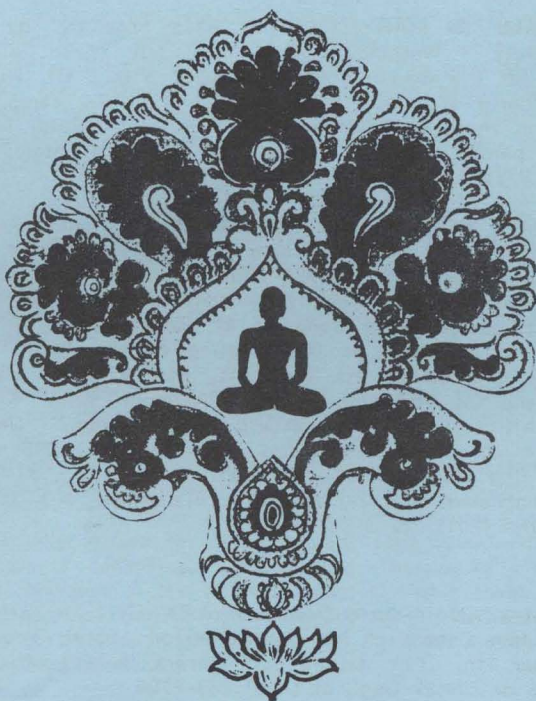


JAIN DIGEST

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

COMING EVENTS! COMING EVENTS! COMING EVENTS!

SIDDHACHALAM, N.J. will conduct Annual Summer Camp at Siddhachalam, Blairstown, N.J. from July 5 to 18 for both adults and youths. Activities will include yoga, meditation, Jain Philosophy and recreational items such as swimming, boating, etc. Telephone: (201) 362-9793.

FELLOWSHIP WEEK END to Toronto, Canada has been organized by Jain Society of Rochester, N.Y. on July 12 and 13. The week end fellowship program consists of Pooja at the Jain temple along with the members of the Jain community in Toronto on Saturday and Sunday is exclusively meant for fun and shopping. This fellowship get together between the Jain communities of Rochester and Toronto will help to build a feeling of fraternity as Jains to share the values and heritage we are attempting to practice and pass on to our youngsters. For details call Surekha Rajparia at (716) 377-2082.

JAIN CAMP IN MARYLAND has been organized by the Jain Society of Washington, D.C. from July 26 to 28. It is open for the members of its society only. Dr. Hukum Chand Bharill of Jaipur, India is conducting the camp. It will be in Hindi and planned for adults only. Total fee is \$45 per person. Further information could be obtained at (301) 428-9133.

REGIONAL WORLD JAIN CONGRESS at Siddhachalam, New Jersey, USA has been announced for October 4 and 5, 1986. Mr. Satish Kumar Jain, Secretary General of World Jain Congress, recently announced that the holding of the Regional World Congress at Siddhachalam in New Jersey was discussed at the meeting of the World Jain Congress, chaired by its President, Mr. Virendra Kumar Hegde and its Founding President Acharya Sushil Kumar Jain. All are invited to attend this Congress. Details could be obtained from World Jain Congress, 688 Baba Kharak Sing Marg New Delhi-110001, India, Tel: 344-022, or Siddhachalam, RD. 4, Box 374, Blairstown, N.J. 07825, USA, Tel: (201) 362-9793/9930.

DASHA LAXANA - PARUSHANA PARVA has been arranged by the Jain Center of No California for August 31st and September 7th. For details call Prerara Saraiya at (415) 793-6745 or Himat Dagli at (415) 489-2196.

ARHUM YOGA CAMP IN NIAGARA FALLS, CANADA WILL BE HELD August 2 to 10, 1986. This is organized by International Mahavira Jain Mission, Canada. Registration fees for adults: Can. \$250 per person for 9 days. For children: Can. \$225. There is provision for daily or overnight registrations. For details call (416) 491-5739.

