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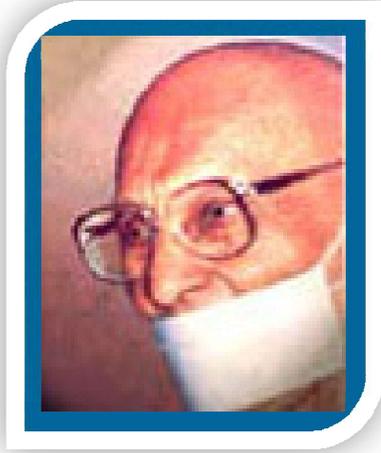
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17th INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF MAHAVIR INTERNATIONAL AT RAIPUR

The 17th International Convention of Mahavir International will take place at Raipur on 13th and 14th October, 2001, Saturday and Sunday. The venue of the convention is Medical College Auditorium, Jail Road, Raipur, Chattisgarh. Arrangements have been made by the Local Chapter of Mahavir International for the comfortable stay at all the participants at Raipur. The famous Jain Teerth Nagpura Parshwanath is at a distance of fifty four km. from Raipur. For registration, contact directly to Veer Inderchand Dhariwal, Chairman, 45/4, Sadar Bazaar, Raipur. Ph. 0771-535685/636645 Mobile. 98271-10500 or Veer Vimal Golchha, Secretary, Naveen Market, Phool Chowk, Raipur. Ph. 0771-536429 (O) 425300 (R).



82nd BIRTHDAY OF ACHARYA MAHAPRAGYA CELEBRATED AT HOUSTON, USA

Houston, Saturday, June 23 2001. JVB MEDITATION CENTER The program started with Namokar Mahamantra by Shramani Akshya Pragya Ji followed by a devotional bhajan on Bhagwan Mahavir by Prerana Behn Shah and welcome of all participants by the Secretary of the JVB Meditation Center, Mr. Kirti Bhai Mehta. Dr. Sulekh Jain, President of JVB Center, Houston paid rich tributes to Acharya Mahapragyaji. The next part of the program was devoted to Physical health and its maintainence. Dr. Suresh Moonat; explained the physiology of the human body and functions of heart, liver, stomach, kidneys and lungs. The talk on Nutrition and Health was given by Dr. Saroj Bahl, Prof of Nutrition at University of Texas Dental School in Houston. She lauded the food habits of Jains of not eating after sunset. Mrs. Lalita Behn Trehan also paid tributes to Acharya ji and described in details the joy, peace (shanti) and experience of their (she and her husband, Surender Trehan) recent meeting with Acharya ji in Nokha village in Rajasthan. At the end shramani Akshyapragyaji gave a very impressive pravachan on Kaise Sochen (How to think). This is a title of one of the books by Acharyaji.

DEVELOPMENT WORK AT SAMMET SHIKHARJI TAKEN UP

It is heartening to know that much-needed development work at the Jain Teerth, Sammet Shikharji has finally been taken up by the newly formed Government of Jharkhand Pradesh. The Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Babu Lal Marandi announced these projects in a meeting held at Ranchi with the representatives of Digambar, Shwetambar and State representatives. The Digambar Samaj was represented by Dr. D. K. Jain from Delhi and Vasant Lal M. Doshi from Mumbai. Shwetambar Samaj was represented by Shri Barachar. The State officials included the Development Commissioner, Mr. J. Krishnan. The various projects are being taken up at a budgeted cost of Rs. 22 crores and include, building of a rope way, bus stand at Madhuvan, road development, better drinking water facilities, new power generation plant and new market building.

NEW PUBLICATIONS IN 2600TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF BHAGWAN MAHAVIR

All India Jain Temples and Tourist Places : Published by ITI Jains Association, Bangalore and Shri Bharatwarshiya Digambar Jain Mahasabha, Lucknow. Edited by Shri B. C. Nagraj. The book describes the Jain pilgrimage centres, temples, Dharm shalas, and other places of interest in the states of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, South India, Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Kerala and Goa, In all, 282 places have been covered in the book with illustrations. The price of the book is Rs. 50/- only, including postage charges.

