



JAIN AHIMSA TIMES

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फूलों सा जीवन महकता रहे, खुशियों का पंछी चहकता रहे | आभामण्डल आपका
दमकता रहे, किस्मत का सितारा चमकता रहे | मन में अंधेरी का नाश हो,
खुशियों भरा आकाश हो, जिसमें ज्ञान का प्रकाश हो, बुद्धिबल का विकास हो
समृद्धि आपके आँगन में रहे, गरिमामयी जीवन रहे,
नव वर्ष आप को बहुत बहुत मुबारक हो Vivek Muni, Acharya Sushil Muni Group

SAINTS

NON-ATTACHMENT PRACTICE THROUGH SELF MEDITATION - DR. (ACHARYA) SHIVMUNI



A seven days Advance self meditation camp was organised at Mahaveer Bhawan, Ashok Vihar, Delh-6 w.e. 25-12-2011 to 31-12-2011 under the auspicious guidance of H. H. Acharya Bhagwan Sh. Shivmuni ji Maharaj. In this self meditation Camp 5 Sadhus, 22 Sadhvis and 158 shrawak and shravikas took part from all over India.

With the great grace of present Arihant Parmatma Shri Simandhar Swamiji Maharaj Ms. Nisha jain the Vitrag Sadhika got the seekers practiced the deep experiments of self meditation. That the seekers may attain his goal. H. H. Acharya Sh. Shivmuni ji M.S. by attending all the four session of self meditation Practice daily made the seekers to understand the motive of their life through the learning of Bhed Vijnan along with the practice of attaining the knowledge of self. Shri Shirish Muni ji M.S.

guided the seekers for their all round development i.e. physically, mentally and spritually. Shubham Muniji read the hymn with eulogies of Tirthankar Bhagwan Shri Simandhar Swami ji in his sweet voice like nightingales. Each and every seeker who attended this camp was benefitted by the great efforts of Vitrag Sadhika Nisha Jain making the seeker to experience his utmost tranquil state of self. On the first day of the year 2012 among the present great assembly at the shrawak and shravika H. H. Acharya Shri Shiv Muni ji M. declared that the year 2012 will be obserted as the Year non attachment. i. e. Vitarag Varsh. During the year the four-fold sangh will practice, self practice, self contemplation, knowledge of self and other likewise activities. Alongwith this the activities of Swadhayay will be performed.

HH Acharya Bhagwan also declared his next four Chaturmas venues. Chaturmas for the year 2012 will be held at Civil lines, S.S. Jain sthanak in Ludhiana. Chaturmas for the year 2013 in Indore, 2014 at Udaipur (Rajasthan) and in 2015 at Surat (Gujarat). Acharya Shri also declared that, a great function would be organized at Adhishawar Dham Kuppkan Punjab to celebrate the Varsi Tap Parna Mahotsav on 24 April 2012 for the benefit of Varshi Tap Practioners who would come from all over India to attend this function. For further informamtion you can contact : Subhash, Mob : 09350111542. Website : www.jainacharya.org or www.shivacharyaji.org, E- Mail : shivacharyaji@yahoo.co.in

JAIN RALLY IN KANDIVLI TO PROMOTE HOLY TEXTS " AAGAMS"

Mumbai: With an aim to spreading awareness about Aagams, canonical texts of Jainism based on Mahavira's teachings, among people in the Jain community, a procession was undertaken in Kandivli. The rally, taken out from Kamlanagar to Mahavir Nagar via SV Road, saw enthusiastic participation from devotees, and was a precursor to an event organised to commence translation of 32 religious scriptures into English under the guidance of Gurudev Shree Namra Muni Maharaj Saheb, a Jain monk. The event held on January 15 also coincided with the birth anniversary of Tap Samrat Ratilalji Maharaj Saheb, Namra Muni's Guru.



An auspicious 'Shrut Pujan' was also conducted on the day to mark the occasion. "A holy challenge is being taken up to spread the word about Lord Mahavira and his teachings. It is planned to translate the knowledge in the scriptures and make them available in 3,500 libraries across the world. Meanwhile, the devotees have also planned to hold an exhibition of various projects of the Aagams.

AHMEDABAD JAINS CELEBRATE DIKSHA ANNIVERSARY OF ACHARYA RAM CHANDRA SURISHWARJI MAHARAJ



Ahemdabad Jain community hosted a three-day grand celebration, to mark the 100th year since the late Acharya Ramchandra Surishwarji Maharaj adopted sadhu jivan. The celebration included a rath yatra on the first day, a sangeet programme as well as various other programmes for the women and children of the community. Sharing more details about Ramchandra Surishwarji Maharaj's life, Acharya Shreyansh Surishwarji Maharaj said, "At the age of 17, he decided to give up material life and became a sadhu. He visited several parts of India to spread Jain religion and culture. In fact, he became such a popular saint that at the young age of 40, he was crowned as Jain Acharya.

DIGAMBAR SAINT UPADHYAY SHRI 108 PARAS SAGARJI HONOURED AS ACHARYA

Acharya Shri Meru Bhushan Ji maharaj honoured his learned and able disciple, Upadhay Shri Paras Sagar Ji maharaj with the title of Acharya on the 13th November, 2011 on the holy occasion of their 'Pichhi Parivartan' during their stay at Jhansi in the presence of a large gathering of sadhu, sadhwi, religious leaders, members and office-bearers of Panchayat Samiti and eminent citizens of Jhansi.

सम्यक ज्ञान कांच के समान- तेरापंथ धर्मसंघ के आचार्य महाश्रमण

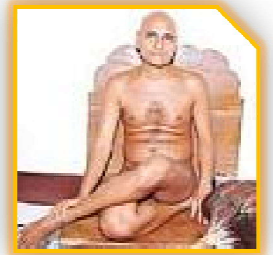


आमेट. जैन तेरापंथ न्यूज ब्योरो 22 जनवरी २०१२, तेरापंथ धर्मसंघ के आचार्य महाश्रमण ने सम्यक ज्ञान को कांच के समान बताया है। उन्होंने कहा कि संयोग से मिलने वाले इसे ज्ञान के प्रकाश की सही सार-संभाल नहीं की जाए, तो इसके टूटने की आशंका रहती है। आचार्यश्री शनिवार को अहिंसा समवसरण में अमृत महोत्सव प्रवचनमाला के तहत संबोधित कर रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि बिना किसी गुरु अवधारणा के भी सम्यक ज्ञान पाया जा सकता है। इसके लिए चेतना की विशुद्धि आवश्यक है। आचार्य महाश्रमण ने कहा कि जीवन में वह क्षण सबसे धन्य होता है, जब प्राणी को सम्यक ज्ञान की प्राप्ति होती है। जिस प्राणी के जीवन में इसका अभाव है, उसका जीवन अंधकार के समान होता है। सम्यक ज्ञान से जीवन में

आध्यात्मिक आलोक आता है। सभा के दौरान मंदिरमार्गी मत के मुनि सर्वोदय सागर के सहयोगी मुनि गुणवल्लभ ने भी प्रवचन दिए। संयोजन मुनि मोहजीतकुमार ने किया। इस दौरान सैकड़ों की तादाद में लोग मौजूद थे।

ACHARYA GUNADHARANANDI MAHARAJ BSY TO TREAD PATH OF DHARMA

Bangalore : Praising former Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa for his contributions to Jain culture in Karnataka, Acharya Gunadharanandi Maharaj, a prominent Jain spiritual leader, said, "The amount of help he has given has never been given in the past. Speaking at the inauguration of the Jnana Yoga Shibira in the city, the Acharya advised the former Chief Minister to follow the road of Dharma and stated that only good can come to pious people. Politics is very fragile, no one can be trusted, your own people will pull you down. Follow the path of Dharma and you will succeed. Yeddyurappa reiterated his support for the Jain community and appreciated the efforts of the community in developing the state. Some people are trying to spoil the name of Karnataka, but one has to look at Bangalore to see how the city is developing. He expressed hope that Karnataka would progress to become one of the nations' leading states on the lines of Gujarat.



