाहरण सर्वस्व समर्पण की नई प्रेरणाएं देते हैं।

"श्रावक धर्म दर्शन" पुस्तक में वे महात्मा गांधी के जीवन निर्माण में माँ का योगदान का वर्णन करते हैं कि जब महात्मा गांधी को विदेश जाना था तब उनकी माता उनको जैन मुनि बेचर स्वामी के पास ले गई और मांसाहार, मदिरापान और अनाचार का परित्याग करवाया। एक उदाहरण में अर्जुन रंभा में मातृभाव का दर्शन करता है। इससे नारी जाति को मर्यादा की सीख दी गई है। सतीत्व के रक्षार्थ नारियों की दृढ़ता और तेजस्विता की स्थान स्थान पर वे प्रशंसा करते हैं।

चतुर्थ ब्रह्मचर्य व्रत के माध्यम से नारी को दी गई स्वतंत्रता का उपाध्याय श्री पुष्कर मुनि जी म० बहुत सुन्दर विवेचन करते हैं। उनकी प्रसिद्ध पुस्तक "ब्रह्मचर्य विज्ञान" में पृष्ठ संख्या 483 से 488 तक "नारी जीवन और ब्रह्मचर्य" अध्याय में उपाध्याय श्री जी स्पष्ट रूप से कहते हैं कि अन्य धर्म दर्शनों की तुलना में जैन धर्म में नारी को उच्चतर स्थान दिया गया है। वे लिखते हैं- "समय आने पर पुरुषों की अपेक्षा साध्वी स्त्रियाँ अथवा सतियां ब्रह्मचर्य व्रत में अधिक दृढ़ हो रही हैं।" उन्होंने उदाहरण देकर बताया कि राजमती ने रथनेमी को संयम में दृढ़ किया और कोशा श्राविका ने आचार्य स्थूलिभद्र के गुरुभाई को चतुराई से सन्मार्ग दिखाया। लिपि और गणित की विशेषज्ञा ब्राह्मी और सुन्दरी, तीर्थंकर पद पाने वाली मल्ली भगवती और चौदह हजार श्रमणियों की प्रमुखा महासती चन्दनबाला का बड़े ही गौरव से उल्लेख करते हुए उपाध्याय श्रीजी समस्त महिला वर्ग को उनसे विविध मंगल प्रेरणाएं लेने का आह्वान करते हैं।

उन्होंने नारी को पुरुष की सहचारिणी कहने के साथ साथ उसे धर्म-सहाया यानि धर्म में सहायता करने वाली बताया है। एक और वह धर्म सहाया है, वहीं दूसरी और उसे धर्म साधना में पूर्ण स्वतंत्रता दी गई है। सातवें अंग आगम उपासकदशा सूत्र के संदर्भ से उपाध्याय श्रीजी लिखते हैं कि श्रावकों से साथ साथ उनकी पत्नियों ने भी भगवान् महावीर से श्रावक के व्रतों को अंगीकार किया। आठवें अंग आगम अंतकृतदशा सूत्र के संदर्भ में वे कहते हैं कि अनेक गृहिणीयों, रानियों, और महारानियों ने श्रमणी जीवन में दीक्षित होकर संसार के समक्ष त्याग का अनुपम आदर्श प्रस्तुत किया।

उपाध्याय श्री पुष्कर मुनि जी चाहते हैं कि नारी जीवन में संयम और सादगी की प्रतिष्ठा हो। ब्रह्मचर्य विज्ञान में वे लिखते हैं। - "आधुनिक नारी में संयम और दृढ़ता कम है, प्रसाधन सौंदर्यप्रियता और प्रदर्शनप्रियता अधिक है। वह अपने शरीर का इस तरह प्रदर्शन करती या सजती संवरती है कि वह दूसरों के लिये लोभ व ईर्ष्या का कारण बन जाती है।" नारी जीवन के समग्र उत्कर्ष के लिये वे ब्रह्मचर्य पर जोर देते हुए कहते हैं - जब नारी जीवन में ब्रह्मचर्य की प्रतिष्ठा होगी तब उसमें विश्वमातृत्व बनेगा।" संत विनोबा के बाद उपाध्याय श्रीजी ने "विश्वमातृत्व" शब्द का प्रयोग करके नारी के महान् आदर्श को सबके सामने रखा है।

शास्त्रों में स्थान स्थान पर पुरुषों के लिये तरह तरह के नियमों का विधान किया गया है तो महिलाओं के लिये क्या प्रावधान हैं? इस प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए उपाध्याय श्रीजी सुझाव देते हैं। कि जो नियम पुरुषों के लिये हैं, वे ही नियम स्त्रियों के लिये हैं। जैसे "स्वदार संतोष" के स्थान पर "स्वपति संतोष" समझना। सभी मामलों में ऐसा ही समझना चाहिए। सामाजिक कर्तव्यों के निर्वहन में हो या आध्यात्मिक साधना में, नारी को सब जगह आगे बढ़ने के समान अवसर प्राप्त है।

