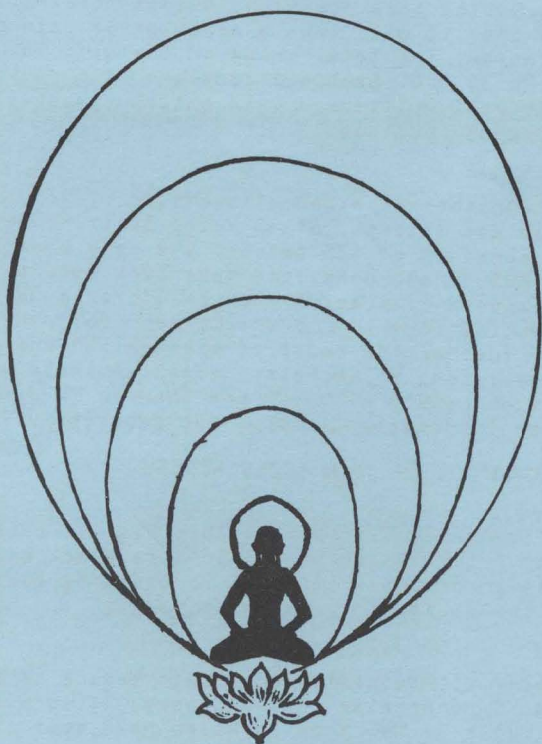


JAIN DIGEST

QUARTERLY NEWS MAGAZINE

EDITOR: S.A.B. Kumar, 4665 Moccasin Trail, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4Z 2B3



FEDERATION OF JAIN ASSOCIATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

5540 Woodbury Hills Drive, Parma, OH., USA 44134

SECRETARY OF JAINA REPORTS INDIA TRIP

Cincinnati, OH. Dr Sulekh Jain, the secretary of the Jain Federation recently paid a visit to India, and had a very successful meeting with Ahimsa International. He also was successful in the meetings and consultations with various Jain scholars and prominent people. Here is the report, in brief:

- RECEIVED DONATIONS OF JAIN BOOK SETS

In Delhi, Dr Jain attended a meeting of the governing council of Ahimsa International on 20 Sept. It is recalled here that Ahimsa International hosted and organised THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL JAIN CONFERENCE.

During this occasion, Ahimsa International announced that it will make a donation of Jain books to the Federation. The total value of the gift, 101 sets of books, is Rs 35,000. Each set consists of 5 books authoritatively well written on Jain philosophy, architecture and history and customs.

Another donation of books is by Mr Jinendra Kumar Jain and friends, of 85 Model Basti, New Delhi. The donation consists of 125 sets of the same books valued at Rs 44,000. These donations have been made to JAINA for the purpose of placing them in libraries and educational institutions in U S and Canada. It is hoped that this will further the cause of propagation and practise of Jain religion. Mr Secretary accepted these generous donations on behalf of JAINA and thanked Mr J.K. Jain and Ahimsa International for their generosity.

- DONATION OF JAIN IDOLS RECEIVED

- . Parshvanatha Tirthankara, 50in high in sitting meditation pose and sculptured in pure black marble
- . Bhagwan Bahubali, 5ft tall in standing meditation pose and sculptured in pure white marble

These idols will be destined to Jain temple to be constructed at Siddhachalam in New Jersey. It is planned to have the idols in New York sometime next year in Aug.

- JAIN PHOTO CALENDERS

Several thousands of Jain photo calendars at no cost were offered to Jain Federation, and they will be arriving by sea mail. The calendars will bear the pictures of Lord Mahavira and Bahubali. Arrangements will be made to distribute them to the members.

THIS EDITION OF
JAIN DIGEST

A PUBLICATION OF
THE FEDERATION OF JAIN ASSOCIATIONS
IN NORTH AMERICA

IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

MR CHUNILAL MORBIA
WHO PASSED AWAY APRIL 1977

THROUGH THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION
OF HIS GRAND CHILDREN

Miss RITA MORBIA
Miss REKHA MORBIA
Miss REENA MORBIA

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COMING EVENTS COMING EVENTS

GOMATAGIRI CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE, Madhya Pradesh, India will hold, March 8-13, 1986, consecration celebrations of Panchakalyan pooja celebrations for 24 Tirthankaras and Bhagwan Bahubali on Gomatagiri hills in the outskirts of Indore. In this regard, the committee has plans to hold auctioning of various "Kalashas", such as Maha Mangala kalasa, Eleventh Mangala kalasa, Purudeva kalasa, Nabhiraja kalasa and Gomatesha Bahubali kalasa for the auspicious anointment performances by the devotees on the day of the consecration of the 21ft tall marble statue of Bahubali.

