



We Jointly Create

# Ahimsa World

Volume: 1 No.5 October-December 2004

हुँव्वर अल्ला तेये नाम सबको संमती दे भगवान



The newsletter by WJC dedicated to peace and non-violence



# चैतन्य काश्यप फाउण्डेशन

धार्मिक सद्भाव, जीवन विज्ञान, खेल तथा शिक्षा को समर्पित सामाजिक प्रतिष्ठान

## शिक्षा



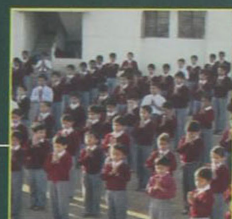
### मूल्यपरक शिक्षा

मूल्य परक शिक्षा पद्धति "जीवन विज्ञान" का म. प्र. के तीन जिलों में संयोजन।



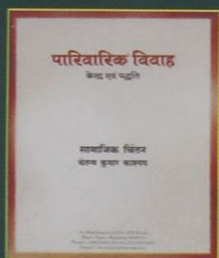
### चेतना खेल मेला

खेल भावना के विकास को समर्पित देश का एक अभिनव आयोजन जिसमें १२ खेलों में लगभग ५०० पदकों हेतु ५००० विद्यार्थी भाग लेते हैं।



### काश्यप विद्यापीठ

सह-प्रायोजक सी.बी.एस.ई मान्य अंग्रेजी माध्यम हाईस्कूल, आदिवासी अंचल चेतन्य ग्राम बदनावर (अशोक कुमार काश्यप जैन ट्रस्ट द्वारा संचालित)



### पारिवारिक विवाह

समाज के सभी वर्गों के लिए सरल व सहज पारिवारिक विवाह पद्धति का प्रसारण।



### अहिंसा ग्राम

विभिन्न धर्म-सम्प्रदायों के गरीब परिवारों को स्वच्छ, सुविधा-सम्पन्न आवास।

## सामाजिक विकास



### "जैन गौरव" अलंकरण

जैनत्व को गौरवान्वित करने वाले व्यक्ति को भारत जैन महामण्डल के माध्यम से दिया जाने वाला वार्षिक अलंकरण।



### माहे रमजान

पवित्र कुरान की शिक्षाओं पर आधारित रमजान माह के लिए विशेष ३० एपिसोड का एक टी. वी. सीरीयल।

## धार्मिक विकास एवं सद्भाव

### लोकनीति विद्यापीठ

प्रस्तावित

लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था को सद्द बनाने के लिए राजनैतिक, व्यावसायिक, युवा तथा सामाजिक, धार्मिक नेतृत्व को उच्च प्रबंधन की शिक्षा एवं प्रशिक्षण का संस्थान।

## चैतना

(हिन्दी दैनिक)

म. प्र. का लोकप्रिय हिन्दी दैनिक

**काश्यप स्वीटनर्स लि.**

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बदनावर

वापी



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peace and Non-violence

## Ahimsa World



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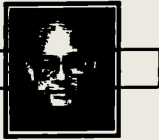
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**PRESIDENTIAL**

Dr. L.M. Singhavi



The World recalls the momentous occasion when the Parliament of World's religions was convened and when Swami Vivekananda electrified the whole world with his message on India's heritage.

I was elected a President of the Centennial Parliament in Chicago twelve years ago. I also attended the Cape Town meeting of the Parliament of World's Religions both in Chicago and Cape Town. The Institute of Jainology of which I have been the Patron for many years and the moving spirit of the institute, Shri Nemu Chandaria undertook an enormous coordinating effort for the events in Chicago and Capetown. To the institute and Shri Nemubhai Chandaria we owe a debt of abiding gratitude. In 2004 WJC registered its presence at Barcelona at the Parliament of World's Religion.

In the Parliament of Worlds Religions in the last decade of the 19th Century, the Jain representative Shri Virchand Gandhi will long be remembered as the great pioneer and precursor who represented the Jains at the first Parliament. WJC ought to commemorate Shri Virchand Gandhi. I recall that several years ago, I had the honour to unveil the statue of Shri Virchandbhai in a temple in Chicago.