उपाध्याय श्री पुष्कर मुनि जी म० के साहित्य में नारी जीवन के सभी आदर्शों की महिमा गाई गई है। वे नारी स्वतंत्रता के पक्ष में तो हैं, लेकिन नारी के स्वच्छन्दाचार के पक्ष में नहीं हैं। मर्यादाओं का उल्लंघन सिर्फ नारी जीवन के लिये ही अहितकर नहीं है, अपितु वह परिवार और समाज के लिए भी अहितकर है। उपाध्याय श्रीजी के साहित्य का स्वाध्याय करने से नारी के प्रेरक व उज्ज्वल आदर्श हमारे समक्ष उपस्थित होते हैं। उपाध्याय श्रीजी के साहित्य में वर्णित नारी जीवन के आदर्शों को अपनाया जाए तो वर्तमान समय की कई समस्याएं नौ दो ग्यारह हो जायेगी। Source: श्री तारक गुरु जैन ग्रन्थालय, उदयपुर, E-Mail : tguru1966@gmail.com

JAIN MINORITY ISSUE

JAINS TO BE CONSIDERED AS RELIGIOUS MINORITY IN A. P.

The Andhra Pradesh State Government has declared that along with Muslims and Christians, Jains too will be considered as religious minorities in the state hereafter. This means that the Jains will have privileges like running educational institutions etc. for their community. As per the 2001 census, there are around 41,486 Jains in the state out of a total population of 7.6 crore which amounts to around 0.1 per cent. The minorities welfare department issued the orders declaring the Jain community as a religious minority in the state following a representation from the Shri Bharatvarshiya Digamber Jain Mahasabha.

It was stated in the representation that as per Article 30 of the Indian Constitution, Jains can be declared as a minority based on religion and language. Reacting to this in 2007, the then minority affairs minister, Mr A. R. Antulay, had written to the former CM, Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, informing him that a religious community, which was less than 0.5 per cent of the population, would definitely fall under the minority category and had to be notified by the state government as a religious minority. In July, 2010, the minority affairs ministry had confirmed that for the purpose of determining minority, the unit taken into consideration should be the state and not the country. Courtesy: Digamber Jain Mahasabha

जैन समाज को केंद्र में अल्पसंख्यक का दर्जा मिलेगा - कांग्रेस के महासचिव श्री दिग्विजय सिंह



आगरा, दिनांक ०८/०२/१२, कांग्रेस के महासचिव श्री दिग्विजय सिंह ने वायदा किया है की जैन समाज को केंद्र में अल्पसंख्यक का दर्जा अति शीघ्र मिलेगा, यह बात उन्होंने आगरा में सकल जैन समाज के प्रतिनिधिमंडल से कही, उन्होंने कहा की जैन समाज की यह मांग बिलकुल जायज़ है ओरे वे इसका पुरजोर समर्थन करते हैं, उन्होंने आगे कहा की इसके लिए वह श्रीमती सोनिया एवं राहुल गांधीजी से प्रयास करके इस कार्य को अतिशय कराएंगे! इस अवसर पर जैन समाज के प्रतिनिधिमंडल से बात करते हुए जैन समाज से उनके गहरे संबंधों की भी चर्चा की एवं कहा के जन्म से भले ही वह क्षत्रिय हैं परन्तु कर्म से वह अपने आप को जैन मानते हैं! उन्होंने कहा की जैन समाज में उनके अनेक मित्र हैं जिनसे पारवारिक सम्बन्ध हैं अतः वे जैन समाज के सेवा भाव को भली भांति जानते हैं, इस समाज को पूरा अधिकार है की वह अपने शिक्षण संस्थान, मंदिर, धर्मशाला, आदि बिने किसी रोक टोक के चलाये!

JAINS TO BE ACCORDED MINORITY STATUS IN HARYANA: HOODA



Chandigarh: The Haryana Government recently announced that the Jain community will be accorded minority status in the state. "The Jain community would be included in the list of minority communities," Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said, addressing a gathering of Jain devotees at a function organised to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira at Gannaur near Panipat. The 11-day long Panchkalyanak Pratishtha Mahotsav and Mahamastakabhishek has been organised at Guptisagar Dham Tirath. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister also announced that the Guptisagar Dham Tirath at Gannaur would be developed as a tourist site. Shri Hooda also said that the government would send its recommendation to National Highway Authority of India to name the flyover at NH No 1 in front of Guptisagar Dham after Jain Saint Shri Guptisagar Ji Maharaj.