The attendance at the celebrations has been estimated at Over 500,000 people from various parts of the country and a tent city will be erected to accommodate them

JAIN SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. will hold Jain Summer Camps '86. Gurdev Chitrabhanu will conduct the first camp from Jun 21-25 for adults and the children, and Dr Bharill from Jaipur, India will conduct the second camp in Hindi from Jul 26-29. Details could be obtained from Dr Manoj Dharamsi at (703)620-9837.

INTERNATIONAL MAHAVIRA JAIN MISSION CANADA will organise a Jain camp and Retreat for children at the Loretto Center in Niagara Falls Canada in the 1st week of Aug '86. Religious instructions will be made available at the camp by Acharya Sushil Kumar and other dignitaries and scholars. Further info is available from the secretary, Mr Surinder K Jain at (416)293-7343.

JAIN SOCIETY OF GREATER DETROIT, MICHIGAN has planned to organise Jain Camp '86 during the coming summer. Interested people in the region wanting to attend can obtain further details from Mr Shreyas Shah, Public Relations at (303)979-4986.

MATRIMONIALS

** U.S. GREEN CARD Holder, Jain girl from Delhi 20 years, beautiful 5ft 5in, religious, studying accounting in U S university, pure vegetarian, teetotaler wants only Jain, vegetarian male, engineer/professional. Contact uncle-Dr Jain. (513)777-1554.

** WANTED FEMALE MATCH (U.S./ Canada Immigrant) for a very well travelled, highly educated, successful, rich, pure vegetarian, religious, teetotaler, Jain male, 37 years, 5ft 7in. Will consider widow or divorcee. Please reply: 9831 Tall Timber Dr, Cincinnati, Ohio 45241.

MAHAVIRA NIRVAN CELEBRATIONS

Of the many Jain festivities, Mahavira Nirvan Day is a doubly important festival for Jains world over. The day Mahavir, the 24th, and the last Tirthankar in the cycle, attained Nirvan -- liberation from the cycle of transmigration, there was a spectacular display of lights to celebrate the auspicious event. Through the years, since 2512 years ago, the display of lights as a symbolic light of wisdom has been an important festival of India to observe and honour the attainment of nirvan by Lord Mahavir. "Mahavir Shaka", the Jain calendar, began on this sacred day.

Again this year, Mahavir Nirvan and the New Year festivities were joyful events for Jains all over the world. Here is a report of the festivities in North America:

Boston, MA, November 9 THE JAIN CENTER OF GREATER BOSTON celebrated Mahavir Nirvan on November 9, at Jain Center, 15 Cedar Street, Norwood, MA. Dr. Rati Dodhia, the President, addressed the gathering and the chief guest spoke of the importance of the celebrations.

The religious program consisted of Namokar Mantra and Chatari mangalam, devotional songs, arati and mangaldivo. There was an interesting adult group discussion where many people participated. Raas garba dance was held after the dinner. Mr. Sudhir Shah did a fine job of program coordination.

Detroit, MI, November 9 Very successfully Mahavir Nirvan celebration was organized, despite gloomy and drizzly weather, by JAIN SOCIETY OF GREATER DETROIT. The weather did not dampen the spirits of the people. A large gathering of 450 people massed to celebrate the festival.

The program started with Snatra pooja and the religious events were followed by a delicious dinner served before the sunset. About twenty ladies had prepared various dishes for dinner. In the evening, Raas garba dance was organized with live music.

Toronto, Canada, November 17 JAIN SOCIETY OF TORONTO celebrated Mahavir Nirvan on Sunday, the 17th. Poojas were performed at the temple between 10:00-11:30 in the morning, and later in the day an entertainment program was organized at Kipling Collegiate Auditorium. Mr. Pravin Shah, the President, gave a short speech on the importance of the event and highlighted the items of the program. Then a minute of silence to the victims of the Columbian volcanic eruptions was observed.

The entertainment program consisted of a music feat presented by a local group and the children presentation, which received an applause. About 450-500 people participated in the celebrations. Food was served at the end.

