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Email:

ahimsa@jainsamaj.org

New Matrimonial

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Business Directory

Five great enemies to peace inhabit with us : avarice, ambition, envy, anger, and pride.

If those enemies were to be banished, we should infallibly enjoy perpetual peace.

Francesco Petrarch

CONVERSION LAW VIOLATION IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE IN GUJARAT

Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003 - Anyone wishing to convert will have to tell the government why they were doing it and for how long they had been following the religion which they were renouncing, failing which, they will be declared offenders and prosecuted under criminal laws. Forced conversion could land those responsible a three-year jail term. This clause is contained in the rules of the anti-conversion law which came into effect on April 1.

The new law is called Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003, and took five years to be implemented because of the failure of the state government to come up with rules on the kind of information to be provided when applying for permission to convert to any religion. The Bill confirms that Jainism and Buddhism are not sub-sects of Hinduism. The rules have been published in the Gujarat government gazette. The rules make it obligatory for a priest seeking to convert someone from one religion to another to take prior permission of the district magistrate in order to avoid police action.

The priest, in fact, will have to sign a detailed form providing personal information on the person whom she/he wishes to convert, whether the one sought to be converted is a minor, a member of Scheduled Caste or Tribe, her/his marital status, occupation and monthly income. Anyone willing to convert will have to apply to the district magistrate a month before the rituals and give details on the place of conversion, time and reason.

After getting converted, the person will have to obligatorily provide information within 10 days on the rites to the district magistrate, reason for conversion, the name of the priest who has carried out the ritual and full details of the persons who took part in the ceremony. The district magistrate will have to send a quarterly report to the government listing the number of applications for prior permission, comparative statistics of the earlier quarter, reasons for granting or not granting permission, number of conversions, and number of actions against offenders. Posted by Mahavir S. Chavan E-Mail : msanglikar@yahoo.com

TEMPLES

GRAND MAHAVIR JANM KALYANAK CELEBRATION BY DIGAMBAR
JAINS OF BANGKOK - Mahavir Janm Kalyanak, auspicious Vedi Shuddhi and

Sthapana of 1008 Shri Mahavir Swami's five (5) panchdhatu Jin Pratimaji were collectively celebrated by Digamber Jain Samaj with full vigor at Bangkok, Thailand Mandir Ji from 18th to 20th April 2008. Around 25-30 Sadharmi bandhus also traveled all the way from India and other parts of the world to participate in this wonderful event.



JAIN IDOLS STOLEN FROM DIGAMBAR JAIN TEMPLE AT BANSWARA, RAJASTHAN

Three valuable idols, chhatra and other expensive material were stolen from Shri Sumati Nath Digambar Jain Temple in the Bahubali colony of Banswara town in Rajasthan in the night of 16th may, 2008. The incident caused resentment amongst Jain community and all the markets were closed. The matter was immediately reported to the police. Such incidents of theft in Jain Temples have become very frequent but no concerted efforts appear to be taken by the concerned authorities to prevent future happenings.

SAINTS



MUNI ROOP CHAND JI 'RAJAT' FEELING BETTER

Influential, renowned and senior saint of Sthanakwasi sect Pravartak Sri Roopmuni ji is now feeling much better after his emergency treatment at Ahmedabad and Mumbai. Muni ji was admitted in ICU Ward of Bombay hospital for eight days. Now he is back to Udaipur and is attending all the religious programmes. Shri Roop Muni Commands tremendous respect not only in Jain sect but he also has considerable following amongst people of other religions. While at Mumbai, he was regularly visited by several film stars, politicians, industrialists and almost all the leaders of Sthanakwasi Samaj.

JAIPUR SERIAL BOMB BLAST AT THE HUB OF PEACE: ACHARYA MAHAPRAGYA

This terrorist attack at the peace hub was to destroy the mutual harmony & brotherhood. On this attempt of terrorism, On the occasion of a function organized by the citizens of Jaipur to honor him, Acharya Mahapragya said in a statement on 14th May, that some moments of terrorism come in such a way that requirement of peace, communal harmony, patience and brotherhood becomes utmost. In this atmosphere of terrorism, each community and each citizen should hold each others hands firmly so that the peace and harmony may remain intact and aggressiveness could not raise its head to create more disturbances. "Non-violence will automatically be adopted if causes of violence is first understand deeply and then attempt would made to avoid that". Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Smt. Vasundhara Raje accepting this statement of Acharya Mahapragya emphasized the importance of non-violence for taking the state on way of peace and prosperity.



AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



DELHI GIRL ASHIMA JAIN FIRST AMONG WOMEN IN 2008 CIVIL SERVICES EXAM - Ashima Jain, who secured the seventh position in the qualifying examinations, is the highest ranked among women. She has cleared the examination in her very first attempt. Giving credit for her parents' support, 25-year-old Ashima said: "My father is my role model. Three things worked for me. Faith in god, family support, hard work and dedication. I owe a

lot to my family." A student of the government-aided Dayanand Model Senior Secondary School on Mandir Marg, she has been an outstanding student throughout her academic life at Delhi University's Shri Ram College of Commerce and Delhi School of Economics.

PRESTIGIOUS ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDED TO

DR. DHIRAJ BHAI SHAH - Ahimsa Times is proud to inform that Dr. Dhiraj Shah, Past President of JAINA and Chairman of JAINA's World Community Service has been awarded the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He joins the ranks of President Bush Senior, President Clinton, Deepak Chopra and many others. He is very deserving Jain Leader in North America and has dedicated his whole life to the cause of Jains, Jainism, Jain unity and charities worldwide. He is kind, devoted and committed person whose vision for living is to care for the suffering humanity. Our hearty congratulations to Dhiraj Bhai. Courtesy: Jasvant Mehta, Jain Society of Alberta.



PRAKRIT AWARD FOR GERMANS - Two German octogenarian professors will be awarded the prestigious Prakrit Jnanabharati International award for 2005 and 2006. The National Institute of Prakrit Studies and Research, Shravanabelagola, has selected German scholars Willem Bollee (81) and Klaus Bruhn (80) for its Prakrit Jnanabharati International Award for 2005 and 2006 respectively. The award was instituted in 2004 by the National Institute of Prakrit Studies and Research based in Shravanabelagola. The institute convenor Prof. Hampa Nagarajaiah told reporters here on Thursday that Dr Willem Bollee, retired Indology professor from University of Wuerzburg is the recipient of the award for 2005 while Klaus Bruhn, retired Indology

professor from Berlin University is the 2006 recipient." The Award function will be organised at Berlin, Germany on 25th May 2008. Prof. Prem Suman Jain (Director) and Prof. Hampana (Convenor) will present this prestigious Award to these German scholars on behalf of Parampujya Charukeerthy Bhattaraka Swamyji, Chairman of the Institute. H. E. Ambassador of India to Germany will be the Chief Guest. Courtesy: Ajitkumar Benadi E-Mail: ajithkbenadi@googlemail.com E-Mail- NIPSAR.mynipsar@yahoo.co.in



GULAB KOTHATI HONORED WITH DOCTORATE IN ITALY

Editor of Rajasthan Patrika Mr. Gulab Kothari has been honored with Doctor of Philosophy by Okido Global Research Institute of Col Bordola, Italy. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Kothari explained the importance of yoga and meditation.

ACHARYA KISHORE KUNAL AWARDED BHAGWAN MAHAVEER AWARD

PATNA : Acharya Kishore Kunal, Retd. IPS official and chairman of the Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts, has been conferred upon the prestigious Bhagwan Mahaveer Award for his dedicated community and social services. President Pratibha Patil gave him the award at a function organised at Rashtrapati Bhawan . This was stated in a Press note released by the secretary of the Jain Sangh, Pradeep Jain. The award instituted by Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation, Chennai, carries a cash component of Rs. Five Lakh, a commendatory citation and a memento. Pradip Jain, secretary of Jain Sangh, Patna, informed that Acharya Kunal is the first individual from Bihar-Jharkhand to get this award. His selection was made by a jury headed by Justice Shri M. N. Venkatachaliah, former chief justice of India.

BHAGWAN MAHAVIR FOUNDATION AWARDS ANNOUNCED FOR THE YEAR 2008

Shri Sugal Chand Jain, Chairman, Bhagwan Mahavir Foundation, Chennai announced the prestigious awards

for this year at a press conference held in Chennai on the 27th march, 2008. About 300 entries had been received for these awards, from which a committee of distinguished people selected three entries, one for each of the categories.

Award A: Given in the field of ahimsa and vegetarianism; The award goes to "Action for the protection of wild animals", Orissa.

Award B: Given in the field of Education and medical services; The award goes to "Mahatma Gandhi Chikitsa Vigyan Sansthan", Sevagram (Maharashtra).

