

Installation and Unveiling of Statue of Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi at Delhi



The installation and unveiling ceremony of life size statue of Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi, the learned Scholar and Thinker of Jain Sangh, was held at 11AM on Sunday, 1st April 2018. The Ceremony was held at the premises of Shri Vallabh Smarak in Delhi, under the inspiring holy auspices of Param Pujya Acharya Shri Vijay Nityanand Surishwarji Maharaj. Shri Sunil Ji Singhi, member of Minority Commission of Government of India was the Chief Guest for the Ceremony. Speaking to media after the ceremony, Mr Singhi informed that Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi was the symbol of National pride. Though people know very little about him, but in a short age span of 37 years, he had done tremendous work. He wrote 8 books and delivered 535 lectures on varied subjects like religion, commerce and real estate, which by all means is not a lesser achievement. He had represented Jain religion and Indian Culture in the first World religious parliament held in USA in the year 1893.

It is pertinent to know that this is first life size statue made copper of Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi. Earlier there had been two bust sized statues of Shri Gandhi installed at Chicago and Mahua, his birthplace in Gujarat. This statue has been installed courtesy Shri Deepak Jain.

Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi was born on 25th August 1864 in Mahua, Gujarat. Deviating from his, ancestral business, he studied Law and established himself as an eminent Barrister. He actively contributed and participated in the Freedom struggle of India. He represented Mumbai in the first plenary session of Indian National Congress. Shri Gandhi mastered 14 languages. During severe famine conditions of 1896, Shri Gandhi collected 40000 rupees in USA and arranged to send one ship load of grains from USA to India. It was due to his untiring efforts that led to abolishing of Pilgrimage tax being charged by local Thakur at Shri Shatrunjay Tirth Palitana. He also protested against the opening of Pig slaughter house by an English man Bodem in Shri Sammet Shikarji Tirth. He filed the case for it in Privy council and eventually won that.



He had stayed in USA during World Religious Parliament and thereafter too. He adhered to and followed 12 Vrat ethics of Jain Shrawak. He was praised by Swami Vivekanand for his stringent and disciplined lifestyle.

He breathed his last at the age of 37 years on 7th August 1901 at Mahuar near Mumbai. He was the first Jain Scholar and Gujarati to visit USA. He had very close personal terms with Shri H. Dharampal, Swami Vivekanand and Mahatma Gandhi.

The Installation and Unveiling ceremony was also graced by the distinguished presence of Shri Mahesh Gandhi (Mumbai), Shri Bhoor Jain (Sirohi, Rajasthan), Educationist Shri C. Rajkumar, Shri Ashok Jain, Shri Rajkumar Jain Oswal, Shri Kishore Kochar (JITO) and several other distinguished guests, Scholars, Industrialists and other members of Jain community. Shri Chandresh Gandhi, the great grandson of Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi was also guest of honor in the ceremony.

It is especially mentioned to applaud the sincere and undaunted efforts being carried out by Shri Deepak Jain and Shri Nitin Jain since last six years to re-establish the glory and pride of Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi. It has been planned to organize a SHRI VIRCHAND RAGHAVJI GANDHI JAN JAGRAN YATRA during the course of forthcoming Chaturmas. This Yatra is aimed to cover around 20000 Kms route throughout India.