



JAIN AHIMSA TIMES

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**When we blindly adopt a religion, a political system, a literary dogma,
we become automatons. We cease to grow. Anais Nin**

WHO IS A MINORITY - Mr. Sanjeev Nayar - The term minority is not defined in the Constitution. Nowhere in the world, except in India, is a minority defined by religion or caste. Is anyone listening? A lone judge of the Allahabad High Court caused a nationwide flutter this April by declaring that Muslims could no longer be treated a religious minority in Uttar Pradesh. Although a division bench of the same high court stayed the order it is worth reviewing the legal and political practices and doctrines that determine who constitutes a minority.

The term 'minority' has been used in Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution but it has nowhere been defined. According to the Supreme Court judgment of August 2005, "Minority as understood from the constitutional scheme signifies an identifiable group of people or a community who are seen as entitled to protection due to deprivation of its religious, cultural and educational rights by other 'majority' communities. Majority here refers to a group or community that is likely to gain political power in elections under a democratic form of Government"

SAINTS

CASE FILED IN THE COURT AGAINST JAIN DIKSHA ACCORDED TO FOUR MINOR PERSONS IN TERAPANTH SECT AT UDAIPUR

Four children, namely Ankit Daglia, Mayank Daglia, Gautam Kasmiya and Siddharth Kasmiya were accorded Jain Muni diksha with the blessings of and in the presence of Acharya Shri Mahapragya on the 2nd May, 2007 at village Semad in Gogunda Tehsil of Udaipur district in Rajasthan. All the four persons, who were accepted as Jain Muni are below 18 years of age. Two persons, one Hukam Singh of Udaipur and other, Kanahyalal Tak of Nathdwara have filed a legal suit in the court of Mr. Brajendra Kumar Jain, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Udaipur for instituting criminal proceedings against all the persons, connected with the diksha, namely, parents of the four candidates for diksha, Acharya Shri Mahapragya, Yuvacharya Shri Maha Shraman, Sadhwi-Pramukha, Shri Kanak Prabha Ji, President and members of Shwetambar Terapanth Sabha, in whose presence and with whose consent the diksha of four persons were held. The plea for instituting legal proceedings is that the four persons, who have been given diksha are still minor and they are not capable of thinking about their good or bad in future, understand the implications of accepting diksha and taking this abrupt decision for their whole life.

Acharya shri Mahapragya in a rejoinder has stated that age has nothing to do in case of diksha and those who talk about finding relationship between the two are either ignorant about spiritualistic traditions in Jain religion or they are deliberating ignoring the Jain philosophy of spiritualism. Diksha is just a case of independent consciousness and it is not an imprisonment. Some people are bent upon creating mis-givings amongst the masses about Jain diksha and they compare muni-diksha with beggary. Acharya Shri said that he would like to advise such people to worry more about those thousands of children in the country, who become criminals and spoil the entire society due to lack of education, poverty and in the absence of well-reared culture. The entire Jain community of Rajasthan is feeling highly perturbed on learning about this incident.

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CHATURMAS ANNOUNCED/EXPECTED

Gachhadhipati Acharya Shri Nityanand Surishwar Ji maharaj has indicated that his coming chaturmas will be held at Khudala, near Falna in Rajasthan. He will make entry into Khudala on the 20th July. A large and impressive procession, carrying of 21 elephants, 51 camels, 51 horses and seven bands will be taken out on the occasion. She was born at Ichalkaranji on the 10th October, 1983.

Gachhadhipati Acharya Shri Hem Prabh Surishwar Ji maharaj disciple of Acharya Shri Vijay Kesar Surishwar Ji maharaj from Shwetambar Murti-pujak sect will be holding the forth-coming chaturmas at Jabalpur (Sarafa Bazar).

Upadhyay Pt. Ratna Shri Man Chandra ji maharaj, disiciple of late Acharya Shri Hasti Mal Ji maharaj of Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect will hold chaturmas at Bhopalgarh in Rajashtan.

Shri Vichakshan muni ji, disciple of Dr. Vishal Muni ji from Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect will hold chaturmas at Beawar in Rajasthan.

Sadhwi-pramukha Mahasati Shri Mainasunderi ji maharaj, disciple of Acharya Hastimal Ji maharaj of Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect will hold her chaturmas at Sarswati Nagar, Jodhpur. Mahasati Shri Santosh Kunwar ji of same sect will hold her chaturmas at Ajmer.

Sadhwi Shri Sumangla Ji maharaj, belonging to Jain Shwetambar Murti-pujak Tapagachha Sangha will be having her chaturmas at Bhairubagh temple, Jodhpur.

Mahasati Shri Pooran pragya Ji, disciple of Acharya Shri Nityanand Surishwar Ji maharaj belonging to Shwetambar Murtipujak sect has indicated to hold coming chaturmas at Sevadi in Pali district of Rajasthan.