JAIN TEMPLES

ANTIQUE IDOL AT DIGAMBAR JAIN LAL MANDIR IN DELHI TO BE PRODUCED BEFORE TRIAL COURT

New Delhi, December 31, 2011: An antique idol of Lord Mahavira placed in the Shri Digambar Jain Lal Mandir at Chandni Chowk, one of the oldest temples in the city, has been the subject of a legal battle for the past four years and now it is instructed to be produced before a trial court. Metropolitan magistrate Aparna Swamy issued summons to a representative of Jain Panchayat (Jain organisation), with the direction to produce the idol on January 31, 2012 in the court. The trial has finally started against three persons who were allegedly trying to sell the idol in market. The idol, which is worth crores of rupees, was recovered from three persons who claimed to be contractual labourers, on February 21, 2007.

Police filed an FIR alleging that the suspects were about to sell the stolen idol, weighing 4.2kg. As the idol was lying in the storeroom of the Kashmere Gate police station in Central Delhi for few years with no rightful claimant, Prachin Shri Aggarwal Digambar Jain Panchayat, a Jain organization, requested the court to take the idol on conditional possession and install it in the Shri Digambar Jain Lal Mandir for performing its religious rituals. The community submitted that the idol was a work of art and sculpture and belonged to society as a whole. He said the idol would be installed in a manner that it could be removed if required. The court had in an order on April 9, 2007, allowed the conditional release of the idol to the Jain community in spite of police objections.



MUMBAI HOTELS AND SHOPS SHOW ABSTINENCE TO MARK OPENING OF JAIN TEMPLE



Mumbai, Ghatkopar, To celebrate the opening of the new Simandhar Swami Jain temple, prominent hotels of Ghatkopar area avoided selling food containing garlic, onion and potatoes on inaugural day. Some shop owners also offered discounts to customers to mark the occasion. According to the temple authorities, they approached Achija and Gurukripa restaurants and various other eateries in Ghatkopar (East). As a mark of courtesy, the management of Achija and Gurukripa restaurants agreed to remain shut on the temple's inaugural day. An appeal was also sent by the temple working committee to the Deonar abattoir requesting them to refrain from slaughtering any animal on the auspicious day. As part of the opening ceremony, temple authorities also

convinced 250 shop owners in the area to offer customers special discounts on various items from January 14 to 22.

LOOT INCIDENTS REGULARLY REPORTED FROM PALITANA JAIN DHARMSHALAS

Palitana is a religious Jain city located in the district of Bhavnagar in Gujarat, India. The city is a major pilgrimage center for Jains. The temples in the city are regarded the most sacred pilgrimage place by the Jain community. About 1,300 temples made of marble were built in the site for more than 900 years. In one of the most recent incidents, the dacoits entered the room of the leader of a sangh staying at Samdari Dharmshala at Palitana and ran away with a large amount of cash, gold ornaments worth lakhs of rupees and an expensive watch. The dacoits were carrying arms to scare the occupants of the room. It is reported that such incidents have been occurring frequently at Palitana but no strict action has so far been taken to prevent the theft and dacoity cases and bring the culprits to book. The local public of Palitana is quite disturbed due to unconcerned attitude of the police department.



TEMPLE BURGLED IN THANE

Thane, A Jain temple in the powerloom town of Bhiwandi near here was burgled and cash and valuables were looted. Burglars broke open the doors of the Vastu Pujya Jain Mandir at Kamathghar and looted it. Cash and valuables like a crown and a silver-made pot worth Rs 1 lakh were looted. The robbery came to light in the morning when the priest went to open the temple.

PIL FILED FOR THE DECLARATION OF TIRUMALAI HILL AS ANCIENT MONUMENT



Madurai : A public interest litigation seeking declaration of Tirumalai hill in Sivaganga district as an ancient monument was filed in the Madras High Court bench here today. Admitting the PIL, Justices Chitra Venkatraman and Karuppiah ordered issue of notice to the Central and State Archaeological Department heads, among others, returnable within 15 days. The petitioner contended that the hill in Tirumalai Konneripatti village in Sivaganga district had rock paintings, Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions, Jain beds and also a rock cut temple of Kluntheerswarar and Bagampiriya Ammai temple, dating back to the eighth century AD. According to the petitioner, "though he had made representations to the government on various occasions last year to protect the monument and

declare it as an archaeological site, no action had been taken".

The petitioner also alleged that anti-socials are vandalising and defacing the monument. Assistant Advocate General Chellapandian submitted that Superintendent of Police had been asked to provide protection for the temple. The Judges then ordered notice to officials of the archaeological department of the state and centre.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND EVENTS

AHIMSA FOUNDATION PROJECT MEETING - A REPORT

A meeting of prominent Jain leaders was convened by Ahimsa Foundation on 21st January, 2012 at Chelmsford Club, New Delhi. The meeting was Chaired and Co-ordinated by Sahu R. P. Jain for Ahimsa Foundation. The meeting was attended by Mr. Prem Jain, special invitee and representative of JAINA, Anil Jain and Sahu R. P. Jain from Ahimsa Foundation, Mr. M. P. Jain from Mahavir Kendra, Mr. Chakresh Jain from Digamber Parishad, Dr. D. C Jain, Neurosurgeon and Ex Director, Health Services, Delhi, Dr. C. Devkumar from IARI & a acknowledged Jain Scholar, Mr. Virendra Mehta from Chhoti Dadawari Jain Temple, Mr. Pradeep Jain, TV Film Producer, Mr. Nalin K.

Shastree from I. P University & a Jain Scholar, Mr. Satish Jain from Delhi Government, Mr. Gaurav Jain from Young Jains & Mr. Neeraj Jain.

The agenda of the meeting was to discuss and approve a resolution about the following issues.

1. The need of a good electronic presentation about the Jain philosophy and diaspora.
2. Can we skip sect identity in the name of our institutions.
3. Jain temples too have social responsibility.

A. K. Jain on behalf of Ahimsa Foundation, presented three proposals / papers for the consideration of the community. The detailed papers are reproduced in the attachments which can be read by clicking the link www.jainsamaj.org

NEED FOR SHORT FILM ABOUT JAIN DIASPORA AROUND THE WORLD

In spite of the fact that the Jain philosophy proliferate the most apposite principles of life, it is probably the least known religious faith in the whole world. World wants to know our ideology and beliefs. But, we have yet not developed a capsule presentation to satisfy the inquisitiveness of a common person about our religious system. We definitely need a official presentation for international media houses, inter faith meetings, various religious seminars, conference and above all for our own community. We propose to take this project with necessary support from the community and prepare a short film about the Jain Diaspora. (The detailed papers are reproduced in the attachments which can be read by clicking the link www.jainsamaj.org/ahimsatimesshow.php?id=281

All the members present in the meeting accepted the need of this product in the community. Every one was keen to join in this venture. It was unanimously resolved that, a project to produce film of international value should be taken up at the earliest as proposed by Ahimsa Foundation. Mr. Prem Jain supported the project and said that, he will present the proposal to the JAINA board for their concurrence. Mr. M. P. Jain agreed to present this proposal to the Board of Trustees of Mahavir Kendra. Mr. V. C. Mehta said he will seek the participation of Mandir Marg Sect from Chhoti Dadawari Trust, New Delhi. Dr. D. C. Jain offered the first financial contribution to create a corpus fund for the project. Mr. Chakresh Jain the Chief of several Digamber Jain Temples agreed to join in this project. Ahimsa Foundation assured every one present in the meeting that, the film will not draw any kind of controversy from any corner of the community. The script will be acceptable to all the Jains segments and wherever there is a possibility of multiple opinions the issues will be kept dormant. It will be a harmonious blend of various view, traditions and rituals.

The next agenda of the meetings was discussion about the sect identity in the name of our institutions.