Tamilnadu Digambar Jain Teerth Kshetra Sandarshan : Published by Shri

Bharatwarshiya Digambar Jain Mahasabha, Chennai. The book covers the description with historical information and photographs of Jain temples located in six districts of the State of Tamilnadu. The book is priced at Rs. 50/- only, including postage charges.

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Both these book can be obtained by sending a money order for Rs. 50/- for each of the books to: The Secretary, Shri Bharatwarshiya Digambar Jain Mahasabha, Shri Nandishwar Floor Mills Compound, Mill Road, Aish Bagh, LUCKNOW - 226 004.

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LEGAL NOTICE OVER JAIN PILLAR AT QUTAB MINAR, NEW DELHI

A stone pillar, which depicts a Jain Teerthankara, in the Qutab Minar premises has stoked up a new controversy. Legal notices have been sent to the Government and Archaeological Survey of India saying that the site of the pillar has incited religious intolerance. Hem Raj Jain, a Digamber Jain, said in his notice that the stone pillar was "conspicuous in a legally objectionable manner" and kept memories of religious vandalism and intolerance fresh in people's minds. He said in the notice that this pitted the Muslims community with the Muslim invaders and rulers who indulged in such religious vandalism." The notice said the bitter memories which generate animosity and hatred between followers of different religions

should be forgotten. It further wants the pillar to be removed and handed over to a Jain religious centre and the mention of destruction of Jain temples be removed from two shilalekhs in the area.

CHATURMAS PROGRAMME

Shwetambar Sthanakwasi Saints

1. Acharya Shri Shiv Muni, Veer Nagar, Delhi
2. Muni Shri Sumati Prakash Ji, Ashok Vihar, Delhi
3. Pravartak Shri Roop Chand Ji Rajat, Vivek Vihar, Delhi
4. Shri Subhash Muni, Amritsar
5. Pravartak Shri Kundan Rishi Ji, Jodhpur
6. Shri Ramesh Muni Shastri and Up-Pravartak Shri Rajendra Muni, Shastri Nagar, Delhi
7. Mahasati Lad Kunwar Ji Maharaj, Jodhpur
8. Mahasati Umraon Kunwar Ji, Nokha-Chandavata (Near Merta city in Rajasthan)
9. Mahasati Sayar Kunwar Ji, Jodhpur
10. Mahasati Kirtisudha Ji, Nutan Prabha Ji, Jodhpur

Shwetambar Murtipujak Saints

1. Acharya Shri Nityanand Ji, Calcutta
2. Acharya Shri Kakapoorna Vijay Ji, Phalodi
3. Acharya Shri Kamal Ratna Surishwar Ji, Jodhpur
4. Shri Kamak Prabh Sagar Ji Maharaj, Jodhpur
5. Sadhwi Shri Chandra Kala Ji, Jodhpur

Shwetambar Terapanth Saints

1. Sadhwi Shri Kamal Prabha Ji, Jodhpur
2. Sadhwi Shri Manohara Ji, Jodhpur
3. Sadhwi Shri Kamal Shri Ji, Jodhpur

Digambar Jain Saints

1. Muni Shri Nami Sagar Ji, Ghaziabad
2. Acharya Shri Dharam Bhushan Ji, Maniharan Dist. Saharanpur
3. Acharya Shri Sumati Sagar Ji, Sammet Shikhar Ji
4. Acharya Shri Shanti Sagar Ji, Tonk
5. Acharya Shri Sidhant Sagar Ji, Lucknow
6. Upadhyay Shri Anand Sagar Ji, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi

NAVKAR MANTRA RECITATION

Twenty six lakh Navkar Mantra jaap was conducted on the occasion of 2600th Birth Centenary year of Bhagwan Mahavir at Delhi in the holy presence of Shri Ramesh Muni, Shri Rajendra Muni and other saints.