MAHAVIRA JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS

Mahavira Jayanti celebrations, again this year, have been celebrated all over the world. And in North America, various organizations, Jain and non-Jain, have also celebrated. Here is the report of these festivities:

Washington, D.C. Jain Society of Washington, D.C. organized Mahavira Janma Kalyanak on Saturday, April 19 at Maryvale School Auditorium, Rockville, MD.

The celebrations started at 3:30 p.m. with a few words from President Dr. Manoj Dharamsi. Muni Amarendra from Siddhachalam was the Chief Guest. He was welcomed and introduced by the President. Munishri spoke on the Life of Lord Mahavira and His Contribution to Mankind. It was delivered in English as well as Hindi. Aarti performance brought the celebration to a close at 6:30 p.m.

Boston, MA. Mahavira Jayanti was held here on Sunday, April 20 by Jain Center of Boston. The program consisted of religious and cultural events. Devotional songs were melodious. A musical play, Mahasati Chandana, coordinated by Dilip Gandhi, was a high light. The participants in the play are: Dinesh Dalal, Nipa Gandhi, Manoj Jain, Shruti Mehta, Sunita Gandhi, Nikhil Mehta, Arun Shah, Kamallesh Mehta, Eshani Shah, Priti Shah, N.D. Shah, Sonal Shah, Rekha Upadhyay and Nish Vora.

Children had their own presentation and there was the display of the 14 dreams of Trishala, mother of Lord Mahavira. And the Aarti and Mangal Divo brought the celebrations to a close. The food was served before the sunset.

Vasant Gandhi, Vice-President of the Center, was the program coordinator of the activities of the day.

Detroit, MI. Jain Society of Detroit celebrated Mahavira Jayanti on Saturday, April 26, at the Southfield Civic Center. The Chief Guest, Balabhadra (Bruce Costain), was specially invited for the occasion. His talk, "The Importance of Mahavira's Teaching In The World", emphasized its relevance in the historical past and at present to resolve personal and world problems. Further, he observed that Mahavira's teachings are eternal in their meanings and in their applications.

The program ended with a delicious dinner.

Cleveland, OH. The 2585 Birth Anniversary of Lord Mahavira was celebrated by the members of Cleveland Jain Society on Sunday, May 4, 1986 at India Community Center, 12412 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights. The celebrations started at 3:30 p.m.

The Guest of Honour, Acharya Sushil Kumar, gave a talk on Lord Mahavira's life and teachings. The Consulate General of India, A. Patwardhan, attended the celebrations. At the end, a pot-luck dinner was served.

Freemont, CA. Jain Center of Northern California organized Mahavira Jayanti on Sunday, April 20 at Centerville Community Center, 3355 Country Dr., Freemont.

The program, which started at 3:00 p.m., consisted of Snatra Pooja and Stavans. Garba dance entertainment by young girls was an attractive feature. At the end of the program, a pot-luck dinner was served.

Toronto, Canada. Jain Society of Toronto celebrated Mahavira Jayanti on Sunday, April 27. Mahavira Pooja and Siddhachast Khamasamna were performed at the temple from 2 to 3:15 p.m. Later the cultural program was held at Kipling Collegiate Auditorium. The program started with prayer by Jain School pupils. Dinesh Jain, President, spoke on the importance of the event. It was followed by a program planned and performed by the youths. The high lights were dance, devotional music and a play. The 2-part play, Shalibhadra, was a major attraction. The main characters of the play were played by Samir Mehta, Bharat Shah, Ameet Mehta, Hitesh Shah, Nancy Jain and Ashish Karia. Lyric by Mona Shah was tuned by Bharat Shah. The script was written by Moña Kothari and Nancy Jain.

Hitesh Doshi, General Secretary, proposed vote of thanks to one and all who helped in organizing the celebrations. Dinner was delicious.

Chicago, IL. Chicago Jain Society organized Mahavira Jayanti on Sunday April 26. The program consisted of Stavans, speeches and dinner. Over 350 people attended the function.

London, Canada. Mahavira Jayanti celebrations were organized, for the first time, in the city of London. It was held on April 20 in the community Center. Prayers, Stavans and lectures were the main events at this function organized by the Hindu Cultural Center.