Acharya Shri Abhinandan sagar Ji maharaj of Jain Digambar sect may be holding forth-coming chaturmas at Udaipur (Humad nohra). Acharya Shri Rayan Sagar Ji maharaj Jain Digambar sect may be holding forth-coming chaturmas at Parsola, Udaipur. Acharya Shri Gundhar nandi ji maharaj Jain Digambar sect may be holding forth-coming chaturmas at Borivalli, Mumbai. Acharya Shri Kanaknandi ji maharaj Jain Digambar sect may be holding forth-coming chaturmas at Sagwada.

TEMPLES

WORLD' LONGEST SAREE OFFERED AT PADMAVATHI JAIN TEMPLE IN TAMIL NADU

The 685 metres saree was made for adorning the presiding deity of Parshwa Padmavathi Jain temple in Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu, by Kumaran Silks. The `kumkum' (maroon) coloured saree, handed over to the temple has already been draped around the deity. The Guinness Book Of World Records has registered it under the tag the longest saree, offered to goddess Padmavathi. According to manufacturer, doing this job was a prestige issue. Since the Jain community are not supposed to use silk but to give the rich look of silk, they went in for silkon, a thread closely resembling silk, which is rarely used in weaving sarees. The job was to be completed in 21 days but actually they could finish in 18 days. Weaving long sarees of late has become a prestige issue among leading textile firms in South India. Last year Kochi-based 'Seematti' had come out with a 1,585 ft saree. In 2005, 'Pothys', another firm in Chennai, had woven a 1,276 ft saree.

SHILANYAS CEREMONY OF DIGAMBAR JAIN TEMPLE AT GHAZIABAD

Shree Digambar Jain Mandir Samiti, Vasundhra Ghaziabad had its 'Shilanyas' ceremony under guidance & presence of Elacharya 108 Shree Shrut Sagar Ji Muniraj at Ghaziabad on 13th May 2007. The event was a great success and had set an example once again; this fact was also acknowledged by our Honorable guests and friends who attended the event. The credit of execution goes to all the volunteers who worked dedicatedly to make the event successful. This event has set not only an example of a youth movement toward promotion of Jainism but an example of team work and dedication. Courtesy: Naveen Kumar Jain, General Secretary E-Mail: - info@jainmandir.net

MAHAVIR JAYANTI CELEBRATED BY MANY NON-JAINS IN NEW YORK

Gathering of Light Multifaith Spiritual Fellowship (GOL) hosted Mahavira Jayanti Celebration on March 25th, 2007 at New York. It is believed to be the first time that non-jains celebrated this event in a house of worship outside a Jain temple. It was held at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church Auditorium in Huntington Station, New York where GOL usually holds their weekly services.

The over one hundred participants were comprised of an equal balance of Jains and nonjains from several faith traditions. The celebration included chanting Namokar Mantra, Preksha meditation, songs, skits, discussions on several Jain principles and the teachings of Bhagwan Mahavira and many other wonderful and enlightening activities. GOL chose to celebrate this most auspicious event due to its shared mission of anekantvad of which the Jain's are honored to call their own. Courtesy: Dr. Sulekh C. Jain, Houston, Texas, USA; Cell:832 594 8005 281.

JAINA - PATHSHALA TEACHERS CONFERENCE

JAINA Education Committee cordially invites the Pāthashālā Teachers, the Presidents of Jain Center, Directors, and Jain Educators to join the One Day JAINA Pāthashālā Teachers conference to be held on the 5th July, 2007 on the registration day of JAINA biennial convention 2007 in Edison New Jersey. The primary objective of this conference is to meet teachers from various Pāthashālā, exchange ideas and experiences, review curriculum of various centers, assist JAINA in the preparation of Jain education materials that can be readily accepted by all of the centers. The collective efforts of the JAINA Pāthashālā Teachers Conferences will ensure that our youngsters and future Jain generations will receive a sound understanding of Jain philosophy with equal emphasis on practice of Jainism. The conference will be held in Holiday Inn (one of the convention Hotel) – Address and room number for the conference will be provided at a later date. Registration dead line is June 8th 2007 and there is no registration fee. For details, contact: Conference Coordinator - Paresh Shah, E-Mail: pareshbshah@gmail.com, Phone: 732-981-0489.

LAUNCH OF MANUSCRIPT CATALOGUE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The three volume Jain Manuscript Catalogue was launched by a member of royal family at Buckingham Palace on the 15th May, 2007 as a part of The British Library collection. This catalogue has taken just over fifteen years to become a reality from when the idea to create one was conceived. Apart from the enormity of the task, the Institute had to overcome several problems. First one was the untimely death of Prof. Chandrabhal Tripathi within two years of starting the project. Number of manuscripts in the collection was a gross underestimate - the workload increased four fold. For details, please see www.herenow4u.de



MAHAVIR JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS AT JAIN ASHRAM, BIRMINGHAM - On 22nd April 2007, Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated at the Jain Ashram in Birmingham. Terapanth Samani Prasanna Pragyaji and Samani Manan Pragyaji from Jain Vishwa Bharati, London were also present on this auspicious occasion. A welcome speech was given by Mr. Arvinder Jain (Secretary of Jain Ashram organisation). Over 70 people participated at this function - which included Gujarati, Punjabi Jain families across the Midlands and even some non-Jains. www.herenow4u.de