CAN WE SKIP SECT IDENTITY IN THE NAME OF OUR INSTITUTIONS

Traditionally, we have been identifying our temples, institutions and associations with particular Jain sect or sub sect. Institutional identification is dividing the community both horizontally and vertically and serving no positive purpose. Sect identity is bringing unnecessary enmity amongst the community members and creating social detrimental platforms.

It is matter of fact that, we are a very small community in numbers in the whole world. In that case, we have to seriously consider, whether it is worthwhile to divide it further in smaller groups and sub groups. We can conduct studies about the impact of sect identification of our institutions on the community and out side environment. After a brief discussion, the members were of the general opinion that, the initiative (idea) is very good, but, in practice it will be extremely difficult to implement. It involves acceptance at multiple levels and many may not agree to it. Accepting the general view, the proposal was dropped without approving the resolution. The last and third agenda of the meetings was discussion about the Jain temples too have social responsibility.

JAIN TEMPLES TOO HAVE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Like any other institution, our Jain temples also exist in a social milieu. Its constituents include dedicated devotees, managing committees, regular working staff, residents living in surrounding areas, government bodies of the area etc. As any other religious institution, our temples also have their own share of responsibility towards each of the above described constituents. Temples can not just be a icon of religious faith. Temples should bring a sense of approval in each constituent and then only the worthiness of its existence can be justified.

Not all, but, most of the Jain temples have accumulated large of wealth over a period of several years. It includes cash, bank deposits, gold, silver etc. Some temples have surplus real estate as well. In some of the cases, estimates of their wealth quantum are also not known to any one. Dedicated devotees keep on making regular offerings to their trusted deities. Generally, no one feels the need to know the end application of their temple offerings. By saying so, we do not mean to restrain any one from religious offerings. Jain temples can be a good source of tapping funds for the common social needs as people are willing to come forward voluntarily. We only intend to suggest that, this wonderful wealth should be accumulated less and spent more for the constituents of the temple in judicious manner.

Everyone present in the meeting accepted the issue raised by Ahimsa Foundation. But, the general view was, this issue is very complex. There is no simple solution. There are local problems, at places there is litigation and some places have sectarian problem also. The community is at loss because of our own system problems but there is no way out. Accepting the general view, this proposal was also dropped without approving the resolution. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks by Sahu Shri R. P. Jain.

JAINA ORGANISES LEADERSHIP SUMMIT IN DELHI

Dr. Sushil Jain, President of JAINA and Mr. Prem Jain, President elect of JAINA in their move to place JAINA as Global Jain Institution organised a two day meet of Jains in New Delhi on 14th and 15th January, 2012. The Delhi summit focused on the subject of "Empowering the underprivileged". The summit was coordinated by Mr. Shugun Jain of ISJS. Similar summits are also being planned by JAINA in Washington, Paris and Mumbai. The event in Delhi was attended by over hundred prominent Jain community members.

मांडवला जहाज मंदिर में शताब्दी महोत्सव . उपाध्याय मणिप्रभसागर

पूज्य गुरुदेव आचार्य भगवन्त श्री जिनकान्तिसागरसूरीश्वरजी मसा. का जन्म शताब्दी महोत्सव पूज्य आचार्यश्री के समाधि स्थल मांडवला-जहाज मंदिर में मनाया जायेगा। यह समारोह पूज्यश्री के जन्म दिन माघ वदि 11 ता. 19 जनवरी 2012 गुरुवार को मनाया जायेगा। पूज्य गुरुदेव श्री के शिष्य पूज्य उपाध्याय श्री मणिप्रभसागरजी मसा. पूज्य मुनिराज श्री मनोजसागरजी म. आदि साधु मंडल एवं पूजनीया माताजी म. श्री रतनमालाश्रीजी म. पूजनीया बहिन म. डॉ. विद्युत्प्रभाश्रीजी आदि साध्वी मंडल इस महोत्सव को अपनी पावन निश्रा प्रदान करेंगे। पूज्य गुरुदेव श्री का जन्म वि. सं. 1968 माघ वदि 11 को राजस्थान के चुरु जिले के रतनगढ गाँव में हुआ था।



उन्होंने मात्र 9 वर्ष की उम्र में अपने पिताश्री के साथ तेरापंथ के अष्टम आचार्य पू. श्री कालुगणिजी म. के पास संयम ग्रहण किया था। बाद में वैचारिक मतभेद होने से वे मंदिरमार्गी साधु बने। उनकी पुनः दीक्षा अनूपशहर में वि सं. 1989 को ज्येष्ठ सुदि 13 के दिन हुई थी। वे खरतरगच्छ के आचार्य श्री जिनहरिसागरसूरीश्वरजी म. सा. के शिष्य मुनि कान्तिसागर के नाम से सुप्रसिद्ध हुए। उन्होंने पूरे भारत में भ्रमण किया।

स्थान स्थान पर प्रतिष्ठाएँ, उपधान, पैदल संघ आदि धार्मिक आराधनाओं के विशिष्ट उपक्रमों के साथ साथ समाज के विकास हेतु विद्यालय, उद्योगशालाओं आदि के निर्माण की प्रेरणा प्रदान की। पूज्यश्री वि. 2039 आषाढ वदि 6 को आचार्य पद से विभूषित हुए। उनका स्वर्गवास वि 2042 मिगसर वदि 7 के दिन मांडवला में हुआ। उनकी पावन स्मृति में ही उनके समाधि स्थल पर विश्व प्रसिद्ध जहाज मंदिर का निर्माण हुआ है। ता. 19 जनवरी 2012 को मनाये जा रहे पूज्यश्री के जन्म शताब्दी महोत्सव में हजारों श्रद्धालु उपस्थित रहेंगे। पूज्यश्री का विहार पूज्य गुरुदेव उपाध्याय श्री मणिप्रभ सागरजी मसा. शहादा की ऐतिहासिक प्रतिष्ठा के पश्चात् विहार कर तलोदा वाण्याविहीर, अक्कलकुआं, खापर, सेलंबा, डेडियापाडा, राजपीपला, बोडेली, पावागढ, हालोल, लूणावाडा होते हुए ता 1 जनवरी 2012 को श्री केशरियाजी तीर्थपधारे। ता. 8 जनवरी तक केशरियाजी गज मंदिर में स्थिरता कर उदयपुर होते हुए पूज्यश्री 18 जनवरी तक मांडवला पधारेंगे। जहाँ उनकी निश्रा में पूज्य आचार्यश्री का शताब्दी महोत्सव मनाया जायगे प्रेषक जहाज मंदिर कार्यालय.

CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES TOWARDS ANIMAL IS THE THEME OF NEXT SOAS CONFERENCE (U. K. 21-22 MARCH 2012)

A unique conference exploring different faith and cultural perspectives towards animals is going to be held at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Keynote speaker is Dr. Michael Tobias, a prominent writer and film-maker on this theme and a global thought leader. Other speakers include Dr. Peter Flugel, Director of the Centre for Jaina Studies at SOAS and Prof. Andrew Linzey, prominent writer on Animals and Spirituality. For more details, visit SOAS Website. Courtesy: Sulekh C. Jain, Houston, Texas.



SHRI MAHAVIR JAIN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY TO BE ESTABLISHED AT SANAND IN GUJARAT



Fulfilling the dream of Jainacharya Shri Vijay Vallabh Surishwar Ji Maharaj several years back, a new international university is going to be established soon at Sanand town in Gujarat at an approximate cost of Rs. 200 crores. The foundation stone for the project has been laid on the 18th January, 2012 and the construction work is to be commenced soon. About 78 acres of land is being acquired for the project with the cooperation of State Government. The university, when established will offer useful courses in a variety of fields, all in English medium.