Cleveland, OH, November 24 JAIN SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND held nirvan celebrations at India Community Center at 12412 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights. Dr. Hemendra Mehta, the President, welcomed the audience. Then the religious programs -- pooja, group singing and arati -- were the main events. Mr. M. K. Dharma Raja, editor of COMMATAVANI (Eng.) from Sravanabelagola, in Karnatak, India, attended the function. A light dinner was served at the end.

NON-STOP 2-HOUR NAMOKAR MANTRA

Boston, MA. November 28 JAIN CENTER OF BOSTON organized a 2-hour non-stop chanting of Namokar Mantra on Thursday, November 28 at its center in Norwood. It was a self-awakening and self-vibrant event experienced by all the participants.

CLEVELAND JAIN SOCIETY APPEAL HELP MANDAL ANIMAL SHELTER IN GUJRAT, INDIA

North Royalton, OH. FOR THE PAST 125 years, Jain organizations have set up and operated Animal Shelters for old, sick, wounded and helpless animals and birds in various parts of India. Animal Shelter in Mandal, Ahmedabad is now in dire need of help and support as thousands of animals have arrived due to inadequate rainfall, grain, and fodder. More is expected soon. In response to the appeal by Shri Chandrashekar Maharaj and Muni Jambuvijayaji, Dr. Hemendra Mehta, President of Cleveland Jain Society, has issued a call to the members to help this noble cause. Dr. Mehta appeals to make contribution either directly to: President, Mandal Animal Shelter, Mandal, Ahmedabad District, Gujrat, India, or through Jain Society of Greater Cleveland, 13579 Ridge Road, North Royalton, OH 44133. Mark cheque as a donation for animal shelter and your contribution is tax deductible.

JAIN CENTER OF SO CALIFORNIA ACQUIRES LAND FOR JAIN BHAVAN

Anaheim, CA, November 12 JAIN CENTER OF SO CALIFORNIA, 2912 West Lincoln Avenue, is in the process of acquiring a parcel of land at 8072 Commonwealth Avenue in Buena Park. The construction of the Bhavan is planned after the close of escrow account on November 15th. The total cost of the entire project is estimated at about \$600,000.00. In this regard, Mr. Shirish Sheth, the president of the center, said, "The search and selection of a good and convenient location are over. The real challenge has begun now to raise funds for the project. We call upon all, members and non-members alike, to come forward and join hands in this great effort such that a legacy of religious and cultural heritage can be passed on to our children, generation after generation".

JAIN SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 1986

Rockville, MD. December 21 THE GENERAL BODY MEETING of Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington, DC was held at Maryvale school on December 21st to conduct its business and to elect officers for 1986. The results are: Dr. M. Dharamsi as president; Mr. Ramnik Sanghvi as vice president; Mr. Harshad Shah as secretary; and Mr. Harshad Matalia as treasurer were elected. Messrs. Himat Desai, Ashok Shah and Mrs. Jyoti Doshi as members at large were elected.

JAIN RELIGION REPRESENTED AT ASSEMBLY OF WORLD RELIGIONS

McAfee, NJ., November 15 The Assembly of World Religions sponsored by International Religions Foundation, was held at Americana Great Gorge Conference Center, from November 15-21. This is one of the events to the preparatory meeting for a major Assembly to be held in 1993 in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions that was held in conjunction with the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Acharya Sushil Kumar, the spiritual leader of Jains in North America and Mr. M. K. Dharma Raja, noted Jain journalist from India, represented Jain religion at the assembly of World religions.

ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO HONOURS MAGAN SHAH

Toronto, November 21 MR. MAGAN SHAH, a member of Toronto's Jain community, was honoured by Rotary Club of Toronto. The award, Paul Harris Fellowship, was awarded to him at a packed audience of Rotarians. The award is in recognition of his many social activities as a Rotarian.

DETROIT JAIN SOCIETY ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 1986

Detroit, MI, November 9 JAIN SOCIETY OF GREATER DETROIT held its annual general body meeting to conduct its business and to elect new officers for 1986. The nomination committee, consisting of Messrs. Jinadas Shah, Pankaj Shah and Vinay Shah, nominated a slate of candidates.

The new officers for 1986 are Messrs. Laxmi-chand Gogri as President, Sharad Shah as vice president, Shashikant Shah as secretary, Shreyas Shah for public relations, Rajesh Gala as treasurer, and Girish Shah and Chandrakant Ravani as trustees were elected.