VEGETARIANISM

PLANT-BASED FOOD CAN BE VERY HEALTHFUL



American Dietetic Association have asserted that appropriately planned vegetarian diets, including total vegetarian or vegan diets, are healthful, nutritionally adequate, and may provide health benefits in the prevention and treatment of certain diseases. Well-planned vegetarian diets are appropriate for individuals during all stages of the life cycle, including pregnancy, lactation, infancy, childhood, and adolescence, and for athletes. An evidence-based review showed that vegetarian diets can be nutritionally adequate in pregnancy and result in positive maternal and infant health outcomes. The results of an evidence-based review showed that a vegetarian diet is associated with a lower risk of death from ischemic heart disease. Vegetarians also appear to have lower low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels, lower blood pressure, and lower rates of hypertension and type 2 diabetes than nonvegetarians. Furthermore, vegetarians tend to have a lower body mass index and lower overall cancer rates.

CONFERENCE & EVENTS

UK QUEEN ELIZABETH II, RECOGNISED JAINISM AS ONE OF THE NINE MAJOR FAITHS IN BRITAIN



In UK, the nation is celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee this year. As a part of these celebrations, the Queen Elizabeth II, has recognised, Jainism as one of the nine historical major faiths in Britain. The nine historical major faiths Christianity, Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Islam, Jain, Jewish, Sikh and Zoroastrian celebrated this event by showing the treasures to Her Majesty & the Duke of Edinburgh and by gifting 'A Year of Service' to Her. The Archbishop of Canterbury invited Her Majesty on the 15th of February to show the treasures of the respective faiths where Dr. Natubhai Shah led the Jain delegation that included Mr. Tushar Shah (President Oshwal Association UK), Mr. Harshad Sanghrajka (Secretary IOJ) and Mr. Kamal Mehta (Trustee Jain Samaj Europe). Jains displayed the Kalpa Sutra, one of the most auspicious sacred text as their treasure. All Non-Christian faiths were treated equally and allowed 4 persons for the

presentation. The UK Government has initiated the faith led 'A Year of Service' to gift a social action project by the faith communities near their important sacred day. Jains have been given the opportunity of visiting sick on 4th April on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti. The Jain community in the UK has been excited to be part of this celebration. We will visit a few hospitals and hospices in London, Leicester, Manchester and Birmingham. London Jains will visit 6 Hospitals, 2 Hospices and some housebound sick. Each visiting Jain group will consist of 6- 10 persons which will include health professionals, interfaith leaders and community leaders and volunteers. We hope to entertain the sick by instrumental music and giving gift of sweets or fruits. News courtesy : Dr. Natubhai Shah MBBS PhD, Chair/CEO Jain Network, Jain Centre, 64-68 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5DR, Tel: 020 8200 0828 Website: www.jainnetwork.com

HINDUS-BUDDHISTS-JEWS-ATHEISTS SEEK EU INTERVENTION IN HUNGARY TO RESTORE RELIGIOUS EQUALITY



In a remarkable joint interfaith gesture, Hindus-Buddhists-Jews-Atheists want immediate intervention of European Union in Hungary to establish religious equality and freedom. Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement in Nevada (USA), said that Hinduism and many other religions and denominations were not officially recognized in Hungary. Should not all religions be equal before the law in a democracy? Is not Hungary part of the EU which boasts of being the human rights leader in the world? Zed asked. Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, pointed out that Hinduism was the oldest and third largest religion in the world with a rich philosophical thought and about one billion adherents. Are not these enough qualifications for a religion to be

recognized?

Rajan Zed expressed dismay at Hungary's recent law on religion, saying that it was a setback to religious equality. The official recognition process was suffocating, cumbersome, unnecessarily burdened the Hungary's minority religions/denominations, smelled of favoritism, discriminatory against certain faith groups and was without any right to appeal. It was a step in the wrong and backwards direction, Zed added. Zed further said that nations should not be in the business of regulating religion, which was very powerful and complex; and governments should not tell who was "church" and who was not. Rajan Zed urged His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and other world religious leaders to speak against this recent Hungarian law and back the minority religions/denominations of Hungary. Religions/denominations with a major presence in Hungary should also come to the rescue of religious minorities.

Zed stated that Hungary seemed to have created its own narrow "definition" of religion which might not be compatible with European and international religious equality and freedom standards. This exclusionary approach sent a worrying signal, a cause for concern. Zed stressed the need for more openness, equality and religious freedom in Hungary; the country of Lake Balaton, romantic Danube River, Franz Liszt and Bela Bartok. Meanwhile, Rabbi Eliza Beth Beyer, prominent Jewish leader in Nevada, in a statement today, stressed that Hinduism was one of the major religions of the world and the Hungarian Parliament was out of touch with the reality in not granting it recognition in upholding "The Right to Freedom of Conscience and Religion and on the Status of Churches, Religions and Religious Communities" Law. Rabbi Beyer stated that the Law created inferior religious status to faiths which had fewer followers in Hungary, violating the right to be free from religious discrimination. Beyer noted that the Law, which also stripped liberal Jewish congregations of their religious status, was flawed and archaic.