At the Chicago Parliament of World's Religions, Swami Vivekananda used the metaphor of many streams flowing into the ocean to vivify the concept of the diversities of religions. He also told the World Parliament of the fundamental principle of Tolerance. As I have often said, the fundamental principle of tolerance is enshrined in the Vedic aphorism of Ekam Sad Viprah Bahudha Vadanti and that the Jain tradition developed that principle into

a highly sophisticated intellectual framework of Logic, Ethics, and Philosophy through its doctrine of Syadvada, which is in a scientific and philosophical sense the precursor of the scientific principle of Relativity.

Intolerance and hostility between different religions is bred because the religious establishments are not willing to honestly accept the principle of diversity and the fundamental approach of affirmative acceptance and celebration of diversities. Religious establishments tend to seek domination in a mono-cultural bid to convert the entire world to one religious faith.

It should be possible for diverse religions in every community to live and work together in the service of humankind and to broaden the spiritual discourse of humankind without recrimination, intrusion and encroachment which create ill-will and antagonisms. We must resurrect that sense of the sacred among the peoples of the world. Unfortunately, respect for Religion is declining. All religions traditionally were in fact the cradles and sanctuaries of human spirituality and the sense of the sacred. That is why there is certain holiness about them.

Religions must pave the way to spirituality through intellectual understanding and by a culture of the heart.

I conclude with the beautiful words of a great Sufi mystic, Ibn Arabi (1165-1240) from Muslim Spain who offers the world a sanctuary of Love as Faith and of Faith as Love.

Says Ibn Arabi:

"My heart has adopted every shape; it has become a pasture for gazelles and a convent for Christian monks, A temple for idols and a pilgrim's Kabah, the tables of a Torah and the pages of a Quran.

I follow the religion of Love; wherever Love's camels turn, there Love is my religion and my faith".





## SPECIAL EDITORIAL

# THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

Prayer is an invocation to the inner-self to assert itself and guide the individual to chart through the path of life with unanimity and peace with oneself as well as with the outside world. No Prayer is possible without the mind and heart acting together. The spirit gets harmonized with the body and the Prayer generates blissful soul energy. If a Prayer is truly meant, it cleanses one's inner being of pollution of thought, conduct and expression.

The serenity generated by Prayer promotes understanding and harmony, inaricates the urge for tolerance and coexistence, stimulates compassion and eliminates the feelings of rancour, revenge, hatred and hostility.

If the ups and downs of life have upset you, taken you of your natural balance, distorted your mindset and converted you to negativity, a Prayer is a pill, which will cure you of all your mental and psychological hangovers.

A Prayer to be effective should remain a Prayer without any demands before the Almighty for any material gains. A Prayer, unadulterated by a desire to exploit it for a materialistic purpose, acts as a catalyst for shaping a noble, well-being and ethics-oriented personality with a zest for purposeful living.

We go on adding years to our life and forget to add life to our years, preoccupied as we are with the humdrum of physical existence. If Prayer enters our life, it would help us to move forwards towards an art of living wherein the coming years of our life will become full of love for all living beings as well as the elements of nature around us. This feeling of oneness with the universal elements will give us the peace which comes through Prayer.

We come to the world crying, but our mother starts our foist moments out of her womb and ever after with constant Prayer for our well-being and happiness. The memory of lullaby sung by the mother while putting her child to sleep is a moving Prayer in itself. All faiths and religions start their journey with a Prayer, and a Prayer sung eloquently and fervently leaves its resonance in our hearts for a long long time. A Prayer in deep

silence and meditation is equally powerful as it reaches the depths of our thoughts.

A Prayer is a seed that sprouts a philosophy for our living rising much above mere bread and butter existence. The philosophy is live for others along with living for yourself. Swami Vivekananda once said, "Those who live for others are really living; those who do not spread the spirit of love are more dead than living". Open the windows of your mind and heart to the inspiration generated by the deeds of great human beings. Mahatma Gandhi's daily schedule, wherever he might be, always included an evening Prayer meeting (Prarthana Sabha). It was interrupted the day a bullet struck him fatally soon after he had ended his Prayer meeting in New Delhi. All that he uttered was "Hey Ram". The message or the Prayer radiating from those two words was, "Forgive them for they do not know what they do". Gandhiji's favourite Bhajan was: "वैष्णव जन तो तेने कहिए, जे पीर पराई जाणे रे"

Mother Teresa served the old and the ailing with the Prayer that is their end has come, let with the Prayer that if their end has come, let them depart with a smile and not any frustration, Florence Nightingale, the Lady with the Lamp regarded her service to the disease afflicted humanity as part of her Prayer for human welfare.