JAIN FEDERATION DISTRIBUTED JAIN BOOKS FROM INDIA

Reston, VA, December 18 DR. MANOJ DHARAMSI, past president and currently an officer of the Federation of Jain associations in North America, announced to the press that the Federation bought 500 copies of OUTLINES OF JAINISM, by Mr. J. L. Jaini, and distributed to member organizations. Dr. Dharamsi further added that this is the first such distribution and other scholarly Jain books will also be distributed, as it is the ongoing objective of the Federation.

SUPER SANDHYA DID EKASANA VARSHITAP

Houston, TX PARYUSHAN PARVA is spiritual awakening, and this was ably demonstrated by one of the younger members, Sandhya Shangani, seventeen years old, of Houston Jain Society. Miss Shangani undertook fasting, Ekasana Varshitap -- meal a day throughout the year. Strong and resolute, Sandhya has marvellously demonstrated the blend of the best of the values -- Jain values in the context of western society.

ROCHESTOR JAIN SOCIETY ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 1986

Rochester, NY., November 2 JAIN SOCIETY OF ROCHESTOR, Western New York, has elected following officers for 1986: The President is Mr. Kishor Sheth; Vice President is Mrs. Surekha Rajparia; General Secretary is Mr. Vinod Singhi; Educational & Cultural Secretary is Mr. Shri Jain and the trustees are Mrs. Jyoti Nanavati and Mr. Deepak Maniar.

IMJM CANADA ORGANIZES MEDITATION & YOGA LECTURES

Toronto, December 2 An ambitious program of lectures on Meditation & Yoga by Sri Amarendra Muni from Siddhachalam in New Jersey has been organized by International Mahavira Jain Mission, Canada, December 21st - January 4, 1986. Muni's busy schedule takes him across southern Ontario's various communities. Daily program consists of two sessions. Morning session will be devoted to Arhum Yoga and the evening session will have meditation, chanting, as well devotional songs.

The lectures are co-sponsored by Federation of Gujarati Association in Toronto, Hindu Sabha temple of Brimely, Hindu Prarthana Samaj of Toronto and Hamilton.

JAIN SOCIETY OF HOUSTON ELECTS 1985-86 OFFICERS

Recently, Jain Society of Houston, Texas, held its annual general body meeting to review year's activities and to hold election for the governing council. The result of the election is: Messrs. Jayant Mehta as president, Abhay Jain as vice president, Harish Mehta as secretary, and Mrs. Prabha Chheda as treasurer, were elected.



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GRAND OPENING CEREMONY AT PITTSBURG TEMPLE

Allentown, PA December 29 JAIN TEMPLE in Allentown held Grand opening ceremony. The program started at 11:30 a.m. with welcome speech and it was followed by Gheeboli for one and a half hours. At 12:39 p.m. opening ceremony took place. Mr. Vinod Shah conducted the Snatra pooja and it was followed by arati and mangal-divo. The ceremony concluded at 2:30 p.m. with prasad.

JAIN FEDERATION RECOGNIZED AS TAX EXEMPT IN USA

Parma, OH December 23 D. T. J. Salgia, President of JAINA Federation issued a press release to inform that our JAIN FEDERATION OF NORTH AMERICA has been recognized as a NOT FOR PROFIT TAX EXEMPT organization under the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501 (c) (3). Further, Dr. Salgia remarked that all contributions to the Federation are fully deductible from your income tax.

IMJM CANADA PRESIDENT ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

Toronto, December 2 Dr. Harish Jain, President of International Mahavira Jain Mission, Canada reports the highlights of the activities of IMJM. In the pursuit of its objectives, IMJM officers have done a splendid job. The Inaugural symposium on Ahimsa and Peace was held in Montreal, June 1-2, and in this connection, a souvenir was issued. The president visited Winnipeg in central Canada to arrange a meeting of the Jain families in the area and to

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- INVITATIONS
- PERSONALIZING
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- PARTY SUPPLIES

encourage them to form a group for worship and study, and in October a symposium on Peace at McMaster University, in Hamilton, was organized. A trip was organized for the President to visit Vancouver in western Canada to bring social and religious awareness and to form a group for worship and study. A Series of lectures by Muni Amarendra was organized in various cities in southern Ontario. Quite an accomplishment for a year old organization. The president, lastly, has acknowledged all the people and organizations that cooperated and helped to spread the teachings of Tirthankaras to its followers, as well the community we live in.