HONOURS & AWARDS

SPECIAL FIRST DAY COVERS ON DASHRATH MAL SINGHVI ISSUED BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of India, issued a 'special first day cover' in New Delhi, on Shri Dashrath Mal Singhvi, an eminent lawyer, freedom-fighter and supporter of freedom movement against the British. He used to fight the cases free of cost of those against whom criminal cases were instituted by the British Government for taking part in the freedom struggle. Shri Singhvi, hailing from Jodhpur, a capital town of a princely state in pre-independence period, imparted the best of education and highest level of refined culture to his children. It is due to the well-reared culture imparted by him that his son, Lakshmi Mall Singhvi, a past Member of Parliament and his grand son, Abhishekh Manu Singhvi, a present Member of Parliament, have earned name and fame for themselves in the whole country.

NEW PUBLICATIONS/BOOK REVIEW



1. PREACHING SALVATION (preachings on seven Tattvas), By Acharya Shri Vidyasagar Ji Maharaj, Translated from Hindi by Shri S. L. Jain under the guidance of Muni Shri Kshamasagar Ji and Muni Shri Abhaysagar Ji Maharaj. Publisher: Maitree Samooh, Bhopal. Price: Rs. 50/- only Year: 2007. For treading on the path of Salvation, acquisition of Right Faith is absolutely essential. Comprehending the righteous nature of seven Tattvas and accordingly moulding one's conduct is the strongest cause for such an acquisition. Acharya Shri Vidyasagar Ji has described the nature of these seven tattvas, Jeeva, Ajeeva, Aasrava, bandha, Samvara, Nirjaraa and Moksha in a simple and easy-to-understand manner in his discourses delivered at Siddha-Kshetra Neenaagiri (M.P.) and this book, published first in Hindi and now in English is the outcome of these discourses. Apart from seven tattvas, Acharya Shri has also explained 'Anekant' and 'Syaadvaada' and said that Jain philosophy is not a separate or an independent philosophy but it synthesizes all other philosophies which may be interpreting the subject in different ways.

For proper synthesis and assimilation, it is necessary to have equanimous views. Persons taking support of Anekant and Syaadavaad has to be very patient and composed, endowed with righteous outlook and knowledge; fearless but not ruthless. These discourses are very significant for those readers who wish their emancipation and would enable them to move on the right path and ultimately reach the desired goal, i.e. Salvation. Acharya Shri Vidyasagar Ji was initiated to monkhood in 1968 by Acharya Shri Jnaanagarji maharaj and was elevated to Acharaya in 1972. He has made tremendous contribution to Jain literature in the form of six Sanskrit Shatakas, Champukaavy, Mook-Maatee (epic), ten shatakas, three volumes of poems and 24 volumes of poetic renderings of Jain scriptures. Courtesy: Dr. Kapoor Chand Jain, Khatauli.

TATTVARTH SUTRA Original text in Prakrit by Acharya Shri Umaswati ,Translated into English and Hindi and commentary by Shri Chhagan Lal Jain, I.A.S. (Retd.).Published by Prakrit Bharti Academy, 13-A, Guru Nanak Path, Main Malaviya Nagar, Jaipur. Blessings by Acharya Shri Mahapragya, Introduction by Dr. Sagar Mal Jain, Director, Prachya Vidyapeeth, Shajapur (U.P.), Publisher's note by: D.R. Mehta, Founder and Chief Patron, Prakrit Bharti Academy, Jaipur.Price: Rs. 250/-. This book is an invaluable work on a great old classic, written by Shri Umaswati, the Jain monk philosopher in the 1st to 3rd century A.D. The Tattvarth is derived most authentically from sacred canonical literature, named as 'Agams'. It was the genius of highly learned and dedicated ascetic, Umaswati, who had the vision, intellect and profound scholarship to have encapsulated the entire Agams in just 344 aphorisms of ten chapters of Tattvarth, just as Upnishads packed in Gita. Many commentaries have been written both by Svetambar and Digambar acharyas from time to time, acclaiming its acceptability to both the sects. The subject matter of 'Tattvarth' is knowing the true nature of seven Tattwas, which reveal the capacity of soul to subdue passions or even totally destroy the rising-karmas.The approach is one of developing sublime thoughts and actions, such as giving up indulgence, practicing austerities, commuting to vows of ascending virtues of gunstans, developing humility, offering repentances and contemplating on the purest form of meditation. The entire subject matter is covered in ten divisions, starting with the three jewels, 'samyag darshan', 'samyag gyan' and 'samyag charitra', which constitute the core of the path of emancipation. Shri Sagar mal Jain, a renowned authority on Jainism, has hailed the author's translations as nearest to the original text. The author, has undoubtedly, worked hard by going through important works on the subject, integrating the substance faithfully and translating it in apt Hindi and English authoritatively. The book would be of great value to general readers, students and scholars of Jainism, and is meant for serious reading, specially during 'swadhyay'