Cincinnati, OH. Jain Center of Cincinnati-Dayton celebrated Mahavira Jayanti on Sunday, April 20 in the Gymnasium Hall of Princeton High. The program consisted of Devotional songs, lecture, youth program and Aarti. After the dinner, Gurdev Chitrabhanu delivered a lecture titled, Jainism In Today's World. The lecture was followed by an informal discussion with the Gurdev.

St. Catherines, Canada. Mahavira Janma Kalyana celebrations were organized for the first time in St. Catherines on April 21, 1986 by Hindu SOCIETY.

The Chief Guest Speaker was Mr. Ramnik Shah, a Jain Thinker and a writer. In his speech, "Mahavira: Incomparable Renunciate of the World", Shah narrated Mahavira's life and His accomplishments. There were explanations and emphasis to demonstrate that Lord Mahavira is an incomparable Renunciate of the World.

Rochester, NY. Jain Society of Rochester celebrated Mahavira Jayanti on April 20. The program mainly consisted of Pooja and speeches. Usha Sheth spoke on "Concept of God and Soul" while youngster members, Sumeet Maniar, Sejal Vora, Shail Mithani, Karan Maniar and Tapan Shah dealt on topics like Life of Lord Mahavira, Ahimsa and Anekantavada.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We do know that other Jain Societies in Houston, New Jersey, New York, Southern California, Texas and others celebrated Mahavira Jayanti Day. However, due to our inability to gather news from these Societies, we regret the omission of news about these Societies. Hope we could do a better job of gathering news from these societies.

DETROIT JAIN SOCIETY RECOMMENDS 4 SITES FOR ITS TEMPLE

Detroit, MI. The Building Committee of the Society, after an extensive search, has selected 4 sites for its temple within the Greater Metropolitan Detroit area. The sites are: 1 - Farmington Hill, 2 - Ferndale 3 - Livonia and 4 - Troy. Now the Committee has been authorized to conduct feasibility studies aimed at narrowing down the choice to the final selection.

The Building Committee headed by Dr. Jain has done an excellent job. Among the 28 submissions it had, the Committee chose only four as a possible choice best suited for its demand.

CLEVELAND JAIN FAMILIES ATTEND ANNIVERSARY OF HINDU JAIN TEMPLE IN PITTSBURG

Cleveland, OH. Cleveland Jain Society organized a religious trip to Pittsburg to enable its members to attend and participate in the 2nd anniversary Installation celebrations of Lord Parswanath and Lord Mahavira idols in the Hindu-Jain temple in Pittsburg, PA. Pancha Kalyan Pooja celebrations were held on May 10th. The participants enjoyed this holy and religious event.

JAIN SOCIETY WASHINGTON D.C. FORMS COMMITTEE TO ACQUIRE JAIN TEMPLE

Washington, D.C. Dr. Manoj Dharamsi, President of Washington Jain Society informs that with the resolution passed in the last annual general body meeting to transfer \$12,000 to the temple fund. A committee has been set up to look into the feasibility of acquiring a Jain Temple. Dharamsi further noted that a discussion was held concerning the project and a survey conducted among the membership indicated a large majority of support for the Temple.

SAMAYIKA PRATIKRAMANA SUTRA IN ENGLISH & GUJARATI

Toronto, Canada. Samayika Pratikramana Sutra book in both English and Gujarati is available now in North America.

The book is translated to English by Mahasati Dharmashilaji M.A., Ph.D. and Dr. Nilesh Vora and is published by Jain Shrivak Sangh, Ghatkopar, Bombay, India. The book contains about 250 pages and has hard cover.

Mr. Himat Khandor of Toronto has made these books available here. The books are to be offered to interested people at cost price, \$5.00. The proceeds from the sales will go to the Federation Of Jain Associations in North America.

Please write: Jain Digest, 4665 Moccasin Trail, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4Z 2B3. Telephone: (416) 890-3368.