Prayer arouses hope; hope stimulates a zest for living taking all others along with you on the path of tranquility, bliss and detachment. The power of Prayer is enormous, not so much in terms of any miracle, but much more in terms of releasing within oneself a fountain of soul-energy, renewed faith, and pure love.

Prayer is not merely in words and expression. Its spirit should run through one's life routine. Swami Vivekananda used to say, "If you want to pray, go play football out in the field under the open sky". The formation of a poem is the process of a Prayer. The inspired brush strokes on an empty canvas are like a Prayer which fill a barren space with a multicoloured reality of life in which harmony is the reigning queen.



A Prayer in a temple, church, mosque or gurudwara is in a right ambience. But it need not be confined within the four walls of places of worship. Because God is not residing in his stone or metal image which we ritually worship. He is where the farmer is tilling his fields; he is where the workmen are building a dam, he is where doctors and nurses are nursing the ill and the

disabled. Prayer with out effort for spreading good in community life would always remain half-hearted. Live and let others live. Live happily and let others also live in joy. That is the Prayer which make any Prayer worthwhile.

Dr. Narendra P. Jain  
Executive President  
WJC

## JAIN PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

### Obeisance Prayer

नमो अरिहंताणं ।  
नमो सिद्धाणं ।  
नमो आयरियाणं ।  
नमो उवज्झायाणं ।  
नमो लोए सव्वसाहूणं ।  
एसो पंच नमक्कारो ।  
सव्वपावप्पणासणो ।  
मंगलाणं च सव्वेसिं ।  
पढमं हवई मंगलं ।

Namo arihantanarm ।  
Namo Siddhanam ।  
Namo ayariyanam ।  
Namo uvajjhayanam ।  
Namo loe savvasanunam ।  
eso pancha namukkaro ।  
savvapavappanasano ।  
mangalanam cha savvesim  
padhamam havai mangalam ॥

I bow and seek inspiration from the perfected souls, liberated souls, religious leaders, religious teachers, and all monks and nuns in the world. These five obeisances erase all sins. Offering this obeisance is the most auspicious of all benedictions.

### Forgiveness Prayer

खामेमि सव्वेजीवें,  
सव्वे जीवा खमंतु मे ।  
मिती मे सव्व भूएसु ,  
वेरम् मज्झं न केणई ॥

khamemi savvajive,  
savve jiva khamantu me ।  
mitti me savva bhuesu,  
veram majjha na kenai ॥

I grant forgiveness to all living beings. May all living beings grant me forgiveness. My friendship is with all living beings. I have no animosity towards any beings.

### Divine Refuge Prayer

चत्तारि शरणं पवज्जामि,  
अरिहंते शरणं पवज्जामि,  
सिद्धे शरणं पवज्जामि,  
साहु शरणं पवज्जामि,  
केवलि पणत्तं धम्मं  
शरणं पवज्जामि ॥

chattari sharanam pavajjami,  
arihante sharanam pavajjami,  
siddhe sharanam pavajjami,  
sahu sharanam pavajjami,  
kevalipannattam dhammam  
sharanam pavajjami ॥

I take refuge in the four auspicious and supreme entities of perfected souls, liberated souls, ascetics and the religion expounded by the enlightened.

### Universal Blessing Prayer

शिवमस्तु सर्वजगतः  
परिहतनिरता भवन्तु भूतगणाः ।  
दोषाः प्रयांतु नाशं,  
सर्वत्र सुखीभवन्तु लोकः ॥

shivamastu sarvajagatah,  
parahitanirata bhavantu bhutaganah ।  
dosah prayantu nasham,  
sarvatra sukhibhavantu lokah ॥

May the entire universe be blessed; May all beings engage in each other's well being. May all weakness, sickness and faults diminish; May everyone and everywhere be healthy, peaceful and blissful.