HONOUR & AWARDS

राष्ट्रपति पदक से सम्मानित हुए राकेश जैन



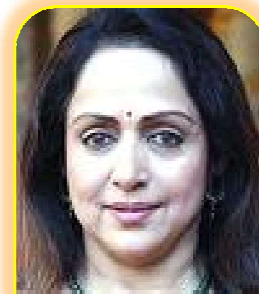
सहारनपुर : कलक्ट्रेट में वरिष्ठ सहायक के पद पर तैनात राकेश कुमार जैन को श्रेष्ठ कार्यों के लिए राष्ट्रपति पदक से सम्मानित करने के लिए चुना गया था। राकेश जैन नागरिक सुरक्षा कोर में उप प्रभागीय वार्डन नगर प्रभाग के पद पर कार्यरत हैं। सामाजिक कार्यों में वह लगातार उल्लेखनीय भूमिका निभाते रहे हैं। साथ ही असमय होने वाले दुर्घटनाओं में सहयोग किया है। साथ ही उन्हें जनसेवाओं और सराहनीय कार्यों के लिए डीएम जुहैर बिन सगीर ने गृह रक्षक एवं नागरिक सुरक्षा पदक से सम्मानित किया है।

यह पदक उन्हें आज गणतंत्र दिवस पर आयोजित में होने वाले समारोह में दिया गया। मुनेंद्र कुमार त्यागी चीफ फायर ऑफिसर को राष्ट्रपति के विशिष्ट सेवा पदक से अलंकृत किया गया है। इस

संबंध में सम्मान पत्र उन्हें बुधवार गणतंत्र दिवस की पूर्व संध्या पर प्राप्त हुआ। उन्होंने बताया कि इससे पूर्व 2006 में सराहनीय कार्य में राष्ट्रपति पदक से सम्मानित किया जा चुका है।

HEMA MALINI DECLARED BY PETA AS PERSON OF THE YEAR-2011

Hema Malini is Peta's Person of The Year for repeatedly raising her voice opposing cruelty to animals and for her staunch commitment to a humane vegetarian diet. Hema Malini recently appealed to the ministry of environment and forests on behalf of Peta India urging them to ban jallikattu. Soon after, the ministry issued a notification in The Gazette of India stating that bulls can no longer be used as performing animals. This decision means an end to the cruel sport of jallikattu, in which terrified bulls are kicked, punched, jumped on, dragged to the ground and otherwise tormented. It also means bulls can no longer be used for racing. During such races, the bulls are often beaten mercilessly with wooden sticks spiked with nails in order to get them to run faster in the sweltering heat. The bulls' tails are also painfully twisted, and they are often found covered in blood. She also wrote to the ministry on behalf of Peta urging that the cruel and dangerous horse carts be banned in Mumbai. In November, the Bombay High Court came to a landmark decision to crack down on unlicensed stables housing horses used to pull carriages. This is expected to bring an end to the use of horse carriages on Mumbai roads soon.



Hema Malini, an eminent film actor and a member of Parliament (M.P.) is Peta's Person of The Year for the year 2011, for repeatedly raising her voice opposing cruelty to animals and for her staunch commitment to a humane vegetarian diet. Hema Malini is a staunch vegetarian.

DR. NARESH JAIN HONORED AT NIAGARA FALLS



Dr. Naresh Jain was honored at The Premier, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center's annual black tie dinner. More than 800 people were in attendance at the event, which was held at The Seneca Niagara Casino and Hotel. Dr. Jain is a longtime member of the medical staff at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. Born in New Delhi, India, he attended Hindu College, University of Delhi, and earned his medical degree at University College of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. He has practiced internal medicine and gastroenterology since 1988 and is a diplomat of both the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Gastroenterology.

Dr. Jain and his wife, Achla, have been longtime supporters of Memorial's Niagara Cup Classic golf tournament and served as the event's co-chairs from 2002-2007. In 2008, Dr. Jain became an honorary tournament co-chair and has remained in that role. Through his dedication to the tournament, the Niagara Cup Classic has raised more than \$1 million for the medical center. Proceeds from the event will benefit Memorial's women's healthcare services.

Dr. Sushma Singhvi, erstwhile Director of Jain Ratna Adhyatmic Shikshan Board has been appointed as Chairman of Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy by the Government of Rajasthan for a period of three years. She has been the Director of Vardhman Mahavir Open University, Jaipur region and also editor of "Aparigrah Kosh" working under Prakrit Bharati Academy, Jaipur.

Dr. Mahavir Golechha, a well-known specialist of brain diseases has been chosen by the 'India Today group' as one of the most eminent persons in the country. The list carries names of persons like, Anna Hazare, Rahul Gandhi, Nitish Kumar and CAG Vinod Kumar. Dr. Golechha's name has also been included in the national and international list of brain specialists.

Prof. Phool Chand Jain has been appointed as new Director of Bhogilal Institute of Indology, Delhi. He has been an eminent scholar of Sanskrit, Prakrit and Oriental studies and he had been teaching as Head of the department and professor of Jain philosophy at Sampurnanand Sanskrit university, Varanasi.

FAMOUS JAINS ON POSTAL STAMPS

Many Jains have contributed to development of India and its culture. Some of them have got place on the postal stamps and postal stationary of India. Here are some of the stamps and postal stationary featuring the great Jains. Courtesy: Mahavir Sangalekar.



ZBhagwan Mahavir : Bhagwan Mahavir, also known as Vardhaman Mahaveer was one of the greatest philosophers of ancient India. He was reformer of Jainism. Here is a special postal cover featuring Gautam Buddha and Vardhaman Mahaveer. This cover was issued on the occasion of Tourism and Trade Mart held at Gaya, Bihar on 24.12.2002. Gautam Buddha and Vardhaman Mahaveer were born in Bihar. So the cover says: Saluting for hundred and hundred times to the great land of Bhagwan Buddha and Mahaveer.

Chandragupt Maurya : Chandragupt Maurya was founder of the great Mauryan dynasty, He was the first emperor of greater India. His empire was spread almost all over the South Asia, excluding Sri Lanka. He was a follower of Jainism and became a Jain monk in his later part of life. A short write up on his affiliation with Jainism is available at: Emperor Chandragupta Maurya: a Royal Ascetic. Here is a commemorative postage stamp issued by Indian Postal Department.



Bhama Shah : Bhamashah was a great warrior of medieval India. He was General and Prime Minister of Maharana Pratap. He took part in many battles against the mighty Mughals. Here is a postal stamp featuring this great warrior. He was a staunch Jain and a patron of Jainism. Read his short biography at: Bham Shah: Trusted Lieutenant of Maharana Pratap

Queen Abbakka : Queen Abbakka was the first queen to fight against European invaders in India. She defeated the mighty Portuguese army and navy. Greatness of this queen is that she fought for safeguarding the interest of the farmers, and the sovereignty of her state. Here is a special postal cover with a colorful sketch of Queen Abbakka on it. The cover was issued on the occasion of philatelic exhibition at Mangalore city held in 2003. She belonged to Chauta dynasty, a Jain dynasty of medieval India. Read more about her at: Queen Abbakka: a Brave Warrior from Karnataka.



V. Shantaram : V. Shantaram was one of the greatest film directors and producers of Indian film industry. His films were not just for entertainment, but to enlighten the viewers. He was an actor too. He worked for 6 decades in Indian film industry. He was winner of Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the highest award in Indian film industry. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civil award in India. He was born into a Jain family of Kolhapur, Maharashtra. Here is a postal stamp featuring V. Shantaram.

Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil : Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil was a great educationalist and social reformer of 20th century India. He founded Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, an educational institute to educate masses in rural areas. In his lifetime, he started 578 primary schools, 108 secondary schools, 8 training schools for teachers, 3 colleges and many hostels for students. Today Rayat Shikshan Sanstha is Asia's biggest educational institution. Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil was born in a Jain farmer's family of south Maharashtra. Here is a postal stamp commemorating this great educationalist on his birth centenary.