Jon Eric Johnson, a well known atheist scholar belonging to Reno Freethinkers, in a statement today, said: "We are dismayed and disappointed at the Hungarian government for engaging in the regulation and exclusionary approach in religion. A free and democratic society must allow people to worship, or not worship, as they so choose without restriction, harassment or favoritism." Distinguished Buddhist priest in Western USA, Jikai' Phil Bryan, in a statement in Reno today, urged Hungary to end discriminatory practices aimed at members of any and all authentic religious traditions and treat all religions as equal before the law and government. Bryan stressed the urgent need of ensuring religious equality and freedom in Hungary. In a past survey, 44% Hungarians reportedly replied that they believed that there was a God. Roman Catholics were the largest group with about 52% Hungarians as followers. Majority of Hungary became Christian in the 11th century. Budapest synagogue is said to be the largest in Europe. Pal Schmitt and Viktor Orban are President and Prime Minister respectively of Republic of Hungary. Mr. Rajan Zed can be contacted at E-Mail :zed.rjn@gmail.com

RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS

उपाध्याय श्री पुष्कर मुनि जी म० के साहित्य पर चेतना मेनारिया को पीएच० डी०

उदयपुर, 14 फरवरी 2012। मोहनलाल सुखाडिया विश्वविद्यालय उदयपुर (राजस्थान) द्वारा श्रीमती चेतना मेनारिया को

विद्यावाचस्पति (पीएच0 डी) की उपाधि प्रदान की गई है। विश्वविद्यालय के जैन विद्या एवं प्राकृत विभाग के आचार्य डॉ0 एच0 सी0 जैन के निर्देशन में श्रीमती चेतना मेनारिया ने उपाध्याय पुष्कर मुनि के साहित्य में प्रतिपादित समाज" विषय पर अपना शोध प्रबन्ध प्रस्तुत कर (पीएच0 डी) की उपाधि प्राप्त की। डॉ0 चेतना मेनारिया ने अपने शोध प्रबन्ध में उपाध्याय श्री पुष्करमुनिजी के साहित्य में प्रतिपादित समाज के आधार पर भारतीय समाज के मूल्यों के विभिन्न पक्षों को प्रस्तुत किया है। श्रावकाचार का समाज पर प्रभाव, साथ ही समाज के द्वारा किये जाने वाले अपव्यय एवं उसके घातक परिणामों पर विचार किया गया है। समाज में व्याप्त कुव्यसन, कुरितियों पर कुठाराघात कर उन्हें त्यागने पर बल दिया गया है। डॉ0 चेतना मेनारिया द्वारा प्रस्तुत शोधप्रबन्ध के प्रेरणा स्रोत पूज्य श्रमण संघीय सलाहकार श्री दिनेश मुनि जी म0 जी रहे, जिनके आशीर्वाद से डॉ0 चेतना मेनारिया ने इस शोधप्रबन्ध को पूर्ण किया है। उल्लेखनीय है कि इससे पूर्व उपाध्याय श्री पुष्कर मुनि जी म0 पर वर्ष 2004 में श्रीमती डॉ0 अनीता गन्ना ने मोहनलाल सुखाड़िय विश्वविद्यालय के जैन विद्या एवं प्राकृत विभाग के पूर्व सह आचार्य डॉ0 उदयचंद जैन के निर्देशन में उपाध्याय पुष्कर मुनि के अमरसूरि महाकाव्य का समीक्षात्मक अध्ययन पर तथा वर्ष 2005 में महासती डॉ0 प्रज्ञाश्री ने भी डॉ0 जैन के निर्देशन में उपाध्याय पुष्कर मुनि का जैन हिन्दी कथा साहित्य का अनुशीलन विषय पर (पीएच0 डी) की उपाधि प्राप्त हुई है।

JAIN MUNI CHINTAN JI AWARDED DOCTORAL DEGREE

Jain monk Chintan Muniji, 53, will now be called Dr. Chintan Muni. The monk was awarded a doctoral degree by Gujarat University. He has completed his Phd. programme under the guidance of Intaj Malek. The subject of his research is 'Bhavna Shata - Treatise on 12 reflections of Jainism by Shatavdhani Ratnachandraj Maharaj'.



DR. ABHAY FIRODIA AWARDED "ORDER OF MERIT" GERMANY'S HIGHEST HONOUR FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE



Pune's Dr. Abhay Firodia, Chairman, Force Motors, was honoured with the "Order of Merit" of the Federal Republic of Germany by Dr. Leopold Theodor Heldman, Consul General, Mumbai, at an award ceremony organised on February 16, 2012 at the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce in Pune.