JAIN SAMAJ OF EUROPE ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 1986

Leichester, England. The new officers of Jain Samaj for 1986 are Dr. Nathubhai Shah - President, Dr. Ramesh Mehta - Vice President, Mr. R. Mehta - Secretary, Mr. H. Chandaria - Treasurer, and Mr. Raman Shah - London area chairperson.

Leichester, a city 90 miles north of London, England, is the headquarters for Jain Samaj of Europe. The city itself has over 300 Jain families. Members from other countries in continental Europe are from Antwerp in Belgium, West Berlin, Paris and Iceland.

JAIN CENTER OF AMERICA COLLECTED OVER \$35K FOR MAHAVIR MANAU KARUNA KENDRA

During the last Paryushan Parva festivities of Jain Center of America, Elmhurst, NY, the members displayed their generous nature to donate

over \$35,000.00 to Mahavir Manau Karuna Kendra of Ahmedabad, in Gujrat, where riots and violence occurred recently causing a great deal of harm and difficulty to many fellow Jains. As a result, Mahavir Manau Karuna Kendra was set up to attend and to address the plights of the riot affected Jains.

Dr. Kumarpal Desai, noted Jain professor, journalist, social and religious worker from Ahmedabad, roused the sympathy and the generosity of his audience at the Jain Center of America congregation to help rehabilitate the Jains affected in Ahmedabad.

Mr. Raju Gandhi, President of the Jain Center, Mr. Arvin Vora, the secretary and the executive members, Messrs. Naresh Shah and Bhachubhai Mehta have done a great humanitarian job in raising funds for this worthy cause.

DIRECTORY OF JAIN SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, DC

Reston, VA December 27 Dr. Manoj Dharamsi, president of the society, announced that the third edition of the directory will be released sometime in April, 1986. Members are requested to communicate any change(s) and to provide any other information. During his announcement, Dr. Dharamsi remarked that the directory will help improve communication among its membership, and thus a feeling of fraternity will prevail.

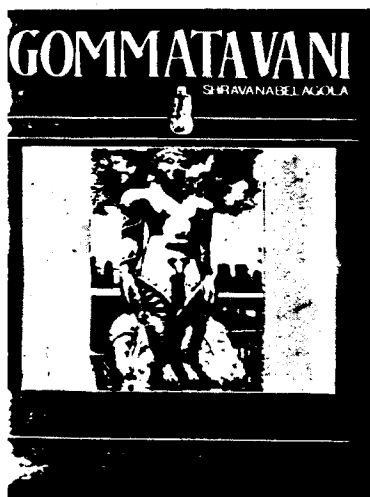
TORONTO JAIN SOCIETY TEMPLE ANNIVERSARY

Toronto, Canada, December 1st. THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY of the temple was celebrated here on December 1st at the temple at 247 Parklawn Road, in Toronto. The program consisted of pooja from 1:00 - 1:45 p.m. and it was followed by a welcome speech by the President of the Society.

In a novel way, the audience were requested to participate in the program. Many of them took part in it and in a thought provoking fashion, their ideas and suggestions were expressed for a solid growth and development of the society. There were lady participants. One spoke of role for women group and another expressed the need of English language medium for the children to participate fully in regular poojas and prayers.

GOMMATAVANI MONTHLY JAIN NEWS MAGAZINE

Sravanabelagola, Karnatak. SHRI JAIN MUTT, SRAVANABELAGOL is very vibrant in undertaking various tasks to further the cause and the values of Jain religion and the community. In this direction, the Bhat-tarak, Karmayogi Charukeer-tyji has undertaken another major task with a vision. Under his leadership, a monthly Jain news magazine "GOMMATAVANI", in English, has been launched with its maiden November issue. Mr. M. K. Dharma Raja, a famous Jain journalist, is its editor. The magazine seeks to report and carry news relating mainly to Jains, purveying religious, social, cultural, or literary activities, and other pursu -- its from all parts of the world. It will be a voice for all Jains.



Subscription rates: India Rs.60/year, or Rs.600 for life. Overseas U\$15/year, or U\$150 for life. Send subscription to: Manager, "GOMMATAVANI" (ENG), SRAVANABELGOLA, KARNATAK, INDIA - 573135.