Seth Walchand Hirachand : Seth Walchand Hirachand was one of the great industrialists of India, who worked for industrial development of India. He was the first man to establish an aircraft factory in India. This factory was nationalized by Indian Government later, and now it is known as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. Seth Walchand Hirachand established first indigenous shipping company and competed with the British shipping companies. Further he established a Shipyard at Vishakhapatnam to build new ships. He founded Premier Automobiles, the first car factory of India. Seth Walchand Hirachand was born in a Jain family of Maharashtra in 1882. Here is a commemorative postal stamp featuring him. He was also featured on a special postal cover issued on the occasion of National Maritime Day, 5th April 2010.



Dr. Vikram Sarabhai : Dr. Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai was a great scientist and is known as the father of Indian Space Program. He succeeded Homi Jehangir Bhabha as the chairman of Atomic Energy Commission of India. One of his greatest achievements was foundation of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization). He was honored by awarding Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award. After his death, the space center of India was named as Vikram Sarabhai Space Center. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai was born in a Jain family of Ahmedabad. Here is a postal stamp issued by India Post in memory of this great scientist.





Veerchand Gandhi : Virchand Raghavaji Gandhi was the young man who represented Jainism in the first World Parliament of Religions held at Chicago, United States in 1893. He was a great Jain scholar and wrote 8 books on Jainism in English language. He was a world famous personality of his times. He is known as Gandhi before Gandhi. Here is a beautiful stamp featuring Virchand Gandhi and a group photo from the first World Parliament of Religion.

Dr. Jagadish Chandra Jain : Dr. Jagadish Chandra Jain was a renowned Indologist, scholar, thinker, linguist, writer and freedom fighter. He wrote about 80 books on various subjects. Here is the postal stamp issued by India post in his honor. This stamp features Dr. Jain's portrait and Jain art in a Jain temple.



Dr. Daulat Singh Kothari : Dr. Daulat Singh Kothari is known as the father of Defense Science in India. He was a great scientist and educationalist. He worked as Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Defense, India, and later as chairman of University Grants Commission. 'Nuclear Explosions and Their Effects', Dr. Kothari's book jointly written with Homi J. Bhabha, is one of his famous books. This book has been translated into German, Russian and Japanese languages. Dr. Daulat Singh Kothari was honored by awarding Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civil award in India. Here is a postal

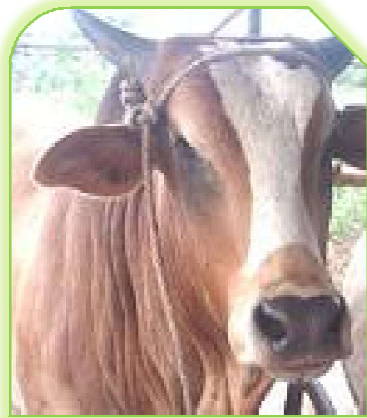
stamp issued in his honor by India Post.

Dr. Laxmi Mal Singhvi : Dr. Laxmi Mal Singhvi was a multi-dimensional personality. He was an expert of Constitution of India, a Parliamentarian, a Jurist, a Lawyer, Diplomat and a scholar. He worked as The High Commissioner of India in England. India post issued a postage stamp in his memory, featuring his portrait.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS CLIPPINGS

BAN THE SLAUGHTERING OF COWS AND OXEN IN MADHYA-PRADESH ASSENTED BY PRESIDENT OF INDIA



The Bharatiya Janata Party-led Madhya Pradesh government's efforts to ban cow slaughter and conserve the cow progeny have received a shot in the arm following Presidential assent to the long-pending Madhya Pradesh Gau-Vansh Vadh Pratishedh (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak (Madhya Pradesh prohibition of slaughter of cow-progeny (amendment) Bill). The amended Act puts the responsibility of proving the prosecution wrong on the accused in a cow slaughter case. A person found guilty of cow slaughter would be liable for 7 years imprisonment, instead of the present 3 years, besides a minimum fine of Rs. 5,000. The government had passed the amendment Bill in the Assembly in 2010 to strengthen the existing cow slaughter prohibition Act (Madhya Pradesh Gauvansh Pratishedh Adhiniyam 2004) and forwarded it to the Union Home Ministry on September 3, 2010. It received the Presidential assent on December 22, 2011 and was published in the Madhya Pradesh gazette (extraordinary) on December 31, 2011. The Act will soon come into force through an official notification. Courtesy: Sajjan Raj Mehta, Ex. President.

Jain Yuva Sangathan, Bangalore, Mobile: 9845501150, E-Mail: sajjanrajmehta@gmail.com

JEAP : JITO EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

JITO Employment Assistance Programme is to provide Employment to the unemployed and Enhancement of job potential of all, so as to get the right placements at right time, enabling progress of the community leading to economic empowerment of society and nation at large. The purpose of JEAP – JITO Employment Assistance Programme is to facilitate and assist Candidates / Students in obtaining training and placements in India and / or abroad, with companies registered with us and ensure bright future. JITO believes in economic empowerment and this project will create a common platform for the employer & employees so that employer gets right candidate and vice versa. Online registration is open for all candidates even for Employers & is totally free. You can update your profile on the job portal & post vacancies on dedicated job site www.jitojobs.org For any suggestions or queries, please do contact E-Mail : admin@jitojobs.org & jeap@jito.org Phone : 91-22-61409848 Ext (813) +91-22-22625774/76.



NEW JAIN WEBSITE - www.jainscholars.com

Mr. Narendera Bhandari has launched a new interactive website (www.jainscholars.com) to explain the fundamentals of Jainism better, specially its scientific foundations etc. According to Mr. Bhandari, "we have prepared short notes on several topics related to Jainism and Jainism in context of physics, cosmology, chemistry, biology, mathematics etc. We invite you to visit this site and offer your critical and constructive comments. We hope that with participation of Jain scholars, we can improve our understanding on these topics and reinterpret Jainism in modern, logical and understandable way to make it more meaningful and thus fully realise the potential of Jain principles enshrined in our scriptures. Scholarly contributions will be added to the present notes and will be appropriately acknowledged".

REPLACING ANIMAL DISSECTION DURING MBBS TRAINING PROGRAMS

In 2009, the Medical Council of India officially amended its regulations to state that experimental work on animals can be demonstrated by Computer Aided Education, clearing the way for Indian medical schools to eliminate the use of animals in Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery courses. This policy change allows Indian medical schools to adopt completely non-animal training curricula, as has been done in 95 per cent of programmes in the United States and in every programme across Canada and the United Kingdom. These institutions instead use a combination of didactic methods, human-patient simulators, supervised clinical practice and interactive computer-aided learning simulations. To help familiarise MBBS programmes with the non-animal training methods being used abroad, PETA India sponsored a series of free Continuing Medical Education workshops across India from 16 to 19 January 2012. The workshops featured lectures and simulation demonstrations covering the available modern, effective and economical non-animal training methods approved by the MCI to completely replace animal use in the MBBS curricula.

WOMAN ARRESTED IN JAIN TEMPLE TRUSTEE'S MURDER IN MUMBAI

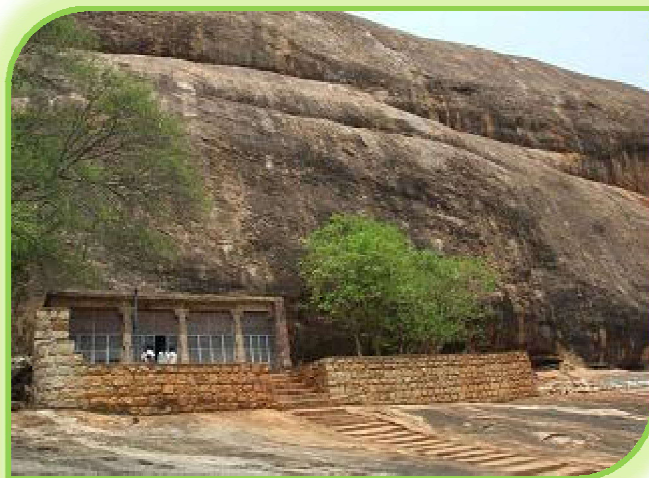
The sleuths of Bhayandar police station in Thane rural have succeeded in solving the mysterious brutal murder of a trustee of Jain temple who was hacked to death and have arrested one lady from Nalasopara. According to Bhayandar police, arrested accused was identified as Anita Jadhav, resident of Evershine Nagar in Nalasopara.