2. DISCOVER JAINISM, A Gorgeous Coffee Table book on Jainism ,By Colin Hynson, U.K. ,2007 300 x 210 mm 28 pp on 4 colour art plates,Deluxe Hardcover Edition Price: Rs. 500 The book has been beautifully produced and designed. It targets young readers and Western audiences, giving them an informed peak into the Jain religion. Written by Colin Hynson, a renowned writer of textbooks in the UK, the book covers various aspects of Jainism and explains them with beautiful pictures and photographs. Information concerning the following topics is given in this book: What is Jainism, the birth of Mahavira, the two sects of Jainism, the history of Jainism, the path of attaining spiritual perfection, the three jewels, respect for life, Ahimsa, doing good, Jain Scriptures, Jain festivals and holidays, Jain centres of pilgrimage, Jain temples, Jain worship, Jain prayers, Jain monks and nuns, the five vows undertaken by a Jain, the role of Jains in India's independence struggle and how Jainism is practised around the world. The book has a glossary as well and lists some of the most informative and interesting websites on Jainism. Discover Jainism also points out a dedicated website where there are teachers' notes, games, activities etc. - all focusing on teaching Jainism in a fun way! The book has been aesthetically produced and is ideally suited for gifting, especially to youngsters and a Western audience who would like to know more about Jainism, one of the oldest living religions in the world. Courtesy: Manish Modi, Hindi Granth Karyalaya, 9 Hirabaug C P Tank, Mumbai 400004. Note: Some controversy has been raised over the title of the book as "Coffee Table Book", the contention being that it is disrespectful and offensive to call it so, as it is a case of 'Arihant art' being auctioned for its antique value).

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3. JAIN PATH, The: Ancient Wisdom for the West, By: Aidan Rankin ,(a qualified stress management consultant and has a PhD in Political Science from the London School of Economics). Price: £11.99 Extent: 240pp, Size: 216 x 140mm (51/2 x 81/2in), 2006, Jainism is India's oldest spiritual tradition, and one of the world's oldest religions. It is not well known in the West. But it embodies many of the ideas underlying current thinking on the interconnectedness of all living systems, the principle of non-violence and the need to live simply. It is perhaps the most demanding, rational and radical of all religions, attaching great importance to individual responsibility.

Today we are questioning our own inherited values and also rediscovering ancient traditions. We are looking for continuity and balance-a "return to the centre." Understanding of Jain principles can point us towards the elusive "paradigm shift", giving spiritual and intellectual strength to a new global ethic of compassion and interdependence.

VIOLENCE AGAINST ANIMALS

WELFARE OF STRAY DOGS AN NGO STERLIZES AND IMMUNIZES DOGS IN MUMBAI

The Welfare of Stray Dogs (WSD) is an animal welfare NGO that sterilizes and immunizes stray dogs. We also have an adoption program for abandoned pets and pariahs, an on-site first-aid program and an education and awareness program in schools, colleges, streets and slums. WSD has so far sterilized more than 30,500 stray dogs and impacted the lives of thousands more through first-aid and adoption.

WSD spends Rs 1,50,000 per month on the above activities and we depend on the largesse of donors to fund these activities. One of the methods of raising funds to sustain our costs is our regular garage/jumble sale and we are having one from May 25-27, 2007 (Friday-Sunday) at Bandra Reclamation.

On Sale would be L.P.'s, Cassettes, C.D's, Artefacts, Glassware, Crockery, Crystal, Gift Items, Linen, Clothes, Furniture and Electronic Items at THROW AWAY PRICES !!! The proceeds of the Garage Sale would be used to fund the above- mentioned programs. Venue : Shop No 16, ONGC Complex, Next to Candys, Opposite Leelawati Hospital , Bandra Reclamation, Bandra (W), Mumbai. Date : May 25-27,2007 (Fri-Sun) Time : 11 am to 6:00 pm For more information you can call WSD on 23733433 or E-Mail : wsd@wsdindia.org

MISCELLENOUS



NEED TO LAUNCH DRIVE AGAINST FEMALE FOETICIDE : CHIEF JUSTICE - V. JAIN - Vijender Kumar Jain, the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, has stressed upon the need to launch a multi-faceted drive to check the menace of female foeticide in the society. He has warned that if this situation is allowed to continue, it will cause a serious imbalance in the society. The Chief Justice was addressing a seminar on 'Eradication of female foeticide', organised by Punjab State Legal Services Authority here. In the seminar, the Chief Justice administered an oath to about 500 doctors running ultrasound centres, to refrain from the sex determination of the foetus, and termination of female foetuses. The Chief Justice said that the latest machines invented for diagnosis and treatment of various problems were being misused by people in the region to kill unborn girls. This, he said, was a shameful act in a civilized society. Justice Jain said that it was most unfortunate that Punjab, which is considered to be a prosperous and developed state, has a skewed sex ratio of 888 women per 1000 men, which is among the lowest figures in the country. Justice Jain added that the sex ratio was even worse in children up to the age of six years. In this category, there are only 793 girls per 1000 boys. He warned that if the menace of female foeticide was not checked, it would enhance crime rate in the society.