**ALL SOULS MERIT DIVINE BLESSINGS. MAY YOU BE NOW BLESSED !**





## WORLD JAIN CONFEDERATION MAKES LASTING IMPACT AT THE "2004-PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS" IN BARCELONA WITH ITS PAPERS ON AHIMSA & APARIGRIHA

**THE 2004 PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS RESULTS IN HUNDREDS OF COMMITMENTS TO ADDRESS RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE AND OTHER URGENT ISSUES FACING THE WORLD**



The Jain delegation with the other religious representatives at PWR's inaugural session-Shri Chetanya Kasyap (standing-first row), Shri Vinod Kapashi-UK, Dr. C. D. Shah and Shri Mahesh Gandhi (sitting-from right)

More than 8,000 religious leaders, Scholars and lay people from over 75 countries debated for an entire week on the burning issues such as religious violence, access to safe water, the fate of refugees worldwide, and elimination of developing countries' debts etc. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> parliament in row with first such parliament held in Chicago (USA)

in 1893 wherein young Indian philosopher Swami Vivekanand and Mr. Virchand Gandhi swept the western world with talks of Indian culture, religion and philosophy.

**World Jain Confederation** - a body comprising of many Jain organizations spread across the globe participated and enlightened the participants on various tenants of Jainism. The WJC



Participating and Peace Tree plantation ceremony Dr. C. D. Shah, Shri Chetanya Kasyap and Shri Mahesh Gandhi beside Mr. Joan Clos the Mayor of Barcelona





was represented by Vice President **Shri Chetanya K Kasyap**, **Shri H S Ranka**, **Shri Mahesh Gandhi**, **Dr. C D Shah** (International president Jain Social Group federation) and **Ms. Raksha Shah**, (lecturer at Mumbai University).

The event begun with the plantation of 'Peace Tree' in the presence of Dr. William Leshner - Chairman of the council for PWR and Mr. Joan Clos Mayor of Barcelona Mr. Chetnya Kasyap, Dr. C D Shah and Mr. Mahesh Gandhi actively participated in the function.

Presenting the paper on 'Commitment to non-possessiveness for a better world', Mr Kasyap said that the desires are endless like the expanse of sky. Aparigriha (non-possessiveness) means limiting the desires by self restraint. The development in the world is not possible without the self control over human soul and its basic elements. He said that communism ignored the basic elements of human nature such as private ownership and spiritualism therefore this anti human nature system could not last longer



Mr. Chetanya Kasyap welcoming the PWR delegates he also presented his paper at the parliament

and is on the verge of collapse today. He added that the universal problems like Violence, Animosity, Unemployment and Starvation can be contained with the Aparigraha philosophy of lord Mahavir and trusteeship principle of Mahatma Gandhi. He described the 'Ahimsa Gram' as a positive step towards the above. The participants had shown enormous interest in the project.

Ms. Raksha Shah presented two papers at the event. Speaking on a holistic Jain approach to peace with reference to the role of women, she





Presenting the paper samani Pratibha Pragnaji and Ms. Raksha Shah (from left)

said that nonviolence, truth, love, equality and kindness are the basic principles of Jainism. A woman with these principles can establish the cultural base in children. She supported the views of UNESCO that women should be made equal actor in peace building process and that peace cannot be achieved without equal & fair participation of women in decision making positions.

Addressing the workshop on 'non-



Dr. C. D. Shah addressing the workshop at PWR

violence is the highway to the peace' Dr. C. D. Shah described lord Mahavir's philosophy of Nonviolence as the best instrument to contain all problems exist in today's world.

Video messages of Hon'ble president of India **Dr A P J Abdul Kalam and His holiness Acharya Mahapragyaji**, were shown while presenting the 'Unity of Minds', a movement of inter-faith coordination jointly promoted by them. Dr. Homi Dhalla, Dr. Jaswant Singh Neki, President of Jaina-USA Mr. Anup Vora, Mr. Naresh Jain from UK and Mr. Vinod Kapashi and Samani Pratibha Pragyaji narrated on "Surat Spiritual



Mr. Anup Vora-President JAINA USA addressing the Unity Of Mind session. At the dias (from left ) Mr. Vinod Kapashi-UK, Dr. Jaswant Singh Neki, Dr. Homi Dhalla, Mr. Chetanya Kasyap, Samani Pratibha Pragna and Mr. Naresh Jain-USA.





Declaration". In the process of project execution Mr. Chetanya Kasyap informed about The Ratlam Ahimsa Declaration, the Langar of 50000 people and 'Ahimsa Gram' Project at Ratlam to house 100 families coupled with core living amenities and the training facilities of practicing Ahimsa in day to day life as well as employment orientation.

In addition to India, many other Jain organizations from USA and UK participated and exhibited Jain Literature, idols and music.