Though she has confessed to murder with robbery as intention, police are also verifying other possible motives behind her act. Raju Shah (54), resident of Devchand Nagar Bhayandar west was found murdered in his office. Raju Shah was a trustee of Bhatewa Parshwanath Jain temple. The assailants had robbed gold ornaments worth Rs. 4.40 lakhs on him before leaving his office. One empty syringe was found near his dead body. It is believed that, Raju was drugged before he was killed. During preliminary investigation by the police, it was revealed that, Anita, who works as estate agent, had visited Raju's office at the time of incident. Anita was to join Raju's office as an employee from the New Year which drew suspicion on her.

SEAT OF SEVERE PENANCE - SITHANNAVASAL IN PUDKOTTAI

The rock cut caves and the paintings depict the ancient lifestyle led of the Jain monks. Sithannavasal in Pudukottai district is a sleepy village. But is proud of being an important part of Indian history. It is noted for the rock-cut caves and cave paintings of medieval India. The rock cut caves, which are conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India, are located at a height of about 70 metres from the ground level. The entire seat is associated with the history of Jainism in this part of the country. On the southern side at the top of the hill, one can see a natural shelter called "Ezhadipattam", which served as the shelter for Jain monks, in first century B.C. Ezhadipattam has seven holes cut out of the rock and these holes help us to reach the shelter.

There are 17 polished stone berths, each with an elevation at one corner, possibly to serve as a pillow. The largest stone bed contains inscriptions in Brahmi script and ancient Tamil of first century B.C. A few other inscriptions of later period are also found here. References such as "kadavulan;" "Poornakandilan" are noted here and may perhaps refer to the monks or great men who lived in this hill. It is said that Ezhadipattam served as a seat of severe penance, meditation in standing posture for a prolonged period. Paintings form a later addition to the rock-cut temple, popularly known as Arivarkovil. It is located on the north-western side of the rock. The forecourt of the temple has important inscriptions in Tamil and describe how the ruler Srimaran Srivallaban (815-862 AD) carried out maintenance work in the arthamandapam.



On reaching the arthamandapam one can see the an idol of Parsvanatha, who was the 23rd Thirthankara, besides an image of Jain philosopher and teacher. It is the hall of this temple which is noted for the paintings on the ceilings, walls and pillars. They are similar to the paintings of Ajanta caves. A majority of the paintings pertain to the Pandya period, particularly of the 9th century A.D. Sithannavasal being the mirror of Jainism and the Jains' lifestyle, the paintings reflect the culture of the Jains. For instance, a painting depicting a pond with lotus flowers; collection of flowers by monks form a direct reference to "Samava – sarana" - a holy reference for Jains. Paintings on "Apsaras" (dancing women); bulls and elephants are special features. Unfortunately, most of these paintings have been either ruined by bad weather or vandalised. The sanctum sanctorum of the rock-cut temple is one of the most important attractions at Sithannavasal. The small sanctum sanctorum is a wonder by itself. The square-shaped sanctum sanctorum is three meter by three meter while its height is 2.3 metre. It is the echo effect of your breath that is more important here. On entering this sanctum sanctorum, if you start breathing, the air you inhale and breathe out would be instantly echoed. The echo could be realised if only one person is inside the chamber. The Pudukottai district administration has floated an exclusive body comprising officials and non-officials for evolving and executing tourism attraction programmes at this cave temple. The availability of sprawling space, in between the cave and the plain, had come in handy for the district authorities for setting up an artificial lake together with boat clubs. A children's park; sculptures park depicting the history of the Pudukottai Samasthanam; have also been set up. Provision of battery car was another facility, drawing children and elderly persons to the site. One can reach Sithannavasal by bus from Pudukottai. It is about 12 km from Pudukottai.

BOOKS ON JAINISM

A Handbook of Jainlogy - By Acharya Bhuvanabhanu Suri : English translation by Prof. K Ramappa, 2006 22 x 14 cm 242 pages, Hardcover Rs. 50. This is a very powerful work, a well thought out introduction to varies aspects of the Jain religion. It conveys the essence of the Jain scriptures composed thousands of years ago, in Prakrit and Sanskrit. The technical-seeming content of the Jain Agamas has been lucidly conveyed. Complex philosophical ideas are explained in a reader-friendly manner. Upon reading this work, one comes away with a very clear and unequivocal idea of the Jain doctrine. Each chapter is fairly short, and is followed by simple questions. This book is the ideal text for students of Jainism, Indian Philosophy and Comparative Religion. The book can be obtained from Hindi Granth Karyalaya, Mumbai 400004, E-Mail - Jainbooks@aol.com

Jain Metaphysics and Science : A Comparison – By Dr. N. L. Kachhara, First Edition : 2011 Price : Rs 300, Dr. Kachhara has made a scholarly and commendable effort in bringing both Jain thought and scientific view on the same pedestal, although there is scope for putting more rigors in these discussions. He neither uses the obscure language of scriptures nor the technical jargon of science but all subjects are discussed in a lucid and easily readable and understandable way. To make a meaningful comparison, the author has deviated from an orthodox view and has introduced some new concepts, which can be a matter of further investigation. The purpose of this book is to explore this relationship between the concepts of modern physics and the basic ideas in the philosophical and religious traditions of the Far East. Contents of the book : 1 The Reality, 2 The Intangible Substances, 3 The Matter (Pudgala), 4 The life, 5 The Vargana (Energy Variform), 6 Jain Cosmology and Universe, 7 The Origin and Evolution of life. The book can be obtained from Prakrit Bharati Academy, 13A, Gurunanak Path, Main Malviya Nagar, Jaipur – 302017.

GIRISH SHAH TO PUBLISH ENGLISH VERSION OF AAGAMS

present, the book is available in Gujarati and Hindi. Though there are some English translations available, they are in bits and pieces. The entire book is not available in English. Girish Shah has taken up the project to present complete version of Aagams in English for the first time. The Aagam Sastra has in all 32 Aagams and people involved say the translation will run into 36,000 pages. "We will be getting around 15 scholars from prominent varsities across India to work on them. They will be studying and translating the book page by page," said Falguni Shah, who is part of the project. The project is being undertaken by Gyaan Daan Trust. Aagam In English. Need Of The Generation by Yug Diwakar Gurudev Shri Namramuni M. S. Please follow the link www.youtube.com



At

SAINT DIKSHA

Mumukshu Nisheet Bhai Jain accepted Muni diksha in the murti-pujak sect from Muni Shri Hem Ratna Vijay Ji maharaj on the 4th January, 2012 at Pindwada in Sirohi District of Rajasthan. An impressive procession (Var-ghoda) was taken out through the town on the day of diksha from the house of the mumukshu to the temple where diksha ceremony was to be held. Flowers were sprinkled from a helicopter on the moving procession.

READER'S REVIEWS & NOTES (WE DO NOT EDIT THIS SECTION - EDITOR)

Jain community must be included in the National Commission for Minorities by the Union Govt.-Dhanpal Solanki Jain, E-Mail: dhanpal.congress@gmail.com - Jain community must be included in the National Commission for Minorities by the Central Government. Union Cabinet is competent to issue a notification under the provisions of the National Commission for Minorities Act., declaring Jains as National Minority. The Union Cabinet had already approved 103rd Constitutional Amendment bill, which has the power to grant National Minority Status to Jain community in the country, thus grant Constitutional Status to NCM. (Dated Dec 19, 2008, Union Cabinet cleared this bill).