The Chief Justice informed that Punjab State Legal Services Authority, and also the judicial and administrative machinery will launch a special awareness campaign involving the Panchayats and education institutions to check female foeticide. He added that the checking machinery of the government would be activated to enforce the PNDDT act, so that the people involving in this heinous crime could be sternly punished as per law. Courtesy: Mr. Gaurav Jain 'Lakshaya', E-Mail: gauravejainji@gmail.com, M: (+91)- 981 198 1233.



HOW GOOD IS MILK T. Colin Campbell grew up on a small dairy farm of 210 acres, nestled among glorious green pastures near the Shenandoah Valley in northern Virginia. Almost from the moment he learned to walk, he dogged the footsteps of his father, Tom Campbell, as he tended the farm's 20 to 30 milk cows. Eventually, young Colin was given the chore of "stripping" by hand any milk from the cows' udders that the milking machine left behind. He also learned how to operate the family butter churn and, on special weekends, helped man the hand-crank bucket used to make ice cream. The Campbells were a simple family, without much money, but considered themselves blessed to have milk straight from the cow. "We had the nectar of life," Campbell says. "I was proud of the fact that somehow, every day, I could drink a gallon of milk, or more."

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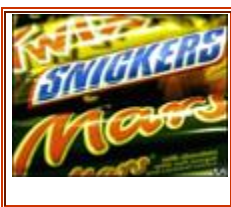
Campbell went on to become one of the world's leading experts on nutrition. Two decades ago he contributed to the first federally funded report on the relationship of diet to cancer, an influential study that helped establish the nutritional importance of grains, fruits, and vegetables. At age 66, he is nearing retirement as a nutritional biochemist at Cornell University, in the heart of upstate New York's dairy country. He lives on a quiet residential street near the campus, by all appearances like most of his neighbors. But these days not one drop of milk touches the lips of anyone in Campbell's household and his refrigerator is stocked with soy cheeses, sorbet, and rice milk. "People might think we're nuts," he says. "But nondairy beverages and foods are pretty good once you adjust to the taste."



KARNATAK, MAHARASHTRA AND RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENTS DECIDE TO BAN SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS - Shri H. D. Kumaraswami, Chief Minister of Karnataka announced recently that his state will not allow sex education to be introduced in schools as it would be highly detrimental to the culture of the country. Western countries might have introduced sex education in their educational institutions but we need not follow the same pattern here. He said he will not budge to any pressure from UNICEF or the Central Government on this issue. Earlier, the Minister of Primary and Secondary education, Mr. Basavraj Horatti has had elaborate discussions with wide cross-section of people, including many educationalists, teachers, N.G.O.'s, social workers and the common opinion that emerged was that sex education will not be in the interest of our children. Maharashtra Government likewise, has imposed ban on sex education in all CBS schools. The parents of children going to schools are unequivocally against imparting sex education. Earlier, the members of State Legislative assembly had raised this matter strongly in one voice, advocating ban on including sex education and they had gone to the extent of tearing the new CBS books on the floor of the house, which contained the objectionable material. In Rajasthan too, the Education Minister, Mr. Ghanshyam Tewari has announced at Udaipur recently in a press conference that he would not allow sex education to be included in the schools in this state. The Central Government has been informed accordingly.

HUBLI JAIN COMMUNITY ANGRY OVER ABSENCE OF CHIEF MINISTER

Call it the superstition or coincidence, but the fact is that the chief minister H D Kumaraswamy has not made it to any of the functions organised at the newly established Jain pilgrimage centre in Varur, incurring the wrath of the community. The fact was laid bare during CM's recent visit to Hubli when he did not make it to the valedictory of Mahamasatakabhisheka at Varur's pilgrimage centre though he was here to attend another function. It is the fourth time the CM has dishonoured the invitation. The development has forced the people from Jain community to think that there is "some jinx" attached with their function. During the valedictory Mahamahastakabhishekha of Bhagavan Parswanath Tirthankar at Varur last week, Acharya Gunadhar Nandi Maharaj, the brain behind the new shrine, became emotional and hurled insults at Kumaraswamy and JD(S) supreme H D Deve Gowda, attracting wrath from local JD(S) leaders. However, the Maharaj later apologised for his remarks. According to some Jain leaders, the superstition about attending Jain religious function started last year after N Dharam Singh lost the CM's gaddi after he took part the historical Mahamastakabhisheka of Gomateshwara in Sharavanabelogola. Senior Jain muni Sri Tarun Sagar Maharaj lent credence to this claim stating the CM had some misconception about Jains "since he had been intentionally avoiding their functions". He also offered an open invitation to the CM to sort on any such misconceptions by holding a dialogue with the Jain leaders. Courtesy: Mr. Gaurav Jain 'Lakshaya', E-Mail: gauravejainyji@gmail.com.