MATRIMONIAL

Brother-in-law invites enquiries from professional men for 31 year old Jain girl, educated, beautiful, fair and never married. Currently visiting USA. Please contact Dr. Palvia at (215) 638-7247.

SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS*

BIRTH

SUPARSH, baby boy, 7 lbs. 3 oz., 22 inches, born on May 3, 1986 to proud parents, Arvindra and Meera Jain of Mississauga, Canada.

HAPPY BIRTH DAY

SIRI PADMA KUMAR, celebrated her 8th birthday on May 13, 1986. Siri is the youngest daughter of Bhuvanendra and Brahmila Kumar of Mississauga, Canada.

* Social Announcements accepted on donation to Jain Digest, of \$5 or more.

Perhaps the only book independently written on JAINA ARCHITECTURE is the Vattu-Sara-Payarana in Prakrit, with 3 chapters devoted respectively to residential houses, iconography and temple architecture. The treatise, with 273 gathas was completed in A.D. 1315 during the reign of Allaudin Khilgi in Kalyanapura by Pheru, son of Srichandra.

Mr. Gopilal Amar
Bharatiya Jnanapith, New Delhi.

CINCINNATI JAIN SOCIETY

EXPLORES FOR A JAIN TEMPLE

Cincinnati, OH. The executive committee of Jain Society of Cincinnati is looking into the idea of having a small Jain temple for its community of over 50 families living in the area. In this regard, a committee, consisting of Surendra Singhvi, Pravin Shah, Ravindra Bafana, Damaroo Shah and Sulekh Jain, has been formed to explore the idea of having the Jain temple with the existing Hindu temple of Dayton.

SIDDHA CHAKRA POOJA IN NORTH AMERICA

Siddha Chakra Pooja comprising of 25 different Poojas -, of Arihant, Acharya, Upadhyaya, Sadhu, Darshana, Jnana, Charitra, Tapa, Navgraha, Ashtamangal and so on, was performed in North America for the first time.

Mr. Shashikant Mehta, a Jain Thinker and an activist from Rajkot, India made a special trip to perform this Pooja. Mr. Mehta performed the Pooja very systematically with every explanation needed before each part of the Pooja was performed. An open bid was made among the audience for each part of the Pooja to carryout ritual process.

Here is the report of the Siddha Chakra Pooja held at various Jain Societies in North America:

What is Jainism?

Jainism is one of the oldest religions of the world. Followers of "Jina" are called Jains and hence religion practiced by Jains is called Jainism.

Washington, D.C. The Pooja was held on May 10. It started at an auspicious moment at 12:00 p.m. and concluded at 5:30 p.m. It was followed by Aarti and Mangal Deep and Shanti Kalash.

Later in the evening, Gurdev Chitrabhanu and Mr. Shashikant Mehta delivered soul awakening speeches with an appeal to keep up with Jain activities.

Detroit, MI. Siddha Chakra Pooja was organized by the Jain Society of Detroit at Jeannette High in Sterling Heights on Sunday, May 14. First Snatra Pooja was performed by the members of the society. From 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Siddha Chakra Pooja was carried out with the participation of the majority of the audience.

Dinner was served before the sunset.

Boston, MA. The Jain Society of Greater Boston organized Siddha Chakra Pooja on May 30 at its center. A large number of people participated in carrying out the process of Pooja Rituals.

JAIN SOCIETY OF ROCHESTER NY JOINS FEDERATION

Rochester, NY. Rochester Jain Society has been a pioneer Jain organization in Western New York. Although it has a smaller membership, the Society has been active in the development and growth of Jain communities in North America. It has done a wonderful job locally and nationally. It has been in the forefront in the founding of Jain Federation, and in developing fellowship with other sister organizations.

The total family membership of Rochester Jain Society is about 37. Regularly they congregate for prayer and Pooja and very often, they organize speaking engagements by inviting people and personalities from outside. The Society encourages youngsters to participate in Pooja performances



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and Jaina Way of Life through imparting knowledge, study and practice of Jain Religion.