The "Order of Merit" is the highest honour awarded to individuals for their admirable services to the Federal Republic of Germany. The recognition is granted to those who make a significant contribution in social, intellectual, economic or political departments. Speaking on this occasion, Dr. Abhay Firodia said, "It is a great honour and privilege to be recognised by Federal Republic of Germany with the "Order of Merit". I would like to thank all members associated with this award." Previous Indian recipients of this award include Subrato Halder, B. G. Roy and Sister Mary Prema. Force Motors' relationship with Germany dates back to 1950 when N. K. Firodia partnered with Vidal & Sohn Tempo Werke Germany to manufacture the HANSEAT 3 wheelers. Our association and collaboration has grown steadily over the past five decades with business and technical alliances with global leaders like Daimler, MAN, ZF and other leading companies." Force Motors' half a century of active collaborations with German companies has been enhanced by Abhay Firodia, with new alliances and partnerships in the last decade. His leadership continues to guide the company in manufacture of utilitarian, cost effective, and quality products especially suited for Indian economy and rural conditions.

ARUN HASTIMAL FIRODIA HONORED WITH PADMASHRI



Kinetic Group Chairman Arun Hastimal Firodia, an Alumnus of IIT Bombay has been honored by the President of India with the Padma Shri award on Republic Day in the trade and industry category. Arun H. Firodia started the flagship company, Kinetic Engineering Ltd. He is at present the chairman of the Kinetic Group. He developed, India's first totally indigenous moped - 'Luna', which became an instant hit with the consumers in the 70's and 80's. He is also credited with introducing one of the most advanced scooter models in India in a joint venture with the Honda motor Company in Japan. He has collaborated with world renowned companies such as Hyundai, Taigene, Sciaky, Daewoo, San Yang etc. for manufacturing of advanced technology products. Mr. Firodia can truly be considered the pioneer in putting affordable mobility within the reach of the Indian population and for bringing convenience and refinement to scootering by giving modern day shape, scale and scope to the Indian two-wheeler industry. Apart from a B. Tech in Elec. Engg from IITB he is also been conferred with the Distinguished Alumnus Award for his contributions to Indian Industry, Academia and Society. Mr. Firodia also holds a Masters in electrical engineering (MS) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MBA (MS in Management) from the Sloan School of Management. He has been conferred MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Alumnus Award (2007) for distinguished achievement and exceptional service to Country, Society and MIT.

DR. SANDEEP JAIN NOMINATED MEMBER OF ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD



Dr. Sandeep K Jain, Chief Coordinator, CAPE-India (Care of Animals & Protection of Environment-India) has been Nominated as Co-Opted Member of Animal Welfare Board of India (Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India) by Maj. Gen (Dr.) R. M. Kharb Chairman AWBI, In a communication issued on 23rd Feb.2012 . Dr. Jain who has been Spearheading Animal welfare Movement from past two decades had been Founder of People for Animals in Punjab and Founded animal shelter and ambulance in Ludhiana, as Founder President PFA Ludhiana(198-2006)which was first of its kind in State. He was awarded Jeev Daya Award in 2000 by AWBI. He has been Executive member of AWBI (2001-2006) holding Charge of Punjab ,Haryana, Himachal, J&K and Chandigarh. The Main Role is to carry out the Policies and Programmes laid down by AWBI and Ministry apart from pursuing the cases of enforcement of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960. Animal Welfare Board of India Recognises various animal Welfare Organisations throughout India and provides assistance to setup shelter-houses for Animals and ambulances for animals in distress. Apart from providing Grant to carry out Animal Birth Control Programme for Dogs. He Has Got training from National Institute for animal Welfare and also an IAEC Nominee (Institutional Animal Ethics Committee) of CPCSEA (GOVT. OF INDIA) supervising experiments on animals in various Educational Institutes and Pharmaceutical companies. He is also Inspecting authority for Checking slaughter Houses and Animal Performances. Beside this, He has been Hony. Wildlife warden and Member of Punjab State Board for Wildlife.

DR. KOTHARI, ANDREW TOPSFIELD GET MEWAR FOUNDATION AWARD

Udaipur, Feb 26 Dr. Gulab Kothari, Editor-in-Chief of the Rajasthan Patrika was conferred with Maharana Mewar Foundation's prestigious Haldighati award for excellence in journalism.