MARS CHOCOLATE BARS GET VEGGIE STATUS BACK

Mars has abandoned plans to use animal products in its chocolate, and has apologised to "upset" vegetarians. The firm said it would change the whey used in some of its products from a vegetarian source to one with traces of the animal enzyme, rennet. The Vegetarian Society organised a campaign against the move, asking members to voice their concerns to parent company Masterfoods. Mars said it became "very clear, very quickly" that it had made a mistake. In just one week, more than 6,000 people bombarded the company, which produces the Mars, Snickers, Maltesers and Galaxy brands, with phone and e-mail complaints. The Vegetarian Society called the move by Mars "incomprehensible" at a time when consumers were increasingly concerned about the provenance of their food. We are very pleased that they now recognise the importance of integrity to all their customers.

LIFE LONG VEGETARIAN DIET REDUCES THE RISK OF COLORORECTAL CANCER

Letter from Prof. C. Devakumar E-Mail : cdevakumar@yahoo.com Jai Jinendra In my last one week stay at USA made me aware of the serious spread of cancer in this country and I could immediately jump to this hypothesis that it is largely due to

thier non-veg diet. In fact I thought I would gather some scientific evidence to drive home my strong hypothesis. There seems to be no need, I guess. The following recent study says it all. Long live Jain way of life.

With regards Dev Science Daily - According to new research presented at Digestive Disease Week® 2007 a vegetarian diet may have a significant impact on the gastrointestinal (GI) system, affecting the risk for certain diseases.

The average person's lifetime risk of developing colorectal cancer (CRC) is about seven percent and the role of diet in preventing this type of cancer remains under debate. Most of all, previous studies enrolled middle-aged subjects, raising the possibility that CRC development may start before common interventions. Researchers from Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH) in Mumbai, India, set out to determine whether a vegetarian diet is associated with reduced risk of CRC if started very early in life.

In this study, researchers used a prospectively created database of 8,877 Indian patients managed in a clinical nutrition service from January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2005, to examine the association of life-long vegetarianism with incidence of CRC. During the evaluation for nutrition support, a history of life-long vegetarianism (due to religious reasons) was obtained from all patients to plan an appropriate diet. Twenty-seven percent of subjects (2,092 patients) from the control cohort were life-long vegetarians and 22.4 percent (178 patients) of subjects with colon cancer were vegetarians.

Patients with colorectal cancer (n=796) comprised the primary patient cohort for this study. Three groups of controls were generated from the same database for separate comparison with the CRC cohort. These included all patients with non-CRC cancers (control group one: n=7,273), patients with non-CRC and tobacco-related cancers (control group two: n=1,844), and patients with benign disorders (control group three: n=74). Multivariate analysis of 7,641 patients was performed by adjusting for age, gender, body mass index and economic status.

Vegetarianism was significantly associated with patients over 65 years, male gender, body mass index (BMI) of less than 20 Kg/m2 and economic deprivation. Colorectal cancer was positively associated with old age and male gender, and inversely associated with vegetarian diet, low BMI and economic deprivation. The inverse association of CRC and lifelong vegetarianism was observed with all the three control groups.

"A well-planned vegetarian diet is a healthy way to meet your nutritional needs," said Yogesh M. Shastri, M.D., of Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Hospital, Frankfurt, Germany and previously a co-author of this study at TMH, Mumbai, India. "The exact mechanism by which life long vegetarianism may reduce the risk of sporadic CRC needs further investigation. Prolonged vegetarianism starting in early life may be a viable lifestyle option for those at risk of developing the disease." (Note: This story has been adapted from a news release issued by American Gastroenterological Association.).



EATING ANIMAL PRODUCTS FUELS GLOBAL WARMING

The Vegetarian Union of North America (VUNA), a network of many independent vegetarian groups, challenges global warming activists and environmentalists to acknowledge that eating meat is one of the greatest causes of global warming. By eating lower on the food chain - ideally, an all-plant-based diet -- humankind can take an essential and enormous step in reducing global warming. "Al Gore and climate activists have consistently failed to recognize one of the most inconvenient truths of our time: that animal agriculture and animal product consumption on a global scale is perhaps the greatest (anthropogenic) cause of global warming today," said Saurabh Dalal, president of VUNA. "Given a personal choice between helping to save the planet and consuming animal products, too many people who should know better continue to gorge on their chicken wings and hamburgers."

A 2006 United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report entitled *Livestock's Long Shadow* www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2006/1000448 concludes that global animal agriculture contributes more greenhouse gas emissions (in CO2 equivalents), an astonishing 18 percent of the total, than all forms of transportation. The production of meat and other animal products for food contributes significantly to the primary global warming gases carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, accounting for 9%, 37%, and 65% of world totals, respectively. Furthermore, the global warming potential and effect of these gases is more striking since methane and nitrous oxide are 23 and 296 times more harmful than carbon dioxide. A University of Chicago study found that the average American diet, including all food processing steps, annually produces 1.5 tons of CO2-equivalent more than a meat-free diet.

Yet the media, public officials and even most environmentalists are failing to make people aware of this inconvenient truth, claims Richard Schwartz, a VUNA councilor and president of Jewish Vegetarians of North America. "Animal-based diets are threatening our planet, said Schwartz. "Every meal, like every trip, is a climate-change decision.