The present Officers of the Society are: Kishor Sheth - President, Surekha Rajparia - Vice President, Kusum Zaveri - Treasurer, Vinod Singhi - General Secretary, Shri Jain - Educational and Cultural Secretary and Jyoti Nanavati and Deepak Maniar - Trustees.

Upon joining the Federation of Jain Associations, the Executive Committee passed a resolution to send Shri Jain, Educational and Cultural Secretary, as Director of the Federation. Surekha Rajparia, Vice President of the Society has been named an alternative.

JAIN SCHOOL PRESENTS CERTIFICATES TO THE PUPILS

Freemont, CA. The Jain School, run by the Jain Center of N California, held a function on April 20, to honour and appreciate the efforts its pupils achieved in Jain Studies. The Award Ceremony was held at Centerville Community Hall. The youngsters who have been attending the school to learn Jain Religion and Philosophy were awarded with certificates of Scholastic Achievements.

JAIN LECTURE AT BHARATIYA TEMPLE, DETROIT

Detroit, MI. A Jain lecture was organized by Bharatiya Temple on April 27. The speaker, Balabhadra (Bruce Costain), a disciple of Gurdev Chitrabhanu, spoke on "Lord Mahavira and His Contributions". He touched upon the life of the Lord and explained convincingly that Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara, was one of the greatest Personnages of India. "His contribution to Humanity", declared Balabhadra, "is unparallel in the history of Mankind". Further he explained that the four guiding principles of Ahimsa, Anekantavada, Aparigraha and Karma have universal applications.

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Balabhadra stressed that these principles are of great importance in our daily lives.

A large number of people attended to hear Balabhadra's convincing and forceful lecture on Lord Mahavira. A delicious dinner was served after the lecture.

CHICAGO JAIN SOCIETY HOLDS GENERAL BODY MEETING AGAIN

Chicago, IL. The Second General Body Meeting of Chicago Jain Society was called on April 26, to consider two important issues facing the Society since it elected its office bearers last February.

The two issues are:

- to elect larger number of members to the Executive Committee to involve more members to take part in the decision making process since the Societe is close to buying a building to have Jain Temple.

- accept the resignation of the Executives elected in the last Annual General Body Meeting held last February and elect an Interim Executive Committee consisting of 24 members.

The Interim Executive held its meeting on May 11 to elect officers to carry on the day to day affairs of the Society. The elected officers are:

Coordinators of the Interim Executive - Manu Shah and Arvind Shah, Finance - Rashmi Gardi, Temple - Praful Kamadar, Program - Bhupen Shah, Constitution - Chandrakant Mehta, Education & Youth - Jyotindra Doshi and Membership - Ravindra Kobavala.

Before going to bed,

Recite Namokar Mantra and renew your faith.

Express your humility and gratitude to your elders, teachers and pious people who guided you throughout the day

Be thankful to your parents and other benefactors.

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A TREAT FOR THE HOMELESS ON MAHAVIRA JAYANTI

Washington, D.C. Recently Washington, capital of America, focused public attention, through a 40-day fast of Mitch Snyder of the Community for Creative Non-Violence, on the plight of the homeless. And now, Mahavira Jayanti '86 has established, for the first time in North America, a new meaning and message through the noble deeds of Navin and Leela Shah of Washington. On April 21 to celebrate Mahavira Jayanti, the Shahs undertook to feed over 400 homeless and destitutes with an Indian vegetarian meal. Mitch Snyder was present at the shelter to enjoy the vegetarian cuisine and to thank the Shahs for their creative efforts. Navin Shah is a urologist and practices medicine in Washington.

JAIN MANUSCRIPTS EXHIBIT IN NEW YORK

The New York Public Library - Edna Barnes Room - has organized an exhibit of Jain Manuscripts in an Art Gallery at 42nd Street and 5th Avenue. The exhibition was opened on May 23, 1986 and will be continued up to September 13.

The exhibit included pages of DEVASANO PADO BHANDAR Kalpa Sutra, Manuscripts created between 15th to 19th century.