Ensuing the tremendous response received by the Indian contingent



Mr. Chetanya Kasyap extending the invitation for the next PWR in India to Dr. William Lesher-Chairman of the Council of the PWR. Mr. Lesher responded positively.



Jain Delegates from India at the stall organised by JAINA-USA at "2004-Parliament of World's Religions" at Barcelona.

comprising of various Indian religions including Jains Mr. Chetanya Kasyap extended the invitation to organise the next **PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS- 2009** at in India to Dr. William Lesher, Chairman of the Council for the PWR The confidence to hold the next such parliament in India stems from the global appreciation of Indian religions and philosophies.

The participation of Indian Jain delegation in 2004-PWR could only possible with the able guidance and the initiation of Sri Pratapbhai Bhogilal the Chairman of the trust board of WJC.





## Commitment to non possessiveness (Aparigraha) for a better World

(A Gist of Paper presented by Mr. Chetanya Kumar Kasyap at 2004 -P W R Barcelona)

Economic development has become the central focus of the developmental concept of the modern world. This has given rise to unprecedented materialism and consumerism. Unrestricted and wasteful consumer habits have given way to addiction, greed and discontent compounding human misery. Consequently the unrestrained desire and greed for personal wealth has emerged as a cause for exploitation of the weaker by the stronger.

Varying degrees of comforts available to the rich and the poor have widened the gulf between them and created breeding ground for exploitation, hatred and ill-will. While developed nations are known for over-consumption as well as wasteful consumption, the developing countries are plagued by dearth of basic amenities and problem of abject starvation.

For progress of humankind, 2500 years ago Lord Mahavir defined the four basic elements of human nature (i) Kaam (lust), (ii) Arthh lolupta (material greed), (iii) Dharma Shraddha (faith in religious virtue) and (iv) Mukti (desire for salvation). He integrated the word "samyak" (appropriate) with human conduct and practice of life.

Lord Mahavir presented the middle path of ownership (possessiveness) wherein human beings restrain their desires. He preached "ichchahu aagasasama anantaya" ("इच्छाहु आगाससमा अणतया"), meaning that the desires are endless like the expanse of sky. To limit this endlessness he stressed upon the restraint over these desires and at the same time did not reject the necessities born out of the desires. However this preaching favoured scrutiny of the utility of such necessities in terms of 'palatable' & 'beneficial' and also the appropriate means, he advocated the principle of limiting the necessities up to the 'beneficial' level.

**Mahatma Gandhi** was imbued with the spirit of Aparigraha. Keeping the ownership at the center he suggested the concept of 'trusteeship' in the process of co-ownership of material wealth.

Today the entire world is aspiring for peace. But the excessive and non-productive material

possession disturbs the social and natural balance. The Jain philosophy of Aparigraha offers the best solution for this problem. The time-tested philosophy and principles of Aparigraha could be introduced in day to day human life by **limiting human desires, endowment and trusteeship**, and by inculcating the following attitudes:

**Self-restraint (Aatm - samyam)** by limiting 'beneficial wants'; one can achieve self-contentment, mental peace and can lead a life free from stress.

**Endowment (Visarjan)** : It is the primary responsibility of the rich individuals and nations to fulfill the fundamental needs of the deprived section of humankind through the spirit of "visarjan" (endowment).

**Self-control (Aatm-Niyantran)** paves the way for utilisation of treasured wealth for public oriented welfare and similar other useful projects through trusteeship in one's own ownership.

**Self-discipline (Aatm-Anusashan)** : Instilling of above mental & practical attitudes and conjuring up a new man with a vow can create a self-disciplined, a welfare and development-oriented vowed society.

There have been many attempts at setting up welfare oriented social system but it ignored the basic elements of human nature such as private ownership and spiritualism. Therefore this system which was **anti human nature could not last longer and is on the verge of collapse today.**

In the consequent development of the extreme capitalistic unipolar world the Jain philosophy of Aparigraha, with its compatibility with human soul and the nature, is a positive and sure way out.

Ahimsa Gram Project is the right step in this direction. This will provide housing to 100 families in clean & healthy environment with the total focus of Developing value base, employment oriented, inter-dependent life style.

Building a better and ethical world in tune with nature could be conceived through Aparigraha where ecological balance is fully protected and all people in society lead a contented and peaceful life.