Award C: Given in the field of National and social services; The award goes to "Amar Seva Sangam", Aikudi, Dist. Tirinelveli, Tamilnadu.

TERAPANTH PREKSHA MEDITATION CAMP AT JAIPUR

What is Preksha Meditation ? Preksha Meditation is the combination of knowledge from our ancient religious books, modern science and our experience. Preksha Meditation is the practice of purifying our emotions and our conscious(chitta) and realising our own self. Preksha Meditation is a technique of mediation for attitudinal change, behavioural modification and integrated development of persona. Organiser: Preksha International ,Auspicious Presence: His Holiness Acharya Mahapragya ,Date: 29th June 2008 to 06th July 2008 ,Venue: Anuvibha, Jaipur (Rajasthan - India).



CONFERENCES & CEREMONIES

CONFERENCE OF WORLD YOUTH ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN WELFARE FROM JUNE 23RD TO JUNE 26TH AT CALIFORNIA - Combined conferences of global youths are being organised from June 23rd - 26th June 2008 at Anaheim California in the United States and in Dakar Senegal from June 30th - 3rd July 2008. People from various countries are invited to join the events. People from various countries around the world. Those interested to join may contact the secretariat of the organizing committee. The benevolent donors and the organizing Committee will provide round trip air tickets and accommodation for the period to all registered participants. All Delegates and Participants will be responsible only for their hotel Booking in Dakar Senegal where the second phase of the conference will be held on child abuse and its possible preventions. The contact address of the conference secretariat is E-Mail: hmr_secretariat1@secretarynet & conference_info@linuxmail.org By Tel: +1 (561) 939-2262 By FAX +1-(561)-671-3781 Courtesy: Anna Brown.

SEMINAR ON WORLD RELIGIONS IN NEW JERSEY

A two-day seminar was held on 8th and 9th March, 2008 at the Millburn Free Public Library in Millburn, New Jersey, to present a basic overview of the major world religions practiced by the diverse cultures. In these times of changing demographics, the vision of the seminar organizers was to create interest in learning about other religions and cultures and to promote unity and understanding to help create better, more compassionate world. The seminar organized by the International Jain Sangh (IJS) and the Spiritual Unity Network (SUN) of New Jersey was attended by over 100 participants in the Library hall flanked by eight foot high symbols from seven religions. It was also sponsored by a coalition of 20 religious and humanitarian organizations including JAINA as well as a few individuals. The closing item was an interfaith dance 'Ishwar Allah Tero Naam' based on a prayer often recited in the prayer meetings of Mahatma Gandhi, performed by the artists from Divya Dance Academy choreographed by an

accomplished Bharat Natyam artist Divya Jain. [Courtesy: Naresh Jain, Interfaith Co-Chair, Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA)]. News item received with thanks from Dr. Sulekh Jain.

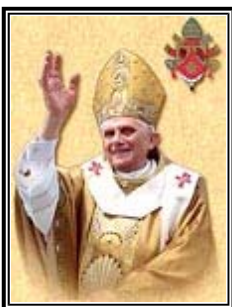


XXII WORLD CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY 'RETHINKING PHILOSOPHY TODAY' - July 30 to August 5, 2008 - The International Federation of Philosophical Societies in collaboration with Korean Philosophical Association warmly invites participants to the congress. This is the first time in history that the World Congress of Philosophy will take place in Asia - a

fact that can be regarded as one of the consequences of globalization, a phenomenon that is not only financial but also cultural. The previous World Congress of Philosophy, in 2003, took place in Istanbul, on the border between Europe and Asia. Now we are taking the next step and organizing the World Congress in the heart of Asia, in Korea, between Japan on the one side and China and Russia on the other. This should result in a much larger attendance of philosophers from Asia than ever before at a World Congress of Philosophy, and thus enable us to rethink philosophy today in a truly global context. Courtesy : www.herenow4u.de

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOR JAIN ACADEMIC STUDIES

2008 Class (consisting of about 36 scholars from 4 countries and about 16 universities) of International Summer School for Jain Academic Studies will be arriving in India by the end of this month. During the last three years, ISSJS has prepared a set of 66 lecture notes on many subjects of Jainism (philosophy, history, culture etc) . These lecture notes were prepared for ISSJS by highly qualified Jain scholars in India and before publishing were reviewed by a team of experts. All these notes are available at www.jainstudies.org/study-notes-all.php. Courtesy: Sulekh C. Jain, ISJS, Houston, Texas, USA.