Under Articles 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966 (ICCPR) of United Nation Human Rights, (UNHR) guarantees minority rights in the following terms: as "In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such Minority groups shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language." The concept of "Minority" is not only in India, It's around the world, as India is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted on December 18, 1992, a Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, Who laid down the foundation of Modern, Socialist and Secular Democracy, himself clarified many times that Jains are an ancient minority. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar under Article 25 clause II of the Indian Constitution made it crystal clear that Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, are a distinct religious minority.

Jains have been recognized as a minority by notifications in States like Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab State minority commission. Gujarat is the only State having a sizeable of 525,304 Jain population, which has not granted minority Status to Jain community by the Gujarat government despite several correspondences made to the Chief Minister Narendra Modi. It clearly shows the biased attitude of the Gujarat Chief Minister and its administration towards Jain minority issue and also other minorities particularly Muslims. Haryana & Gujarat are two states, who do not have their own State Minorities Commission. Even in the Census, Jains are counted separately right from 1851 to 1951-2011. According to the 2001 Census, Jains constitute 0.40 per cent of the total population & current census 2011, Jains account for 0.50 per cent of the total population of the country.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in his Book "Discovery of India" Explains: What is Hinduism? I quote him that "Hinduism is religion, which should not include Jainism & Buddhism, but they are very must thought & product of Indian Culture. This clearly explains that Jains are a distinct religious minority.

In his speech on Sept 3rd, 1949, at Allahabad University, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said: "No doubt India has a vast majority of Hindus, but they could not forget in fact there are also minorities like Muslims, Christians, Parsis, Sikhs, Buddhist and Jains. If India was understood as Hindu-rashtra it meant that the minorities were not cent per cent citizens of the country. On 25th January, 1950, a Jain delegation was led to our late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and other central leaders to draw their attention to the anomalous position of the Jains under sub-clause (b) of Clause 2 of Article 25 and a petition was submitted. Jawaharlal Nehru clearly assured the delegation that the Sikhs, Buddhists & Jains are not Hindus and thus all the rights of the Jain minority community, particularly their religious, cultural, educational rights will be protected in an Independent Secular India through the Indian Constitution.

Jainism and Buddhism are traditionally original and older Sramana tradition : Both the Jains and Buddhists reject the authority of Vedas and successfully opposed the inhuman Brahmanical orthodoxy of Caste discrimination, Gender bias, the superstitious practice of animal sacrifice and denial of scriptural access to women and members of the lower caste. Jainism also did not accept the concept of Creator God that created the Universe. One must achieve their goals through their own efforts, and not by divine intervention. Jainism lays greater emphasis on rational, scientific, compassionate and ethical way of life based on complete equality. Jain tradition, the first Tirthankar and founder of Jainism Lord Rishabh dev gave to the world the triple concept of Asi (Sword of Defence), Masi (Ink, Arts, culture, writing and Education) and Krishi (representing settled agricultural way of life).

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, while launching the Jain Manuscripts catalogue of collection in the British Library of London at New Delhi, dated 27th May, 2006 said "This ancient land of India has been home to some of the greatest religious movements and religions known to mankind, among which Jainism occupies an important place of pride. It is an important constituent of our composite culture and civilizations heritage." "Further he said: "The rational basis of Jainism has contributed to the growth of scientific temper and the fight against superstition and blind belief. Rejecting the rigidities of doctrine, Jainism presented a new openness and in a new freshness in our approach to matters considered spiritual. This approach has helped in grappling with social, religious and even economic problems facing mankind. Jainism is part and parcel of the rich tradition of rational intellectual discourse that has flourished in this ancient land of India. "Indeed, Mahatma Gandhi wrote that "Jainism represents the highest flight of logic. It has taken nothing for granted and has endeavoured to prove metaphysical truth by challenging the intellect". The tradition not to take anything for granted and examine all postulates on the basis of reason and intellect needs to be followed in our own time"

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the former President of India, in his book "Indian Philosophy Vol I" & 6th Volume of The Cultural Heritage of India mentioned as under: "The Bhagawat Purana endorses the view that Rishabhadeva was the founder of Jainism. There is evidence to show that so far back as the first century B.C. there were people who were worshipping Rishabhadeva, the first Tirthankara. There is no doubt that Jainism prevailed even before Vardhamana Mahaveera or Parsvanatha. The Yajurveda mentions the names of three Tirthankaras-Rishabh, Ajitnath & Aristanemi." "The Jains claim a great antiquity for their religion. Their earliest prophet was Rishabhdeva.

Who is mentioned even in the Vishnu and Bhagawat Puranas as belonging to a very remote past. In the earliest Brahmanic literature are found traces of the existence of a religious Order." Dr S. Radhakrishnan said I quote that "There is nothing wonderful in my saying that Jainism was in existence long before the Vedas were composed". On the occasion of the Dalit-Minority International Conference held on December 27, 2006 at New Delhi Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in his speech said " In an international conference like this it is relevant to recognize that a minority in one country or region could be a majority elsewhere. Indeed, every social and religious group can claim to be minority somewhere or the other" "Some minorities in India have done better than others. For example, in India minority communities like Jains and Sikhs have fared relatively well from the process of social and economic development". He said.

There is an irrational fallacy that all Jains are a rich minority. So by that argument Parsis are much better than the Jains, so they are included in the minority list nationally and very important is that "Minority" is not determined on the bases of their financial status, but on the bases of their population. There are thousands of Jains in India particularly in the State of Karnataka in the Belgaum & Dharwad district live below poverty line (BPL) and live in severe deprivation. Even in State of Rajasthan district like Pali, Jalore, Rajsamand, Udaipur, here Jains are both educationally & economically backward. In states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand, here there are several tribal Jains, who live in such deprivation that they are found begging. This is a painful fact. May be the Prime Minister 15 point welfare program for the Minorities could help them to come out of their backwardness and deprivation. It's a myth that all Jains are rich minority. In the State of Karnataka, where Jain community have already been granted OBC Status by the Govt. of Karnataka. Here Jains in Belgaum and Dharwar District of Karnataka State live in severe deprivation and are sending their children to beg for food and other basic needs. They are not been literate, as they have never gone to School.

In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Jharkhand, here we have tribal Jains, who have preserve ancient Jain religion, but they live in severe poverty and do not have access to their basic needs like Food, education, health-care, housing or economic opportunity. Here also Jains are found to be begging for their basic needs. In forest or in farms, they do some labour work and earn their livelihood through meagre wages daily. In Rajasthan's Marwar and Mewar regions like Pali, Jalore, Barmer, Sirohi, Udaipur, Bhilwara, Pratagarh, Chittorgarh and Rajsamand district, here Jains are most educationally and economically backward and also been victims of communal riots some years back from the communal saffron forces. Even in rural Maharashtra, here thousands of Jains live distress and poverty. They are mostly poor farmer and small shop-keepers.

Jainism in Tribal Communities - According to the famous report of Sachar commission report, 2.6% of total Jains belong to the tribals. Jainism is widespread amongst tribal communities of India. We can see Jainism amongst tribal communities all over India, including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bengal etc. Some of such tribal communities are traditionally Jains, others are converted to Jainism in recent days. Some of the tribal communities amongst which there are considerable number of followers of Jainism are, Kurumba/Kuruba (Karnataka), Gadaria, (Gujarat), Meena (Rajasthan), Gujjar (all over western India), Bakarwal (Kashmir). Two big tribal communities Saraak (Bengal and Jharkhand) and Parmar, Solanki Kshatriya (Gujarat) are well known tribal Jain communities. According to Justice Sachar Commission report & Justice Ranganath Misra commission both Jains & Parsis do not believe in caste system or any kind of discrimination and hence there is no Schedule caste (SC) category among Jains and Parsis.