प्रो. (डॉ.) सोहन राज तातेड़ महामहिम राज्यपाल, गुजरात सरकार द्वारा सम्मानित



जोधपुर, 8 फरवरी 2012, प्रो (डॉ.) सोहन राज तोतड़ पूर्व कुलपति, सिंघानिया विश्वविद्यालय, राजस्थान को सोमनाथ संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय, वेरावल (गुजरात) के छोटे दीक्षान्त समारोह एवं अखिल भारतीय दर्शन परिषद के 56 वें वार्षिक अधिवेशन के संयुक्त समारोह में 6 फरवरी 2012 को शिक्षा एवं साहित्य के क्षेत्र में राष्ट्रीय सेवा के लिए महामहिम राज्यपाल, गुजरात सरकार के कर कमलों द्वारा सम्मानित किया गया। प्रो. तोतड़ करीब 50 राजकीय एवं गैर राजकीय संस्थाओं के माध्यम से लम्बे अर्से से राष्ट्रीय जनता की सेवा कर रहे हैं। आपको कई संस्थाओं एवं जन प्रतिनिधियों द्वारा भारत सरकार को "पद्म श्री एवार्ड" दिए जाने हेतु अनुषा की गई है। आपके द्वारा रचित कई शोध ग्रन्थ अनेक

विश्वविद्यालयों में पढ़ाए जा रहे हैं। आपके निर्देशन में कई विद्यार्थी शोध कर चुके हैं व कई कर रहे हैं। From Shri Sohan Raj Tater, E-Mail :sohan_tater@yahoo.co.in

DIKSHA NEWS

FIRST JAIN DIKSHA CEREMONY TO TAKE PLACE IN US - ACHARYA CHANDANA JI



Mumuksha Mangalamji will be offered badi diksha on the 7th and 8th April, 2012 in USA. It is also the very first occasion of a Jain Diksha ceremony to be held in America. Mumuksha Mangalamji is associated with Veerayatan since her childhood. At the young age of 6 years, she memorized Bhaktamar, Kalyan Mandir and Tatwartha Sutra and other Jain stotras. She has been fortunate, to learn Sanskrit and Prakrit under the able guidance of a very revered and well known scholar Sant Pujya Gurudev, Upadhyaya Shri Amar Muniji Maharaj and Acharya Shri Chandanji Maharaj. Along with Jain scriptures she also studied Hindu and Buddhist texts, with very good communicating skills in English, Hindi, Marathi and Gujarati. Along with the studies she also held the administrative post at Veerayatan Rajgir for a few years. For last 17 years, she has been living in United States where she was married, and has a beautiful 12 years old daughter "Ruhani". Even though she was living in USA for so many years, her heart was with Veerayatan all the while. During her stay in the US, she continued her religious studies and worked in various volunteer activities of Veerayatan. She is blessed with an enchanting melodious voice which has mesmerised and touched hearts of thousands of people around the world. With the blessings of Acharya Shri Chandanaji Maharaj, she has taken Diksha (Sanyas) on December 20th 2011 at Veeraytan Rajgir.

Now the Badi Diksha will be held on April 7th and April 8th of 2012. This is probably the first ever occasion in the history of Jain community that an American citizen after living such a considerable period in that culture has decided to become a Jain Sadhvi. All members of Jain community are requested to attend the auspicious occasion along with their family and friends.

FORBESGANJ TEEN, GARIMA BOTHRA TURNS "SADHVI"

19 years old, Garima Bothra renounced the materialistic world and became a Jain 'sadhvi' at a congregation attended by thousands of Jain devotees from across Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Assam and West Bengal besides Nepal and Bhutan. A sophomore at the local Forbesganj College and daughter of businessman Pradip Bothra, Garima had her head tonsured before she was imparted 'diksha' by Acharya Ram Lalji Mahraj and his disciple Adharsa Prabha at the three-day congregation that concluded on the Basant Panchami. In the words of Garima Bothra, "I have dedicated my life to the service of the nation and the society and given up family life altogether," She said her decision must have hurt her parents. But they must also have felt proud that I have decided to walk the spiritual path. Garima will henceforth be known as Sadhvi Gundan Shree. She has two younger brothers. "Garima's is not a small sacrifice," added Forbesganj Agrawal Mahila Manch secretary Sunita Agrawal as she saluted her sense of altruism.

MISCELLANEOUS

CHIEF MINISTERS SHOULD OPPOSE GM FOOD BILL - GREENPEACE, INDIA



The Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India bill is the ultimate threat to the safety of our food. The bill will create a body that will allow genetic modification of our food. It is due to be tabled in the upcoming session of Parliament. Right now, state governments can reject any open release or field experiments of genetically modified (GM) crops in their respective states. With the BRAI in place, state governments will lose this power. Public opposition has kept the Central Government from tabling the bill in Parliament so far. We must ensure that the bill is not tabled in the upcoming session as well. This can happen if State Governments also oppose the introduction of this controversial bill. Earlier, opposition from people and various state governments, helped get a moratorium on the genetically modified Bt brinjal. People across the country have been expressing their displeasure with this bill, that can bring Bt brinjal back. If the States join in, then the Central Government will find it difficult to introduce this bill in Parliament.