## A HOLISTIC JAIN APPROACH TO PEACE WITH REFERENCE TO THE ROLE OF WOMEN

(Gist of Paper Presented by Raksha Shah at 2004 PWR, Barcelona)

"Women have proved instrumental in building bridges rather than walls", said Kofi Annan, the UN- Secretary General of the Security Council in his statement on 'International Women's Day'. Yet, he sighed and added that, the potential contribution of women to peace and security was still undervalued.

The role of women in the Jain religion has always been progressive and ennobling. This view was asserted and pronounced 2,600 years back by Lord Mahavir 'Women are equal to men in all respects', he said. The Jain religion believes in equality of all creatures, as all of them possess an all enlightened soul. If all living entities are equal, how can mere difference in physical appearance, biological distinction be a discriminating factor? How then, can a woman be inferior to a man?

In today's times, family is the nucleus wherein the child is brought up with care and caress, love and affection. The grown-up child ultimately becomes a part of the Society that ends up into the State. Nevertheless, it is the family, with its purifying, ennobling and solidifying influences, that leads to the development of the culture of a Nation. A woman's zeal, prowess, deep insight, her inborn compassion, tolerance traits and willingness to sacrifice whole-heartedly, gives her an edge over her male counterparts. It is indeed, 'WOMEN' who can bring back the long -lost peace in society by inculcating the principles of Ahimsa, *Anekantavada* *Aparigraha*, truth, compassion, love, friendliness, tolerance and equanimity in their children at an early age.

In order to spread the message of non-violence and love for all living beings, what the world today needs is a widespread grass-root level education and training system. The principles of non-violence must become an integral part of the school and university education. They need to find a strong mention in the Charter. Such education given at home by the mother and at school by the teachers can more persuasively strengthen awareness and alertness and a sense of responsibility that will go a long way to establish and sustain peace.

The neglected fairer sex can prove to be a great contributor and needs to be recognized and given a fair share, treated at par with men to be successful in bringing about awareness and alertness, about the disasters of war and the pleasures of peace and only then can the society, the state, the nation and the world look forward to a prosperous and progressive future where the wants will be minimized, the mind will be non-aggressive and non-violent and there will be eternal peace and harmony!!

The second paper - "Self-Discipline, Peace and Spiritual Growth", was shared with Mr. Sudhir Shah. It was spoken that "A lack of self-discipline is the main reason for the failures which we experience in both professional and personal lives". It is also the underlying reason for financial ruins, occurrence of diseases and strained relationships! Jainism emphasizes on the observance of self-discipline in all walks of life and proclaims it to be one of the most important elements for achieving the ultimate goal of human existence-'SALVATION'.





## NEWS OF INTEREST

### 1) THE INTERFAITH SEMINAR BY WJC

World Jain Confederation announces its highly acclaimed yearly event The Inter-faith seminar on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2004 to pay homage to the true follower of non-violence **Rashtrapita Mahatma Gandhi**. This year's eminent speakers are Most Rev. Pu. Gurudeo Rakeshbhai Zaveri (Jainism) Sh. Bhupendra Pandya (Vedant) and Respected Prof. Azhar Hashmi (Islam). All these learned speakers will enlighten the audience on how non-violence is the supreme virtue in their respective faith and the ultimate weapon for the world peace. The venue is Birla Matusri Sabhagar New Marine Lines M'bai 4000 020. The programme will start at 10 A.M. with Bhakti Sangeet and at 10.30 the seminar, on the subject-**Ahimsa Shanti Ka Mahamarg**. It will be followed by lunch at 1 P.M.

### 2) REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATION OF JAINS IN NEWLY CONSTITUTED UNION CABINET OF DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

The request has been made to Union Cabinet of Dr. Manmohan Singh and Hon'ble Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, the President of Indian National Congress that, at least one Jain member be nominated in the Union Cabinet of Dr. Manmohan Singh.

### 3) RATNA NIDHI CHARITABLE TRUST GETS A SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS TO ECOSOC/UN

After the efforts at United Nations – New York in lobbying with 19 Ambassadors of 19 countries at the United Nations meeting of Economical and Social Council of United Nations (ECOSOC) have agreed and given Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust a special consultative status to ECOSOC/UN. This status is in recognition of Sh. Mahendra Mehta's constant hard work in the humanitarian activities to outreach the backward and underprivileged in various countries of the world.