JAIN DELEGATION PRESENTS POPE A JAIN SYMBOL

Washington: The Catholic community here was euphoric when Pope Benedict XVI came visiting US for the first time in the third week of April. Sharing their excitement was a 21-year-old Gujarati lad, Aditya Vora. Aditya was among the privileged five selected from around the world from Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu and Jain religions. He had the honour of greeting the Pope and gifting him a Jain 'peace cube'. The cube had, engraved on its sides, tenets of ahimsa, aparigraha (non-possessiveness), anekantvada (multiple viewpoints of reality) and the image of Mahatma Gandhi, who exemplified these principles. "It was a phenomenal opportunity for me," says Aditya, about his two minutes with the Pope, during which he explained to him what the inscriptions on the cube stood for. The meeting was meant to embody the Pope's belief that religions must unite to achieve peace. Of the 150 representatives of different religions, a group of 10 Jains led by Arvind Vora, father of Aditya and chairman of Federation of Jain Associations in North America's Inter-faith Committee, was invited to this intimate gathering held at Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, Washington DC, on April 17.

A science major at Haverford College, Pennsylvania, Aditya was selected because of his involvement in inter-faith activities. He's been active from high school in the Long Island Multi-Faith Forum, conducted dialogues with Holocaust survivors in New York-New Jersey-Connecticut region and organized anti-prejudice, multicultural training programmes at Long Island, New York. Says Vora senior, "It was a great

coincidence that April 16 was the Pope's 81st birthday and Mahavir Swamiji's 2,606th birthday fell on April 18. I told the Pope he had picked the best week of the year to come to US." The Pope's mission for the trip was 'Hope For Peace'. "I told him how peace can be an automatic outcome if one practises the Jain principle of non-violence," he adds. Arvind bhai was among the 10 religious leaders, and five young adults, who received the Pope's audience. It is estimated that there are 10 million Jains around the world, of whom 1,00,000 are in North America. "What impressed me most was that they made us feel Jainism is important," says Vora senior. Courtesy: Dr. Sulekh C. Jain, Houston, Texas, USA

MISCELLANEOUS



OLDEST DELHI SWEET SHOP 'GHANTEWALA' IS STILL THE CITY'S FAVOURITE - If old is what we are speaking of, it probably doesn't get any more old than this. In the narrow lanes of Chandini Chowk stands a shop that is swarmed with eager customers even before it opens its doors. Such has been the story of Ghantewala since it first opened in 1790. Rather astonishingly, it didn't take a change of hands to keep the shop going through the centuries. Ghantewala has remained in the same family **since inception and is now being run by the seventh generation of Jains**. So old is this sweet shop that folktales have come up around the name of the shop. It's anyone's guess how the shop got its uniquely weird name - whether from an elephant that would come by everyday with a bell ringing in his neck and stand stubbornly till he was fed some sweets or from the bells of a school that used to exist near the shop.

Ghantewala was founded by Lala Sukh Lal Jain when he came to Delhi from Amber, Rajasthan. But the shop had its share of hardship too. During the Emergency, due to lack of orders and good quality raw materials, most of the employees were asked to leave. Instead, the family took up a franchise of Bombay Dyeing until the raw materials improved in quality.... which is when all employees were called back. What sets it apart is that Ghantewala hasn't lost itself in the commercialisation of sweets. Till date, it is by far one of the most famous shops in Chandini Chowk.

MEAT SELLERS PROTEST ABATTOIR SHUTDOWN DURING JAIN FESTIVAL

Mumbai, May 15 The Brihatmumbai Municipal Corporation's decision to shut down all city slaughterhouses during the Jain festival of Paryushan has run into opposition from meat-sellers. The Brihanmumbai Hindu Khatik Samaj Sanghatna, an association of meat-sellers, has decided to observe a dharna at Azad Maidan. The Paryushan will be observed between August 27 and September 3 this year. Those participating in the dharna will have their mouths taped and hands tied. The BMC, at a general body meeting of the elected representatives on April 7, decided to shut down all abattoirs during the nine-day Jain festival. According to the protestors, the worst hit will be the owners and the workers of the slaughterhouses.