JAINOLOGY DEPT. ESTABLISHED AT MADRAS UNIVERSITY

Madras, Tamilnadu, November 15 UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS oldest in south, has established the department of Jainology, and this becomes the third university with a department of Jainology and Prakrit. The other two are University of Mysore and University of Karnatak.

Dr. T. G. Kalghatgi, a well known Professor and Jainologist, has been named to head the department. Dr. Kalghatgi, formerly Professor of Jainology at Mysore University, is a great scholar and has authored many great publications.

ANUV RAT AWARD FOR FORMER PRIME MINISTER

Jaipur, Rajasthan JAIN TULSI FOUNDATION has selected Mr. G. L. Nanda, former Prime Minister of India, for the Anuvrat Award of the year. The award carries a silver shield and one lakh of rupees cash. Mr. Nanda's contribution in the public character and human values have been cited.

KARNATAKA STATE SOCIAL SERVICES AWARD FOR VIRENDRA K. HEGDE

Bangalore, November 1 KARNATAKA STATE ANNUAL AWARD for Social Services has been given to Mr. Virendra K. Hegde, Dharmadhikari of Manjunatha Diety in Karnataka. The award is in recognition of the vast contribution Mr. Hegde has made in the field of education, social reforms, health and hunger. Mr. Hegde, born on

December 25, 1948, is 21st and the youngest Ecclesiastical Head to preside over the vast congregation of diety Majunatha at Dharmastala in western Karnataka. He is a noble Jain and a great benefactor. A few years ago, Mr. Hegde erected a beautiful statue of Bahubali in Dharmastala. As an individual, this accomplishment of Mr. Hegde is parallel in history to that of Chamundaraya, the great poet and the General of Ganga dynasty which ruled Karnataka 980 years ago.

JAIN MAHAVIRA SANGH
HONOURS S. NABHIRAJIAH

Bangalore, November 5. JAIN MAHAVIRA SANGH of Bangalore held a function to honour Mr. S. Nabhirajiah, reputed attorney in the state and a highly acclaimed community worker for the past 50 years. Mr. Nabhirajiah is the father of Mr. Prakash, a very active Jain community organizer in Toledo, OH. Mr. Nabhirajiah held elected office as a member for 40 years and was President of the Sangh for 15 years. As President, he laid solid and secure financial base for Mahavira Basadi. As a director-trustee of an engineering college in Bangalore, he created opportunities for Jain students to enter engineering school.

GAUTAM GANADHARA NIRVAN
A CALL FOR CELEBRATION

Indore, M.P., November 15 A NOTED JAIN MUNI has made a call to celebrate the nirvan of Gautam, the premiere Gandhar, who undertook the task of spreading "Mahavir's Sayeths" Gautam attained nirvan 2500 years ago. The Muni suggested that Gautam Nirvan celebration will give a new focus and new fervour to the Jain enlight-

enment and will help the world to understand
Penance and Peace for individual's upliftment.

MRS. INDU JAIN BEST FILM LYRICIST '85

Calcutta. FEDERATION OF FILM JOURNALISTS of
Bengal has voted Poetess Indu Jain as the best
film lyricist of Hindi movies for the year.
Mrs. Jain has written lyrics for many Hindi
films. The award by the film journalists of
Bengal is well known in India.

VISHAL KIRTI BHATTARAK PASSED AWAY

Latur, Maharashtra. SWASTASRI VISHALKIRTI
BHATTARAK of Latur Mutt passed away on Septem-
ber 30th. Shri Bhattarak was a learned Sam-
skrit scholar and was involved in various
social service works in the community. Swamiji
was 90 years old at the time of the death.

MAHAVIRA IDOL NEAR QUTAB CONSECRATION PLANNED

Delhi, November 3. Two and a half acre land near
Qutab minar, in Delhi, is being prepared to in-
stall an idol of Mahavira Tirthankara at this
site. The idol has been sculptured by Mr. K.
Shyamaraya Acharya of Karnataka. It is 13 ft.
high in padmasana pose, and the weight is 27
ton with another 20 ton of the pedestal.