### 4) HOMAGE TO SAHU RAMESH CHANDRA JAIN

WJC, with heavy heart pays homage to Sh. Sahu Ramesh Chandra Jain who left for his heavenly abode. He was the president of Digamber Jain Samaj and also the trustee of WJC. The loss is immeasurable and we pray shashandev to give the eternal peace to his goodly soul.

**I hear, I forget.  
I see, I remember.  
I do, I understand.**

**Author---Confucius. (the famous Chinese philosopher.)**



## CYCLING FOR CHARITY

London to Paris

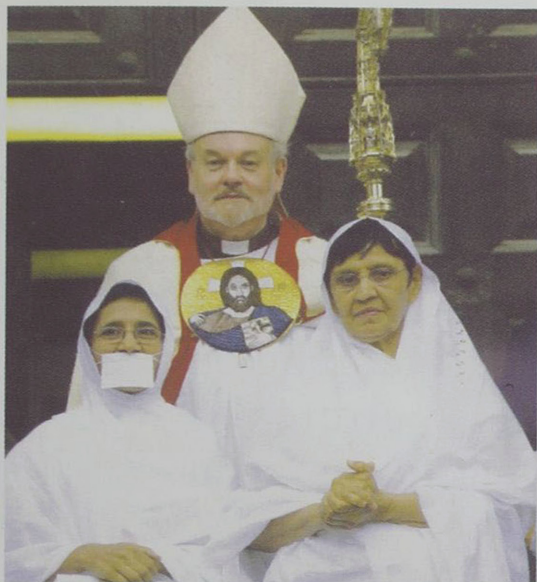
A Joint Venture by Veerayatan U.K.  
And World Jain Confederation (Euro Chapter)

July 24<sup>th</sup> the residents of Paris greeted the 125 cyclists as they sped towards Eiffel Tower to end a grueling journey that started four days ago on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July at London's Hyde Park for a noble cause. They were blessed jointly by Acharyashri Chandanaji and the Bishop of London at the St. Paul's Cathedral. The St. Paul's Cathedral echoed with the chanting of Navkar Mantra when Acharyashriji gave blessing to the participants. She said that the Christian faith is spreading the message of love and Jainism also believes in spreading compassion of Lord Mahavir so, we must work hand in hand to spread the message of peace, brotherhood, humanity and compassion. Lord Bishop welcomed every one in the holy place and said that we have worshiped for 1400 years since the building of the first St. Paul's in 604. He said that he deeply respects Jain practice to which he was introduced by Dr. Singhvi and specially the emphasis on not living to know but knowing in order to live. He also described the bicycle as an ideal mode of transport, simple and un-oppressive to the Mother Earth. Amongst the august audience was the Lord Amir Bhatia OBE, who was overwhelmed to see the youngs, who brought the faith leaders together. Being the patron of this Jain charity though he himself is Muslim also moved him. The Bishop of London concluded his speech by narrating the Jain prayer which orients the soul to -

Friendship towards all beings  
delight in the qualities of virtuous ones,  
utmost compassion for afflicted beings,  
equanimity towards those who are not  
well disposed to me  
may my soul have such dispositions as  
these forever

The 125 riders from 13 to 57 successfully met the demanding challenge since the terrain in France is very tough for cycling and requires enormous amount of willpower, discipline and commitment. They collected the proud amount of £ 2 lacs from which the part of the amount will be used for building The Temple of Peace and rest for the less privileged children of the world. This programme was the brainchild of Sh. Mahendra Mehta of U.K It was for the first time the Nirvana, a logistics company specializing providing support for the Army Triathlon events, planned the route, supporting and guiding the cyclists and overseeing safety. 80 hotel rooms were booked and the participants were given one travel bag, T-shirt, cap, drawstring bag. Professional video and photographers accompanied the participants from start to finish. The vote of thanks came from Sh. Bharat Doshi of Nairobi Africa. To attend this function the delegation led by WJC's Governing Council Member Sh. Mahesh Gandhi, especially flied to U.K. His wife and Mrs. Raksha Shah accompanied him.





**Acharya Shree Chandnaji and Sadhvi Vibhaji with Arch Bishop of London during the blessing ceremony in St. Paul's Church London**



**Dr. Kumarpal Desai is being conferred the 'Padmshree' award by Hon'ble President of India Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**



**The participants of C4C are seen with Acharya Shree Chandnaji and Sadhvi Vibhaji**





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(Any religion that is not based on respect for life is not a true religion until he extends his circle of compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace.

- Albert Schweitzer

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