When Communal riots broke out in Gujarat in 2002, it was Jain Acharya Mahapragya, who led the Ahimsa Yatra, not only preached but practised ahimsa as an instrument for extinguishing the flames of communalism and healing the wounds of fellow Indian citizen. Nonviolence, compassion, Anekāntavāda or dialogue with an open mind, inclusive policies can become an antidote not only to nuclear destruction but also to terrorism, naxalism, communalism and separatist tendency. Later the Indian Government felicitated him with the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for the year 2002. On 29 July, 2011 at New Delhi in a graceful function held at Vigyan Bhawan, the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh, Home Minister P. Chitambaram, Home Minister for State Mr. Jitender Singh were also present. Acharya Lokesh has been selected for this award by a jury headed by Hon'ble Vice-President of India Shri Hamid Ansari for his remarkable contribution in field of National Integration, Peace, Communal Harmony and Non Violence. Instituted in 1996 the award carries a 'Citation' and Rs. TWO lakhs. As Acharya Lokesh did not accept the amount the money was given to Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti University.

Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari on the occasion said that principle of "Anekanta" is the strongest medium of mutual exchange of views and Acharya Lokesh is giving very stress ??on this principle. He said that Acharya Shri is a symbol that teaches us how to absorb all kinds of ideas. This award given to him is just an expression of gratitude towards his great contribution for the country. We hope that country would continuously get his guidelines for building a better India. The 'Citation' given to Acharya Lokesh Muni, age 50 years says he is a writer, orator and social worker. He is the chief functionary of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, a Delhi based voluntary organisation which aims at promoting non- violence, peace, communal harmony, working against female foeticide & drug addiction, providing help during natural calamities, etc. Acharya Lokesh Muni worked to de-escalate Hindu Muslim strife after the Jama Masjid explosion in 2006-07 and tension between Dera Sacha Sauda and the Sikh community in 2007. He participated in a 1500 km walk from Haryana to Gujarat to promote communal harmony. Shri Muni studied Jainism, Buddhism and Vedic philosophy and has 12 books to his credit on subjects like female foeticide, terrorism, principles of peace and brotherhood. For his academic pursuits, the Indian Board of Alternative Medicines awarded him the Doctor of Philosophy. He has also been honoured with the Naitik Samman by the Gulzfarilal Nanda Foundation and Bhaskar Puraskar by Bharat Nirman Sangathan for his contribution in restoring human values of peace and brotherhood.

Supreme Court on Minority Rights - In the opinion of the Eleven judges constitutional bench of the Supreme Court of India hearing a petition filed by T.M.A. Pai Foundation v/s State of Karnataka, in this order dated Oct 31, 2002, the court through

its judgement upheld the rights of both religious & linguistic minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice, as the petition was primarily filed for the administrative & management rights of minority educational institution and judgement was not for declaring any community, a minority either at the State or National level . This judgement creates no hurdle or obstruction in granting National Minority Status to the Jain community in India, as the judgement must be read in letter and spirit.

D. A. V. College v/s State of Punjab 1971, Supreme Court said, that minority status of a person or group of either religious or linguistic is to be determined by taking into consideration the entire population of the country through Central legislation & State minorities through should be determined by taking into consideration the entire population of the State through State legislation. This means National and State Minorities Commission are entirely two different commissions taking into consideration the population of a given community at the National and State level. e.g., Hindus are a minority in the State of Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya, therefore Hindus must be included in these respective State Minorities commission.

Even in the Bal Patil v/s the Union of India, 2005, the Supreme Court said that it was for the Central Government to decide on the recommendation of the National Commission for Minorities that Jain must be declared National Minority. (This Order after T. M. A. Pai Foundation judgement of 2002). In a another case division bench of the Supreme Court of India in the case, Committee of Management Kanya Junior High School Bal Vidya Mandir, Etah, U. P. V/S Sachiv, U. P. Basic Shiksha Parishad, Allahabad, U. P. Civil Appeal No. 9595 of 2003, decided On: 21.08.2006, Supreme Court of India in one line if I para phase the Judgment that said that Jain are a National Minority. (This Order after T. M. A. Pai Foundation judgment of 2002).

In case the Jain community is not included in the National Commission for Minorities by the Central Govt, this will be inconsistent with and also contravenes Articles 14, 15, 16, 25, 29 & 30 of the Indian Constitution that guarantee, right to equality, right to equality before law, equality of opportunity, freedom of conscience and protect the citizens from discrimination by the State on grounds of religion, language, caste or creed and rights of minorities to their protection of their cultural, religious and educational rights. And as the Union Cabinet had already approved 103rd constitutional Amendment bill chaired by our Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, which has the power to define National Minority in the country, thus grant Constitutional Status to NCM and this bill makes way for the Jain community to be declared National Minority. (Dated Dec 19, 2008, Union Cabinet cleared this bill).

Even Article 29 & 30 of the Indian constitution recognises that Religious & linguistic minority have a Fundamental Right to run & manage and administer their own educational & religious Institution. Which gives direct protection to Jain religious pilgrimage, which are illegally taken over by fundamentalist forces and Jains will have a right to set-up their own education institute and thus manage and give their community students administration up to 50%. Eg St. Stephen's College, New Delhi & St. Xavier's College, Mumbai who are Christian Minority institute. Both the Justice Sachar Commission report & Justice Ranganath Misra commission clear state "Jains are distinct religious minority" report has already been tabled in Parliament. Ranganath Misra report further validates that Jains and Parsis are the only two communities, which in theory and practice do not have caste system or have Scheduled Caste category. Jainism emphasis that all women and men have equal status. Three times, the National Commission for Minorities has recommended to the Central Govt. to include the Jain community in the National Commission for Minorities.

Three times the National Commission for Minorities has recommended to the Central Govt. to include the Jain community in the National Commission for Minorities. The first recommendation of the NCM dated 01.11.1994:- Justice Mohd Sardar Ali Khan sent a letter to Shri Sitaram Kesari, the then Union Minister for Welfare on the basis of the commission's 172nd meeting, held on 3-10-1994 and reached the unanimous conclusion that prima facie "the Jains belong to a separate religion, quite distinct from the Hinduism and that, therefore, they deserve to be included in the list of Minorities already notified by the Govt. of India on the October 23, 1993." The Second recommendation on 22.02.1996 vide letter no. 10103/95- NCM, Shri Tirlochan Singh, Secretary, NCM sent a letter to Shri K.B. Saxena, Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Welfare on the basis of commission's meeting held on 05.02.1996 as follow: - The Commission after considering this issue at its meeting held on 5.2.1996 "that a statutory recommendation be made to the Govt. of India for inclusion of Jains in the list of minority community." I am accordingly directed to convey to the Govt. of India "the above recommendation of the Commission under Section 9(1) (C) of the NCM Act, 1992 to include Jains in the list of Minorities."

The Third time the National Commission for Minorities forwarded the representation dated 30.08.2007 of Vishwa Jain Sangathan for declaring 'Jain religion' as national religious minority to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, dated 17.09.2007 by letter no 81/71/04-NCM without any objection. (This recommendation after T.M.A. Pai Foundation judgement of 2002). National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 currently consists of the following communities: Muslims, Christians, Parsis, Sikhs, and Buddhists. Our request to the Union Cabinet through you is that the Jain community must be included in the National Commission for Minorities by issuing a 'notification' under the provisions of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

DEVLOK GAMAN

1. Swetambar Sthanakwasi Jain up-pravartak Shri Umesh Muni Ji Maharaj left for his heavenly abode on the 31st October, 2011 at Bhagwan Das Nagar Sthanak (East Punjabi Bagh in Delhi). He had accepted santhara prior to his death. He was the disciple of Upadhyay Shri Hem Chand Ji Maharaj.

2. Shri Jhanak Muni Ji Maharaj, disciple of Shri Nemi Chand Ji Maharaj belonging to the Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect expired on the 27th October, 2011 at Jalna town in Maharashtra in a Government hospital after a prolonged period of illness.

3. Mahashramani Shri Indrakantwar Ji Maharaj belonging to Shwetambar Terapanthi sect left for her heavenly abode on Gyan Panchami day, the 31st October, 2011 at Bikaner, after having accepted santhara 59 days ago. Thousands of followers joined her funeral procession.

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