KARNATAK GOVT. PLEDGES RS600K TO ACHARYA DESHBHUSHAN MAHARAJ HOSPITAL

Shamanewadi, Karnataka. November 16. MOST DENSELY POPULATED AREA OF JAINS in Karnataka is Shamanewadi. The Jains of Shamanewadi have organized "Indra Dhyja Aradhana" celebration for World Peace through "Samyakt knowledge". Many prominent Jain Munis, Acharya Ratna Deshbushan Maharaj, Ganadhara Kuntu Sagar, Munishri Kanak Nandi and many prominent people, including Mr. R. K. Hegde, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, participated in the celebrations. During this occasion, Mr. Hegde had an audience with Acharya Deshabhushan. After the audience, the Chief Minister announced to the public that the Government of Karnataka has pledged Rs 600,000 donation to the DESHA-BHUSHAN MAHARAJ HOSPITAL under construction at Kothali.

ANEKANT RESEARCH INSTITUTE OPENED IN UJJAIN

Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. October 15. HISTORICAL UJJAIN now offers a unique place to Indologists and scholars to pursue research in Anekant, Linguistics, and Jain Dharma. Anekant Research Institute was recently inaugurated at Bahubali Kshetra in Ujjain with its first director, Dr. Harindra B. Jain. Scholars undertaking research here will be provided with monthly stipend.

Qn : *Which are the triple Jewels in Jain Philosophy ?
What is their Significance ?*

Ans : Right Faith, Right Knowledge and Right Character are the three jewels in Jain Philosophy. They are the three steps to Moksha (deliverance).

ACHARYA'S CRUSADE

Acharya Shusil Kumar, Jain spiritual leader in North America, and the world, outside India, is the most prominent and reverend Jain Muni for all Jain followers irrespective of implicit difference in language, social customs and traditions. Muniji is the champion of unity among Jains, promoter of Peace on world stage and a visionary for progressive future. He is working tirelessly for the establishment of "Panch Tirth" at Siddhachalam in New Jersey, U.S.A. Siddhachalam, is the first Jain resident community for monks and nuns, shravakas and shravakis in North America. The editor of Jain Digest had an opportunity to interview the Acharya in Toronto during his recent Canadian visit. . .

Question: Muniji, could you tell about your mission as a Jain Acharya in North America?

Acharya: Indepth studies of Agamic scripture, its philosophical approach to performing wisdom in self-realization and salvation set me, a long ago, in the course of propogating and publicising the virtues and the values of Jain principles. While this is all fine, the rapid development of science has risen so much in the hands of man that it has brought us to the brink of total annihilation of Mankind. Ahimsa and peace, in the threat of nuclear annihilation, are the very foundations for the salvation of Mankind. Ahimsa, as practiced by Mahatma Gandhi, brought salvation to India. You know, Gandhiji derived his strength from Ahimsa through direct influence of his mother, a devoted Jain and the continued dialogue he had with Jain Muni Rajchandra and sadhvi Ujal Kumari of Maharashtra. This historical truth of Ahimsa as preached by the Arihants equally remain, even today, as important as ever for a durable Peace in the world. My mission is Ahimsa and Peace, as enunciated and interpreted by the Arihants.

Question: In brief, could you explain the philosophy you espouse for your crusade?

Acharya: Jain philosophy is a treasure of ethical, logical and truth oriented phenomena. Take the simple principle of Ratnatraya -- inter-related right knowledge, right perception and right conduct. This observance ensures the progress in its cycle. And teachings of Mahavira

on health, mind and prana control help attain perfectness of being a perfect person. The philosophy and the principle are for all people at all times to attain Arihanthood.

Question: Guruji, what vehicle do you have to achieve your mission?

Acharya: You know, my dear good soul, we have various local Jain organizations to cater to the local community's religious, socio-economic aspirations and advancement. Voidness in spiritual direction and leadership have been eliminated by initiating and involving in the aspiration of establishing Jain temples and centers wherever they were warranted. In reality, local organizations and individuals are the vehicles. This demonstrates how Ahimsa and Peace mission could be achieved in the world community.

International Mahavira Missions in various parts of this continent and the world are for national and international commitments as does a local Jain society functions for the same objectives of practicing, publicizing and propagating the great principles and philosophy of Jainism for the benefit of harmony among Mankind through Ahimsa and Peace.

Question: What advise, Acharyaji, do you have for us, as Jains, to adopt to a new reality and remain a cohesive force in this society we live in?

Acharya: Jains from different parts of the world with their diversified socio-cultural and linguistic background have chosen a new homeland. The beauty is its richness in its various forms. Incorporate the best of this richness. Differences in practices, performances and the traditions be debarred from the thought and dutifully declare to vow yourself as the children of Arihants. Togetherness does it all.