According to the association, there are around 1,500 BMC-owned and licensed shops selling meat in Mumbai apart from illegal ones in and around suburbs. They employ over 25,000 daily-wage workers who earn a meagre Rs 100-Rs 150 per day. The closing of the slaughterhouses for nine days would mean no income for these workers for those nine days, the association said. Sixty-five-year-old Maltibai Eknath Kothmere, a widow, earns her livelihood in the form of rent from the slaughter shop her husband had left her. Seated in her tiny one-room house, she complained: "No money means no food. We are somehow managing with the little income that we get as rent, but now with the BMC's resolution, I do not know how

we will survive for those nine days."

Bhalchandra Gaikwad, the general secretary of the Mutton Dealers' Association, said: "Around 25,000 goats are imported weekly from regions of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The whole process includes animal breeders, transport, cleaners and helpers in the slaughterhouses. The health and leather industry gets its regular work from the process of slaughtering. Shutting abattoirs will mean a huge financial loss to all. We will not hesitate moving the Supreme Court if the BMC turns a deaf ear."

Dilip Patel, the BJP corporator who initiated the proposal to keep slaughterhouses closed during the nine-day period, said: "We have always respected and cared for the sentiments of the minorities and Jains are a minority. We have just passed a resolution as per Supreme Court order to close slaughterhouse during the period." Posted by Mahavir S. Chavan

BANTWAL : SIXTEEN IDOLS STOLEN FROM JAIN BASADI IN VITTAL

Bantwal, May 24: Idol thieves have once again targeted the historically famous Sri Chandranatha Swamy Basadi in Vittal, after a gap of about three years. Besides taking away the idols of goddesses Jwalamalini Devi and Padmavathi Devi being worshipped in the Jain Basadi, they have stolen 16 bronze idols and the golden Karimani necklace and golden bangles found on the idols. The estimated value of the stolen idols and gold ornaments is Rs 24,300. The temple priest discovered the theft when he came to the Basadi in the wee hours on Friday May 23 to attend to his duties, and thereafter, filed a complaint with the Vittal police. It may be recalled that the thieves had three years ago, gained entry into the same Basadi by removing the wooden planks of the upper storey of the Basadi. Their modus operandi has undergone a change this time, as they chose to break open the northern side wooden doors of the Basadi with the help of iron rods and axe. The thieves however, have not laid their hands on the donation box inside the Basadi. The present theft has set in a sense of apprehension and fear in the minds of the local population. Police visited the spot and has initiated investigation into the theft.

DELHI CHIEF MINISTER RECEIVES JAIN LEADERS ON MAHAVIR JAYANTI - A delegation of Jain samaj met the Chief Minister, Mrs. Sheila Dixit at her residence on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti and expressed its good wishes on the behalf of Jain community.



SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED BY SMT. KALYAN MALA JAIN

FOUNDATION - Smt. Kalyan Mala Jain Foundation feels pleasure to announce scholarships for the year-2008-09. The prime objectives of the foundation are:-

- (a) To grant aid to the needy, destitute & desperate persons specially the 'Widows, Orphans or physically/ mentally handicapped, the aged, other needy person and the public at large.
- (b) To give assistance to poor students in the form of scholarship (free scholarship or loan) or otherwise without any distinction of caste, creed or sex.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS : Eligibility: 10+2 with very high percentage of marks obtained from any the recognized board of examination. Scholarship for the courses: Admission in full time regular basis Degree courses for higher studies i.e. Graduation programs courses in Indian Universities and IIT's Engineering Technology, Computer Science and other allied branches from any recognizes Institution within India only. Number of scholarships: up to 5 scholarships without any distinction of

caste, creed or sex are offered every year. That will be refunded after the completion of his/her study. These scholarships are given based on exam grades and family situation on meager means basis, the annual family income from all sources should be less than Rupees 1, 00,000 in urban areas and Rupees 50,000 in rural areas per year. These scholarships are provided without interest which the recipients are expected to return to the Foundation 6 months after completion of their courses, so that other members of the society could benefit like them in coming years. Amount of Scholarship: A Student who qualify for scholarship program will be eligible to accept the tuition fee payable to the institution the cost up to the maximum of rupees 5,000/- to 10.000/- per year only. Applications form can be obtained by writing to E-Mail: Jainpushp01@yahoo.com during the period 15th April to 15th June every year or as per the announcements.