OSWAL SAMAJ FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS AT JODHPUR

The entire Oswal community will be celebrating its Foundation day from 19th to 21st July, 2001 at the place of its origin, Osia, Jodhpur, Rajasthan. This celebrations will mark the completion of 2457 years of the existence of this community, which was founded by the great

Acharya Shri Ratna Prabh Sagar Ji Maharaj, who was the sixth Pattadhar (descendent) of Tirthankar Bhagwan Shri Parshwa Nath. The celebrations will be inaugurated in the morning of 19th July, followed by a seminar on "The past and present of a Oswal Samaj and its contribution in the development of the country", discourses by holy saints and closing with honouring of various celebrities of Oswal Samaj on the 21st July.

DECISION OF RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT RESERVED ON THE TESTIMONY OF SAINTS

Justice H.R. Pawar of the Rajasthan High Court has reserved its decision on the Public benefit petition filed by Kavita Srivastava, spokeswoman of Mahila Atyachar Virodhi Jan Andolan, who had challenged the decision of Kokaje Commission not to get the testimony of those Jain saints who had moved to southern part of the country and were right now having their Chaturmas in Tamilnadu. The State Government also had never insisted for their witness and was of the opinion that the decision of Kokaje Commission was quite in order. Subsequently, the Court withdrew its above decision.

FIRST NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON MONKEYS WITH US COLLABORATION

The country's first National Centre for Research on Monkeys is being set up with US collaboration under the auspices of Indo-US Primate Project at Jodhpur in Rajasthan. The Government of Rajasthan has assured to provide the necessary assistance so that the Centre will be established by December, 2002. The research on monkeys will help in developing vaccines for diseases like, Polio, Cancer, Aids, Typhoid, Malaria and Hepatitis-B. The land for the Centre has been procured on Kaylana-Badli road near Jodhpur. In order to detect and fight fast-spreading Tuberculosis in the State, the DNA finger prints of monkeys will help in conducting P.C.R. test and develop models. Apart from that, research on procreation and reproduction process of female monkeys will be useful in increasing the resistance of the body of pregnant ladies and cure various diseases concerning women. Dr. S. M. Mohnot has conducted extensive research on the characteristics and varieties of monkeys, and collected useful information and data on the subject. He has been honoured by the State as well as Central Government and he has also received award from the US Government for his contribution to research on monkeys for the welfare of mankind. He has been appointed the first Director of the Institute. Ahimsa Foundation conveys its congratulations to Dr. Mohnot for his achievements in the field of medical science.

GUJARAT GOVT. CELEBRATES 2600TH BIRTH CENTENARY OF BHAGWAN MAHAVIR

Shri Keshu Bhai, Chief Minister of Gujarat has announced following steps to promote ahimsa in the State with immediate effect:

1. The entire year will be observed as Ahimsa year.
2. North Gujarat University will be renamed as Acharya Hemchandracharya University.
3. Tenders for opening new butcher-houses for meat and fish will not be entertained during the year.
4. An Ahimsa University will be established in Gujarat.
5. Pinjara-Poles will hence-forth be called as Animal Protection Centres.
6. The financial grant given for animal protection and welfare will be enhanced by 50 %.
7. Rs. 1 Lakh award for excellent work on animal welfare.
8. The text books used in schools will include lessons based on Mahavir's precepts.
9. A tower of triumph (Kirti-Stambh) and Mahavir Garden to be built.
10. The region of Palitana will be declared as Ahimsa zone.