The BRAI bill will ease the entry of dangerous GM food into our country. The body created, will become the autocratic approver of GM crops. BRAI can even override the Right to Information act and deny us information on the safety of GM food. For more information log on www.greenpeace.in/take-action/save-your-food/write-to-your-CM.php. From: Neha Saigal, Sustainable Agriculture Campaigner, Greenpeace India. Greenpeace is an independent organisation funded by individuals.

‘जैनधर्म से संबंधित डाक टिकिट जारी होंगे’



उदयरपुर 11 फरवरी 2012, भारत सरकार के डाक विभाग की ओर से इस वर्ष एक जैनाचार्य पर स्मारक डाक टिकिट जारी किया जाएगा। दिगम्बर जैनसंत आचार्य ज्ञानसागर जी म० प्रथम दिगम्बर जैन संत होंगे जिनके सम्मान में यह जारी होगा। अहिंसा विचार मंच के अध्यक्ष डॉ० दिलीप धींग ने बताया कि इसी क्रम में राजस्थान पत्रिका के संस्थापक पत्रकार व स्वतंत्रता सेनानी श्री कपूरचंद कुलिश (कोठारी-जैन) की स्मृति में 20 मार्च 2012 को एवं मुम्बई (महाराष्ट्र) के अतिप्राचीन गोडीजी जैन मंदिर पर डाक टिकिट 1 मई 2012 को जारी होगा। उल्लेखनीय है कि अभी तक तीन स्थानकवासी संतों व एक स्थानकवासी साध्वी पर जिसमें जैन मुनि मिश्रीमल (24-08-1991) आचार्य आनंद ऋषि (01-08-2002) व जैनाचार्य जयमल (25-09-2011) साध्वी उमरावकुंवर अर्चना (30-04-2011) में जारी हुआ था। तेरापंथ के आचार्य तुलसी पर (20-10-1998) व आचार्य भिक्षु (30-06-2004) तथा मूर्तिपूजकसमाज के जैनाचार्य वल्लभ सूरी पर वर्ष (21-02-2009) में जारी हुआ था।

इसके अलावा जैन समाज के गौरवशील व्यक्तियों पर डाक विभाग ने स्मारक डाक टिकिट जारी किए हैं जिसमें प्रसिद्ध वैज्ञानिक डॉ० डी० एस० कोठारी, जगदीशचन्द्र जैन, वैज्ञानिक डॉ० विक्रम अंबालाल साराभाई, दानवीर भामाशाह, वी० शांताराम, डॉ० लक्ष्मीमल सिंघवी, इन्द्रचन्द्र शास्त्री, जवाहरलाल दर्डा, वालचन्दहीराचन्द, हरकचन्द नाहटा, वीरचन्द राधव गांधी इसके अलावा अनेक मंदिरों व प्रतीकचिन्हों पर डाक जारी टिकिट जारी हुए हैं। डॉ० दिलीप धींग, News Courtesy: Shri Pushpendra Muni, E-Mail : pushpendramuni@gmail.com (Shri Tarak Guru Jain Granthalaya, Guru Pushkar Marg, Udaipur, Rajasthan-313001)

PRIEST ARRESTED FOR THEFT AT JAIN TEMPLE

Pune: A priest was arrested for allegedly stealing ornaments worth Rs 4.8 lakh from the famous Jain temple at Khadki Bazaar temple. The suspect, Arjunsinh Tirusinh alias Shivpratapsinh Rajput (22) of Gujarat, worked as a priest with the same temple before quitting his job a few months back. The police launched a probe after the theft of 8.5 kg silver ornaments of the idol from Munisurat Swami Bhagwan Jain temple. The identity of the suspect was not known then as investigations had revealed that a man had committed the theft by opening the temple door with a set of keys. Deputy commissioner of police (zone IV) Sanjay Jadhav said the police zeroed in on the former priest as investigations had revealed that the theft was committed by a person who was aware of the temple's functioning. Rajput, who lives in the city with his brother, was picked up for questioning during which he spilled the beans. In an hour's time, the police recovered the stolen ornaments from Rajput who had hidden it in his room near the temple. Later he was taken into custody. Rajput had quit the job as a priest after the death of his mother a month ago, but he later started staying with his brother. Rajput told the police that he committed the crime for quick money.

CBI ANNOUNCES RS. 10 LAKH REWARD FOR SUSPENDED ADG JAIN



Jaipur: The CBI has announced a cash reward of Rs. 10 lakh on the suspended additional director general of police (ADG) A. K. Jain who is absconding in the Dara Singh encounter case. The cash award will be given to those who will give credible information leading to arrest of A. K. Jain. The agency has announced the reward apparently under the pressure of the Supreme Court which recently lambasted it for its failure to nab the absconding police officer in the case. The Supreme Court gave two months' time to CBI to make the arrests. CBI spokesperson said, "The cash reward was announced on Jain after he could not be traced". Jain, a 1978 batch IPS officer of Rajasthan cadre has been declared a proclaimed offender. A court in Jaipur has already issued an arrest warrant against him and four others. The CBI had also attached his properties. In its charge sheet filed in June last year, CBI had alleged Dara Singh, a liquor smuggler, was taken into illegal custody by the SOG officials from Jaipur airport and was taken to a lonely place near Amber where he was kept hostage till October 23, 2006, and then killed in a staged police encounter. The CBI has kept the investigation pending against former state minister Rajendra Singh Rathore.