TIRTHANKAR UNIVERSITY TO BE ESTABLISHED AT UTTAR PRADESH

The Government has given green signal to establish " Tirthankar University" at Muradabad in Uttar Pradesh. Govt. nominee Dr. Ramanand Prasad, Joint Secretary will head the committee formed for the implementation of project. The University Campus will be developed on 200 acres of land adjoining to Mahaveer Dental college. University is promoted by Chairman of Tirthankar Group of Business, Sri Suresh Jain. University Campus will house several education institutions.

MINORITY STATUS



DELHI HIGH COURT ACCEPTS PETITION OF VJS FOR JAIN MINORITY STATUS

- In a petition filed by Vishwa Jain Sangathan Delhi High court has issued notices to Central govt., Min of Minority Affairs, Min of Social Justice, Min of Home Affairs, Min of Human Resource and National Commission for Minorities on the issue of minority status to Jain Community. Different ministries of Central Govt. have not been able to tell that, why they had not given minority status to Jains & what policy & the criteria's applied by the Govt. for deciding on minority status?. The Jains are maximum literate (94.1%) in India and are well established.

The Delhi Minority Commission had sent its recommendation to Delhi Govt. for giving minority status to Jains in year 2002-03. Accepting the petition, filed by Vishwa Jain Sangathan, 2nd time Delhi Minority Commission had recommended to the Delhi Govt. in Jan'2008 for giving minority status to Jains but no action has been taken yet. The Min of Minority Affairs, Min of Social Justice & National Commission for Minorities have given in writing to Vishwa Jain Sangathan that the State Govts. have been empowered with the right to provide minority status to any religious community after the recommendation of State Minority Commissions. By Sunjay Jain, President, Vishwa Jain Sangathan, E-Mail: vishwajains@yahoo.com

जैनों को अल्पसंख्यकता की आवश्यकता क्यों ?

सरकार द्वारा अल्पसंख्यकों को दी जा रही स्वतन्त्रता, सुरक्षा व अधिकार
जैन धर्म को हिन्दु धर्म में विलय करने की साजिश