EXPERIENCE AT TODERMAL INSTITUTE, JAIPUR

Pravin K. Shah of Jain Study Center of North Carolina attended, last December 19-23, the Jain Camp held at Pandit Todermal Institute, Jaipur, India. Here is an account of his experience:

The Institute, an affiliate of Rajasthan University, prepares students in Jain Religion and Philosophy. Its staff is highly

qualified and the curriculum is excellent. During our stay at the Institute, we were provided with free room and board and indeed it was comfortable. Our study session of Jain Philosophy and its interpretation was superb. This impart of knowledge by its staff provided us a deeper understanding and conviction.

Many publications on philosophy, rites and rituals and the Tirthankaras brought out by the Institute under the direction of Dr. Hukum Chand Bharill are interesting and impressive.

Lectures on Jain Religion and Philosophy by Dr. Bharill, Pandit Abhaya Kumar, Pandit Ratna Chandra and Master Manohar Lal were easy to understand. A deeper insight was acquired into Jain Religion by our visit to Todermaal Institute. It was indeed enriching and inspiring.

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- 66 Mr. Arvind & Ila Vora, New York

PALITANA TEMPLE REPLICA DISPLAYED IN LAS VEGAS NEVADA

Las Vegas, Nevada. The ancient Jain Temple of Palitana situated at the isthamus of Kathaiwar in Gujrat, India is constructed in pure white marble.

This Jain Temple, known as "The Precious Jewel of Palitana" is an outstanding piece of art, and the then government of India decided to build a replica of it to send to St. Louis Fair in America.

Many years were spent on planning and designing the replica. Hundreds of artisans were employed in the actual construction of the replica. Intricately and exquisitely hand carved of teak wood, the Temple stood 35 ft. high at its central tower and 20 ft. square at the base. It weighed close to 14 tons.

The critics and the experts praised the replica as one of the truly outstanding and priceless work of art in the world. The artistry and reverence that went into it by its builders is such that, it brings Peace and Serenity in its total absorption, upon entering it. The Peace and Serenity, of course are the basics of the teachings of Jain Religion.

The Temple replica stands within its own compound which encloses a wishing well.

This historic and artistic Jain Temple replica sailed to America to be displayed at the St. Louis Exposition of 1904 - 05.

The Fair came to an end. The Temple was dismantled, recreated and marked for shipment. However, the replica never sailed back. An American art dealer purchased the replica in crate but the crate was not opened until his death. It was auctioned. An art dealer bought it and eventually sold it to the present owners, The Castways Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

NEWS FROM ABROAD! NEWS FROM ABROAD!

FOUNDATION LAID FOR KALYAN NIKETAN

Shikarjee, Bihar. Under the spiritual inspiration of Acharya Kalyan Sagar, Kalyan Niketan Complex, a major Jain Religious Renaissance centre at Shikahrjee consisting of Jain Siddhant school, Namokara Mantra Bhavan, Lord Parswanath Hall, an industrial training center, fine arts building and a hospital for cattles and birds, had been on the planning. The task has now moved one step further.

The foundation stone laying ceremonies were recently held for Kalyan Niketan. Mr. Nirmal Kumar Sethi, President of Jaina Mahasabha, was on hand to lay the stone. In this connection a 4-day celebration consisting of Namokar mantra chanting, Ilaka Dhiksha, Kshulika Dikhsha and other cultural events were organized.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON AHIMSA - ANIMAL PROTECTION - NUTRITION

Delhi. An International Conference on Ahimsa-Animal Protection-Nutrition was held in Delhi for 5 days. India's Minister of Health, K. C. Panth, Dr. D. C. Jain, Gurdev Chitrabhanu and delegates from different corners of the globe participated in the conference.

Gurdev Chitrabhanu's theme of the address was, "Toward a More Humane Existence." In his address, Gurdev explained of how holyness will be felt when visits are made to the Temple or pilgrimages undertaken but fail to realize that life itself is holy. "Consciousness" Gurdev said, "is what we do to fellow beings, human or otherwise, and this basic truth Lord Mahavira preached centuries ago in favour of love and compassion is still true today". He concluded that our civilized choice in favour of love and compassion takes a leap Toward a More Humane Existence.

UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE AWARDS GOLD MEDALS TO MISS ASHA

Mysore, Karnataka. The Chancellor of University of Mysore, Gov. Asok Banerjee awarded two gold medals to Miss S. C. Asha in recognition of her highest scholastic excellence in the Bachelor of Science examination. She ranked top among all the B.Sc students of the University of Mysore 1985-86.

Asha is the daughter of Mr. S. P. Chandrakant, a well known Industrialist of Mysore. The Jains of Mysore delightedly shared the sweet success story of one of their youngsters.

JAINOLOGY AND PRAKRIT SUKHADIA UNIVERSITY, RAJASTHAN

Udaipur, Rajasthan. The Jain Sangh of Bikaner has done a wonderful job in establishing a faculty of Jainology and Prakrit Studies in Sukhadia University in order to enrich the Jain philosophy through education and research at the highest possible level. The faculty was established in February 1978, and since then its development in the academic accomplishments are impressive. Now it offers courses in various facets of Jain Religion and Philosophy and the degrees awarded are: B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Diploma and certificates. Presently the student enrollment numbers 100, 13 being in B.A. and 12 in M.A.

Many scholars of Jain Religion, both from abroad and within India have participated in various lecture series. Notable scholars from abroad include Prof. P. Jaini from USA, Dr. C. B. Tripathi from Germany. From within India, scholars such as Dr. Mohan S. Mehta, Dr. K.R. Chandra, Dr. C.G.C. Jain, Dr. G. N. Sharma, K. C. Jain, Dr. K. N. Nag, Ganpat Bohra, Dr. K. C. Sogani, Dr. B. K. Labania and others have participated.

The faculty headed by Dr. Prem Suman Jain, has published

50 research papers and is credited with the publication of numerous books on various subjects.

INDIAN VEGETARIAN PARISHAT GETS INTO PUBLICITY BLITZ

Delhi. Vegetarianism is one of the basic principles of Jain religion and to its followers, vegetarianism is a religious solemn custom.

India Vegetarian Parishat, which has set up 100 centers in India's 10 provinces, has urged Jain communities across the land to promote and spread vegetarianism throughout the land through a publicity blitz. By this, it hopes to bring a greater awareness of the importance of spiritual and conscious life toward a more humane existence. In this regard, books, pamphlets and posters are being supplied free. This material could be obtained from Director, India Vegetarian Parishat, Maharaj Ranjit Singh Marg, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-33.

MADRAS UNIVERSITY ORGANIZES JAIN LECTURE SERIES

Madras, Tamil Nadu. The whole Jain community of Tamil Nadu province, both indigenous and domiciled barring all differences, either linguistic or philosophical partitives, has displayed singularity and strength of the Jains through the establishment of the faculty of Jainology and Prakrit at the Madras University last September.

The university recently organized a series of events to promote Jain religion; its literature, arts and philosophy. In this regard, the faculty held a series of Jain lectures in various localities of Madras city. Several scholars were specially invited for the occasion. Some of the themes of the lectures were: Jain literature in Tamil, Development of Jain Religion in Tamil Nadu and The Agamas, the sacred scriptures of the Jains.

Dr. T. G. Kaighatgi, director of the faculty, reported that a large number of people attended the lectures and expressed further interest in an "encore presentation".

BHAKTAMARA POOJA IN ENGLAND

Manchester. The Jain community of Manchester celebrated Bhaktamara Pooja on Wednesday, June 4. Mr. Shashikant Mehta from Rajkot, India performed the Pooja. During the performance, Mr. Mehta explained the aspects and effects of the different stages of the Pooja.

A large gathering of people attended the Pooja.

MAHARASHTRA NAMES A JAIN TO ITS CABINET

Bombay. Miss Chandrika Prem Kenya, an upcoming Jain politician of Maharashtra, has been named Minister of State for Law. The announcement brought good news for Gujarati speaking Maharashtrians. Upon joining the cabinet of Ministers, Miss Kenya accompanied by her mother, paid a visit to the Jain Temple in Villa Parle and sought blessings and guidance from Jain Muni.