Question: Swamiji, what is Siddhachalam and what are your visions for it?

Acharya: Siddhachalam, a community of Jain monks and nuns, shravaka and shravkis, is a beautiful 108 acre hilltop area near Pocono Mountains in New Jersey. It is the first Jain community in the west for all Jains of all traditions and practitioners of other backgrounds. Siddhachalam actively promotes Ahimsa for world Peace, vegetarianism and non-violence to animals. It is a wildlife sanctuary. Retreats and seminars are held regularly at Siddhachalam. They include Yoga, meditation, chanting, time for reflection, and recreation such as swimming, hiking and running. Siddhachalam provides meals and lodging for the guests at a nominal charge of \$15 per day.

My vision for Siddhachalam is manifold. People of Jain Faith in North America number about 60,000. Currently, several beautiful statues of marble and brass of various Tirthankaras have been installed at Siddhachalam and are temporarily in the Meditation Hall. Future plans call for worship facilities that include the establishment of "Panch Tirth". These will be replicas of five of India's beautiful Jain shrines -- Palitana, Shikarji, Pavapuri, Bahubali and Mahavirji. Also planned is the establishment of Ahimsa University, offering accredited courses in religion, philosophy, yoga and social studies. Other things planned are library and Jain Art Gallery.

"Panch Tirth" will build a bridge to the heritage of the Jains in North America and their cultural contribution to the adopted home will enrich their life quality. Thus, Siddhachalam will provide spiritual feeling and a sense of pilgrimage to revere.

Question: Acharyaji, when did you become a Jain Acharya and how your presence as Acharya will affect Jain communities across North America?

Acharya: H. H. Upadhyaya Kavi Shri Amar Muni at Veerayatan in Rajgir, India honoured me with the title of Acharya in 1980. This facilitated to establish Arhat Sangha with several renunciates at Siddhachalam. The Sangha is a progressive group in the sense that the group is allowed to use fire, water for cooking, tilling the soil, use of vehicle for movement, working and managing money. This progressive adjustment has updated the renunciate life to meet the demands of modern times and help to propagate the teachings of the Thirthankaras.

Regarding the effects on Jain communities, I suppose the benefits are numerous. We will provide spiritual and moral leadership and direction and that will alleviate some of the complexities of fast lane life. We will surely strive to pass on the Jain heritage to the younger generation.

Question: Acharyaji, now I like to pose two last questions and they are simple and yet are of interest to the community.

Acharya: Do not hesitate; go ahead. I will surely answer them.

Question: Muniji, are you grooming anyone to carry your ideals and responsibilities in your absence?

Acharya: Yes, I do. I want that all Swamijis and Munis at Siddhachalam to adhere to. It is very essential for the continuity of the program and the progress.

Question: Guruji, is there a public accountability of the affairs of Siddhachalam, and if so, what are they?

Acharya: You know, Siddhachalam belongs to everyone and hence its affair is open to, I mean, the members who are involved in a way. Siddhachalam was purchased in 1983 by the International Mahavira Jain Mission, a non-profit and tax exempt organization, whose objective is to promote Ahimsa, Peace and the teachings of Arihantas.

The Ashram at Siddhachalam is comprised of a small community of residents and a larger general membership helps to serve and support Siddhachalam physically and financially. Some of the residents work outside of the Ashram and provide monetary support.

Siddhachalam was purchased at a price of \$330,000 and there remains a mortgage of \$95,000. Most of the expenses of Siddhachalam goes for maintenance and improvements. The funds come from contributions and donations, and the list of these are available.

Food expenses of the residents and the guests at Siddhachalam are self-borne. The financial support is provided by Mr. Arun Kothari of New York to meet the required bare needs of the Munis.

As far as accountability of financial affairs, the annual financial statements are there for public scrutiny.

Siddhachalam is open to everyone who believes in the gospel truth of the Arihants. Its accountability is open. Mind you that the Board of Trustees and the executive members of the organization have been selected to avoid groupism. I guess, after a five-year period, elections could be introduced. It is only intended to avoid initial practical problems and to ensure no groupism creeps in.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to invite all Jain bretherns to support Siddhachalam through their financial contribution in any way they can and in any size. Mr. Madho P. Jain, or Shirley Hardy at (201) 362-9793 could be contacted regarding all contributions to Siddhachalam.

My blessings are with the Federation of Jain Associations in all its endeavours. Jai Jinendra.

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