- 1 भारत सरकार ने 23.10.93 को भारत की जनगणना के आधार पर हिन्दू धर्म को मानने वाले बहुसंख्यकों के अलावा पाँच अन्य धर्मों (मुस्लिम 13.82%, ईसाई 2.4%, सिक्ख 1.9%, बौद्ध 0.8% व पारसी 0.01%) को अल्पसंख्यक धर्म घोषित किया जबकि जैन भी 0.04% हैं। जैन धर्म, न बहुसंख्यकों में रहा न अल्पसंख्यकों में। हजारों वर्षों से हिन्दू धर्म के लोगों के साथ रहते रहते धार्मिक रूप से अलग परन्तु संस्कृति लगभग एक रीति होने के कारण लोगों ने जैन धर्म को हिन्दू धर्म की शाखा मान लिया। सब कहते हैं "हिन्दू, मुस्लिम, सिक्ख, ईसाई। आपस में हैं भाई-भाई।" परन्तु जैनों का पता नहीं। जब सरकारी रूप से हिन्दू धर्म को बहुसंख्यक अन्य धर्मों को अल्पसंख्यक बना दिया गया परन्तु अति प्राचीन व स्वतन्त्र जैन धर्म का पता नहीं इसलिए भी अपनी स्वतन्त्र पहचान बनाये रखने के लिए जैन धर्म को भी अन्य अल्पसंख्यक धर्मों की तरह गिनावाया जाना आवश्यक है जबकि भारत के जनगणना विभाग ने "विश्व जैन संगठन" को लिखित रूप में दिया है कि 'सन् 1901 से 2001 तक की भारत की जनगणनाओं में हिन्दुओं व जैनों को अलग अलग गिना गया है व सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने भी 2006 के अपने एक निर्णय में जैनों को अविवादित रूप से हिन्दू धर्म का हिस्सा नहीं माना।'
- 2 भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 25 से 30 तक के अनुसार 'प्रत्येक अल्पसंख्यक धर्म के अनुयायीयों को अपने धर्म व संस्कृति की रक्षा, शिक्षा संस्थानों को स्थापित व पोषण करने का अधिकार, धार्मिक शिक्षा व उपसाना का अधिकार, धर्म की अभिवृद्धि के लिए करों के संदाय के बारे में स्वतन्त्रता, जंगम व स्थावर सम्पत्ति के अर्जन, स्वामित्व व विधि के अनुसार प्रशासन करने का अधिकार दिया गया है।' आज जैन धर्म के मन्दिरों व तीर्थ क्षेत्रों पर निरन्तर अतिक्रमण हो रहे हैं।
- 3 राज्य सरकारें व राज्यों के विकास प्राधिकरण, नयी कालोनीयों के विस्तारों को करते समय जैन मन्दिरों की स्थापना हेतु जमीन उपलब्ध करायेगी जिस प्रकार मस्जिदों, गुरुद्वारों व चर्चों के लिए उपलब्ध कराती है।
- 4 राज्य विधान सभाओं, लोक सेवा आयोग व अन्य महत्वपूर्ण आयोगों में एक जैन व्यक्ति नामंकित किया जाएगा।
- 5 राज्य सरकारों द्वारा रियायती दरों पर अल्पसंख्यकों द्वारा स्थापित किये जाने वाले शिक्षक संस्थानों के लिए जमीन उपलब्ध करायी जाती है।
- 6 सरकारी अनुदान से चल रहे जैन स्कूलों में कोई भी शिक्षकों/शिक्षिकाओं की नियुक्ति का अधिकार स्कूलों के पास रहेगा चाहे शिक्षा विभाग के पास अतिरिक्त शिक्षक/शिक्षिका क्यों न हों। राज्य सरकारों द्वारा निर्धारित कई नियम/कानून अल्पसंख्यक स्कूलों पर मान्य नहीं हैं। अल्पसंख्यक स्कूलों द्वारा शिक्षक/शिक्षिका को नौकरी से हटाए जाने की दशा में किसी कानूनी कार्यवाही का हस्तक्षेप नहीं होगा।
- 7 भारत सरकार के कानून मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रत्येक अल्पसंख्यक धर्म के मुकदमों की पैरवी के लिए न्यायालयों में सरकारी अधिवक्ताओं की नियुक्ति हेतु उसी अल्पसंख्यक धर्म के अधिवक्ताओं की नियुक्ति की जाती है।
- 8 भारत सरकार के अन्तर्गत राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक आयोग व अल्पसंख्यक मंत्रालय की स्थापना की गई है जिसका कार्य सभी प्रदेशों के अल्पसंख्यक आयोगों की गतिविधियों पर नजर रखना है। भारत के सभी प्रदेशों में अल्पसंख्यक आयोगों का गठन प्रदेश में रह रहे किसी भी अल्पसंख्यक धर्म या उसके अनुयायियों पर हो रहे किसी भी प्रकार के भेद भाव, अत्याचार, शोषण या उनकी सम्पत्ति, तीर्थ क्षेत्रों के अतिक्रमण को रोकने के लिए किया गया है।

JAIN COMMUNITY IN DELHI DEMANDS MINORITY STATUS

The Jain community in the capital is raising the pitch for minority status on par with the Buddhists, Christians, Sikhs, Muslims and Parsis, listed as notified minority groups under the Delhi Minorities Commission Act, 1999. Members of the community say they want minority status primarily because they want to incorporate Jainism, the religion of the community as a subject in Jain schools. The capital and

its adjoining areas have eight Jain schools. They are not being able to teach Jainism to their children because most of the Jain schools in Delhi are partially funded by the government, which doesn't allow the teaching of any particular religion at schools unless it is a minority community. "The Government is ignoring the community. We want minority status as enshrined (under Article 25) in the Indian Constitution, which empowers the government to accord minority status to six marginal ethno-religious groups, so that we can teach Jainism to our children in schools run by us. Courtesy: Dr. Sulekh Jain.

JAIN LITERATURE

JAIN PRACTICE AND LIFE CYCLE OF A COW -ARTICLE BY PRAVIN K. SHAH

In her lifetime, an American dairy cow experiences many lifestyle changes.

1st Phase - Birth- From the moment of her artificially induced conception to her birth nine months later, she exists in the nurturing environment of her mother's womb.

2nd Phase - Productive life -After birth, bonding with her mother lasts for no more than a few minutes to couple of days. Does a calf experience separation anxiety? We should know the answer to that question after hearing her tortured cry (I have experienced this during my visit to a dairy farm). After separation, she is force-fed between one and two gallons of colostrums by the human farmer. Without this first nutrient-rich bovine milk, she would succumb to illness and die in her first two months of life.

Does the mother accept that separation? Each year, tens of thousands of incidents are reported in which angry cows seek revenge upon dairy farmers. Each year, hundreds of dairy farmers are trampled, gored, attacked, and killed. Newspaper accounts blame such incidents on irrational unthinking beasts.