Those in a position to educate the public should help people understand that their choice of diet is in fact more significant than their choice of automobile." For these reasons and more (see BACKGROUNDER, below), VUNA is initiating a major campaign to urge Al Gore and the environmental community to transfer the meat from their plates to the center of their climate change-fighting agendas. "We will also be urging governments, corporations, educational and religious institutions, and other already progressive groups to actively promote plant-based diets and their tremendous benefits while continuing to empower individuals with information on environmentally affirming choices," said Dalal.

BACKGROUNDER

The world is currently raising over 50 billion farmed animals for slaughter each year and, in addition to its major impact on global warming, this is contributing significantly to the destruction of tropical rainforests and other valuable habitats, rapid species extinction, soil erosion and depletion and other environmental threats. Because of its high degree of inefficiency compared to plant protein production, animal agriculture is disproportionately depleting the planet's dwindling reserves of fresh water, land, fuel, and other resources. To make matters worse, the FAO report is projecting a major increase in the demand for animal products that will double the number of farmed animals by 2050.

This is especially alarming since the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a group composed of hundreds of the world's leading climate scientists, is predicting catastrophic effects if changes are not made soon, and many noted climate scientists are warning that global warming may spiral out of control within a decade if current conditions continue.

In addition to the environmental benefits, decades of research suggest that a population-wide shift away from meat and other animal foods toward plant foods would drastically reduce heart disease, cancer, obesity and other chronic degenerative diseases which currently account for trillions of dollars in global health costs. Scaling back global animal agriculture would also allow the world's limited arable land, fresh water and other agricultural resources to feed hundreds of millions more people.

Today eating a vegetarian or vegan diet doesn't mean giving up the enjoyment of eating. In fact today's vegetarian dishes are every bit as flavorful as those you'd find on an animal-based diet, if not more so, and many top chefs now cook without using animal ingredients.

Further information on all of the above and more, including links to other material on dietary connections to global warming, may be found at the VUNA web site www.ivu.org Courtesy: Mr. Dalal, E-Mail: sfdalal@comcast.net



WEBSITE LAUNCHED BY SHREE DIG JAIN TEMPLE (VASUNDHRA) GHAZIABAD

On occasion of "Shilayns" in the presence of Shree Shrut Sagar Ji Muniraj temple has launched a web site www.jainmandir.net which was inaugurated by Ghaziabad Mayor Smt Damyanti Goyal.

Mr. Anil Kumar Jain, GM, BSNL, Surendra Goyal - Sansad, C.K.Jain Asstt Commissioner - Central Excise, Praveen Jain, Additional District Judge, Ghaziabad, Rekha Jain – Nigam Parshad, were also present to grace the occasion. Jainmandir.net is a unique and your friendly Jain web site where you can know more about latest happenings of Jains in and around Vasundhra, Ghaziabad. It would also have the updated news, activities, events, photo gallery, downloadable greetings etc apart from actual layouts, structural maps and designs of the under construction Shree Digamber Jain Mandir, Vasundhra. Courtesy: Mr. Mayank, Telephone: +91 9818445970.

MORAL EDUCATION CAMP AT VASUNDHRA JAIN MANDIR

Shree Digamber Jain Mandir Samiti, Vasundhra Ghaziabad in association with Natic Shiksha Samiti, Darya Ganj New Delhi is organizing a Moral Education Camp which would include Preaching's of Lord Mahavira and History of Jainism. For registration and further information please contact Shree Digamber Jain Mandir Samiti, 10/1 Bhagwan Mahavir Marg, Sector - 10, Vasundhra Ghaziabad – 201012 Phone: +91-120-3243797 or log on to www.jainmandir.net/

DIKSHA CEREMONY

Determined to move on the path of spiritualism, as many as 76 diksharthi from Jain Shwetambar Murti-pujak sect accepted Jain muni diksha recently at Ahmedabad in the holy presence of different acharyas, namely, Acharya Shri Gunyash

Surishwar Ji maharaj, Acharya Shri Keertiyash Surishwar Ji maharaj, other eminent saints and sadhwi. The entire programme of group diksha was organised at Paldi in Ahmedabad.

As informed in April issue, Shri Mahendra Ji Maloo, of Barmer, Rajasthan accepted Bhagwati Diksha on the 2nd May, 2007 with the blessings of Poojya Shri Lalit Prabh Sagar Ji maharaj and Poojya Shri Chandra Prabh Sagar Ji maharaj, both disciples of Acharya Shri Kailash Sagar Ji. Celebrations to mark the occasion took place for three days, starting with Bhaktamar mahapoojan on the 30th April, then Varghoda taken out through the town on the 1st May, 07, Bhajan sandhya and abhinandan ceremony in the evening and grand Deeksha function was held on the 2nd May.

Five persons, constituting the entire family of Shri Gautam Chand Mehta, his wife Smt. Bansala Devi, sons Hemant and Vineet and daughter, Deepti have decided to accept Jain diksha in Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect (Acharya Jay Mal Ji group), with the blessings of Acharya Shubh Muni at Chennai. Shri Hemant Mehta will be the first one to accept diksha on the 20th June, 07 and the rest of the family members will be accepting diksha in the months of August and November.