MADHYA PRADESH DECLARES JAIN AS A MINORITY COMMUNITY

The State of Madhya Pradesh has declared the Jain Community covering all its sects as minority community and it will enjoy all the benefits due to them, such as:

1. Financial aid and protection to Jains for improving their social, religious and educational facilities.
2. Protection of Jain temples, religious places and prayer halls.
3. Police protection to maintain social goodwill.
4. Financial assistance and scholarships to students of Jain community for pursuing religious studies along-with modern subjects.
5. Loan and subsidy at concessional rates from the government for trade and industry.
6. Protection of the property belonging to various Trusts belonging to Jain Samaj.
7. Special arrangements and approval to different religious courses for learning Pali.
8. Prakrit, Adhamagadhi and Sanskrit languages.
9. Special assistance and financial aid to Indians going abroad for pilgrimage and relaxation of legal formalities for them.
10. Separate reservation of seats for Jain students for admission to various medical colleges, engineering colleges, Management Institutes etc. which are opened by Jain Samaj.

KOTA UNIVERSITY TO BE RENAMED AS BHAGWAN MAHAVIR OPEN UNIVERSITY

Rajasthan government has agreed to rename the existing Open University at Kota as Bhagwan Mahavir Open University. Muni Shri Tarun Sagar Ji Maharaj has been instrumental in prevailing upon the Chief Minister and Governor of the State to take this decision. Other decisions taken include closure of butcher houses, meat shops and bars on various religious days, specified in the Order and declaring this year as Ahimsa Year and taking various measures to spread the message of Mahavir all through the State.

JAIN MEALS ON INDIAN AIRLINES FLIGHTS

On the occasion of 2600th Birth centenary of Bhagwan Mahavir, Indian Airlines has declared that Jain meals will be served to those who desire to take them in all their flights.

GOVERNMENT ORDER REGARDING PACKED FOODS

Government of India has promulgated an Order requiring that all Companies manufacturing packed food items are legally bound to show on their labels whether the contents packed inside contain any non-vegetarian material.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON LORD MAHAVIRA AND TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

The International Seminar on Lord Mahavira and the Twenty-first Century was held from 2nd to 4th April, 2001 at Kolkata. Swami Prabhananda Maharaj was the chief guest. It was inaugurated by Shri Viren J. Shah, the Governor of West Bengal. Many well-known scholars attended and presented their papers.

PAPERS INVITED- DIGAMBAR JAIN ATISHAYA KSHETRA

In connection with Sri Mahavirji Year-2001, Digambar Jain Atishaya Kshetra announces Mahavir Award and Br. Puranchand Siddhilata Ludaliya Award. Papers on Jaina Religion, Philosophy, History, Literature and Culture are invited. Research Papers related with Apabhramsha Literature are also invited for "Sayambhu Puraskar". For more information, Contact, Digambar Jain Nasiyan Bhattakarji Sawai Ramsingh Road Jaipur 302004, Phone: 382847.

MAHAVIR DIGAMBAR JAIN MSS PRESERVATION CENTRE INAUGURATED

The inauguration ceremony of Mahavir Digambar Jain MSS Preservation Centre, Jaipur, was held on 20th May, 2001 at Totuka Bhavan, Digambar Jain Nasiyan Bhattakarji, Jaipur. Dr. Mandan Misra was the chief guest.

WORLD JAIN CONFEDERATION MEET

Mumbai. World Jain Confederation was organised at Mumbai to spread the message of Jain religion to the entire world on 11th June 2001. This meet was organised under the leadership of Shree Pratap Bhogilal, Dr. N. P. Jain, Shree Subhash Runwal and Shree Shantilal Muttha at the Fort City Hall. The meet was attended by 70 celebrity member of the community.

It was indeed an effort on the part of organisers of this event. We also request the promoter of this World Jain Confederation to work for uniting the entire Jain community under one single banner of Vishwa Jain Confederation. The entire Jain community feels embraced when we find numerous Vishwa Jain Confederations promoted by every sect, saints and local organizations without any homogeneity in aims, objectives and programmes.

Understanding the aims and objectives of Vishwa Jain Confederation therefore, it becomes our cherished desire that respectable and influential members of the entire Jain community bring their independent organisations either under one banner or under one confederation. If this is not practically possible at least an effort can be made towards reducing the number of Vishwa Jain confederations in every nook and corner of the country.

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