INAGURATION OF MAHAVIRA MEMORIAL AT VIPULACHALA

Rajgir, Bihar. The 24th Thirthankara, Lord Mahavira over 2554 years ago delivered His "Maiden Sermon" from Vipulachala hills in Rajgir. In memory of this great event in the history of Jain Religion, late Shanti Prasad Jain of Sahu Jain Trust, presented a plan to erect a monument on Vipulachala.

Of the five hills at Rajgir, Vipulachala is a historical site and a sacred place of pilgrimage to Jains. A monument, 72 ft. high, in samvatsarana style, has been erected on Vipulachala. At the tip of the building, a motif of a 5 ft. quadruple block with four idols of Jina impart Peace

to the world from all four directions.

Pancha Kalyan consecration Pooja were started on April 7 and on the 12th, Mr. Jai Singh, the President of India, inaugurated the Memorial. Over 50,000 people from different parts of India attended the celebrations.

Rajgir is about 100 KM from Patna, the capital of Bihar province, and from Nalanda it is just 17 KM.

HISTORY OF SONGIR TO BE PRINTED

Songir, M.P. Songir in Madhya Pradesh is one of the sacred pilgrimage places for Jains. Many Jain Munis have had their "Chaturmasa" in there and Songir's spiritual influence has been felt far and wide.

Recently, the 14th Samadhi Anniversary of Acharya Mahavir Kirti was held here. On the occasion, Mr. Misrilal Patni, secretary of Songir Siddha Kshetra, announced to the public that the Kshetra has decided to bring out a book on history of Songir.

It is recalled here that such a publication is vital to the diffusion of information and hence, the announcement was greeted with enthusiasm.

MURTIDEVI SAHITYA AWARD FOR VIRENDRA K JAIN'S MUKHTI DOOT

Delhi. Highly acclaimed literary work, Mukhti Doot, by Virendra K. Jain, has bagged prestigious Murtidevi Sahitya Award. Murtidevi Sahitya Award was instituted by late Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain in memory of his benevolent mother, Shrimati Murtidevi.

Mukhti Doot was published 40 years ago by Bharatiya Jnanpith, Delhi. The award was presented to Virendra K. Jain on April 27 by Vasant Sathe, Minister of Energy.

SHASHIKANT MEHTA ADDRESSES UK'S VEGETARIAN SOCIETY

London. The Vegetarian Society of United Kingdom organized a lecture by Mr. Shashikant Mehta of Gujrat on Sunday June 8. Mr. Mehta, a modern Jain Thinker and a Siddha Chakra Pooja specialist, enthused his audience with his eloquent explanation of vegetarianism and holistic health.

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA RULES AGAINST SLAUGHTER ON MAHAVIR JAYANTI

Delhi. Recently, the Supreme Court of India ruled that the closure of slaughter house on such holidays as Mahavira Jayanti does not constitute a restriction on the fundamental right to carry any occupation, trade or business.

The closure order of the commissioner of the municipality of Ahmedabad was challenged first in the High Court of Gujrat where the order had been ruled valid.

From now on, no slaughter will take place in Ahmedabad on the occasion of Mahavira Jayanti.

JAIN LECTURE IN BELGIUM

Antwerp, Belgium. Noted Industrialist and modern Jain Thinker, Mr. Shashikant Mehta, of Rajkot, India made a special visit to Antwerp on Friday June 6 to deliver a lecture, "Ahimsa & Peace: A Jaina Way". The lecture was organized by the Jain community of Antwerp.

Mr. Mehta lucidly explained the intertwining elements of Ahimsa and Peace through the pages of Jain history and its philosophy, and observed that this ethical tenet of the Tirthankaras is the best prescription for a malignant world faced with nuclear annihilation.

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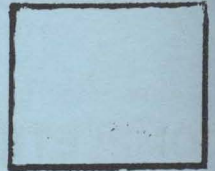
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