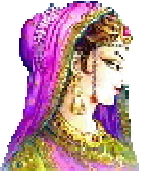
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**WE HEARTILY WELCOME FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED
WWW.JAINSAMAJ.ORG DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2012**

1. Rajesh Jain, Swetambar, East Krishna Nagar, Delhi, Business
2. Tushar Mehta, Swetambar, Rajkot, Gujarat, Consultancy
3. Sohan Lal Dudediya, Swetambar, Vridhachalam, Tamilnadu, Business
4. Heera Chand Jain, Swetambar, Chennai, Tamilnadu, Arts
5. Suresh Kumar, Digambar, Bangalore, Karnataka, Engineer
6. Sagar Prakash Kasture, Digambar, Pune, Maharashtra, I.T
7. Devi Chand Bothra, Swetambar, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Business
8. Krunal Doshi, Swetambar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Finance
9. Sanjay Gulgulia, Swetambar, Bangalore, Karnataka, Business
10. Vikram Jain, Swetambar, Amalapuram, Andhra Pradesh, Business
11. Vinod Kumar Patni, Digambar, Sudarsan Cinema Road, Delhi, Consultancy
12. Shalini Jain, Digambar, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, Academics

13. Mayur Shah,Swetambar,Ahmedabad,Gujarat,Consultancy
14. Shaharsh Jain,Digambar,Shahdara,Delhi,Service
15. Bharat Bafna,Swetambar,Mumbai,Maharashtra,Politics
16. Abhishek Nahta,Swetambar,Indore,Madhya Pradesh,Student
17. Varun Jain,Digambar,Rewari,Haryana,Service
18. Lokesh Kumar Jain,Digambar,Ferozepur Jhirka,Haryana,Service
19. Nirmala Jain,Swetambar,Surat,Gujarat,Others
20. Pragya Amit Jain,Digambar,Maphulanga,Southafrica,Engineer
21. Praveen Jain,Swetambar,Balrai,Rajasthan,Business
22. Tushar Jain,Swetambar,Meerut,Uttar Pradesh,Law
23. Arun Kumar Jain,Swetambar,Meerut,Uttar Pradesh,Law
24. Anurag Jain,Digambar,Dungar Pur,Rajasthan,Service
25. Dinesh Jain,Digambar,Hyderabad,Andhra Pradesh,Business
26. Raj Kumar Geldra,Swetambar,Bhilwara,Rajasthan,Business
27. Ravindra Bathiya,Swetambar,Shrirampur,Maharashtra,Business
28. Praveen Jain,Digambar,Surat,Gujarat,Consultancy
29. Ashish Runwal,Swetambar,Aurangabad,Maharashtra,Engineer
30. Abhijeet Patil,Digambar,Sangli,Maharashtra,Business
31. Dinesh Kumar Hundia,Swetambar,Madurai,Tamilnadu,Business
32. Shalabh Jain,Swetambar,Mandsaur,Madhya Pradesh,Business
33. Janak Kuamr Shah,Digambar,Gandhi Nagar,Gujarat,Finance
34. Dilip Mehta,Swetambar,Mumbai,Maharashtra,Arts
35. Pradyuman Jain,Digambar,Shastri Nagar,Delhi,Service
36. Maneklal Shiroia,Swetambar,Navsari,Gujarat,Consultancy
37. Rajesh Jain,Swetambar,Rohini,Delhi,Consultancy
38. Kiranben Danny Ajmera,Swetambar,California,USA,Arts
39. Danny Ajmera,Swetambar,California,USA,Engineer
40. Keyur Ajmera,Swetambar,California,USA,Engineer
41. Beena Ajmera,Swetambar,California,USA,Engineer
42. Veekash Kumar Patni,Digambar,Gautam Nagar,Delhi,Service
43. Aditya Jain,Swetambar,Bagpat,Uttar Pradesh,Business
44. Satish Kumar Baid,Swetambar,Jaiganj,West Bengal,Service
45. Paras Jain,Swetambar,Jalgaon,Maharashtra,Business
46. Lokesh Kumar Jain,Swetambar,Jaipur,Rajasthan,Business
47. Esha Doshi,Swetambar,Nagpur,Maharashtra,Engineer
48. Ravindra Lunia,Swetambar,Raipur,Chhatisgarh,Service
49. Abhay Sherikar,Digambar,Kolhapur,Maharashtra,Engineer
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