Shri Sudhakar Sahu Ji and his wife Smt. Shobha Sahu Ji accepted Jain muni diksha from Jain Digambar Muni Acharya Shri Dev nandi ji maharaj on the 4th April, 2007 at Shrawanbelgola. They were renamed as Muni Shri Sampannkirti ji and Kshullika Sampann Shri Ji.

Both father and son of a Jain family of Ganga Shahar accepted muni diksha in Shwetambar Terapanth sect, at Ladnun in Rajasthan on the 2nd May, 07. The father is Hans Raj, 42 years old and son is Alok, just 13 years old. The diksha was granted to both of them by Muni Tarachand Swami. with the blessings of Acharya Shri Mahapragya in the presence of a large number of saints, sadhwi and devotees.

Diksha was granted to two devoted girls, Rajul and Karuna at Pali in Rajasthan by past Pravartak in Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect, Shri Ramesh Muni in the presence of Pravartak Shri Roop muni, Shri Amrit Muni, Dr. Amresh Muni, Muni Shalibhadra, Mahasati Basant Kunwar Ji, Dr. Chetan Prabha ji, Dr. darshan Prabha Ji and others.

Km. Pooja Jain accepted muni diksha at Rishabh Vihar, Delhi on the 29th April, 2007 with the blessings of Acharya Dr. Shiv Muni Ji in the holy presence of Upadhyay Shri Ramesh Muni Ji, Up-Pravartak Dr. Rajendra Muni Ji, and other saints and sadhwi under Sadhwi Shri MohanMala Ji maharaj.

Sushri Jyoti Sancheti, daughter of Ranjeet Karan Ji of Ichalkaranji accepted Jain Bhagwati diksha on the 29th April, 2007 at Raichur with the blessings of Acharya Shri 1008 Hira Chand Ji maharaj in the presence of Mahasati Tej Kanwar ji maharaj and Mahasati Shri Vimlesh Prabha Ji maharaj.

READERS NOTES :

Courses on Indian Culture this Summer at Rutgers by Pankaj Jain, E-Mail: pankaj-jain@uiowa.edu I will appreciate if you could please forward the attached flyers about Hinduism/Sanskrit Courses this summer to your contacts. The course will cover following subjects : Narrative Traditions, Rituals, Festivals and Symbols, Indian Philosophy, Indian Culture and Modernity, Yoga, Indian classical dances & Sanskrit. All these courses can be taken by anybody without any pre-requisites and the credits earned can be transferred to any other university as well. For more info, please visit www.summer.rutgers.edu/.

Mr. Bijay Jain, E-Mail : bijayj_56@yahoo.co.in - Jain Ekta I want to invite you to www.JainSpace.com. A social networking site just for jains. I want all Jains at one place so that they can connect to other Jains all over the world. Share events like marriages, society meets, Religious meets, Religious events. So just come over and meet all Jains and interact. Chat, make friends with other jains etc. Come on over JainSpace.com - Connecting Jains Worldwide.

DEVLOK GAMAN



1. Mahasati Shri Pushpvati Ji maharaj, disciple of mahasati Shri Sohan Kunwar ji maharaj and Upadhyay Shri Pushkar Muni Ji belonging to Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect, left for her heavenly abode on the 13th April, 07 at Udaipur. She was 84 years. She was the elder sister of late Acharya Shri Devendra Muni. Her mother Shri Prabhavati Ji had also accepted diksha. Thousands of devotees had collected at Devendra Dham in Udaipur to offer prayers and pay their last homage. She was carried in a palanquin to the place of cremation in a large procession. A 100 square foot bedi (platform) was built close to the memorial of Acharya Devendra Muni for her funeral.

The funeral pyre made of fragrant sandalwood was lit by one of her devotees, Shri Ravindra Kumar Siyal from Bombay in the presence of a large number of devotees from all parts of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Delhi and Gujarat. Condolence meetings were later held in several towns. At Udaipur, messages received from Acharya Dr. Shiv Muni, Upadhyay Shri Mool Chand Ji, Upadhyay Shri Ramesh Muni Ji, Pravartak Shri Ganesh Muni Ji, Dr. Rajendra Muni ji and others were read in one of the meetings.



2. Mahasati Shri Hem Kunwar Ji maharaj, disciple of Shri Mohan Kunwar Ji maharaj, left for her heavenly abode after prolonged illness on the 13th March, 2007 at Delhi having accepted santhara four days ago at the age of 82

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years. Born at sirsa in 1924, she had accepted diksha in the year 1924 at the age of 20 years. She belonged to Jain Shwetambar Sthanakwasi sect and owed her alliance to Achary Dr. Shiv Muni. Her disciples and devotees called respectfully as Gurumayya.



Praveen Ranka, E-Mail: unitymgt@rediffmail.com - My mother Smt Magan Kumari Ranka (27.7.1941 to 10.5.2007) wife of Shri Anand Sagar Ranka, (Ex Regional Manager PNB and Ex Zone Chairman-Mahavir International North Zone) expired on 10.5.2007. She also donated her both eyes within 30 minutes of her death.