Cows live a lifetime of stress so long as they produce enough milk to be profitable to the dairy farmer. On an average Cow produces 24.5 quarts of milk per day (In 1960 Cow used to produce 8.0 quarts per day under natural living environment). The high yield is accomplished by keeping all dairy cows pregnant continuously during her three to four years of productive life. Also every day hormones are injected in her body. Once she becomes less productive or unproductive (around 5 years of age), or once she becomes too diseased to be cured, she is culled (removed) from the herd.Click here to read further.....

NEW PUBLICATIONS IN JAIN STUDIES

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHIES Vol. X ,JAIN PHILOSOPHY Part 1 -A Summary of Jain Philosophical texts translated into English by various scholars,Ed. by Prof Dalsukh Malavania and Dr Jayandra Soni, Introduction by Prof Karl Potter,English,2007 245 x 165 mm 828 pp, Hardcover Rs. 1495

**CLASSICAL INDIAN THOUGHT - A Philosophical Study of Hindu, Jaina and Bauddha Morals,By Prof Kedar Nath Tiwari,English, First published in 1998
Reprinted in 2007 220 x 140 mm 172 pp , Paperback Rs. 225**

Both books available at: HINDI GRANTH KARYALAY, Publishers Since 1912,9 Hirabaug C P Tank,Mumbai 400004 INDIA, E-Mail : manishymodi@gmail.com

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Price List of Jain Books

DIKSHA

1. Mumukshu **Shri Bhartendu Kumar Ji**, son of Shri Ramesh Chand Ji and Smt. Bassi Behn Jain accepted muni diksha at Palitana (Gujarat) in the holy presence of Acharya Shri Vijay Kamal Surishwar Ji maharaj on the 3rd May, 2008.
2. Mumukshu **Shri Deepk Kumar ji**, son of Shri khoom chand ji and Smt. Tara devi ji Jain of Ahmedabad accepted muni diksha in the Jain Shwetambar Murti-pujak sect at Sirohi in the holy presence of Acharya Shri Kamal Ratna Surishwar Ji maharaj on the 16th May, 2008.
3. **Shri Raja Bhai Deepak Bhai Kothari** aged 13 years, accepted muni diksha in the shwetambar sthanakwasi sect in the holy presence of Shri Rajesh Muni and other saints and sadhwi on the 11th May 2008 at Jam Nagar in Gujarat. He has been renamed as Raj Muni.
4. Mumukshu **Mamta Behn** accepted Jain diksha on the 2nd May, 2008 at Sadri (Pali) Rajasthan in the holy presence of Acharya Shri Ashok Sagar Surishwar Ji maharaj, Muni Nayapadam Sagar Ji maharaj and other saints and sadhwi belonging to Jain Shwetambar Murti-Pujak sect. she has been renamed as Sadhwi Mayana shri Ji.
5. Mumukshu **Monu Kumari ji**, aged 18 years, daughter of Shri Ganpat Lal Ji ganna and Smt. Basanta Dev Ganna, belonging to Bheem (Rajasthan) accepted Jain diksha in the holy presence of Acharya-Dev Gunratna Surishwar Ji maharaj belonging to Jain Shwetambar Murti-Pujak sect on the 25th April, 2008 at Beawar in Rajasthan.
6. Mumukshu **Jigyaa Loonkad**, aged 17 years, daughter of Shri Shewanti lal ji and Smt. Badami Bai Loonkad accepted Jain diksha on the 7th May, 2008 at Aurangabad in the holy presence of Muni Shri Mahendra Rishi Ji maharaj and Maharashtra Pravartini Shri Prabha Kunwar Ji maharaj belonging to Jain Shwetambar Murti-Pujak sect.
7. Bhagwati Diksha was offered to **Preeti Jain** at Rohini, Delhi in the presence of Upadhyaya Hemchandraj, Pujya Umesh Muniji, Ramesh Muni, Dr. Rajendra Muni, Davindra Muni, Suresh Muni & Surendra Muni and several other Saints of Sthanakwasi sect on April 27th 2008.

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Delhi Office : 21, Skipper House , 9, Pusa Road , New Delhi - 5 , India

Phones : +91-11-2875-4012 & 13, 98-100-46108 , E-Mail : ahimsa@jainsamaj.org

Jodhpur Office : 44, Sardar Club Scheme, Air Force Area, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India

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